



CABINET

Monday 14 September 2026

10.00 a.m.

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader & Children and Young People Portfolio
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio
Housing Portfolio
Finance and Community Safety Portfolio
Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces Portfolio
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio
Communities Portfolio

Councillor Chris Read
Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Councillor Linda Beresford
Councillor Saghir Alam
Councillor Lynda Marshall
Councillor John Williams
Councillor Sarah Allen

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

CABINET

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

Date and Time: Monday 14 September 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Agenda Contact Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the [Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. 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.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answer received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 33)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 July 2026.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Rotherham Community Equipment Service (Pages 35 - 68)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, in principle, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) participating in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside other partners Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.
2. Note that Sheffield City Council will be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules will be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.
3. Approve, the Council being a party to an extension of the current Community Equipment Service contract for up to six months, if required, to support effective mobilisation and continuity of service with SY ICB as the lead commissioner of the current contract.

7. Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-2026 (Pages 69 - 126)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendation:

1. That Cabinet approve the publication of the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2025 – 2026.

8. Response to the Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review - Menopause (Pages 127 - 151)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendation:

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

DEPUTY LEADER AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

9. Care Leavers' Charter (Pages 153 - 180)

Report from the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.
2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.
3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

10. July 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 181 - 208)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.9m.
2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.17 of the report.

11. Community Governance Review Interim Update (Pages 209 - 227)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Finance.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.
2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the

development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.

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

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

12. Social Value Annual Report (Pages 229 - 282)

Report from the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Receive the annual report, noting the social value commitments along with outcomes delivered.
2. Approve that the key priorities for 2026/27 are:
 - a. Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
 - b. Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
 - c. Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
 - d. Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.
 - e. Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.
3. Agree to delegate authority to the Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

13. Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy (Pages 283 - 308)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

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

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

14. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (To Follow)

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 8 September 2026.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 12 October 2026 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

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

John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

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 Hallowell	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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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Rotherham Community Equipment Service

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Steph Watt, Head of Service, Urgent Community Care, Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB)

steph.watt@nhs.net

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prevent, reduce or delay care and support needs and to meet eligible assessed needs. Community equipment plays a pivotal role in discharging these duties, supporting individuals to live independently, for longer, while reducing demand on higher-cost health and social care services. The NHS has parallel duties under the NHS Act 2006 to meet health related needs.

The Rotherham Community Equipment Service is currently jointly commissioned by Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire ICB (Rotherham Place) to support children, young people and adults in maintaining or restoring independent living within the community. South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB) is currently the lead commissioner for the Service, and all procurement activity has been undertaken by them in accordance with their procurement procedure rules.

An opportunity has arisen to work jointly with Doncaster and Sheffield Councils and SY ICB. All three of the current Place contracts end in March 2027.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, in principle, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) participating in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside other partners Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.
2. Note that Sheffield City Council will be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules will be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.
3. Approve, the Council being a party to an extension of the current Community Equipment Service contract for up to six months, if required, to support effective mobilisation and continuity of service with SY ICB as the lead commissioner of the current contract.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Equality Initial Screening (Part A).
Appendix 2 – Equality Full Assessment (Part B).
Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment.

Background Papers

N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Community Equipment Service

1. Background

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prevent, reduce or delay care and support needs and to meet eligible assessed needs. Community equipment plays a pivotal role in discharging these duties, supporting individuals to live independently, for longer, while reducing demand on higher-cost health and social care services. The NHS has parallel duties under the NHS Act 2006 to meet health related needs.
- 1.2 Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire ICB (Rotherham Place) jointly commission the Rotherham Community Equipment Service, which supports children, young people and adults to live independently in their communities by helping them maintain or regain essential daily living skills. South Yorkshire ICB is the lead commissioner for the contract.
- 1.3 The service supplies, installs and maintains a range of equipment, which supports people with assessed health or social care needs to regain or maintain independent living within their communities. The equipment supports people with daily living activities and includes walking aids, air mattresses, toilet frames and specific special equipment such as seating for complex postural management or a hoist where required in an individual's home.
- 1.4 The current service is delivered by Medequip, which has been in place since 2019. The current contract is a block contract and is held by SY ICB as the lead commissioner. The annual contract value in 2025-26 was £2,750,685 with the Council contributing £282,000 and is due to expire on the 31 March 2027.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Since the procurement of the previous service for community equipment there have been changes to the commercial models in other areas across the country which have moved from a block contract model to a credit model. A block contract provides a fixed payment for an agreed level of service, up to an agreed limit, regardless of actual usage. Whereas a credit model charges only for the equipment and services provided, with costs adjusted according to activity. Alongside this there has been a shift in the role and function of Integrated Care Boards to be focussed on strategic commissioning. In line with this, SY ICB will operate on a pan-South Yorkshire basis and has confirmed that the aim is to move towards contracts based on a wider South Yorkshire footprint as soon as is achievable.
- 2.2 In addition to the changes to commercial arrangements and wider NHS organisational reform, there is an opportunity to review the current community equipment service model and commissioning arrangements to ensure alignment with local strategic priorities and national ambitions. This includes supporting the shift of care from acute hospital settings into

people's homes and communities, promoting greater independence and prevention.

- 2.3 As part of the service review, the Council and SY ICB have considered options in the way the service is delivered in the future, including commissioning processes, opportunities for economies of scale and the associated commercial model.
- 2.4 An opportunity has arisen to work jointly with Doncaster and Sheffield, given the alignment around contract expiry dates and the approach SY ICB is taking to move to a new operating model which will impact on the NHS resources available to support the ongoing contract management arrangements for community equipment services at each of the three respective places.
- 2.5 Barnsley has a separate arrangement with a different provider, which is not due for reprocurement, and is therefore not currently part of this proposal. Provision could be made in the contract for Barnsley to join in the future.
- 2.6 In support of this work, the Council has participated in the SY ICB led sub-regional community equipment recommissioning programme to inform decision making regarding the future long term commissioning intentions. A programme governance framework is in place comprising a Joint Equipment Procurement Oversight Group, Operational Group and Finance Group, reporting to the Strategic Group including Council Service Directors and SY ICB's Portfolio Director. Each group has multi-place representation and regular, structured meetings which are intended to meet throughout the procurement phase, into mobilisation and delivery.
- 2.7 Preparatory work has included harmonisation of equipment catalogues, with clinicians across the three areas reviewing the catalogue and agreeing a standard range of equipment provision. This will simplify cross-border prescribing practice, improve consistency and equity of access for residents, and support more efficient recycling and stock management. If there is a specific clinical need that cannot be met through the standard catalogue, a local approval process will remain in place to ensure needs are met. The standardisation of equipment also delivers cost efficiencies by reducing the volume of stock held and the associated warehouse space required, whilst continuing to meet assessed needs. Work has also included the development of a draft joint service specification, informed by the views of people who draw on community equipment services across South Yorkshire, and a shared procurement timetable. The proposed specification is therefore intended to improve the quality, consistency and sustainability of services while maintaining local responsiveness to individual needs and ensuring residents continue to receive timely access to equipment that supports independence, wellbeing and care closer to home.
- 2.8 The change in contract provides an opportunity to review the current contractual commercial arrangements. Historically Rotherham has held a block contract arrangement, however, there has been a recurrent overspend

on the annual contract value which has been a key driver for the commercial review. The SY ICB have, historically, underwritten the overspend, but they have made it clear they are unable to continue to do so in the future.

- 2.9 In support of the preparatory work for a procurement process the following areas have been reviewed and a proposed approach developed:
- Assessment of the options for the commissioning delivery model, including lead commissioner – Sheffield City Council.
 - Review of the contractual spend and associated forecast budgets.
 - Assessment of the commercial models (block and credit) to inform future contractual arrangements.
- 2.10 The current provider is Medequip. The service is a joint service between Rotherham Council and SY ICB with SY ICB as the lead commissioner. The current contract is a block model with a total value for 2025/26 of £2,750,685. This funding covers the cost of the supply of equipment, delivery, collection, decontamination, repairs and recycling, a bar-coding system, the electronic ordering system, as well as management costs, staffing and provision of two warehouses and the electronic vehicle fleet.
- 2.11 The collective current budget for Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield is c.£12,860,000 per annum. Work on the future financial model is being finalised taking account of baseline information, future predicted demand and inflationary/efficiency factors. It is anticipated that the total contract value over a 10-year period, if an integrated service is approved with Sheffield and Doncaster, will be c.£136m, taking account of demographic growth and inflationary pressures. The Rotherham contract is estimated to be c.£2.7m and the Council's contribution c.£0.8m. This is a significant increase for RMBC from the current contract as analysis of spend has shown that a larger proportion of spend is in respect of social care responsibilities rather than health responsibilities than previously calculated. This will be funded from the Better Care Fund within the Adult Social Care Budget.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 To support the Council and SY ICB in considering options around the delivery model for a procurement process and associated community equipment service, a series of options have been scoped, as set out below:
- **Option 1:** Standalone procurement by Rotherham Council
 - **Option 2:** In-house direct provision of a community equipment service.
 - **Option 3:** Joint procurement and commissioning across Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster, with Sheffield City Council as the lead commissioner, following their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB. (preferred option).

3.2 **Option 1: Standalone procurement by Rotherham Council**

3.2.1 Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield's current Community Equipment Service contracts are due to end in March 2027. As the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB) has indicated its intention to move towards commissioning on a pan-South Yorkshire basis where appropriate, continuation of the current SY ICB and Rotherham Council joint contractual arrangement is not a viable option. Rotherham Council could independently procure a new Community Equipment Service, including responsibility for service specification, procurement, contract management and governance. This would provide greater direct control over service design and delivery.

3.2.2 However, independent procurement would introduce additional operational complexity because community equipment provision supports both health and social care outcomes, making it difficult to separate demand, funding responsibilities and service pathways. This is particularly relevant given that many prescribers work within integrated health and social care teams, including the Community Occupational Therapy Service. It could also lead to increased costs through the duplication of procurement, commissioning and contract management functions, together with the loss of economies of scale available through a wider South Yorkshire arrangement. In addition, there would be a greater risk of fragmented service delivery and reduced opportunities to share learning, innovation and best practice across the South Yorkshire system.

3.2.3 On that basis, this is not the preferred option.

3.3 **Option 2: In-house direct provision of a community equipment service.**

3.3.1 Rotherham would fully integrate the community equipment service within its operations by employing dedicated staff and managing all aspects of warehousing, logistics, procurement, maintenance, cleaning, collection, and delivery.

3.3.2 Although this approach provides theoretical oversight of service delivery, the Council and Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (as was, prior to the formation of SY ICB) agreed to discontinue this model, previously delivered by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust in 2019, as it was not operationally or financially sustainable. This model would require significant capital investment for warehousing, fleet, IT systems, inventory infrastructure, and workforce resource.

3.3.3 There would be ongoing logistical challenges given the complexity and time critical nature of a service which supports hospital discharge and keeping people in their own homes. It would not be possible to purchase stock at the lowest price due to overheads and a lack of purchasing power, and there would be a lack of commercial knowledge, expertise, and skill within services.

3.3.4 On that basis, this is not the preferred option.

- 3.4 **Option 3: Joint procurement and commissioning across Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster, with Sheffield City Council as the lead commissioner – Preferred Option.**
- 3.4.1 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council would participate in a joint procurement exercise alongside other partners, Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and SY ICB in relation to a joint Community Equipment Service. Sheffield City Council would be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules would be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.
- 3.4.2 This option is subject to approval by all parties.
- 3.4.3 The use of the NHS Standard Contract provides the most seamless contract form as it can be used across health and social care and all three Places, avoiding the need to harmonise all the existing variants and legal frameworks.
- 3.4.4 This approach enables each organisation to retain local control over finance, activity, and performance while benefiting from a unified service model across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield. The approach also enables access to specialist equipment expertise and enhanced procurement capacity, and responsiveness during periods of increased demand.
- 3.4.5 **A joint procurement provides the greatest overall benefit for residents and partner organisations across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield as it:**
- Enables adults, children and young people who require community equipment to access a more consistent and equitable service, regardless of where they live, helping to reduce unwarranted variation and support better outcomes across South Yorkshire.
 - Supports people to remain safe, independent and active in their own homes and communities, reducing the risk of avoidable hospital admissions, unnecessary care placements and delays in discharge from hospital.
 - Improves the experience of unpaid carers by providing timely access to equipment that helps them undertake caring responsibilities safely and effectively, reducing stress and supporting carers' wellbeing.
 - Provides a consistent equipment offer and shared clinical standards, helping to ensure that residents receive the right equipment at the right time and improving safety, quality and user experience.
 - Enables shared stock and a unified catalogue, increasing availability of equipment and reducing delays for residents who require essential

items to support daily living, recovery, independence and participation in education, work and family life.

- Provides greater resilience and service continuity, reducing the risk of disruption for residents and service users should there be supply chain or provider issues.
- Provides value for money through the use of a pooled equipment service, equipment recycling arrangements and economies of scale, enabling resources to be focused on frontline support and improved outcomes for residents.
- Enables improved market interest, stronger commercial leverage and more efficient procurement arrangements, helping to secure a sustainable service for the future.
- Enables each Council and the SY ICB to retain responsibility for and control of their own equipment budgets and expenditure.
- Reduces duplication across procurement, contract management and service oversight, allowing commissioning capacity to be focused on service improvement and responding to the needs of local communities.
- Strengthens compliance with statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and NHS Act 2006, supporting timely hospital discharge, promoting independence and contributing to effective health and care system flow.

3.4.6 On that basis, **option 3 is the preferred option.**

3.5 **Recommended proposal**

3.5.1 To support alignment with the operating model across South Yorkshire, achieve economies of scale and streamline processes a joint approach across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield is recommended with Sheffield City Council acting as lead commissioner for the contract.

3.5.2 A 5-year contract, with the opportunity to extend for up to a further 5 years, with a break point after year 8, is recommended as it offers greater value for money and service stability than a short-term contract by giving providers the confidence to invest in workforce, technology and service improvements over a longer period. It also reduces the costs and disruption associated with frequent re-procurement, supports long-term transformation, and encourages stronger strategic partnerships. The break clauses enable the provider to be held to account, , with the contract only continuing where performance and outcomes are being delivered.

3.5.3 Whilst Sheffield City Council will undertake the role of lead commissioner on behalf of the partnership, each organisation will continue to provide strategic oversight, monitor demand management and financial performance and contribute to an effective joint management framework. This approach

maintains local accountability while supporting the benefits of a collaborative commissioning model.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Options have been considered by Rotherham Council Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services and SY ICB's Place Executive Team alongside Doncaster and Sheffield executive groups and governance structures.

4.2 The options and development of the service specification have been informed by customer feedback, and experience and learning from across the region and nationally. This includes:

- A fast and reliable service, with prompt delivery of equipment during periods of crisis or urgent need.
- Professional, friendly and respectful service staff.
- Personalised and collaborative clinical staff.
- Support for carers and families particularly during end-of-life care, reducing stress and maintaining dignity.

4.3 Customers reported that the service enabled increased independence, mobility and quality of life, helping people to carry out daily activities more safely. The service was seen as enabling people to remain safely at home, reducing the need for hospital admission or residential care. Some people identified areas for improvement including suitability of equipment and the return of equipment. A minority reported communication and delivery issues. These have been factored into the service development and will inform the new contract. Customers will also form part of the evaluation panel and there will be further engagement around mobilisation and contract management.

4.4 Several Councils across the region were also engaged to understand the service model and what learning could be applied to the revised contract. The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) undertook an independent review which has informed the recommendations. Areas consulted included:

- Kirklees Council.
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Hull City Council.
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- Lincolnshire County Council.
- Nottinghamshire County Council.
- North Lincolnshire Council.

5. Procurement Timeline

5.1 The following procurement timeline has been established, subject to approval by Cabinet and partner organisations:

Issue of Invitation to Tender	5 October 2026
Deadline for tender queries	26 October 2026
Deadline for submission of tenders	6 November 2026
Evaluation of tenders	9 November – 27 November 2026
Moderation Meeting	w/c 30 November 2026
Notification of result of evaluation	14 December 2026
Standstill Period	14 December – 23 December 2026
Mobilisation Period	1 January 2027 – 31 March 2027*
Contract Start Date	1 April 2027*

** Given the scale and complexity of mobilising the service SY ICB have recommended that provision is made to extend the current contract by up to six months, if required, subject to the Council approving being a party to this, with SY ICB continuing as the lead commissioner.*

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The current budget is £282k and has not increased for a number of years. The current cost of social care equipment is significantly higher than this and the Council has been protected from this cost by the contract that was agreed. This will not be the case in any new contract so additional budget will need to be identified in all the options being considered.
- 6.2 The recommended option is estimated to cost c£0.8m so c£500k will need to be identified. The Better Care Fund (BCF) annual uplift has allocated funding available to support this. This approach has SY ICB support in principle and will be confirmed as part of the annual BCF planning framework and allocations.
- 6.3 Whilst the focus of this report is on the re-procurement activity of the community equipment service, there are no direct procurement implications for the Council. In taking the role as lead commissioner and contract holder, it will be for Sheffield City Council to ensure all procurement activity is undertaken in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (most notably the Procurement Act 2023) and Sheffield's own procurement procedure rules.
- 6.4 In relation to the decision around possibility of extension to the current arrangement, the procurement implication is for the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board as current contract holders, to ensure compliance with procurement legislation (most notably the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) as well as their own procurement procedure rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do.
- 7.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to purchase goods and services.
- 7.3 Under Section 2 and 8 of the Care Act 2014 the Council is obligated to meet the eligible needs for care and support of its population in accommodation in a care home or by providing care and support to those individuals in their home or in the community.
- 7.4 Under Section 2B of the NHS Act 2006 the Council has a duty to take such steps as they consider appropriate for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of people living in their area.
- 7.5 The duty can be met by commissioning the service using a process compliant with the Council's contract procedure rules and the Procurement Act 2023 (PA2023), or by providing the service in house. This service is being commissioned and procured by Sheffield City Council; their rules will therefore apply.
- 7.6 The contract will be in two parts, the Goods and Services contract will be procured and managed by Sheffield City Council and consideration around that contract and the compliance of the procurement of that contract will be under Sheffield City Council internal rules and procedures. The second contract will be either a collaboration agreement or an inter authority agreement between the participating parties in order to protect each authority within this relationship.
- 7.7 Legal Services continue to be consulted and have full involvement and oversight of the processes and drafting of both agreements and will have full involvement and oversight throughout.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Options 1 and 2 in this report would create HR implications for Rotherham Council, including implications around TUPE.
- 8.2 In Option 2, the presented model would have additional resource implications for support services and management to ensure the effective management and operation of an 'in house' provider.
- 8.3 Option 3 presents no direct HR implications for Rotherham Council. Should the procurement process lead to a new community equipment provider, TUPE of staff from the current provider to the new provider is likely to take place, however this will be a provider-to-provider agreement, without direct involvement for the Council.

- 8.4 The procurement timeframe from the lead Commissioner will need to take account of any consultation timelines in line with TUPE regulations.
- 8.5 There would be no TUPE implications for Rotherham Council in this model.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Having access to an integrated community equipment service allows children, young people and vulnerable adults to access aids to daily living and supports them to live safely at home and promote independence. Equipment supports children who have mobility and other daily living needs to attend school and access short breaks. When specialist equipment is required the Children's Equipment Panel determines the most appropriate equipment and funding so that children do not experience unnecessary delays in assessing support.
- 9.2 For families and carers, the service reduces the physical and emotional demands associated with caring responsibilities and increases confidence in meeting a child's needs safely and effectively. In addition, Community Equipment Services deliver wider system benefits by preventing avoidable health complications, reducing demand on acute and social care services, and providing a cost-effective means of supporting children and young people to remain healthy, independent and engaged in everyday life.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Equality Impact Assessments have been completed by the Council and SY ICB, looking at how one joint service covering Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield would affect the local population. The assessment, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2, found no evidence of actual or potential discrimination arising from the proposal and identified no adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics. The assessment concluded that the move to a jointly commissioned service across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield is expected to have a neutral or positive impact by improving consistency of access, reducing variation in equipment provision, increasing access to specialist equipment, and strengthening cross-boundary working. The service will continue to be delivered on the basis of assessed need, supporting disabled people, older people, individuals with long-term conditions, carers, and other groups who may experience inequality. Ongoing engagement with people using the service, carers and stakeholders, together with equality monitoring and contractual requirements, will ensure the service remains accessible, equitable and responsive to the needs of local communities.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Climate Impact Assessments have been completed by the Council and SY ICB, looking at how one joint service covering Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield would affect the environment. As set out in Appendix 3, the assessment found that the proposals are expected to have a minor positive environmental impact by improving resource efficiency, increasing the

reuse, refurbishment and recycling of equipment, reducing stock duplication and waste, and creating opportunities for more efficient logistics and transport planning across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield. No significant adverse impacts were identified, and environmental sustainability requirements will be embedded within the procurement and contract management arrangements to support ongoing carbon reduction and service resilience.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Approval of the recommended option will enable the continued provision of community equipment services to citizens of Rotherham who draw on the service to support them to continue to live independently for as long as they are able and choose to do so. A collaborative commissioning approach on a South Yorkshire sub-regional level provides a number of benefits including:

- Equitable access for people who draw on the service through shared stock and a unified catalogue, reducing duplication and improving recycling.
- Aligned delivery speeds and clinical governance, reducing variation and improving safety and efficiency - facilitating positive experiences and outcomes for people who draw on the service.
- Innovation, shared data and operational insight for the benefit of people who draw on the service.
- Opportunity to share best practice across the sub-regional partnership for the benefit of people who draw on the service.

12.2 There is the opportunity across partners to streamline resources to manage the contractual arrangements, working jointly across local authority and health partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are several risks which are being managed as part of the service review and procurement of the community equipment service, namely:

1. **Market Position:** There is a risk of reduced supplier competition following the collapse of NRS Healthcare, potentially resulting in increased costs or reduced service quality.

Mitigation: A comprehensive procurement and market engagement plan is being carried out to maximise market interest and inform the final service specification.

2. **Lead Commissioner Arrangements:** If Sheffield City Council is unable to obtain approval to act as Lead Commissioner, it may not be possible to proceed with the preferred joint approach.

Mitigation: Sheffield City Council is obtaining independent legal advice and developing formal partnership agreements to support the proposed commissioning arrangements. This has been confirmed.

- 3. Multiple Commissioning Organisations:** Co-ordinating procurement activity across several Councils and South Yorkshire ICB increases complexity and may result in delays or inefficiencies.

Mitigation: A dedicated programme governance structure has been established including a Joint Equipment Procurement Strategic Group, Oversight Group, Operational Group and Finance Group, underpinned by robust programme management arrangements which will continue throughout procurement, mobilisation and contract management. A legal agreement will define roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements between Sheffield City Council and participating organisations. The service specification will establish core requirements relating to provision, response times, recycling, financial controls and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), whilst retaining flexibility for locally commissioned services.

- 4. Financial Baseline and Future Cost Modelling:** There is a risk that establishing a robust South Yorkshire-wide financial baseline will be challenging due to significant variation across the three commissioning areas. Differences in equipment catalogues, service models, coding practices, demand recording, recharge methodologies and local contract management arrangements make direct comparison difficult.

Mitigation: A detailed financial and activity baseline exercise across all participating partners using definitions and reporting methodologies agreed by the Finance Group has been undertaken. Further benchmarking and catalogue mapping to identify variation, duplication and opportunities for standardisation has been carried out. The procurement process and market engagement activity will be used to test cost assumptions and identify efficiency opportunities. A common financial and performance reporting framework for implementation from contract commencement will be put in place with contractual mechanisms to monitor demand, utilisation, recycling rates and unit costs throughout the life of the contract.

14. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/26

Report Author: Steph Watt, Head of Service, Urgent Community Care, Rotherham Council and SY ICB. steph.watt@nhs.net Steph Watt, Head of Service, Urgent Community Care, Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB)
steph.watt@nhs.net

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

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Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Rotherham Community Equipment Service	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Strategic Commissioning
Lead person: Steph Watt, Head of Service Urgent and Community Care Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB)	Contact: Email: steph.watt@nhs.net
Is this a:	
☐ Strategy / Policy	☒ Service / Function
☐ Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The provision of a Community Equipment Service is a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014 and the NHS Act 2006. The service supports children, young people and adults by providing equipment that promotes safety, independence, rehabilitation and support for carers.

The current Rotherham Community Equipment Service is jointly commissioned by Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB). The existing contract is due to expire in March 2027, and a costed options appraisal has been undertaken to consider future commissioning arrangements.

A preferred commissioning option has been identified, subject to the appropriate governance and approval processes, for a jointly commissioned Community Equipment Service across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield, with Sheffield City Council acting as lead commissioner. The proposed model would seek to improve consistency across the three areas through greater alignment of policies, procedures and equipment provision, whilst maintaining access to equipment based on locally assessed need.

As this proposal represents a change to the future commissioning and governance arrangements for the service, an equality impact assessment has been carried out to understand whether there may be any actual or potential impacts on people and communities with protected characteristics and where opportunities exist to further promote equality of access and outcomes.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Equality, diversity and health inequalities considerations have been included as part of the options appraisal and future service planning process. The Community Equipment Service supports a wide range of residents, including many people who share protected characteristics, particularly people with disabilities, older people, people with long-term conditions and unpaid carers. Children and young people with disabilities, together with their families and carers, particularly benefit from the service as it provides equipment and adaptations which support independence, safety, participation in everyday activities and changing needs as the individual grows and matures.

Consideration has been given to how changes to commissioning arrangements, governance structures, service delivery processes and equipment provision may affect different groups. Existing evidence, service user feedback, stakeholder engagement and a previous impact assessment completed by SY ICB have informed this screening assessment.

As the proposal affects a service that supports vulnerable residents across all age groups, a full Equality Analysis (Part B) has been undertaken to explore potential impacts in greater detail and identify any actions required to promote equality and mitigate risks.

As the current lead commissioner SY ICB have completed a full impact assessment which was reviewed by a cross SY ICB panel in October 2025.

- **Key findings**

Could the proposal affect service users?

Yes. The proposal relates to a service used by a significant number of residents, including people with disabilities, older people, people with long-term health conditions, carers and other groups who may be more likely to rely on community equipment to maintain independence and wellbeing. No evidence has been identified to suggest the proposal would have an adverse impact on any protected characteristic group. It is anticipated that the proposed changes will have either a neutral or positive impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics due to opportunities to improve consistency of access to equipment, reduce variation across local areas and increase access to specialist equipment through sharing stock across geographic and organisational boundaries.

Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?

Yes. Subject to approval, the proposal would introduce a new joint commissioning arrangement involving Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield Councils and SY ICB, with Sheffield City Council acting as lead commissioner, in place of SY ICB. It is anticipated that Sheffield City Council will lead on contract management and performance for the partnership. However, Rotherham representatives will form part of this function and Rotherham will retain responsibility for assessment, financial management and overall contract management. The potential implications of these changes, including any impact on accessibility, service experience and equality of access, are further developed in Part B of the process.

- **Actions**

A full Equality Analysis has been considered and approved by SY ICB. The Council's Part B assessment has been completed to assess the potential impact of the proposal on people with protected characteristics and other groups who may experience inequality.

Equality considerations will continue to inform the development of the procurement and commissioning process. Engagement with people who use the service, carers, clinicians and partner organisations will continue throughout the procurement, mobilisation and implementation phases to ensure that the future service remains accessible, equitable and responsive to local needs.

Any equality considerations identified through the procurement process will be incorporated into the service specification, contract requirements and ongoing contract monitoring arrangements.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Oct 2025- July 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	31 July 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Steph Watt, Head of Service Urgent and Community Care, Rotherham Council and SY ICB

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Scott Matthewman	Service Director, Strategic Commissioning, ACH& PH	27 July 2026
Kirsty Littlewood	Service Director Adult Social Care and Integration, ACH&PH	27 July 2026
Councillor Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	31 July 2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	31 July 2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	28 July 2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Community Equipment Service 28 July 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 14 September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	28 July 2026

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Appendix 2



PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Rotherham Community Equipment Service	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 23 July 2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Steph Watt, Head of Service Urgent and Community Care, RMBC/SYICB	Contact number: Email: steph.watt@nhs.net
Is this a: ☐ Strategy / Policy ☒ Service / Function ☐ Other If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Jumaimah Iqbal	Rotherham Council	Principal Occupational Therapist Access and Prevention Adult Care and Integration, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Jayne Metcalfe	Rotherham Council	Head of Access and Prevention, Adult Care and Integration, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Adele Taft	South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board	Contract and Commissioning Officer, Community Equipment Service

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The provision of a community equipment service is a statutory requirement under the Care Act (2014) and the NHS Act (2006). Rotherham Community Equipment Service is an all-age service which is responsible for the provision, delivery, collection, decontamination, maintenance and recycling of equipment services. The service is currently jointly commissioned by the Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB), with SY ICB as the lead commissioner, and Medequip as the service provider.

The equipment service is a borough wide service with referrals through health and social care practitioners and assessment by authorised clinical occupational therapists. Assessment and allocation of equipment is according to individual need and context.

The current contract is due to end in March 2027. A costed options appraisal has been completed with the preferred option being a jointly commissioned service across Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield Councils and SY ICB, with Sheffield City Council as the lead commissioner (subject to internal approval by Sheffield City Council). This option benefits Rotherham citizens, and people with protected characteristics using the service, as it provides greater access to equipment through harmonising the equipment catalogue across the 3 footprints and sharing specialist equipment. This option offers best value for money through economies of scale and more efficient and streamlined operational processes.

The current and future equipment contract is awarded using the NHS Standard Contract and therefore the provider must be compliant with the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and local authority commissioning and procurement requirements. These obligations require providers to undertake Equality Impact Assessments for service

changes and ensure equitable access for all protected groups. Specifically, providers must ensure equitable access to equipment regardless of disability, age, race, sex, etc; provide reasonable adjustments (e.g., communication formats, delivery arrangements); avoid policies or practices that create indirect discrimination (e.g., digital-only access); prevent harassment or victimisation of service users or staff; consider impacts on protected groups when making service changes; engage with service users from diverse backgrounds to understand needs and ensure staff are trained to recognise and mitigate equality impacts.

In the proposed model, harmonisation of the equipment catalogue and processes across the 3 Place footprints will reduce local variation and facilitate cross border decision making, reducing delays etc. A full impact assessment of the proposed changes has been completed and approved by SY ICB as lead commissioner of the current contract to inform the Council assessment.

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

The Council has been working with the provider and respective teams to understand the potential impact on residents and particularly individuals and groups with protected characteristics.

A costed options appraisal, independently validated, has been informed by the following:

- i. **Feedback from people using the service and their unpaid carers.** This has been predominantly positive including people valuing prompt delivery, friendly and professional assessment and delivery service and timely responses, a minority commented on delays in return and collection of equipment. In addition, Medequip collect feedback from people using the service which, along with complaints are reviewed at the monthly contract performance meetings. Information has been used to inform the procurement options appraisal exercise and impact assessments. Where complaints are received, these are investigated thoroughly and details including any learning/ changes to procedures etc are shared with the commissioner at the contract performance meetings with actions agreed and monitored. Blatchford, the current wheelchair provider, have a Rotherham Wheelchair User Group with over forty members. Blatchford also use a service user outcome measures tool called BLOOM and the results are shared with the commissioners. People accessing the service and their carers will be involved in the tender evaluation, mobilisation and implementation of the new service.
- ii. **Modelling:** Using public health data and with independent benchmarking against services of similar size/demographic taking account of factors such as population, age and profile
- iii. **Development Groups** Cross cutting Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster operational planning, financial and oversight groups have worked together to identify good practice and shape recommendations for the future model, which meets the needs of citizens whilst offering best value for money.

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

No, but data collection is an on-going process. What is collected, how and when will be reviewed by the cross-sector mobilisation group. This position will be kept under review throughout the contract lifecycle to ensure all appropriate information continues to inform the service design and delivery process.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

This will form part of the standard contract management process.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	An Engagement Group was established, led by SYICB engagement leads. A service user survey has been undertaken, which was shared with the following groups for their feedback and people using the service, families and carers: • Rotherham Parent Carer Forum • Age UK Rotherham • Active Independence • Rotherham Carers Forum • Crossroads Rotherham • Sheffield Carers Centre • Age UK Sheffield • SCCCC • Disability Sheffield • MS Society Sheffield • Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance • Sheffield ME & Fibromyalgia Group • Doncaster commissioners People using the service commented on prompt delivery of equipment during periods of crisis or urgent need. Delivery staff were described as compassionate, professional, friendly and respectful, with assessments and clinical support by therapists praised for being personalised and collaborative. Carers and families felt supported, including during end-of-life care, reducing stress and maintaining dignity. Many reported that the service enabled increased independence, mobility and quality of life, helping people to carry out daily activities more safely. The service was seen as enabling people to remain safely at home, reducing the need for hospital admission or residential care. However, some people reported delays and difficulties in returning equipment, with some people unable to return reusable items. A minority reported communication and delivery issues or that assessments did not fully meet individual needs.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Staff engagement has taken place as part of the options appraisal and planning process. Rotherham Operational (User) Groups take place for both adult and children's health and social care staff and joint operational, finance and oversight groups have been established for planning and approval purposes with membership from Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield

	Councils and SY ICB. This has informed development of the costed options appraisal, service specification and standardisation of the equipment catalogue. Feedback evidenced the value and impact of the equipment service on individuals and families including protected characteristics and groups particularly in relation to independent living and quality of life for individuals and carers as well as value for money, reducing the need for more costly aides and adaptations, packages of care and residential care. An option appraisal is being carried out regarding the future commissioning model. Policies and pathways are being agreed to ensure that these are fit for purpose and meet the needs of those using the service and their unpaid carers. A Rotherham Equipment Prescriber Event was held in September 2025 and a joint Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield event in April 2026. The future model will provide more opportunities for cross cutting consultation, development and training.
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4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Community Equipment Services are needs-based, meaning people only receive equipment when a professional assessment shows it is needed for safety, independence, rehabilitation, or carer support. In practice, this ensures resources are targeted to those who face functional limitations or risks, with equipment prescribed by clinicians such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurses or social workers. Because the service focuses on removing barriers to daily living, it can significantly benefit people with protected characteristics by providing reasonable adjustments, reducing inequalities in access, and supporting independence.

Where needs cannot be reasonably met through the standard catalogue, they may be referred to a small multi-disciplinary group Specials Panel. The panel considers clinical justification, risks, alternatives, and funding implications, ensuring decisions are consistent, fair and based on assessed need. Specials panels can have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics because they provide a flexible route to secure equipment for individuals whose needs are more complex or atypical, supporting reasonable adjustments, and ensuring equitable access to essential equipment.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No. Nothing has been identified to date. Work will continue with people using the service, families and unpaid carers during the tender and mobilisation process and this will form part of the contract monitoring process.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Groups who may particularly benefit from community equipment services are:

- Disabled people – providing accessibility, communication, delivery arrangements. Children and young people with disabilities, together with their families and carers, particularly benefit from the service as it provides equipment and adaptations which support independence, safety, participation in everyday activities and changing needs as the person grows and matures.
- Older people – facilitating mobility, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment.
- Ethnic minority groups – supporting language needs and cultural considerations.
- People with long-term conditions – providing continuity of service and timely provision.
- People with low digital access – ensuring non-digital routes remain available.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The service will have a positive or neutral impact on community relations as it is required to be needs-based, transparent and applied consistently, ensuring that support is allocated fairly and according to assessed functional need rather than personal circumstance. By reducing barriers to independence and safety, particularly for disabled people, older adults, carers and others with protected characteristics, it helps address inequalities and demonstrates that public services are responsive to diverse needs. The proposed joint service will further support equality of access by providing a wider and more consistent range of community equipment across the South Yorkshire footprint, which may particularly benefit people experiencing socio-economic deprivation who rely on publicly funded equipment to maintain independence and wellbeing. The harmonisation of equipment provision and cross-boundary working may also improve access for residents who are geographically isolated or who require specialist equipment that may previously have been less readily available within a single locality. A clear and consistent approach to decision making prevents perceptions that one group is being prioritised over another, supporting trust, fairness and cohesion across the community.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Rotherham Community Equipment Service
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health. Service Area: Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Steph Watt, Head of Service Urgent and Community Care, Rotherham Council and SY ICB
Summary of findings:
The evidence for the proposal is robust and shows no potential for discrimination. Opportunities to promote equality have been taken into account and factored into the design and delivery of the service.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Actively involving service users and carers in the evaluation, mobilisation and ongoing operation of the contract, ensuring their lived experience shapes decision-making.	Cross section	October 2026 (following approval)
Equality factors will be built into Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), with regular reporting and monitoring forming part of routine performance discussions to maintain accountability.	All	April 2027 (or start date of new contract)
Build into the future contract the requirement for providers to complete Equality Impact Assessments for any service changes, ensuring staff receive ongoing training in inclusive practice, and monitoring access and outcomes data to identify and address any disparities across protected characteristic groups.	All	April 2027 (or start date of new contract)

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Scott Matthewman	Service Director, Strategic Commissioning. ACH&PH	29 July 2026
Kirsty Littlewood	Service Director, Adult Care and Integration, ACH&PH	29 July 2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	31 July 2026
Councillor Baker Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health	31 July 2026

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	24 July 2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Equipment Service 14 September 2026
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	28/07/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	The integrated service may rationalise existing storage and depot arrangements across the three Places. The final operating model and estate requirements will be determined through the procurement and mobilisation process. No significant change in overall building-related emissions is anticipated	The proposal is not expected to result in a material increase in non-domestic building emissions across the Borough.	The procurement specification will include requirements for provides to optimise estate utilisation and adopt energy-efficient operational practices where practicable.	Sustainability requirements and relevant environmental performance indicators will be monitored through contract management arrangements.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Integration of services across Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield is expected to create opportunities to optimise logistics, vehicle utilisation, stock management and route planning, reducing unnecessary journeys associated with equipment delivery, collection and maintenance.	More efficient service planning and deployment of equipment may reduce transport-related emissions across the wider service area.	The procurement process will include sustainability requirements that encourage route optimisation, efficient fleet management and consideration of low-emission or alternative-fuel vehicles.	Provider performance reporting will include monitoring of delivery and collection activity alongside agreed sustainability measures

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	A single integrated equipment service, supported by standardised stock management and greater sharing of specialist equipment, is expected to increase opportunities for equipment reuse, refurbishment, repair and recycling, reducing waste generation and disposal requirements.	The proposal is expected to reduce equipment disposal and support a more circular approach to the management of community equipment across the service area.	The contract specification will require equipment refurbishment, recycling and reuse wherever clinically appropriate and safe to do so.	Equipment reuse, recycling and disposal rates will be monitored through routine contract performance management processes.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	The proposal does not directly affect emissions arising from domestic properties.	No significant impact on emissions from housing is anticipated across the Borough.	No mitigation measures are required.	No specific monitoring is required.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	The proposal does not include any planned construction, refurbishment or significant estate development.	No construction-related emissions impacts are anticipated.	No mitigation measures are required.	No specific monitoring required.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	The proposal does not directly affect carbon capture measures or natural environmental assets.	No impact on carbon sequestration within the Borough is anticipated.	No mitigation measures are required.	No specific monitoring required.

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

The proposed integrated procurement and commissioning present opportunities to improve resource efficiency through standardisation of equipment inventories, sharing of specialist equipment, reduction in stock duplication, increased refurbishment and repair of assets, and more efficient use of storage capacity. Collectively, these measures are expected to reduce the embodied carbon associated with the manufacture, procurement and disposal of community equipment.

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

The proposal is not expected to increase climate-related risks within Rotherham. The integrated service model may strengthen service resilience through access to a larger equipment pool, increased operational flexibility and enhanced cross-boundary resource sharing during periods of disruption, including extreme weather events. This may improve the service's ability to maintain equipment provision and support vulnerable residents during flooding, heatwaves and other climate-related incidents.

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

The Rotherham Equipment Service is responsible for the procurement, storage, delivery, collection, maintenance, decontamination, repair, recycling and reuse of community equipment and wheelchairs to support people to live safely and independently within their own homes and communities. The service is jointly commissioned by Rotherham Council and NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB) and is currently delivered by Medequip.

The current contract expires in March 2027. Following completion of a costed options appraisal, the preferred option is to procure an integrated Community Equipment Service across Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield on behalf of the three local authorities and SY ICB.

The proposal is expected to have a minor positive overall climate impact. The most significant benefits relate to improved equipment reuse, refurbishment and recycling, leading to reduced waste and lower embodied carbon emissions. Opportunities also exist to improve fleet utilisation and logistics planning across the integrated service area, which may reduce transport-related emissions.

No significant adverse impacts have been identified in relation to buildings, housing emissions, construction activities or carbon capture. Sustainability requirements will be incorporated into the procurement process and monitored through ongoing contract management arrangements to support continuous improvement in environmental performance.

The initial contract term will be five years, with options to extend subject to performance and strategic need. The appointed provider will be required to demonstrate continuous improvement in environmental sustainability throughout the lifetime of the contract, meeting, at a minimum, national carbon-reduction expectations and evidencing progress against agreed environmental objectives.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Steph Watt
Head of Service, Urgent and Community Care
Strategic Commissioning

	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Rotherham Council's Climate Change Action Plan, NHS Greener NHS / Delivering a Net Zero NHS and NHS Impact Community Equipment Impact Assessment
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	n/a
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA678 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Adult Social Care Local Account 2025 - 2026

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Holly Smith, Change Lead, Service Improvement & Governance
Adult Social Care

Holly.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care 2025/2026 summarises the achievements for the last 12 months and sets out the priorities for the coming year.

The Local Account highlights key achievements across Adult Social Care, demonstrates the impact of services on residents and carers through case studies and feedback, celebrates the contribution of staff and partners, and outlines priorities for continued improvement during 2026/27.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the publication of the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2025 – 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 How Did We Do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025 - 2026

Appendix 2 Local Account 2025 – 2026 – Easy Read Version

Appendix 3 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 4 Part B – Equality Analysis Form

Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Rotherham Council Adult Social Care Local Account 2024-to-25](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

How Did We Do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025 – 2026

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2025, Adult Social Care published 'How Did We Do?', its Local Account for 2024/25, following approval by Cabinet. The Local Account showcased the achievements of the service and outlined priorities for the coming year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Local Account for 2025/26 outlines the Council's achievements across Adult Social Care for the previous 12 months including:
- A positive inspection outcome with a Care Quality Commission (CQC) 'Good' rating.
 - Implementation of a new transitions assessment process with partners, improving the experience of young people moving into adult services.
 - Expanding the Supported Employment Service and strengthened links with local employers, helping more residents access employment opportunities.
 - Established a hospital discharge 'Transfer of Care Hub' with partners, supporting timely discharge and improved outcomes for residents.
 - Developed the Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy (2026–2029).
 - Progressed the development of Castle View Day Centre at Canklow for people with complex needs.
 - Developed the All-Age Carers Strategy (2026–2031).
 - Developed the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) Strategic Plan (2025–2028) with key partners.
 - Developed and promoted an Involvement Framework to strengthen co-production and voice across Adult Social Care services.
- 2.2 The Local Account also outlines the Council's Adult Social Care priorities for the year ahead. These priorities indicate the key areas of focus for improvement and development and are supported through separate service and programme delivery plans. These include:
- Reduced waiting times for Care Act assessments.
 - Reduced inequalities for seldom heard groups.
 - Strengthened and improved access to enablement services.
 - Improving provision for working age adults with support needs.
 - Increasing the number of carers accessing support and services.
 - Further strengthening co-production and involvement approaches.
 - Improving practice through audits and quality assurance.
- 2.3 The Local Account provides a view of the real and tangible impact Adult Social Care has on residents' lives through several case studies, as well as highlighting the voice of residents through feedback mechanisms, including the complaints and compliments process.

- 2.4 The Local Account includes the improvements being implemented within services to address issues raised by residents to ensure there is a process of continual service improvement.
- 2.5 A number of local authorities publish Adult Social Care Local Accounts to provide transparency about performance, outcomes and areas for improvement. Publication of Rotherham's 'How Did We Do?' Adult Social Care Local Account for 2025/26 will provide a clear and accessible account of performance and achievements.
- 2.6 The Local Account will be available digitally via the Council's website and as printed copies. An Easy Read version will also be published, and alternative formats, including large print and translated versions, can be made available on request to support accessibility and ensure residents can access information in a format that meets their needs.
- 2.7 The Adult Social Care Local Account is an annual publication designed to provide residents, carers, partners and stakeholders with an accessible overview of service performance, achievements and future priorities. Detailed operational performance information and programme monitoring are managed separately through relevant service reporting and governance arrangements.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1: Do Nothing

- 3.1 This option would seek to retain the 2024/2025 'How Did We Do?' Adult Social Care Local Account. This option is not considered to be viable as it does not reflect the current operating environment of Adult Social Care, recent successes, and future priorities.
- 3.2 Furthermore, it is essential that residents understand the important work that the Council's Adult Social Care service is delivering in partnership with people with care and support needs and partners, as the breadth of the service role is often not fully understood.

Option 2: Publish the 'How Did We Do?' Adult Social Care Local Account for 2025/26

- 3.3 Option 2 is the preferred option as it would enable a transparent, open and accountable view of Adult Social Care performance.
- 3.4 With formal regulation of council Adult Social Care departments by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has recommended that Local Accounts of adult social care performance are formally published on an annual basis.
- 3.5 Approval of Option 2 would ensure Rotherham's approach remains aligned with that of other councils within both the South Yorkshire region and nationally.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Resident feedback, including compliments, complaints, surveys and engagement activities, has been used to shape the achievements highlighted in the Local Account and the priorities identified for the year ahead.
- 4.2 Recent engagement undertaken to inform the All-Age Carers Strategy has also contributed to understanding local priorities and areas for improvement.
- 4.3 Engagement with residents, carers, partners and stakeholders has informed the development of the Rotherham Mental Health Strategy, helping to identify local needs, priorities and opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes across the borough.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 September 2026 – seek approval from Cabinet to publish the 2025/26 Local Account.
- 5.2 October 2026 – publish the Local Account, subject to Cabinet approval.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. However, where the Council needs to engage third party suppliers to deliver against the year ahead priorities, these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Procurement Act 2023 or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (whichever is appropriate)), as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The preferred option within this report of publishing 'How Did We Do?' promotes transparency, openness and accountability, which is in compliance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.
- 7.2 Publication is also in line with formal regulation of Council Adult Social Care departments by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and the recommendation of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) that Local Accounts of adult social care performance are formally published on an annual basis.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no HR implications arising directly from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This Local Account will have positive implications for equalities and people with protected characteristics because it holds the Local Authority to account in terms of progress in key areas and for underrepresented groups.

10.2 An equality impact assessment has also been completed – see Appendices 3 and 4 for Parts A and B of this assessment.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Publication of the Local Account is not expected to have any significant impact on carbon emissions. A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed and is included at Appendix 5.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Local Account reflects the contribution of key partners across health, care and the voluntary sector and supports continued collaborative working to improve outcomes for residents.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Whilst the Local Account does not present any risks, there are risks associated with this document not being published.

13.2 Clear strategic priorities for Adult Social Care will communicate the direction of travel for the service and illustrate how it will further build on the positive work already being delivered.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/26

Report Author: *Holly Smith, Change Lead, Adult Social Care*
holly.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Appendix 1.

HOW DID WE DO?

Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-2026

*People are safe, healthy and
live well*

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Foreword

The past year has been one of significant progress for Adult Social Care in Rotherham. This Local Account highlights what we have achieved, the difference this has made for residents, and our priorities for the year ahead.

Our vision remains to enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time. This year, we were proud to receive a 'Good' rating from the Care Quality Commission, recognising our commitment to high-quality services, strong partnerships, prevention and continuous improvement.

Over the last 12 months, we have strengthened support for people to remain independent and well. Key achievements include improving hospital discharge arrangements, expanding employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism, strengthening support for young people moving into adulthood, developing a new Mental Health Strategy, and launching a new All-Age Carers Strategy. We have also continued to place residents at the heart of service improvement through stronger involvement and co-production opportunities.

In 2026/27, we will focus on reducing waiting times for Care Act assessments, improving access to enablement services, increasing support for carers, reducing inequalities for seldom-heard groups, and strengthening quality assurance and learning across our services. I would like to thank our staff, partners, carers and

residents for their ongoing support and contribution. Together, we will continue to improve services and help people in Rotherham live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Cllr Baker-Roger's photo

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Ian Spicer photo

Executive Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health

Adult Social Care in Rotherham

The Adult Social Care Local Account is an annual publication designed to provide residents, carers, partners and stakeholders with an accessible overview of service performance, achievements and future priorities. Detailed operational performance information and programme monitoring are managed separately through relevant service reporting and governance arrangements.

Adult Social Care supports people with care and support needs, alongside their families and carers, to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

We take a 'doing with' approach, working in partnership with people to understand what matters to them and build on their strengths, abilities and existing support networks. We work with older people, people with disabilities, people experiencing mental ill health, carers and young people preparing for adulthood.

Our approach is based on four key principles:

- **Living Well and Independently** – supporting health, wellbeing and independence.
- **Making Informed Choices** – providing clear information and advice.
- **Staying Connected** – helping people maintain important relationships and community connections.
- **Support Shaped Around the Person** – building on strengths, aspirations and individual circumstances.

Our Adult Social Care vision for Rotherham residents is to:

- ***'Enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, with the people they value, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time'.***

To deliver our vision, Adult Social Care will ensure that residents have:

- Clear and timely information to help them understand their options and make decisions about their care and support.
- Support and services that are right for them, focusing on their strengths, abilities and what matters most in their lives.
- Opportunities to stay connected to their local communities and keep the relationships that are important to them.
- The right support at the right time, helping people stay healthy for longer and remain as independent as possible.

Over the last 12 months, Adult Social Care has made progress against a wide range of priorities. We have also identified several key priorities for the year ahead to help us continue delivering our ambition and vision for residents.

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding adults is a core responsibility of Adult Social Care. It helps prevent abuse and neglect, reduce risks, and protect adults with care and support needs. Concerns can be raised by professionals, residents, families and members of the public.

The number of safeguarding concerns reported in Rotherham continues to increase, reflecting growing awareness of safeguarding and how to report concerns. Not all concerns require a formal enquiry, but all are assessed and responded to appropriately.

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) oversees safeguarding arrangements across partner organisations, ensuring adults at risk are protected and supported. The Council's Safeguarding Adults Pathway was updated in 2025 to strengthen practice and ensure people remain at the centre of safeguarding decisions.

Partners also work together to support adults with complex needs, using a person-centred and trauma-informed approach to improve safety, wellbeing and independence.

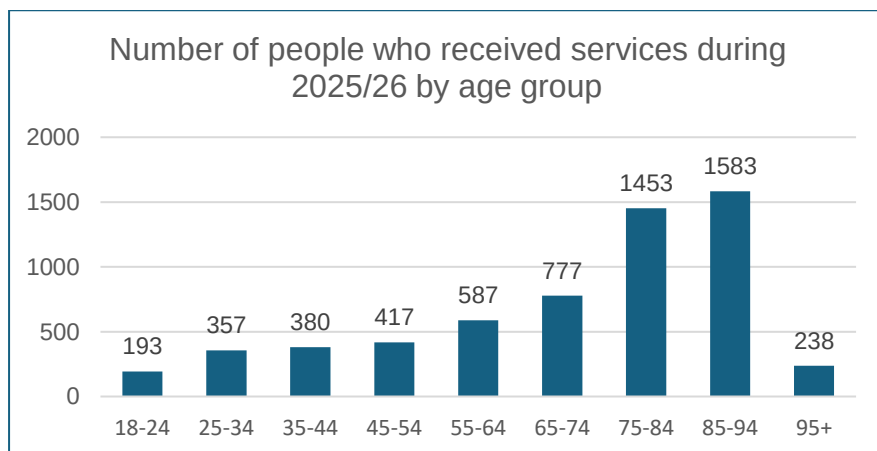
The six safeguarding principles underpin all adult safeguarding practice in Rotherham and are embedded within the Care Act 2014 statutory guidance.

6 Principles	What this means for you
Empowerment	You are involved in decisions and your views and wishes are respected.
Prevention	You receive information and support to help prevent abuse or neglect.
Proportionality	Support is provided in a way that is appropriate to the level of risk.
Protection	You can access help and support if you are experiencing abuse or neglect.
Partnership	Organisations work together to help keep you safe.
Accountability	You know who is responsible and how safeguarding decisions are made.

Safeguarding activity (2025/26)	What this shows
5,669 safeguarding concerns received	A 42% increase compared to 2024/25, reflecting increased awareness and reporting
1,066 concerns progressed to an enquiry (49.3%)	A 9% increase from the previous year, reflecting the revised safeguarding pathway is working
913 safeguarding enquiries completed	An increase from 862 in 2024/25, reflecting that waiting times are managed well and adults subject to enquiry are receiving outcomes more efficiently.
429 people attended safeguarding training	Continued investment in workforce awareness and capability
Most common abuse types	Neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse

Supporting Our Residents

During the last 12 months we provided support services for 5,985 individual people. At the end of March there were 3,895 people with an open service.

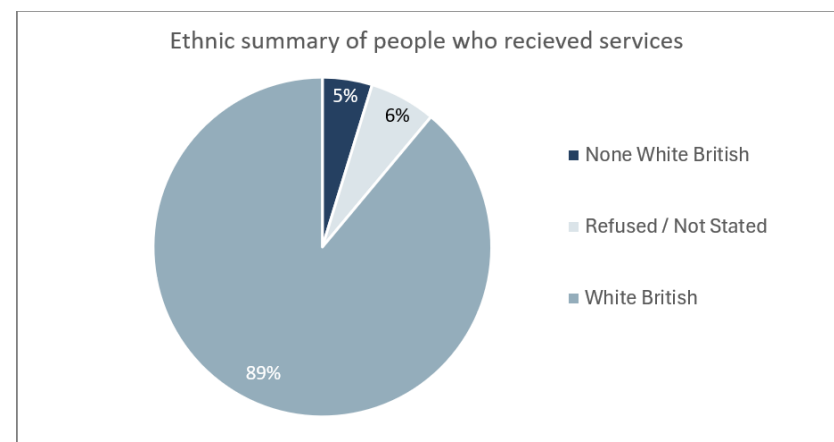


Age Band	Number of People
18-24	193
25-34	357
35-44	380
45-54	417
55-64	587
65-74	777
75-84	1453
85-94	1583
95+	238

5985

57% of people receiving support over the year were female and 43% were male. 68% were older people aged 65+ and 32% were aged 18-64.

89% of people receiving Adult Social Care services identified as being White British, 5% are from minority ethnic groups and 6% did not provide this information. The Census 2021 found that 88.3% of the borough's overall population are White British and 11.7% are from minority ethnic groups.



This information helps us understand who is accessing our services and where there are gaps. It will inform our priorities for 2026/27, including improving access for seldom heard groups and ensuring support meets the needs of local communities.

Supporting Our Residents

Safeguarding Adults

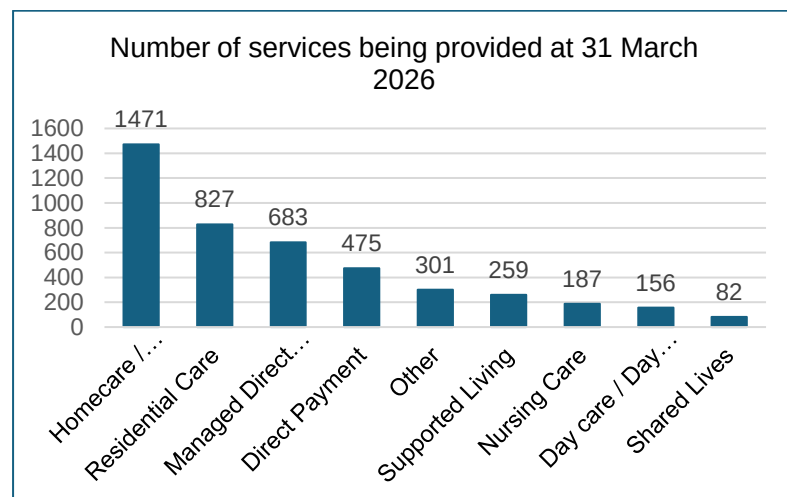
Over the 2025/26-year 901 people were subject to a new Safeguarding enquiry and 795 had an enquiry completed.

Most enquiries relate to older people and happen in a person's own home.

At the end of 2025/26, 97.1% of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry felt their personal outcomes were at least partially or fully met.

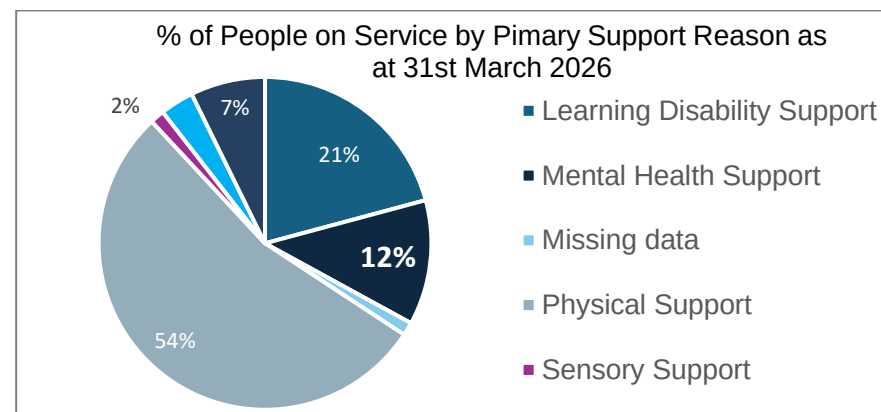
Access to Services

At the end of March 2026 there were 3,895 people accessing 4,441 services.



Of the 3,895 people accessing services at the end of March 2026, 52% also had an identified carer.

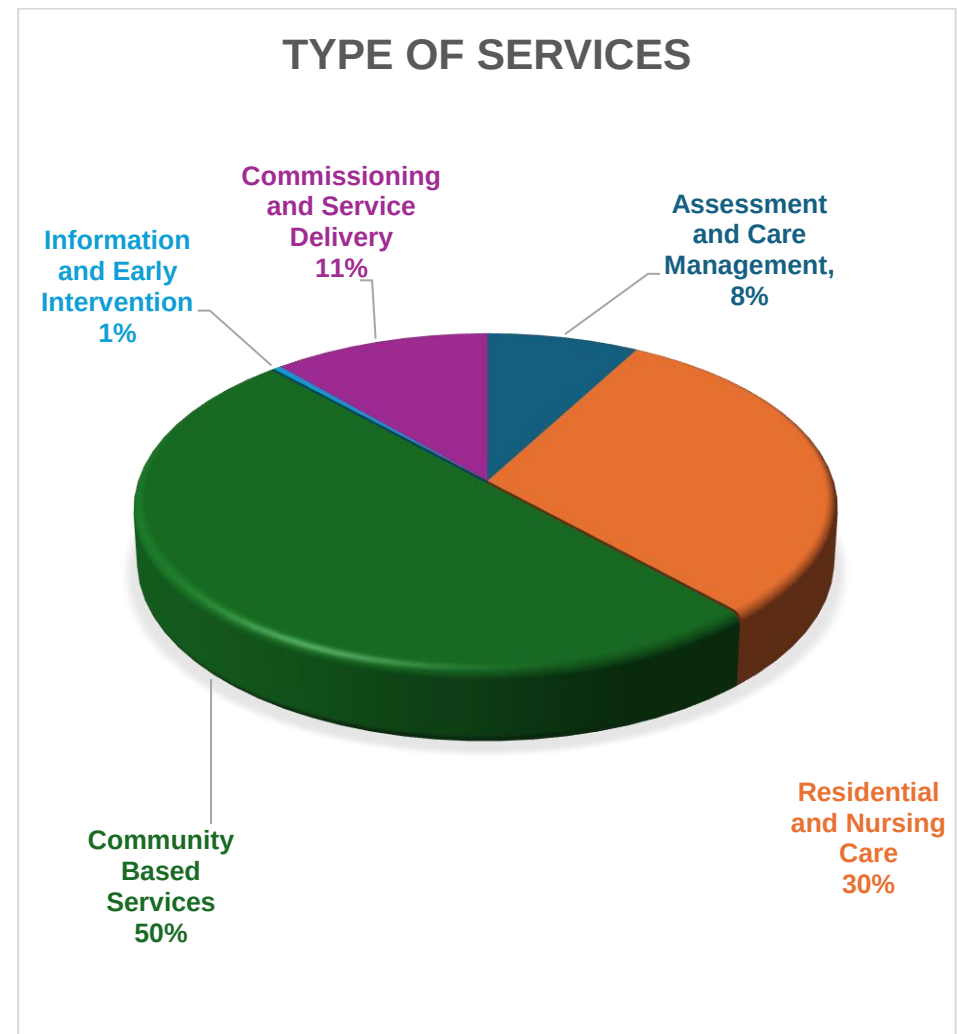
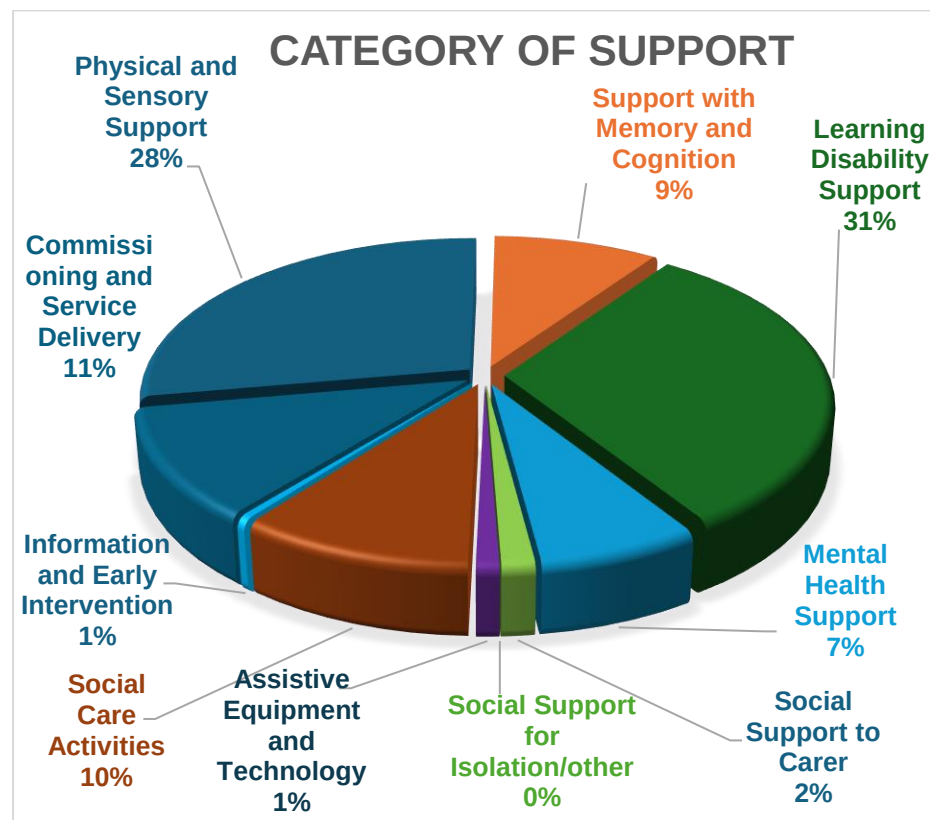
Primary Support Reason (PSR)	AGE GROUP		ALL
	18-64	65+	
Physical Support	424	1673	2097
Learning Disability Support	720	91	811
Mental Health Support	320	153	473
Support with Memory and Cognition	21	262	283
Social Support	81	46	127
Sensory Support	31	23	54
Missing data*	18	32	50
Everyone on service on 31 March 2026	1,615	2,280	3,895
	41.5%	58.5%	



*Missing data relates to a small number of records where a person's primary support reason had not been recorded on the system at the time of reporting.

How we use our Resources

In 2024/25, Rotherham spent £121.6 million on Adult Care and Support services, an increase of 18.7% (£19.1 million) compared with the previous year. Despite rising costs and demand, 50% of spending remained focused on community-based services, helping people to live independently for longer.



How we performed – Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people. It is used locally and nationally to assess performance, identify areas for improvement and understand the impact of adult social care services.

The indicators below highlight a selection of key measures where Rotherham is performing well and where further improvement is needed. The data is based on the latest published benchmarking information available as of May 2026, using 2024/25 ASCOF returns. Measures relating to carers are based on the 2023/24 Carers Survey. The colours show how Rotherham compares with England and regional averages.

Better or approximately the same as England averages

Slightly below England average

Below England average and poor ranking

Measure		Rotherham	England	Yorkshire and Humber	Rotherham Rank
Areas performing well					
1D	Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support	70.6	65.1	66.8	12
1E	Overall satisfaction of carers with social services	41.5	36.7	36.4	46
3B	% of carers who report that they have been involved in discussions about the person they care for	74.3	66.4	67.7	14
3D1a	The proportion of people who use services who receive self-directed support	100	82.4	90.9	1

Measure		Rotherham	England	Yorkshire and Humber	Rotherham Rank
Areas performing well					
3D2a	% people who use services who receive direct payments (excludes managed direct payments)	40.1	24.5	28.1	8
5A1	% people who use services who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like	50.2	45.3	48	14
6A	% staff in the formal care workforce leaving their role in the past 12 months	19.6	23.7	24.4	113
Areas for Improvement					
2A	% of people who received a short-term service, where there was no requirement for further long-term support	45.3	77.1	74.2	136
2D2	% older people (aged 65+) offered reablement/rehabilitation services after discharge from hospital	2.2	5.7	3.7	118
3C1	% people who use services who find it easy to find information about support	65.6	67.8	69.6	101
4A	% of people who use services who feel safe	66.1	70.1	71.7	125
5A2	% carers who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like	26	30	32	112

The ASCOF results show where we are performing well and where further improvement is needed. We will use these insights to target resources, shape service developments and deliver better outcomes for residents and carers over the coming year

Our achievements in 2025/26

The following tables explain what Adult Social Care achieved in 2025/26 and the impact this had for residents.

Achievement	This means that...
A positive inspection outcome with a Care Quality Commission (CQC) 'Good' rating.	People receive good-quality care and support, backed by strong leadership and partnership working.
Implementation of a new transitions assessment process with partners.	Young people moving into adulthood receive more joined-up support and planning.
Expanding the Supported Employment Service and strengthened links with local employers.	More people with learning disabilities and autism are supported into volunteering and paid employment.
Established a hospital discharge 'Transfer of Care Hub' with partners.	People leave hospital sooner and with the right support in place.
Developed the Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy (2026–2029).	People can access support earlier, helping them stay independent and well.
Progressed the development of Castle View Day Centre, Canklow for people with complex needs.	More people will be able to access specialist support closer to home.
Developed the All-Age Carers Strategy (2026–2031).	Carers will be identified earlier and receive better access to information and support.
Developed the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) Strategic Plan (2025–2028) with key partners.	Partners will work together to better prevent abuse and protect adults at risk.
Developed and promoted an Involvement Framework to strengthen co-production and voice across Adult Social Care services	People with lived experience have a stronger voice in shaping services. Their views and feedback are used to design support that better meets people's needs.

Supporting carers in Rotherham

Carers are central to Rotherham’s vision of a “Borough That Cares.” With over 26,000 residents identifying as carers, they play a vital role in helping people to live well and remain independent.

We are strengthening how we recognise, support and work with carers, with help available from the first point of contact through to strategic partnership working across health, social care and the voluntary sector.

All-Age Carers Strategy

In early 2026, we launched the All-Age Carers Strategy 2026–2031, setting out our shared ambition to improve carers’ health and wellbeing. The strategy focuses on identifying carers earlier, improving access to information and support, supporting carers through change, strengthening joined-up working, and co-designing flexible services.

It has been co-produced with carers, with feedback from nearly 400 people shaping both priorities and delivery. During the engagement, carers told us that organisations should “work together better to identify carers” and ensure “meaningful consultation and champion the carer voice”. This feedback has directly shaped the commitments within the strategy.

Link to strategy: [All Age Carers Strategy 26-31](#)

Improving access and outcomes

Feedback from carers and our recent CQC assessment highlighted that opportunities remain to strengthen how carers access services and the outcomes they experience.

CQC identified themes including low uptake of services, variation in outcomes from carers’ assessments, and the need to better evidence carers’ experience and the impact of support.

In response, we aim to:

- Improve awareness and early access to support
- Provide clearer information at key points
- Strengthen how we capture carer feedback, outcomes and lived experience
- Work towards more ongoing contact with carers after assessment, so we can understand changes in their role and demonstrate impact over time

Facts about carers

15.2% of Rotherham’s population have care needs

266,000 people live in Rotherham, 26,313 (10.48%) are carers

12% of residents are in receipt of the daily living component of PIP or the care component of DLA

44% of people caring more than 50 hours per week are not in good health

30.8% of carers are registered disabled

Working with carers and communities

Co-production is central to our approach, with carers actively shaping services and priorities. Community-based groups funded in partnership with local organisations continue to provide peer support, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing, with many sustaining beyond initial funding.

We will continue to deliver the Carers Strategy by improving early identification, support and partnership working. Our aim is that all carers in Rotherham feel recognised, supported and able to balance their caring role with their own wellbeing.

Case Study: Supporting Unpaid Carers at The Brecks Community Hub

The Brecks Community Hub provides accessible, community-based support for unpaid carers in Rotherham, helping people stay connected, improve wellbeing and take time for themselves.

Through funding from the Unpaid Carer Health and Wellbeing Grants Programme, the Hub delivered activities including coffee afternoons, crafts, mindfulness, yoga and gentle exercise, supporting carers' physical, mental and social wellbeing. Sessions were informal and welcoming, reducing barriers to participation and providing a safe, local space for carers. This supports Rotherham's focus on prevention and early intervention.

Fourteen unpaid carers took part, with all reporting improved wellbeing. Carers valued the chance to step away from their role, connect with others and focus on their own health:

“They have not only improved my physical health and increased my motivation to move more but the group has also supported my mental wellbeing.”

The sessions reduced isolation and helped carers build peer support networks, often described as important “time for me”. By building resilience and improving wellbeing, the Hub supports carers to maintain their own health while continuing in their caring role. It also strengthens local community connections.

With over 26,000 carers in Rotherham, initiatives like The Brecks Community Hub play a key role in helping carers feel valued, supported and less alone.



Image: The Brecks Community Hub CIC Yoga Session

The Year Ahead

Our priorities for 2026/27 focus on improving access to support, reducing inequalities and promoting independence.

Priorities	This means that...
Reduced waiting times for Care Act assessments.	People will receive timely assessments and support, helping them to access the right care when they need it.
Reduced inequalities for seldom heard groups.	People from all communities will have fair access to services and support, regardless of their background or circumstances.
Strengthened and improved access to enablement services.	People can access short-term support more easily to help them regain independence and stay well at home.
Improving provision for working age adults with support needs.	Working age adults will have access to services and support that better meet their needs, helping them to live independently and achieve their goals.
Increasing the number of carers accessing support and services.	More carers will be identified and supported to maintain their own health and wellbeing alongside their caring role.
Further strengthening co-production and involvement approaches.	People with lived experience will have a stronger voice in shaping services, ensuring their views and feedback directly influence how support is delivered.
Improving practice through audits and quality assurance.	Regular audits will help us understand what is working well and where we need to improve, leading to better and more consistent practice.

Progress will be monitored throughout 2026/27 through performance reporting, quality assurance and feedback from residents and carers. The impact and outcomes will be reported in next year's Local Account.

Voice of the Resident

Listening to residents helps us understand what is working well and where we need to improve. During 2025/26, we received 470 compliments and 56 formal complaints. This represents a 4% increase in compliments compared to the previous year.

Residents shared positive feedback about a wide range of services:

- Enablement team

"Heartfelt thanks to you all for your kindness. You gave me the confidence and ability to come back home. Keep up your valuable work"

- Mental Health Team

"Thank you for your care and understanding, you have made a massive impact, and we really cannot thank you enough for your professional service"

- Prevention Team

"We are highly delighted with all the staff that have

attended our home, everyone has been kind and prompt and very helpful with manual and office proceedings"

In 2025/26, we received 56 complaints, compared with 63 in 2024/25 and 59 in 2023/24.

Of the complaints received, 49 (88%) were resolved at Stage One without further escalation. One Ombudsman investigation was completed during the year and was not upheld.

The most common themes raised through complaints related to:

- The quality of service we have provided.
- Timeliness of assessments.
- The cost of adult social care services.

We use feedback, complaints and compliments to learn and improve. During 2025/26, we strengthened support for people being discharged from hospital, improved the information and guidance available to residents and their families, and enhanced communication and joint working between Council social work teams and NHS services.

The Best Work of our Lives

Sam's Story - Regaining control and dignity

Sam lives in a nursing home and has dementia. Staff found him frequently distressed and resistant to personal care. Rather than focusing on the behaviour, a social worker took time to understand what was causing his distress.

Through conversations and life story work, the social worker discovered Sam felt disconnected from his identity and uncomfortable in his surroundings. He was supported to move to a room of his choosing, personalise it and wear clothes that reflected who he was.

As a result, Sam feels listened to and respected, is more engaged in his care, and his distress has reduced significantly.

Victoria's Story – Removing barriers to independence

Victoria's first language is Czech, and she was struggling with daily activities due to a neurological condition and memory loss. Language barriers made it difficult for her to access support.

Staff used translation services to communicate with Victoria in her preferred language and arranged practical support, including equipment, home adaptations and benefits advice.

By making reasonable adjustments and focusing on what mattered most to Victoria, staff helped her improve her independence and play an active role in decisions about her care.

Becca's Story – Building confidence through employment

After a difficult experience with a previous employer, Becca lost confidence in her ability to return to work. Becca has autism and a learning disability, and previous workplace experiences had affected her wellbeing.

The Supported Employment Team helped Becca recognise her strengths, including her excellent customer service skills, and supported her to prepare for an interview at Rotherham Hospital.

Becca successfully secured the role and is now thriving in a supportive workplace with reasonable adjustments in place. She enjoys her job, feels valued and has regained confidence in herself and her future. Becca describes the support she received as "life changing".

Useful Information

Contacts

Adult Safeguarding (Adult Contact Team) –01709 822330

Children's Safeguarding (MASH Team) – 01709 336080

Mental Health Crisis Team – 0800 652 9571

RDASH Switchboard – 03000 213000

Housing Services – 01709 336009

Enablement Services – 01709 336096

Shared Lives – 01709 334948

Supported Employment – 01709 249600

Age UK Rotherham – 01709 835214

Healthwatch Rotherham – 01709 717130

Citizen's Advice Bureau – 0808 278 7911

Samaritans – 116 123 (free, 24/7)

Glossary

Adult Social Care (ASC)

Support for adults who need help due to factors such as age, illness, disability, or mental health needs.

Care Act Assessment

A conversation to understand a person's care and support needs and decide what help may be available.

Carer

Someone who provides care and support to another person, such as a family member, friend, or neighbour.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

The independent regulator of health and social care services in England.

Co-production

Working together with people who use services, carers, and communities to design and improve services.

Enablement

Short-term support that helps people regain skills, confidence, and independence.

Safeguarding

Protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, or harm.

Direct Payment

Money paid directly to a person so they can arrange their own care and support.

Supported Living

Housing with support that helps people live as independently as possible.

Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

A national set of measures used to assess the quality and effectiveness of adult social care services.

Seldom Heard Groups

People or communities who may face barriers to accessing services or having their voices heard.



How Did We Do?

Adult Social Care Local Account 2025 – 2026

An Easy Read Guide



www.rotherham.gov.uk

About the Local Account



This report will show the good work we did last year. It will also tell you about the hard work from our teams.



We will show you what we will focus on for the next year. We will also say what we need to do better.



This is Ian Spicer the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.



This is Councillor Baker-Rogers the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care.

Adult Social Care helps adults with everyday life. People may need this help because of their age, a disability, illness, or mental health needs.

Councillor Baker-Rogers and Ian Spicer's views on the Local Account



The Local Account looks back at the past year. It shows how we have helped people.



We celebrate the good work done and share our plans for the next year. The person is at the centre of everything we do.

We aim to help everyone live their best lives and help people to stay independent.

Being **independent** means being in charge of your own life. It means having the freedom to make your own choices. It means having control over what you do. You can still ask for help when you need it.

We want everyone to have a say and be heard.

Our involvement framework helps with this.



The **Involvement Framework** helps us listen to people and hear their views.

It helps people take part in decisions and make sure their voices are heard.

What we want to do



We will help our residents to be healthy, feel well and be independent.

Resident is someone who lives in Rotherham.



We will support everyone who needs care to live their best lives with people they love, close to home.

We will make sure they get the right help when they need it.



We want everyone to have the right information to make good choices.

We will make sure everyone has important relationships that support their strengths and needs.

Safeguarding Adults



Safeguarding means protecting people so they can live safely, free from abuse and neglect.



It also means helping people understand what abuse looks like. People should know how to spot the signs.

Safeguarding helps people speak up if they see something wrong. Reporting concerns is important.



The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board checks that safeguarding is working. They try to stop abuse and harm before they happen.

They make sure people are protected in a personal way.

More Safeguarding Adults



In 2025/2026 **1066** people had a new safeguarding **enquiry**.

913 enquiries were completed in total.

Enquiry is another word for a question.



Most enquiries were about neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse.



At the end of 2025/2026, 97.1% of people said that what they wanted to happen had happened fully or happened a bit.



Training Room

429 people who work for the council completed safeguarding training.

Our Purpose



We know everyone is different and has different needs and wants.



We understand that to help someone, we must know them well.



Adult social care helps people who need care and support.

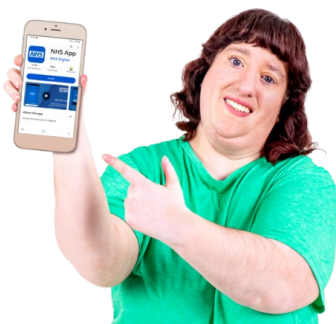
We help them live safe and well.

Our Purpose – Different types of help for people



Some help comes from special tools and gadgets.

This is sometimes called assistive technology or aids and adaptations.



You can also get advice and information.



There is help for family members who care for someone without getting paid, sometimes called unpaid carers.

A **carer** is someone who helps another person. This may be a family member, friend, or neighbour.



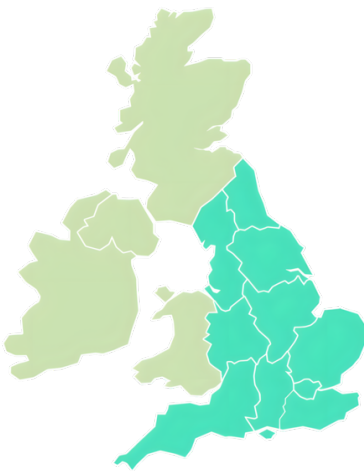
There is help like home care, day activities, or living in care homes.

Checks on care and support



The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) checks how well care is given to people.

It shares local and national information to make sure care and support is working well for people.



Care in Rotherham is good in some ways but needs to get better in others.

More people in Rotherham are satisfied with the care and support they receive than the average in England.



More people in Rotherham need long-term care after their short-term help ends.

Fewer older people in Rotherham are offered reablement when they leave hospital than the England average.

Reablement is getting skills and confidence to help you live as independently as possible.

Good work in Rotherham



The Care Quality Commission checks health and care services.

They checked Rotherham Council Adult Care.

They gave the service a **good** score.



More people with learning disabilities and autism were helped to find a job.



The Council worked on building a new day centre for people with learning disabilities and autism



The council is working with the health service so people can leave hospital sooner and get the support they need.

A Focus on Carers



Many people in Rotherham need care. Because of this, there are a lot of carers in our area.

Carers are very important. They help people live good and happy lives.



The council wants to help carers more. They have made a new plan to say how they will do this.

The council was helped by carers to make this plan.



The plan says the council wants to help carers sooner and give them better information.

A Focus on Carers



In the future we want to have more contact with carers.



We will ask carers how they think services for them should be run.



Sometimes carers do not have good health or are disabled.

The plan says how the council wants to improve the health and wellbeing of carers.

Wellbeing is about feeling comfortable, healthy, or happy.

Working with Carers



We work with local community groups.

These groups support carers.

They help carers feel better and improve their wellbeing.



The Brecks Community Hub is a community group in Rotherham. It supports carers.

It runs activities for carers. Activities include coffee afternoons, crafts, yoga and gentle exercise.



14 carers attended the activities. They all said their wellbeing had improved.

Wellbeing is about feeling comfortable, healthy, or happy.

What we will focus on in 2026/2027



Waiting Times: We will make waiting times shorter for Care Act Assessments.

Care Act Assessment is a talk about what help and support a person needs. It helps us understand how we can support them.



Enablement: Help more people be independent and stay well at home.

Enablement is getting skills and confidence to help you live as independently as possible.



Working Age Adults: Help more working age people to live independent lives.



Carers: Helping more carers to stay healthy and happy.

What we will focus on in 2026/2027



Involvement: We want more people to have a say and be heard about how the council gives support.



Quality: We will check what we are doing well and what we need to do better.



Reduce Inequalities: Everyone will have fair access to services and support

Voice of the resident – People living in Rotherham



In 2025 and 2026, we received 56 complaints.

This is a small drop from the year before.

Most of these complaints (88 out of 100) were resolved at the first stage.

We received 470 compliments. This is more than the year before.



Most complaints were about the services we provided. People said some services were not good enough. People were waiting too long for assessments. Some people were unhappy with the cost of care.

We have made changes to make things better.

The care offered to people when they leave hospital has improved.

We have made information we give to people and their families better.

We now talk better with the NHS. This helps us work together to support people.



Voice of the resident – People living in Rotherham

...thanks to you all for your kindness. You gave me the confidence and ability to come back home. Keep up your valuable work



Thank you for your care and understanding, you have made a massive impact, and we really cannot thank you enough for your professional service

We are highly delighted with all the staff that have attended our home, everyone has been kind and prompt and very helpful with manual and office proceedings

The Best Work of our Lives



Sam's Story: Sam lives in a care home and has dementia. Sam was not happy.

Sometimes Sam found it hard to tell people what was wrong.

The staff spent time talking with Sam and listening to him. They helped Sam explain how he was feeling.

Sam said he was unhappy with his bedroom and his clothes.



The staff helped Sam move to a new bedroom. Sam chose how he wanted his bedroom to look.

The staff also helped Sam choose some new clothes.

The new clothes felt comfortable.
Now Sam feels happier.

The Best Work of our Lives



Victoria's story: Victoria has a health condition that affects her memory and daily life.

Victoria's first language is Czech.

It was sometimes hard for Victoria to understand information because it was not in her main language.

The staff used translation services to help Victoria communicate in Czech.

This helped Victoria understand information and make choices about her support. Victoria became more independent.

Becca's story: Becca has autism and a learning disability.



Becca wanted to get a job but did not have a lot of confidence that she could start work again.

The Supported Employment Team helped Becca think about what she was good at.

Becca got a new job at Rotherham Hospital.

Becca is enjoying her new job.

Here are some useful contacts

1. Adult Safeguarding (Adult Contact Team)
– 01709 822330
2. Children's Safeguarding (MASH Team)
– 01709 336080
3. Mental Health Crisis Team – 0800 6529571
4. RDASH Switchboard – 03000 213000
5. Housing Services – 01709 336009
6. Enablement Services – 01709 336096
7. Shared Lives – 01709 334948
8. Supported Employment – 01709 249600
9. Age UK Rotherham – 01709 835214
10. Healthwatch Rotherham – 01709 717130
11. Citizen's Advice Bureau – 0808 2787911
12. Samaritans – 116 123 (free, 24/7)

Appendix 3.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: How did we do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-26	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Service area: Adult Care and Integration
Lead person: Holly Smith, Change Lead Service Improvement & Governance	Contact: Holly.smith@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
☐ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function
☒ Other	
If other, please specify: An annual report that summarises the work of Adult Social Care in Rotherham.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Local Account is a statutory annual report that communicates how Adult Social Care has performed over the last 12 months, the outcomes achieved for residents, and the priorities for the year ahead. It is a public facing document intended for a wide audience including people with care and support needs, carers, families, staff, partners and the wider community. As such, the content, format and accessibility of the Local Account have a direct

influence on how effectively different groups can understand, engage with, and benefit from information about Adult Social Care services and support.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

Although the Local Account does not introduce or change services directly, it communicates how services are delivered, accessed and experienced. The way information is presented can significantly impact different groups, particularly people with disabilities, older people, people with low literacy, carers, and people whose first language is not English.

Data within the Local Account also highlights inequalities which reinforces its relevance to equality and diversity.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Equality and diversity have been considered throughout the development of the Local Account, with a focus on ensuring it is accessible, inclusive and meaningful for a diverse audience.

The report has been designed to reflect the needs of people who may experience barriers to accessing information, including those with learning disabilities, sensory impairments, limited digital access, or lower levels of literacy.

- **Key findings**

We have identified the following key equality considerations:

- People accessing Adult Social Care are predominantly older adults (68% aged 65+), meaning accessibility for age-related needs is critical.
- There is under-representation of people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (5% of service users compared to 9% of the local population), indicating potential inequalities in access or engagement.
- A significant proportion of people are supported for physical disability, learning disability and mental health needs, requiring accessible formats and clear communication.
- Carers represent a large group (over 26,000 locally), many of whom experience health inequalities and require tailored information and support.
- Digital exclusion remains a risk for some groups, particularly older people and those on low incomes.

These factors demonstrate that how the Local Account is designed and shared can either reduce or reinforce inequalities.

- **Actions**

To address the identified equality considerations, we have:

- Produced the Local Account using plain English, clear structure and accessible formatting to support understanding across a wide audience.
- Developed an Easy Read version to support people with learning disabilities and others who benefit from simplified information.
- Ensured the report is available in both digital and physical formats.
- Designed content and visuals to be engaging and inclusive, avoiding overly technical or corporate language.
- Committed to providing the document in alternative languages and formats on request to support inclusion of non-English speakers.

- Used insight from the Local Account to highlight inequalities (e.g. ethnicity, carers' access), supporting future service improvement and targeted engagement.

These actions support equitable access to information and align with the Council's duty to advance equality of opportunity.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	01/06/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	09/06/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Holly Smith Change Lead

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	13/07/2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health	06/07/2026
Kirsty-Louise Littlewood	Service Director Adult Care and Integration	20/07/2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	09/06/2026
Report title and date	How did we do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-26
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09/06/2026

Appendix 4.

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: How did we do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-2026	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 09/06/2026	
Directorate: Adult Care Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Service area: Adult Care and Integration
Lead Manager: Kirsty Louise Littlewood Service Director Adult Care and Integration	Contact: kirsty-louise.littlewood@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ Strategy / Policy ☐ Service / Function ☒ Other If other, please specify: An annual report that summarises the work of Adult Social Care in Rotherham.	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Holly Smith	Rotherham Council	Change Lead
Dania Pritchard	Rotherham Council	ASC Assurance Lead
Kirsty Louise Littlewood	Rotherham Council	Service Director Adult Care and Integration

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

The Local Account is a public facing report that provides an overview of Adult Social Care activity, performance, outcomes, and priorities for improvement. It is intended for all Rotherham residents, with particular relevance to:

- People with care and support needs
- Carers
- Families
- Partner organisations

During 2025-26:

- 5,985 people received support
- 3,895 people had an open service at year end
-

The profile of people accessing Adult Social Care in Rotherham reflects a predominantly older population, with 68% aged 65 and over and 32% aged 18 to 64. The gender profile shows that 57% of people receiving support are female and 43% are male. There is an identified inequality in access for people from ethnic minority backgrounds, who make up 5% of service users compared to 9% of the local population, indicating under-representation.

People are supported across a range of needs, with significant numbers requiring support for physical disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental health needs. These needs highlight the importance of ensuring services and information are accessible and inclusive.

In addition, there are over 26,000 unpaid carers in Rotherham, many of whom experience poorer physical and mental health outcomes due to their caring responsibilities.

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

- Core data from Liquid Logic Adult System (LAS)
- Demographic breakdowns (age, sex, ethnicity)
- Service usage and outcomes data

- Safeguarding data and outcomes
- Carers Strategy engagement
- Complaints and compliments

This provides a strong evidence base for identifying inequalities and understanding different groups experiences.

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

Limited data on:

- Self-funders
- People not known to services
- Under-reporting in some protected characteristics (e.g. sexual orientation, religion)
- Limited insight into digital exclusion levels

This reinforces the need for the Local Account to be widely accessible and inclusive.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

Numbers of 'hits' online documents have had will be monitored so that we can assess whether the documents are being used and are accessible, as is intended. This will done on a quarterly basis to inform how we publish the Local Account in future.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

Not applicable

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)

Not applicable

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?

The Adult Social Care Local Account is a public-facing document designed to ensure transparency, accessibility, and inclusion for all residents. Its development has taken into account the needs of people with different protected characteristics, as outlined below:

Age The Local Account reflects a predominantly older cohort of people accessing services, with a significant proportion aged 65 and over. It has been designed to be accessible to older people through the use of plain English, clear structure, and availability in alternative formats. It also includes content relevant to working-age adults, supporting a broad age range of users.

Disability Given that many people accessing Adult Social Care have physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, or mental health needs, the Local Account has been developed with accessibility in mind. This includes compatibility with assistive technologies, the provision of an Easy Read version, and clear, simple language to support understanding and remove barriers.

Sex The Local Account reflects the gender profile of people accessing services and presents information in a way that is inclusive and relevant to all genders. There is no evidence that the content or format disproportionately disadvantages any group based on sex.

Gender Reassignment While specific data relating to gender reassignment is limited, the Local Account promotes inclusive language and reflects the Council's commitment to equality and non-discrimination. Information is presented in a way that is respectful and accessible to all individuals regardless of gender identity.

Race / Ethnicity The Local Account explicitly recognises inequalities in access and representation, including the under-representation of people from ethnic minority communities. It supports improved awareness of services and commits to making information accessible, including the provision of alternative language formats where required, helping to reduce barriers for those whose first language is not English.

Religion or Belief The Local Account is designed to be inclusive and respectful of all religions and beliefs. It avoids the use of culturally exclusive language or imagery and ensures that information is accessible to people from diverse backgrounds.

Sexual Orientation The document promotes an inclusive approach to communication, ensuring that information is relevant and accessible to people of all sexual orientations. There is no evidence that the Local Account creates barriers or differential impacts in this area.

Civil Partnership and Marriage The Local Account is inclusive of individuals regardless of marital or civil partnership status. Information about services and support is presented in a way that recognises the role of families, partners, and support networks.

Pregnancy and Maternity The Local Account remains inclusive in its language and messaging, ensuring that individuals who may be pregnant or have caring responsibilities are not excluded from accessing information.

Overall, the Local Account supports equity by improving access to information, raising awareness of services, and identifying inequalities across different groups. Its inclusive design and content help to ensure that people from all backgrounds are able to understand, engage with, and benefit from the information provided.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

- Digital exclusion for some groups
- Potential accessibility barriers for:

- People with learning disabilities - Sensory impairments - Non-English speakers • Inequality in service access (e.g. ethnicity gap)
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? The Local Account: - Improves transparency and accountability - Increases awareness of services and support - Highlights inequalities and priority areas - Supports engagement with seldom heard groups - Strengthens co-production and resident voice - Promotes carer recognition and support
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The Local Account is expected to have a positive impact, by: - Demonstrating openness about performance and challenges - Highlighting improvement priorities - Building trust with residents and communities - Showing commitment to inclusion and fairness There is no evidence that the report disproportionately benefits one group at the expense of another.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: How did we do? Adult Social Care Local Account 2025-2026
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health, Adult Care and Integration
Lead Manager: Holly Smith, Change Lead
Summary of findings:
The Equality Analysis confirms that the Local Account has a meaningful and positive impact on equality and diversity, particularly in relation to: - Accessibility of information - Representation of different groups - Transparency and accountability - Identification of inequalities (e.g. ethnicity, carers) Potential barriers have been identified and mitigating actions have been built into the design and distribution of the report.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Maintain Easy Read and accessible formats	D, A	Ongoing

Provide alternative languages on request	RE	Ongoing
Ensure availability of paper copies borough-wide (eg libraries etc.)	A,D,O	Ongoing
Use Local Account insights to inform equality objectives and service improvement	All	Ongoing

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Kirsty Louise Littlewood	Service Director Adult Care and Integration	Approved – 20/07/2026
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	Approved - 07/07/2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Approved – 06/07/2026

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	09/06/2026
Report title and date	Adult Social Care Local Account – How did we do? Local Account 2025-2026
Date report sent for publication	TBC – Cabinet September 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09/06/2026

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

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

Paper versions will be available in libraries across the borough, so the report is accessible to those who do not use / have access to the internet.

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

Publication of the Adult Social Care Local Account 2025– 2026 will not affect the capacity of people living in Rotherham to adapt to climate change, except indirectly as it supports performance and raises awareness of the range of services available.

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

The Adult Social Care Local Account reflects performance and achievements from the last municipal year: its publication will have no material impact on climate change, except from printing a small number of reference copies.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Holly Smith Change Lead Adult Care & Integration Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 660 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

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

No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Alex Hawley

Alex.hawley@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

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

Background Papers

[Menopause Cabinet Report.pdf](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Health Select Commission – 14 May 2026

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 June 2026

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause

1. Background

- 1.1 This piece of work was originally progressed as a Health Select Commission Workshop arising from its 2025/26 work programme. However, immediately following completion of the workshop it became clear that the quality of the discussion and the level of engagement was such that there was a strong desire from all participants to see progress made in relation to the recommendations developed during the session. Following further consideration by the Health Select Commission Chair in conjunction with the Governance Manager and Head of Democratic Services, it was agreed that it was appropriate to re-frame the work undertaken as a Spotlight Review in order to deliver the progress and impact sought by those who participated in the workshop. The evidence heard during the Spotlight Review, reflecting the experiences of Rotherham residents and the current system infrastructure surrounding menopause advice, guidance and treatment options available within the borough and the recommendations made arising from that work were set out in a report.
- 1.2 The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting for progression and consideration and was presented to Cabinet on 6 July in line with the scrutiny review process.
- 1.3 A large number of the recommendations in the report relate to actions that require collective partnership effort, or seek changes within settings or agencies outside the council's direct control. For this reason, many of the recommendations are only partially accepted, reflecting the limited scope of the council to effect change.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People
 - 2.1.1 The first part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded.
 - 2.1.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Online menopause resources are already hosted on RotherHive. However, these should be kept under regular review to ensure they remain accurate, up to date, and accessible. The provision of printed resources has not been fully explored. Further work will be carried out to assess if printed resources

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

- 2.1.3 The second part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers included within that resource to ensure a holistic and borough wide approach to raising awareness.
- 2.1.4 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. While menopause information is already available, additional work will be undertaken to identify, develop and promote appropriate resources specifically aimed at men and young people.
- 2.1.5 The third part of this recommendation focuses on improving public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through the Council working with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age-appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.
- 2.1.6 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. While the Council is supportive, the content and delivery of age-appropriate education is up to education providers and is determined through the national curriculum and individual school policies. New guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum content for schools has been published, with schools given until September 2026 to prepare their delivery. This includes more learning about menstrual and gynaecological health, including menopause. Whilst this sits outside of the Council's direct remit, Council officers can offer and provide support where this is appropriate and achievable.

2.2 Primary Care Improvement

- 2.2.1 The first part of this recommendation suggests that the Council seeks to support Primary Care improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through encouraging the adoption of a 'Menopause Champion' in every GP Practice in Rotherham, and sharing information regarding GPs' Menopause Champions once achieved.
- 2.2.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Primary care partners have been contacted to identify whether menopause champions already exist in GP practices. Where they do not, practices will be encouraged to explore opportunities for introducing the role or incorporating menopause into existing champion roles where appropriate. However, it is important to note that responsibility for establishing and maintaining menopause champion roles lies with individual GP practices which operate autonomously.
- 2.2.3 The second part of this recommendation is around encouraging via the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and in conjunction with the NHS

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

- 2.2.4 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council will work with primary care partners to support an exploration of opportunities to review existing menopause pathways, which could include the adoption of the Menopause Pathway Toolkit. The Council is supportive of seeking to identify opportunities to improve consistency in assessment, referral and ongoing care, whilst recognising that implementation rests with individual GP practices. The Women's Health Network is well positioned to explore whether a pathway audit is feasible, to inform proposals to adopt a more consistent system-wide approach.
- 2.2.5 The third part of this recommendation is around encouraging, through the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support service delivery, consistency and capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.
- 2.2.6 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. An expansion of professional knowledge, awareness and skills within the healthcare system in relation to perimenopause and menopause will be encouraged through partnership discussion, with an acknowledgement that this sits outside the Council's direct sphere of influence.

2.3 Mental Health Support

- 2.3.1 The first part of this recommendation is around encouraging health partners, including GPs to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other mental health pathways.
- 2.3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. Advice from the relevant clinical lead indicates that it is not possible to embed additional screening questions to an already tight mental health screening process; however, they can promote the considerations of menopause among clinicians and explore Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in this area. Patients are also offered a menopause workshop. Guidance is expected in due course for the NHS Health Check service, proposing the introduction of routine questions relating to perimenopause and menopause. As commissioners of the health checks service in Rotherham, Council officers will review the guidance and consider the feasibility of changes to the service specification.
- 2.3.3 The second part of this recommendation is to increase the visibility of mental health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

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

2.4 Community Support and Engagement

- 2.4.1 The first part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafes and community information sessions across more venues.
- 2.4.2 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. Menopause cafes and information sessions have been previously delivered. However, the current position needs to be reviewed to establish ongoing delivery.
- 2.4.3 The second part of this recommendation is around working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.
- 2.4.4 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council and its partners should seek to understand the support that currently exists across Rotherham in this regard, and to learn from best practice elsewhere, and explore the capacity and options for expanding such support.

2.5 Workplace Health

- 2.5.1 The first part of this recommendation is about producing and promoting a bespoke 'Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit' setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the borough to support 'menopause positivity', creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce.
- 2.5.2 It is proposed that Cabinet partially accept this recommendation. The Council's Human Resources service already has menopause guidance in place (published in October 2024). The guidance is reviewed every 3 years or whenever there is a change in best practice. The guidance is due to be reviewed in 2027, which will bring it into alignment with these proposed changes. The value and applicability of bespoke or existing resources in this space will be considered as part of that review, as possible examples of best practice for raising awareness and better supporting menopause in the workplace.
- 2.5.3 The second part of this recommendation is about promoting workplace 'Menopause Champions' in local organisations and businesses, starting

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

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

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

2.6 System Leadership

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

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

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

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

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

- 2.6.6 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. These recommendations and associated actions form the skeleton of a partnership-wide plan for this topic, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It is proposed that the Rotherham Women's Health Network be asked to have oversight for this plan, and to refine it as necessary, and to address its actions and outcomes for menopause as a key workstream aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2.6.7 The fourth part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.
- 2.6.8 It is proposed that Cabinet accept this recommendation. With oversight from the Rotherham Women's Health Network, it makes sense that partners should explore any relevant funding opportunities that exist and pursue them where this is reasonable and achievable within resource constraints.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1: that Cabinet approves the proposed responses to the scrutiny review recommendations, as set out above and at Appendix 1. This is the recommended option.
- 3.2 Option 2: that Cabinet rejects the proposed responses to the scrutiny review recommendations. This is not recommended since without responding as summarised above, the proposed measures to improve advice, guidance and support for perimenopause and menopause in Rotherham would not be implemented, and identified concerns would remain unaddressed.

4. Consultation on proposal

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

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Scrutiny review recommendations in respect of perimenopause and menopause were considered by the Health Select Commission on 14 May 2026 and OSMB at its meeting on 3 June 2026. They were received by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 July 2026. Under the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet is expected to consider its response to the scrutiny review recommendations within two months of receipt.
- 5.2 Proposed responses to each scrutiny review recommendation are summarised in Appendix 1 to this report, in the form of an action plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in the report. If there is a need to engage third party suppliers to support the delivery of any of the actions these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation dependent on the route to market (Procurement Act 2023, Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023). This includes any modifications to existing contractual arrangements.
- 6.2 There are no financial implications at this stage. Any work undertaken will be within existing resources.
- 6.3 Once a strategy or delivery plan is developed, the expectation is that it would be presented with a request for new resourcing if required should it not be possible to reconfigure existing provision.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The report seeks Cabinet approval of the Council's response to recommendations arising from the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause. Cabinet's consideration of scrutiny review recommendations is consistent with the Council's constitutional arrangements and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, which require Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations received from scrutiny bodies.
- 7.2 The recommendations primarily relate to awareness raising, health improvement, information provision and partnership working. These activities are consistent with the Council's public health functions under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which places a duty on local authorities to take such steps as they consider appropriate to improve the health of people in their area. The proposals support that objective through the promotion of health information, prevention activity, community engagement and partnership working to improve understanding and support relating to perimenopause and menopause.
- 7.3 The report also aligns with the Council's wider public health leadership role within the local health and care system, including its responsibilities for improving population health and reducing health inequalities. The report appropriately recognises that responsibility for clinical services, treatment pathways and educational information provision rests with NHS organisations and education providers respectively.
- 7.4 As such, there are no direct legal implications arising from the decision to approve the proposed response to the scrutiny recommendations. However, should implementation of any recommendation require the procurement of goods, services or external support, the Council must

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A carbon impact assessment (Appendix 3) has been completed and indicates that the recommendations may influence CO₂ emissions. It is not yet possible to determine whether this impact will constitute an increase or a decrease, but the overall impact is expected to be marginal.

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. Risks and Mitigation

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

14. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers : -

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

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

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

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Appendix 1.

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

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

Appendix 1.

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

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

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

Appendix 1.

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

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

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

	in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. d) The fourth part of this recommendation focuses on working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.	Accept	workstream aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. d) With oversight from the Rotherham Women's Health Network, partners should explore any relevant funding opportunities that exist, and pursue them where appropriate and achievable within resource constraints.		
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Appendix 2.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

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

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

A number of recommendations were put forward and a subsequent cabinet response was received. Although some of the recommendations are outside of council services remit this will be shared with partners and subsequent actions will follow.

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

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

- **Actions**

N/A

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

N/A

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

N/A

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Ian Spicer	Executive Director	10/08/2026

6. Publishing

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

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

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record

keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	05/08/2026
Report title and date	Response to the Health Select Commission's Recommendations – Menopause August 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Will be submitted for Cabinet September 2026.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	03/08/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	Increased provision of menopause cafes and information sessions at more venues (HSC recommendation 4, 'Community Support and Engagement') may have a marginal carbon impact, from increased occupancy and energy use in community buildings.			
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Increased awareness of the menopause and more supportive workplaces and services might mean an increase in travel either to seek support or because of a more enabled population or workforce, but this might well be balanced out by other preventive effects.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

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

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

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

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

The Spotlight Review into the Menopause recommendations may influence CO₂ emissions; however, any carbon impact is likely to be marginal and might either increase or decrease emissions overall, depending on relative impacts on transport and energy use in buildings.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Alex Hawley Consultant in Public Health Public Health Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Not applicable.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not applicable.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 682 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Care Leavers' Charter

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Jane Wood, Head of Service, Children in Care and Care Leavers

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.
2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.
3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Rotherham Care Leavers Charter

Appendix 2 – Part A - Initial Equality screening Assessment form

Appendix 3 – Part B – Equality Analysis Form

Appendix 4 – Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Rotherham Leaving Care Strategy, Cabinet Report, 18th November 2025.](#)

[Housing Allocations Policy, Cabinet report, 15th September 2025.](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Corporate Parenting Partnership Board

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Care Leavers' Charter

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Social Work Act (2017) and statutory guidance set out the responsibilities of Local Authorities as Corporate Parents to ensure that Care Leavers are offered the same standard of care that their peers would receive from a reasonable parent. This is with the aim that all Care Leavers are provided with opportunities and support to successfully transition to adulthood (Department for Education (DFE), 2022; The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations, volume three). Rotherham Council is a committed and supportive Corporate Parent and as such, has created a bespoke Leaving Care Strategy to ensure that Care Leavers are a focus for all partners.
- 1.2 There are currently 443 Care Leavers aged 16 to 21 and 173 aged 22 to 25 in Rotherham. A Care Leaver is a young person aged between 16 and 25 who has previously been in the care of the Local Authority. A young person is considered to be a Care Leaver when they reach 16 years old, even though they may not yet have left the care of the Local Authority. Every Local Authority has a duty to provide leaving care services to Care Leavers, including allocation of a Personal Advisor (PA) until a Care Leaver reaches 21 years old and support beyond, where required, up to the age of 25.
- 1.3 The Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 outlined the three-year plan for Rotherham Care Leavers. The Strategy set out priorities for Care Leavers and outlined improvements to services and practice for children who are Care Leavers or Care Experienced. Delivery of the Leaving Care Strategy 2024-2027 is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, with progress reports provided every six months.
- 1.4 Rotherham Children's Social Care services were subject to an inspection by Ofsted in 2025. Ofsted introduced a stand-alone judgement on "the experiences and progress of Care Leavers" into the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework in January 2023. This replaced the previous approach where Care Leavers were assessed together with Children in Care. The move was intended to ensure an increased visibility of Care Leavers within inspections and helped ensure Care Leavers' needs are not overshadowed by Children in Care.
- 1.5 The outcome of this inspection was that the experience and progress of Care Leavers was judged to be 'Good,' across a backdrop of an overall judgement of services as 'Outstanding.' The inspection noted clear strengths relating to how the Council supports Care Leavers. The inspection noted "practitioners advocate strongly for young people and provide support that promotes safety and belonging" as well as noting a "strong corporate and political backing so that Care Leavers benefit from a stable, highly skilled workforce and a service which is focused on their needs."
- 1.6 However, Ofsted also felt that there was more the Local Authority could do for Care Leavers in relation to consistency of education and skills

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

- 1.7 The Council's Children and Young People's Services launched the Children in Care 'Pledge' in Summer 2025, showcasing the commitment to children in the care of the Local Authority as part of the wider corporate parenting approach.
- 1.8 Children and Young People's Services have progressed a Care Leavers' Charter following this success. A Care Leavers' Charter is a commitment from a Local Authority to principles and promises that support young people leaving care, the development of which is supported by the Care Leavers themselves.
- 1.9 The Look Ahead group is Rotherham's participation forum for Care Leavers and young people with care experience. The forum provides a regular opportunity for Care Leavers to share their views, experiences and ideas about the services and support they receive. It enables young people to influence service development, identify areas for improvement and work collaboratively with the Council and partner agencies to help shape policies, practice, and future priorities.
- 1.10 Look Ahead has been instrumental in the development of the Care Leavers' Charter, ensuring that the commitments contained within it reflect the needs, aspirations, and lived experiences of Care Leavers in Rotherham. Through ongoing engagement, the Forum helps ensure that the voices of Care Leavers remain central to the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities and continuous improvement activity. Care Leavers told the Council that the following focus was of great importance to them:
- Living in a home which is clean and tidy and ready for them to move into.
 - Access to lower cost goods to furnish first homes.
 - Extra support in the first few days of moving into a new property.
 - Understanding where to get help from and having named people to help to solve problems, reduce loneliness or signpost for wellbeing support.
- 1.11 Rotherham Council and its partners recognise that care experienced young people and adults bring valuable skills, perspectives, and resilience to communities. As Corporate Parents, the Council is committed to ensuring that care experience is never a barrier to achieving positive outcomes. It will continue to challenge stigma and discrimination, promote understanding of care experience across the Council and partner organisations, and ensure that the voices of Care Leavers remain central to the development of services and decision-making. Through the Care Leavers' Charter, the Council is not only reaffirming its commitment to providing practical support and opportunities, but also celebrating the achievements, aspirations, and contributions of care experienced people across Rotherham.

- 1.12 Building on the strengths of the Leaving Care Service and the opportunities already developed with partners across Rotherham, this Charter reflects the shared ambition for Care Leavers. It demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing practical support, creating opportunities, challenging stigma and discrimination, and ensuring that the voices of care experienced young people and adults continue to shape services and influence decision-making.
- 1.13 The Rotherham Care Leavers Local Offer ensures Care Leavers are provided with a range of support to help them transition to adulthood. This includes bespoke support with aspects of their life that are unique to them, as for many Care Leavers the blueprint they have may have been impacted by their own experiences and trauma; support with becoming a parent is an example of this. It may also include support with finances, housing and accommodation, education and employment, health and well-being, culture and identity, family and relationships and support in or when exiting custody if applicable. The Care Leavers' Charter is designed to complement the Leaving Care Local Offer, offering tangible benefits and opportunities to support the success of young people leaving care.
- 1.14 In September 2025, Cabinet approved the Housing Allocation Policy giving Care Leavers higher priority for social housing. The Policy awards Band One to Rotherham Care Leavers and Band Three to out of Borough Care Leavers, including Care Leavers who have been placed in Rotherham by other Local Authorities. The Allocation Policy is a graduated approach to the allocation of housing, based on need. Band One is the highest banding and is for applicants who are assessed as being statutorily homeless under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and are owed the full housing duty. Band Three is a lower banding priority.
- 1.15 The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board has played an important role in shaping and supporting the development of the Charter. Care Leavers regularly attend Board meetings, providing direct feedback on their experiences and helping to influence the Council's priorities and commitments. This ongoing engagement ensures that the Charter reflects the voices of young people and promotes continuous improvement in the support and opportunities available to Care Leavers.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 On 10th July 2025, the Government published updated guidance in relation to housing for those with Care Experience. Following the updated guidance, the Council sought reciprocal agreements with other South Yorkshire Local Authorities in prioritising the housing need of Care Leavers and the delegation to enable this was approved by Cabinet in July 2025. Reciprocal agreements are now in place with regional neighbours.
- 2.2 Care Leavers are actively involved in the continual review of the Local Offer and are now fully aware of their rights and entitlements as Care Leavers. The Local Offer is hosted on the Local Offer website and is regularly updated as required.

- 2.3 Children and Young People's Services have completed benchmarking activity in relation to the Local Offer and are assured that this is a strong offer for Care Leavers.
- 2.4 The Care Leavers' Charter is intended to demonstrate the Council's key commitment to Care Leavers. Following the successful launch of the Children in Care Pledge in 2025, the Council have ensured that the content has been created by young people and young adults who have experienced the care system and have a real life understanding of some of the barriers they face within society.
- 2.5 The Care Leavers' Charter will be shared with practitioners, partners, and leaders with an encouragement to agree to commit to the content of the Charter.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - a. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.
 - b. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.
 - c. Recommend to Full Council that the Care Leavers' Charter be endorsed and that the Council commits to promoting and embedding its principles across all services, policies, and decision-making processes.
- 3.2 If these recommendations are approved the Care Leavers' Charter provides a clear framework for the Council and its partners to strengthen support for care-experienced young people as they transition to adulthood. Adopting the Charter demonstrates the Council's commitment to fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibilities, ensuring Care Leavers receive the opportunities, support, and advocacy they need to achieve positive outcomes and thrive as independent adults.
- 3.3 An alternative option would be to not approve the recommendation or adopt the Care Leavers' Charter. This would mean that Rotherham would not benefit from a clear and visible commitment to improving outcomes for Care Leavers through the principles set out in the Charter. Failure to adopt the Charter could result in missed opportunities to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting offer, promote greater awareness of Care Leavers' needs across services, and encourage a consistent whole-Council approach to supporting care-experienced young people. It may also limit opportunities to demonstrate the Council's commitment to listening to Care Leavers and embedding their voices in service development and decision-making. Whilst statutory duties towards Care Leavers would remain unchanged, the Council would be less able to evidence its ambition to go beyond these minimum requirements and champion improved outcomes in areas such as education, employment, housing, health, wellbeing, and participation. This option is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Engagement and consultation with the Look Ahead Forum has informed the development of the Care Leavers' Charter and the proposals contained within this report. The Charter has been co-produced with Care Leavers to ensure that it reflects their experiences, priorities, and aspirations, and that the commitments made are meaningful and relevant to their lived experience.
- 4.2 The development of the Charter has also been discussed with the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, which has provided oversight and support for strengthening the Council's approach to meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

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

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Under section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 there is a requirement to have regard to the corporate parent principles when discharging functions in relation to Children in Care and care experienced young people. This is to be applied alongside the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: care planning and placement and case review and The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for Care Leavers. Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each Local Authority to consult and publish the Local Offer for its Care Leavers, as set out in this paper.
- 7.2 The Local Offer guidance introduced in February 2018 was updated in February 2025 and provides guidance on the development of a Local Offer, which should set out what each Local Authority department will provide rather than just focus on what Children's Services can offer.
- 7.3 Once there has been consultation on the Local Offer and it is published, the statutory guidance sets out the Government's expectation that the Local Offer is reviewed at least two to three years following consultation to ensure services reflect what care experienced young people need the most. In view

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The aim of the Care Leavers' Charter is to provide Care Leavers with a framework for robust, multi-agency support to help them feel more empowered and in control of their lives. By valuing their strengths and listening to their point of view, a charter helps build a Care Leaver's self-esteem and confidence. Ultimately, a Charter is designed to address the systemic disadvantages Care Leavers often face and drive better results across multiple areas of their lives.
- 9.2 Delivery of the Charter aligns with the key local partnership priorities and plans, including Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Plan 2025/30, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Priorities and Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025/30.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

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

12. Implications for Partners

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

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Council has a duty to support Care Leavers in law. The development of the Care Leavers' Charter is a way of demonstrating the fulfilment of this duty.
- 13.2 There are no financial risks associated with the decision set out in this report.
- 13.3 Supporting the decisions as set out in this report will have beneficial implications in relation to reputation, demonstrating the Council's commitment to Care Leavers.

14. Accountable Officers

Stuart Williams - Service Director, Children's Social Care

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

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

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

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ROTHERHAM CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER.

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

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

Our Commitment to Care Leavers

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

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

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

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

Housing & Independence

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

We will provide:

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

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

Reciprocal Housing Agreements

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

Education, Employment & Skills

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

We will provide:

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

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

Health & Wellbeing

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

We will provide:

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

Further Information

Leaving Care Local Offer

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



Children in Care and Care Leaver Promise



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

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title

Title: Care Leaver Charter

Directorate: Children and Young People Services

Service area: Children's Social Care

Lead person:
Stuart Williams

Contact:
Stuart.williams@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

This is an update to Cabinet requesting approval to develop the Care Leavers Charter, to ensure we continue to excel in our corporate parenting responsibilities.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

Children in care and care leavers face significant disadvantages when it comes to employment due to a combination of systemic, social, and personal factors. There is

often disruption to education and training for those in care and this can impact on academic achievement. Further to this it is often the case that children and young people who have care experienced have a lack of support networks and social capital this can impact on opportunities for mentoring, professional contacts, references and general support in relation to employability. Some employers may hold negative stereotypes about those with care experience, and many feel reluctant to share their background and experiences fearing discrimination.

- **Key findings**

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

- **Actions**

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

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Stuart Willaims	Service Director, Children's Social Care	17 th July 2026
Nicola Curley	Executive Director, Children & Young Peoples Service	17 th July 2026

6. Publishing

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

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document

should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

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

Date screening completed	17 th July 2026
Report title and date	Care Leavers Charter
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	14 th September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	17 th July 2026

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

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

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Nicola Curley	RMBC	Executive Director of Children's Services
Stuart Williams	RMBC	Service Director Children's Social Care
Jane Wood	RMBC	Head of Service Children in Care

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

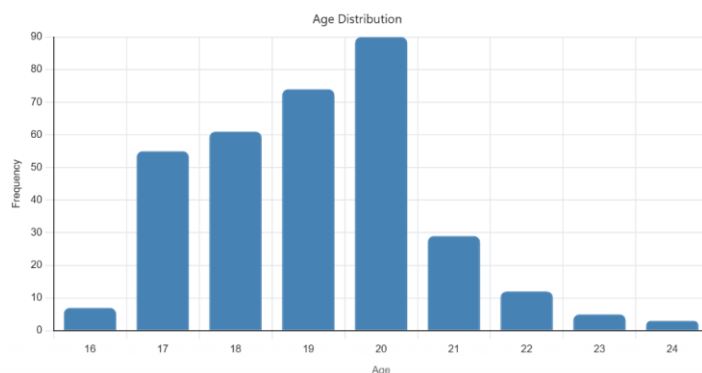
The Care Leaver Charter has been progressed to identify additional opportunities via RMBC and partners for Care Leavers. This is to bridge the gap between the challenges faced by Care Leavers and their peers. Implementing this charter is likely to improve experience and skills for care leavers and also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

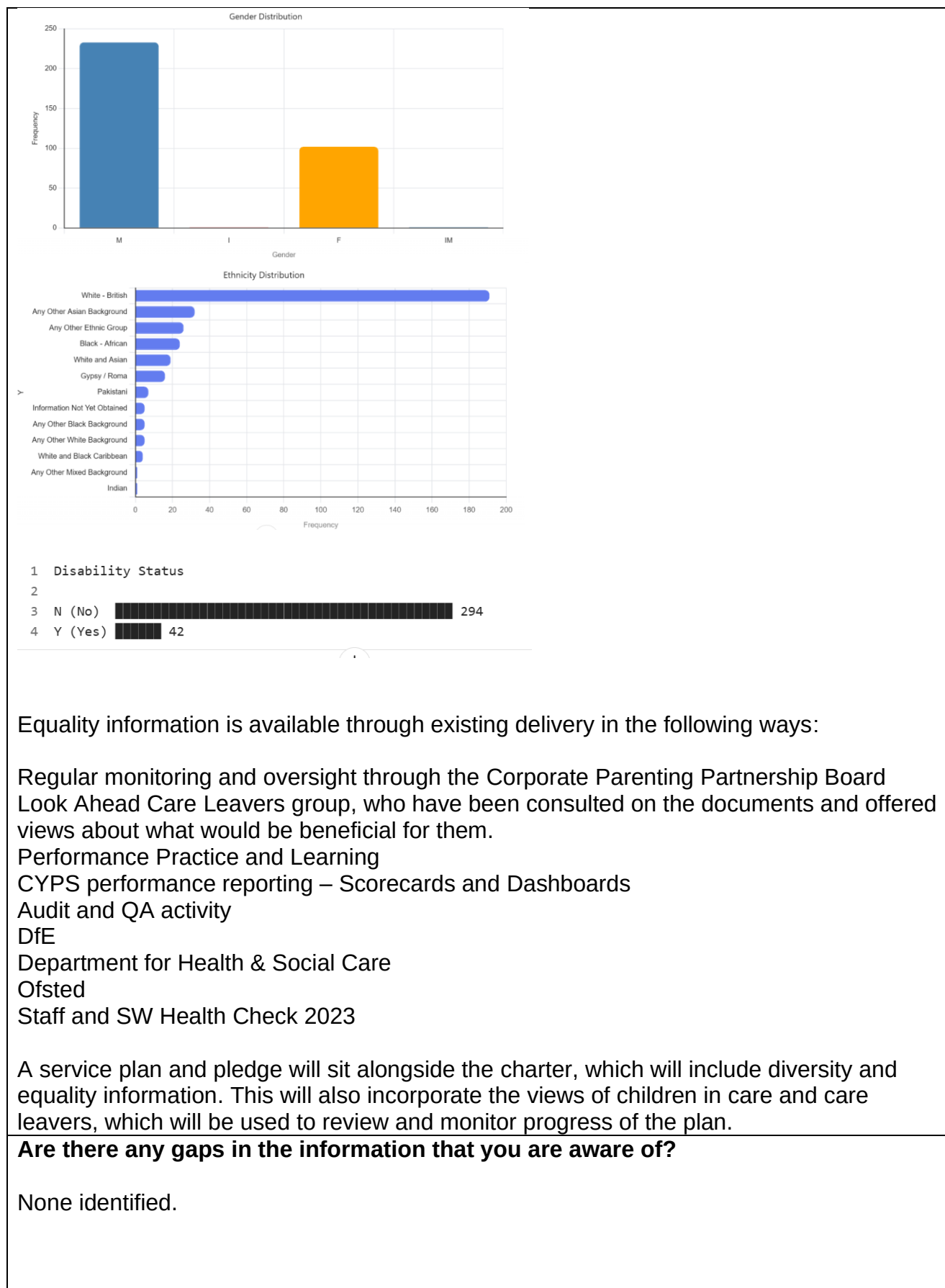
This report screens the activity undertaken to progress the care leaver charter. It is important to note that the charter specifically relates to care leavers and as such excludes children not in those categories. This charter incorporates all care leavers and does not exclude any child, young person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

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

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

Equality data





What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The Care Leavers Charter will be reviewed in Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. This will consider oversight and implementation of the Charter.

The internal service plans, which align with the charter will be reviewed monthly.

Performance and quality monitoring will measure the progress and impact of the charter.

Existing data and established methodology, such as performance KPI's relating to Education, Employment and Training, across the children's workforce will continue to be used to monitor impact on those groups with protected characteristics.

As part of current practice, the voice of children and families is sought through audit activity, and a variety of voice groups. The Look Ahead group will contribute to the service planning and progress of this charter.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	There has been ongoing engagement with partner agencies regarding the implementation of a Care Leaver charter via Corporate Parenting Partnership Board and other forums. This was discussed at the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board on 30.6.26. There have been many other discussions regarding the development of the charter. This has included health, education and other directorates within the council as well as local providers and businesses. As a result of this a number of opportunities have been identified for care leavers, including additional training, work experience opportunities and apprenticeship schemes. Consultation with care leavers has informed this charter, with further consultation planned. They have proposed some of the initiatives which are included in the Charter, such as named individuals as a point of contact and access to health and wellbeing support.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Managers and front-line staff have been involved in the preparation of the Care Leavers Charter. This determined that areas around education, employment and training and emotional wellbeing needed to be a focus. Where appropriate this has also included involvement from wider directorates, including HR, Finance and Legal. This has resulted in the offers identified in the Charter.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Service delivery is regulated by a range of Legislation and Guidance, as well as oversight from the regulatory body, Ofsted.

Service delivery is utilising a restorative, inclusive approach. While this charter is specific to children in care and care leavers, the proposals do not exclude any group within this category. There is also a focus on meeting the individual needs of children and young people.

The charter intends to outline the corporate parenting responsibility for RMBC as well as all partner agencies to enable agencies to focus on the individual needs of children in care and care leavers.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No, the Care Leavers Charter intends to provide opportunities for Care Leavers as a disadvantaged group.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Yes, the charter proposes actions which will improve the lives of care leavers, enable them to participate better in society and achieve their potential. This charter sets out opportunities to have a positive impact for children and young people, as well as the wider community.

This charter will support services and partners to remove barriers for care leavers and to support them to overcome adversity.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The Care Leaver Charter is deliberately focussed on children in care and care leavers and as such does not include children outside of this group. This is because we know children with experience of care are more disadvantaged than children who have not. This also sets out the corporate parenting responsibilities for the workforce as wider partner agencies.

It is expected that this charter will have a positive impact upon community relations, including increasing the opportunities for care leavers.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Council officer travel may increase to provide support to care experienced young people.	Increasing work and training opportunities may make care experienced young people more mobile – this is expected to have a negligible impact on emissions.	The provision of discounted bus travel is likely to minimise any additional emissions created by increased travel.	Council officer travel is measured in the council's net zero by 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					
None					

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

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

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

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

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Jane Wood
Head of Service Children in care
Children's Social Care
Children and Young People's Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

None

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.

https://becomecharity.org.uk/content/uploads/2024/10/Homelessness-stats_Oct-24.pdf

Validation

Tracking Reference: C1A677

Katie Rockett
Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

July 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of July 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2026/27.

Financial performance is central to the Council's overall performance framework and the delivery of its policy objectives. As such, this is the second in a series of regular financial monitoring reports for the current financial year to be presented to Cabinet.

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

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position has remained unsettled. Economic market sentiment has been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy and fuel costs impacting the wider economy and creating uncertainty around inflation, which has risen to 2.9% in July. These financial

challenges are being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The report also provides an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme including a number of programme variations.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.9m.
2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.17 of the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 Report to Council on 4th March 2026](#)

[Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet, 6th July 2026](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

July 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3 This report is the second in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2026/27, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first four months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows, by Directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2026/27 as at July 2026

Directorate	Budget 2026/27	Forecast Outturn 2026/27	Forecast Variance over/under (-)
	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People Services (CYPS)	85.0	90.5	5.5
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (ACH&PH)	157.1	159.3	2.2
Regeneration and Environment Services (R&E)	56.3	59.5	3.2
Corporate Services (CORP)	42.7	42.7	0.0
Policy Strategy & Engagement (PSE)	6.0	6.0	0.0
Central Services (CS)	47.2	42.2	-5.0
Directorate Forecast Outturn	394.3	400.2	5.9
Dedicated Schools Grant			6.4
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			0.0

- 2.2 As at July 2026, there is a forecast overspend of £5.9m. This position is made up of a Directorates overspend of £10.9m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £5.0m. The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to placement pressures within Children and Young People Services (£5.5m), the high demand and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care (£2.0m) and overspends in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£3.2m), mostly in Waste and Home to School Transport. As has been the case in previous years, the Council will need to put in place actions to mitigate the projected overspend position and mitigate the need for the Council to call on reserves at the financial year end. It is anticipated that the Council will be able to manage this situation and reduce the projected overspend during the course of the financial year, given successful management in previous years; however, the Council cannot forecast that improvement until clear actions have been identified. Work to identify actions will be carried and implemented at pace for maximum effect. This work will primarily focus on the pressures identified within social care placements, care packages and across Home to School Transport and Waste.
- 2.3 The Budget as approved at Council on 4th March 2026 included provisions and allocations for inflation, pay award and anticipated cost pressures. These budgets are held centrally at the start of the year and allocated to services as costs are confirmed and incurred.
- 2.4 The table below sets out the headline reasons for the movement between opening budgets and the latest budget that has been forecast against in this report.

2.5 **Table 2: Budget Movements during 2026/27**

	Opening Budget 2026/27	Pay Budget Changes / Fees & Charges Income Inflation	Contract Inflation & Central Provision Allocations to Services	Service Transfers between Directorates	Latest Budget 2026/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CYPS	78.4	-1.6	8.3	-0.1	85.0
ACH&PH	149.1	-1.4	9.5	-0.1	157.1
R&E	56.7	-1.3	1.2	-0.3	56.3
CORP	41.3	-1.2	0.6	2.0	42.7
PSE	6.3	-0.4	-0.0	0.1	6.0
CS	62.5	5.9	-19.6	-1.6	47.2
TOTAL	394.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	394.3

- 2.6 The Council's Financial Outturn report 2025/26 reported that £0.440m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2026/27 included the delivery of £3.193m of new savings, giving £3.633m to be delivered during 2026/27. Currently, £2.413m of delivery has been secured. The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2026/27 and the amount that has been delivered to date.

Table 3: Delivery of Agreed Savings

Directorate	2026/27 Saving to be delivered £'000	Secured as at 31st July 2026 £'000	Still to be delivered £'000
Corporate Services	704	704	0
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	1,089	189	900
Children's and Young People Services	800	800	0
Regeneration and Environment	1,040	720	320
Total	3,633	2,413	1,220

2.7 Activity is ongoing to deliver the remaining £1.220m of savings that relate to Working Age Adults £0.900m, Waste Route Optimisation £0.280m and Waleswood £0.040m.

2.8 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's current forecast overspend of £5.9m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspend within Directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

2.9 Children and Young People Services Directorate (£5.5m forecast overspend)

2.9.1 Children and Young People Services is forecasting a budget pressure of £5.5m at the end of July 2026, an increase of £0.4m compared with the May position reported. The overspend is primarily driven by continued pressures relating to Children in Care placement costs, partially offset by the slippage of grant-funded expenditure. The main budget pressures within the Directorate are outlined below.

2.9.2 A budget pressure of £6.0m is currently forecast against the Children in Care (CiC) placement budget, representing an improvement of £0.2m compared with the May position. This reduction reflects the earlier than planned ending of a secure placement and lower than anticipated costs associated with a high-cost placement.

2.9.3 The following are key points to note in the latest children in care placements forecast:

- The overall number of children in care has reduced to 481 at the end of July, from 486 in May. The reduction was in placements with independent foster agency carers and in supported accommodation.
- External residential placements remain the main driver of the placement budget pressures, with 48 children placed in external children's homes in July against a budgeted profile of 40. This pressure is further compounded by the increasing number of children placed in high-cost

residential provision (at a weekly cost of £10,000 and above) due to the complexity of their needs.

- Occupancy levels in Council-owned children's homes stood at 76% at the end of July (4 beds remain unoccupied) – a reduction compared to the last reported position of 82%. Efforts continue to place and support more children and young people within Council-owned homes.
- The number of children placed in foster care (i.e. in-house carers, in kinship care with families & friends and independent fostering agencies) currently stands at 313 a reduction compared to 317 in May.

The mix of placement types, limited placement options, increasing unit costs and the growing complexity of children's care needs continue to present significant challenges. Despite these pressures, work is underway to ensure that non-complex external residential placements are regularly reviewed and that progress against the wider step-down plan is closely monitored to identify opportunities to reduce costs while ensuring that children's needs continue to be met.

- 2.9.4 A forecast underspend of £0.5m is currently estimated against the Family Help Services budget. This is mainly attributed to slippage across several grant-funded programmes to date as well as through vacancy and staff turnover savings.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets (£6.4m forecast deficit)

- 2.9.5 A net surplus balance of £1.5m is forecast for all maintained schools in Rotherham for 2026/27 based on submitted budget plans. There is currently 1 school with a forecast budget deficit. A budget recovery plan has been agreed to bring the budget back into a surplus position by next year.
- 2.9.6 The Council is forecasting an in-year DSG deficit of £6.4m, primarily within the High Needs Block, representing a £0.9m deterioration since May due to continued cost and demand pressures across the SEND system. The DSG reserve is forecast to reach a cumulative deficit of £9.3m by the end of 2026/27, rising to £19.9m by March 2028 when the statutory override is due to end. Without further Government funding, the Council would need to absorb this deficit within its General Fund, creating a significant financial pressure.
- 2.9.7 Financial support provided through the Safety Valve Agreement ended in 2025/26, the final year of the programme. The Government has replaced this with a High Needs Stability Grant, which will fund 90% of DSG deficits accrued by local authorities up to 31 March 2026. Access to this funding is conditional on the submission (submitted 19 June) and Department for Education approval of Rotherham's Local SEND Reforms Plan. The reforms are intended to support a more sustainable SEND system through earlier intervention and increased inclusion in mainstream education settings.
- 2.9.8 The Council's DSG cumulative deficit is projected to reach £19.9m by March 2028 when the statutory protection ends and could increase by around £10m per year thereafter if current demand and inflationary pressures continue. While no decision has been confirmed, it is anticipated that the DfE will

continue to provide financial support to local authorities, potentially through an extension of the High Needs Stability Grant (which currently funds 90% of eligible deficits). If this level of Government support were maintained, the Council's financial liability at the end of 2027/28 (when the statutory override protection ceases) is estimated to be in the region of £4m. As these assumptions remain subject to future DfE policy decisions and the implementation of SEND reforms, the position will need to be closely monitored. The financial implications will remain a key consideration in the Council's budget-setting process and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

2.10 Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£2.2m overspend)

- 2.10.1 The Directorate is forecast to overspend by £2.2m, the same as the May position. High demand and complexity of care packages make up the projected overspend. The cost of care packages is forecast to overspend by £2.0m within Adult Care. There is also an overspend of £0.2m for staffing costs as agency spend and overtime spend is higher than budget to cover gaps in service for in-house care provision and other staffing pressures. Work continues to identify options to address the increased use of agency and difficulties experienced in recruitment.
- 2.10.2 The area of biggest overspend is working age adults with Learning Disabilities. The overspend in Learning Disabilities is largely made up of a small number of individuals with high-cost needs, including Out of Borough placements that cater for individuals with the most complex needs. Work is underway to understand the drivers behind these costs given the Council spends more per working age adult than the national average. The work will assess where there are opportunities to ensure the most cost efficient process is in place, to support the delivery of services within budget and the delivery of the saving of £0.900m approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.
- 2.10.3 Public Health is expected to come in on budget at this stage.
- 2.10.4 Housing is underspent slightly at this stage.

2.11 Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£3.2m forecast overspend)

- 2.11.1 The Directorate is forecasting a £3.2m overspend, which is a worsening of £2.9m from the last report to Cabinet. The key variances and movements are detailed below.
- 2.11.2 The Waste service is forecasting to be £1.5m overspent, which is a worsening of £0.9m. This is largely caused by overspends on transport, as the service continues to operate with a high number of hire and spare vehicles, required as the new Council owned, more cost effective vehicles, will not arrive until March 2026 and the route optimisation programme has yet to be delivered in full. It is therefore expected this position will improve once new refuse collection vehicles arrive, though the impact will be seen for the 2027/28 financial year.. Work is continuing to achieve the route optimisation saving approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, however, difficulties in collection

experienced during Autumn 2025/26 has meant that the planned removal of two routes has not yet been possible, though is still intended.

- 2.11.3 Home to School Transport is forecasting a £1.1m overspend, which was previously reported as balanced. This position assumes that all children using the service at the end of the academic year will continue to do so in September, so further changes are possible once the 2026/27 cohort is known. Detailed work is underway to understand and quantify which factors have caused this overspend.
- 2.11.4 As in the last report, the Markets service is forecasting an £0.6m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years. This position will be monitored carefully as the development works continue, following the successful move of traders from the indoor covered market into the new Market Hall.

2.12 Corporate Services (balanced forecast)

- 2.12.1 The Directorate is currently forecasting an overall balanced outturn. Whilst there are pressures across individual services, it is expected that robust budget management across the whole Directorate will be able to address these pressures in year.
- 2.12.2 Property and Facilities Services (PFS) is forecast to be overspent by £1.0m overall, a worsening of £0.7m since the last report. Facilities Management is forecast to overspend by £1.2m due to assorted building costs, largely repairs and maintenance, which has worsened by £0.2m since the last report. The Catering Service is now forecasting to overspend by £0.3m (previously balanced) as the service is affected by lower-than-expected income. These overspends are offset by an underspend of £0.7m within Cleaning Services as income is greater than budgeted. Following a review of the Capital Programme, the Building Consultancy service is now forecasted to balance to budget which is a worsening of £0.3m from the last report.
- 2.12.3 Within the wider Directorate, budget pressures are primarily attributable to a managed over-recruitment within the Customer Services Contact Centre and the continued reliance on locums and external suppliers within Legal Services to address ongoing recruitment challenges. These measures have been implemented deliberately to maintain service continuity and performance in key areas.
- 2.12.4 Regarding Legal Services a substantial amount of the additional demand for solicitors arises from Children's and Adult Social Care activity and demand. Further pressures are also anticipated following a Supreme Court ruling that has significantly changed the approach to Deprivation of Liberty applications, alongside costs associated with ongoing litigation against the Council and legal support required to help with the National Grooming Gang Inquiry. Meanwhile, recruitment to permanent legal posts remains challenging despite ongoing campaigns, reflecting a wider local government workforce issue. As a result, the service continues to rely on locums and external providers, including King's Counsel where necessary, to maintain capacity and meet statutory and

operational requirements. Although some costs are offset by savings from vacant posts, the July forecast outturn remains an overspend of £0.4m, including £0.1m relating to Children's Social Care and £0.2m relating to Adult Social Care.

- 2.12.5 There are underspends within the Directorate that are helping to mitigate these pressures. Reduced costs on some ICT contracts that have renewed, capitalisation where possible and a number of vacant posts that have been challenging to fill are helping to mitigate the pressures. However, further savings and mitigating actions will be required to achieve a balanced financial position.

2.13 Policy, Strategy and Engagement (balanced forecast)

- 2.13.1 The service is currently forecasting a balanced outturn. Overspends due to the cost of the Interim Director of PSE are offset by salary recharges to grant schemes along with part year vacancies.

2.14 Central Services (£5.0m underspend)

- 2.14.1 Central Services has a £5.0m forecast underspend, primarily reflecting savings from Treasury Management activity and underspends on the Councils inflation provision.
- 2.14.2 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy is to minimise the level of borrowing and to borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. This, along with slippage on the Capital Programme in 2025/26, means that the level of financing costs for 2026/27 will be less than anticipated. This is because the Council builds in the financial impact of all capital investment decisions into the revenue budget, at the point those decisions are made. This is an approach that will see the Council generate savings to support Council wide pressures.
- 2.14.3 There continue to be financial challenges as a result of increased market costs, however it is envisaged that the Council is well positioned to address these pressures in year due to actions taken as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27. Ongoing uncertainty in the global and UK economy remains a budget risk.
- 2.14.4 Regarding Legal Services a substantial amount of the additional demand for solicitors arises from Children's and Adult Social Care activity and demand. Further pressures are also anticipated following a Supreme Court ruling that has significantly changed the approach to Deprivation of Liberty applications, alongside costs associated with ongoing litigation against the Council and legal support required to help with the National Grooming Gang Inquiry. Meanwhile, recruitment to permanent legal posts remains challenging despite ongoing campaigns, reflecting a wider local government workforce issue. As a result, the service continues to rely on locums and external providers, including King's Counsel where necessary, to maintain capacity and meet statutory and operational requirements. Although some costs are offset by savings from vacant posts, the July forecast outturn remains an overspend of £0.4m,

including £0.1m relating to Children's Social Care and £0.2m relating to Adult Social Care.

2.15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (balanced forecast)

2.15.1 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to come in on budget.

2.16 Capital Programme Update

2.16.1 The revised Capital Programme is £206.483m split between the General Fund £120.891m and HRA £85.592m. The total change to the programme in 2026/27 is an increase of £25.802m from the previously reported budget of £180.682m to Cabinet on 6th July 2026. The movement is based on revised profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage re-profiles and corrections and new grant funding added to the programme.

2.16.2 Table 4: Variations to the Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

	Total Impact	2026/27 Impact	Post 2026/27 Impact
	£m	£m	£m
Corporate Resources – General Fund	0.144	0.144	0.000
Corporate Resources – HRA	-0.194	-0.135	-0.059
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	3.194	3.194	0.000
Slippage / Reprofiting	0.033	22.467	-22.434
Budget corrections	0.132	0.132	0.000
Total	3.309	25.802	-22.493

2.16.3 The main items contributing to the reprofiling of the Capital Programme are:

- **Laughton Gate Housing Scheme, 42 units**, £0.953m, slippage. The Council will now see completion of 5 units this financial year and a further 7 units will now complete in 2027/28 as the properties will not be built and ready for handover by 31st March 2027.
- **Community Facilities**, £0.570m, slippage of the initial funding allocation due to replacement funding being available. Work has been carried out and is ongoing on the upgrade of Community Facilities across the Borough and the projected spending by the end of 2026/27 is £0.600m as per the original budget. However, due to the opportunity to utilise Pride in Place grant funding in the current year and the need for that grant to be spent by 31st March 2027,

the corporate borrowing originally intended for the Community Facilities will be slipped into 2027/28. Further surveying works to The Black Hut site are required and this slipped budget will be available to contribute towards the resulting works required.

- **Rotherham Station Quarter**, £0.490m, slippage. This scheme originally had a small budget in 2026/27 but scoping is not yet completed so budget moved into 2027/28 until there is a clearer spend profile for the scheme.
- **Poppyfield Phase 2 Housing Scheme**, £2.175m, acceleration. The Council has now agreed and paid the deposit for 30 properties in this scheme so budget will be brought forward to cover this cost in 2026/27.
- **West Melton pedestrian crossing**, £0.287m, slippage. There are ongoing negotiations between The Council and South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) regarding a funding agreement for this scheme so there will be lower costs incurred this financial year.
- **Ulley Country Park main building**, £0.200m, slippage. Options for the main building works are currently being completed for consultation and once a preferred option has been agreed the project will commence.
- **ICT Data Storage and Backup**, £0.115m, acceleration. The Council have completed procurement, and the first placed supplier withdrew from the tender exercise. This has resulted in an increased tender price so budget will be brought forward to cover this additional cost. The project will still deliver within this full four-year programme budget allocation.
- **Health Hub Phase 1**, £0.367m, acceleration. This project is due to complete in the summer and the programme has completed sooner than originally planned.
- **Templeborough**, £2.122m, acceleration. This project is progressing well and at pace and additional costs will now fall in 2026/27.
- **Wath Regeneration**, £2.800m, acceleration. The budget for this project has now been updated to reflect the latest position for this scheme as reported to Cabinet in a separate report on 11th May 2026.
- **Hurley Croft Housing Scheme**, £0.794k, acceleration. This scheme is currently being tendered and it is expected that work will now be on site in October 2026 so additional costs will be incurred in 2026/27.
- **Brampton Vale Phase 2 Housing Scheme**, £2.172m, acceleration. The Council has now agreed and paid the deposit for 33 properties in this scheme so budget will be brought forward to cover this cost in 2026/27.
- **Warm Homes Phase 1**, £1.863m, acceleration. This programme was originally due to deliver thermal efficiency upgrades to 462 properties, but the

contractor has additional capacity and can now deliver 613 units this year, so budget is being brought forward to cover this spend in 2026/27.

- **York Road, Eastwood Housing Scheme**, £2.945m, acceleration. This scheme has progressed quicker than planned and preparatory work has commenced on site in July for construction to commence.
- **Netherfield Court, Eastwood Housing Scheme**, £4.686m, acceleration. Site clearance work has been completed sooner than planned and foundations have been completed to a quarter of the plots included on this scheme.
- **Poppyfields, Ravenfield Housing Scheme**, £1.053m, acceleration. Many of the units on this scheme will be completed earlier than planned with just 4 units now being carried forward into early 2027/28.
- **Corporate Resources General Fund**, £0.144m, adjustment. The budget for the Furnished Homes programme has been increased by £0.357m to reflect additional demand for this service, the cost is fully recovered from income the service generates.
- **Corporate Resources HRA**. £0.194m, adjustment. The budget for the removal of asbestos from properties has been taken out of the Capital Programme and the cost of this work will now be funded from the HRA revenue budget.
- **Budget corrections**, £0.132m, adjustment. The budgets for Brampton Vale Strategic Acquisitions, Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Acquisitions and the Wickersley North ward budget, were incorrect and have now been adjusted to show the correct budgets for 2026/27.

2.16.4 New grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the July Cabinet report are listed below:

Table 5: New Grant/HRA funded Schemes added to the programme

Directorate/Scheme	2026/27 £m
Corporate Services	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – additional funding for ward schemes	0.053
Regeneration and Environment	
CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme) - Cortonwood pedestrian crossing	0.010
CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme) - Highways Maintenance allocations - carriageways, structures and potholes.	1.242

SYMCA (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) - Network North Fund	2.120
Department for Transport - Clean Air Zone Bellows Road	-0.146
Department for Transport - Clean Air Zone electric charging points	-0.085
Total	3.194

2.17 Capital Programme Variations Requiring Cabinet Approval

2.17.1 The following variations to the Capital Programme cover significant variations between capital projects that are either a key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

A) Our Places Fund (Swinton Development and pedestrian movement)

Swinton Development

2.17.2

The initial two phases of work including the redevelopment of the Civic Hall, refurbishing the Customer Service Centre into a library and additional reading garden along with the demolition of the previous library, have been completed. The final phase is centred on delivering targeted public realm improvements to create a more attractive, accessible, and better-connected environment around the civic core. At Cabinet in December 2024, as part of the Council's Our Places Fund programme, the scope of the public realm works was expanded from cleaning to full replacement of all paving thus securing an indicative allocation of £300,000 to the Swinton scheme. Subsequently, the scope of Swinton public realm intervention was further increased to include planting and an electrical connection in the precinct centre. This expanded scope of works has introduced some additional technical requirements, including structural assessments of surrounding retaining walls, trees and drainage, which have all contributed to a current requirement for additional funding. The variation seeks to allocate an additional £182,850 from the Our Places fund, which will cover the budget deficit arising out of the increased scope and bring the Swinton project to completion.

Pedestrian Movement

2.17.3

There are two main interventions intended for delivery within the Pedestrian Movement scheme, improvements to the underpasses at College Road roundabout and improvements to bus stops. It is proposed to allocate £600,000 of currently unallocated Mayoral Sustainability Fund (MSF) funding and £7,050 Our Places fund (OPF) funding to the 'Pedestrian movement' element of the OPF programme. The reallocation of £607,050 to the Pedestrian movement scheme will allow greater flexibility of the budget for the delivery of a much-needed multi-disciplinary intervention to the College Road roundabout underpasses and improvements to a number of bus stops. Importantly, an increased overall allocation to this scheme will allow delivery of the wider project aspirations, which are aligned with the needs of the

residents of the borough and, also, with the priority areas for improvements identified by SYMCA through their current work.

2.17.4 **B) Ickles Roundabout improvement works**

The Ickles Roundabout project was awarded SYMCA development funding of £1,050,000 for the development of this site. There is no beneficial scheme at Ickles Roundabout at this time on which the development funding could be usefully spent. Therefore, the variation seeks to reallocate a proportion of this funding as this is no longer required to develop this project on account of its reduced scope. The variation seeks approval to reallocate funding of £490,000 to the Rotherham Gateway Station project. The development funding for the Ickles Roundabout scheme has already been released by SYMCA. The movement of funding between the two schemes has been approved by SYMCA through their change control process.

The Station at Rotherham Gateway is now a key priority for the Council. The mainline and tram-train station will be a catalyst for growth, improving local, regional, and national rail connectivity for all communities and businesses across the Borough, creating employment, and supporting the development of high-quality new homes. Therefore, it is recommended that the funding is transferred to support this scheme.

2.17.5 **C) Clean Air Plan (CAP) funding reallocation**

The Transport Capital Programme 2025/26 was approved at Cabinet in March 2025. The report included the approval for the delivery of Rotherham Clean Air Plan measures to be reallocated to the Sheffield Council's managed Clean Air Fund. The available Clean Air Plan (CAP) capital funding has a balance of £848,721 and so to ensure the contribution available is as set out in the Transport Capital Programme, a contribution of £25,730 is made from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Revenue grant fund.

In addition, it is now proposed that the funds are transferred to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) for delivery on behalf of the Council, rather being transferred to Sheffield City Council. This change has arisen as a result of the development of bus franchising which now means the Mayoral Combined Authority will be procuring the buses as part of this scheme. At the point of Cabinet approval, it was envisaged Sheffield City Council would operate a scheme of grants to which bus operators would apply analogous to the original Clean Air Fund scheme.

2.18 **MCA Approvals**

- 2.18.1 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) acts as accountable body for a number of different Government funding streams and as the accountable body for Gainshare. There are no new approvals to report to Cabinet at this time.

2.19 Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

2.19.1 The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2029/30 is shown by Directorate below.

Table 6: Updated Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

Directorate	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund Capital					
Adult Care & Housing	7.807	7.760	6.927	1.760	24.254
Children and Young People	11.728	10.399	14.389	7.020	43.536
Corporate Services	15.455	16.480	17.103	7.157	56.195
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.685	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.315
Regeneration & Environment	85.216	60.392	10.834	2.582	159.024
Total General Fund Capital	120.891	95.241	49.463	18.729	284.324
Total HRA Capital	85.592	62.804	59.911	109.257	317.564
Total RMBC Capital Programme	206.483	158.045	109.374	127.986	601.888

2.19.2 The Capital Programme for 2026/27 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2027/28. The Council will therefore need to keep close control of project spend profiles and delivery milestones to keep these projects on track. The Council will also need to review the deliverability of this increased Capital Programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

2.20 Funding Position of Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

2.20.1 Table 7: Funding of the approved Capital Programme

Funding Stream	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Receipts	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.215
Grants and Contributions	65.096	38.376	13.967	3.400	120.839
Revenue Contribution	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.000	0.429
Unsupported Borrowing	55.440	56.722	35.350	15.329	162.841
Total Funding - General Fund	120.891	95.241	49.463	18.729	284.324
Capital Receipts	16.512	3.347	1.327	11.774	32.960
Grants and Contributions	11.100	7.129	0.000	15.246	33.475
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	38.234	28.905	28.768	28.555	124.462
Revenue Contribution	15.029	7.549	7.000	12.137	41.715
Unsupported Borrowing	4.717	15.874	22.816	41.545	84.952
Total Funding - HRA	85.592	62.804	59.911	109.257	317.564
Total	206.483	158.045	109.374	127.986	601.888

2.21 Capital Receipts

- 2.21.1 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £4.497m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

Description	Total as at 31st July 2026
	£m
Miscellaneous	-0.016
Land at Worrygoose Lane	-4.481
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	-4.497
Repayment of Loans	-0.008
Total Capital Receipts	-4.505

2.22 Capital Achievements

- 2.22.1 The following outputs have been achieved during the 2026/27 financial year to date:

Corporate Services

Property and Facilities Services

- Completion of the installation of solar panels on the outdoor covered markets and library.
- Improvement works to Clifton Learning Partnership building
- Remedial works to Mecca Bingo
- Toilet upgrade at Rother Valley Country Park
- Clifton Park Museum boiler replacement
- Kiveton Park Depot structural works to outbuilding

Regeneration and Environment

Planning, Regeneration and Transport

- Work has commenced on the £8.4 million Templeborough Business Zone development, supporting the creation of new business space alongside an enhanced food and drink offer at one of Rotherham's iconic tourist attractions. Funded through a Government grant, the project will help drive economic growth, investment and employment opportunities in the borough.
- The new Market Hall in the Town Centre opened to the public in July. 96% of stalls are let, totalling 37 independent businesses having a home in the new venue. Reactions from the public and market traders have been extremely positive.
- On 6 July, a £2.42 million investment was approved by Cabinet to move plans to redevelop a cluster of prominent town centre sites to the next stage of detailed design and cost plans. The sites include Westgate Car Park, Sheffield Road, Statutes Car Park, Snail Yard and 3–7 Corporation Street.
- Works commenced on site on the Our Places Fund Public Realm Scheme at Swinton, in line with existing approvals. The target completion timeframe is Summer 2026.
- Construction works for Phase 1 of the Health Hub in the Town Centre were completed on 17 July 2026 and the new Abbey Pharmacy is now operational. The works included the refurbishment of part of the lower ground floor and will enable the continuation of pharmacy provision, as well as delivering the first element of the planned health facilities in Rotherham town centre.

Culture, Sport and Tourism

- A new play area at Rother Valley Country Park opened to the public in June. It has been very well received by residents.
- A new Creative Engagement Manager is now in post, allowing the Summer Arts Award programme to begin development.

- Rosehill Park and Herringthorpe Valley Park Tennis Courts refurbishment were completed in June. An opening event took place at Rosehill, and all courts are now back open for residents to enjoy.

Community Safety & Street scene

- The proportion of the “Unclassified” road network classed as “green status” (do not require repair) has increased from 69.84% at the beginning of the quarter to 70.56% at the end of the quarter.
- 95 footways across the borough have been included for repair (2026/2027), which includes resurfacing and treatment repairs.
- 23 fleet vehicles have been replaced with greener alternatives.
- Work has commenced on the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme, a £7 million project being delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency to help reduce flood risk in Whiston and better protect homes, businesses and local roads. The scheme will provide a long-term reduction in flood risk by improving water flow through Whiston and increasing the capacity of the drainage system during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Esh Construction has been successful as the winning contractor for the 2 stage (Design and Build) contract for the Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme (Treeton Lane Bridge). Current programme estimates suggest that the design phase could take approximately one year, primarily due to the need for third-party approvals, after which construction works would commence.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Strategic Housing Growth and Development Programme

- In April 2026, RMBC delivered the milestone 800th new home. This was delivered as part of the acquisition of 6 two-bedroom apartments at Waverley.
- In May 2026, the Council submitted a bid to Homes England under the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (SAHP) to support the delivery of 31 new homes in Eastwood. The bid was successful, securing £4,747,107 in grant funding to enable delivery of these homes for social rent, equating to approximately £153k per unit.
- This funding represents a significant achievement for the Housing Delivery Programme, as grant support is essential to ensuring the viability of new developments and enabling the provision of affordable homes for applicants on the housing register.
- The Eastwood scheme has successfully started on site under a single build contract with phased starts. The contractor has access to both sites. A “Spade in the Ground” event was held on the 25th of June. This scheme was identified as a Year Ahead delivery plan target, with a Q1 start on site, which has been successfully achieved.

- The final two homes at the Canklow Warden Street development were handed over in May 2026, completing the wider 15-home scheme. In addition to increasing affordable housing stock within the HRA, the development also delivered specialist accommodation, including a four-bedroom bungalow, to help meet identified housing needs within the borough.
- In Quarter 1, RMBC entered into contracts to acquire a further 63 Section 106 homes across two sites. Delivered by developers as part of their planning obligations, Section 106 properties represent good value for money as they are purchased at a discounted rate. They also provide high-quality new-build homes, helping to meet strong demand from applicants on the Council's housing register.

Improvements and investment in Council Housing stock

The following outputs have been achieved during the 2026/27 financial year to 30th June	Units Delivered
Structural Repairs	37
Major Voids (voids with a replacement element such as kitchen, bathroom, heating system etc, or exceeding c. £5,000 in repair value)	99
East Herringthorpe re-roofing scheme	50
West Melton re-roofing scheme	93
Internal Refurbishments (Kitchens or bathroom replacements) (not including replacements in Voids)	26
Ventilation Works (upgrade of existing, or installation of new mechanical extraction) (not including works in Voids)	755
Ad-Hoc Capital Investment (capital investment works that were unplanned)	21
Thermal Improvements (solar panels, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and/or ventilation)	89
Boiler Replacements (not including replacements in Voids)	532
Capital Electrical Works (rewires, consumer unit changes etc) (not including works in Voids)	26
Window or Door Replacements (per property)	35
Environmental schemes	1
Loft insulation increases in Void properties	89
Kitchens in Void properties	261
Bathrooms in Void properties	74
Electrical rewires in Void properties	69
Heating system/boiler replacements in Void properties	14

2.23 Updated 2026/27 Capital Budget vs Original Budget

- 2.23.1 In order to enable effective monitoring and scrutiny of the movement in the capital budget during the year the below table shows the current 2026/27 capital budget against the original capital budget reported to Cabinet in July 2026.

Directorate	Original Budget £m	Updated Budget £m
General Fund Capital		
Adult Care & Housing	7.449	7.807
Children and Young People	12.132	11.728
Corporate Services	15.089	15.455
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.63	0.685
Regeneration & Environment	74.427	85.216
Total General Fund Capital	109.727	120.891
Total HRA Capital	70.955	85.592
Total RMBC Capital Programme	180.682	206.483

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £5.9m that the Council is forecasting, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2026/27, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report approved by Council on 4th March 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Executive Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.
- 5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2026/27 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from inflation and increases in demand. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over

spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 This report forms part of the Council's governance and financial management framework and supports Cabinet in the monitoring of the approved revenue budget and capital programme. In this context, the Council is required to make proper arrangements for the administration of its financial affairs pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and associated legislation.
- 7.2 Subject to the paragraph above, there are no direct legal implications arising from the Recommendations within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Whilst there are no direct human resources implications arising from this monitoring report, there are ongoing workforce related pressures reflected in the financial position. These include recruitment and retention challenges in key services and use of agency and locum staffing. These factors will continue to be monitored as part of workforce planning.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adults' Social care budgets.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets; any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets and capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report. The Carbon Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a

top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium-term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 To any extent that the approved budget, budget savings or compensating mitigations are not achieved, this will require a drawdown on Reserves. The Council's approved Reserves strategy shows that there is a sufficient balance of Reserves to mitigate overall budget risk, however, a continued call on the Reserves over and above that planned over the medium term would be financially unsustainable.
- 13.2 The Capital Programme is funded through a number of sources: Prudential borrowing, capital grants and contributions, revenue contributions and capital receipts. The Council will need to closely consider the level of prudential borrowing it incurs moving forwards post the 2026/27 Budget to ensure that the Council's overall debt position is manageable, can be financed within the Council's Treasury Management Budgets and to help guard against interest rate risk. There is also potential risk that the future years' funding from Government Grants and external sources may vary from that estimated.
- 13.3 Financial Services work closely with Senior Officers and Project Managers to monitor project expenditure and performance through the Capital Programme Monitoring and Delivery Board (CPM&DB). Improvements, like this, introduced to the Capital Programme governance arrangements and enhanced reporting requirements help to ensure that Members will receive early notice of any specific project issues. This will enable early intervention to take place to bring projects back on timetable and cost, or if necessary, agree an additional capital programme funding approval. Where elements of the Programme are reliant on future grant funding, future projects will be continually reviewed to match the programme against funding availability.

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/08/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	21/08/2026
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	27/08/2026

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services

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

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

1. Title

Title: July 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report

Directorate: Corporate Services

Service area: Financial

Lead person: Rob Mahon

Contact: 01709 254518

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Executive Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the second financial report in the financial year; it sets out the Councils latest revenue forecast position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at this time.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

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

Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason.		
Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity	
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an Equality Analysis. Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.	
How have you considered equality and diversity? N/A	
Key findings N/A	
Actions N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Natalia Govorukhina	Head of Corporate Finance, Financial Services	14/08/2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	12/08/26
Report title and date	2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet 14 th September 2026
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	17/08/26

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

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

This report constitutes an update on previously approved activity.

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

There are no specific impacts on resilience identified as part of this assessment. Significant new actions will be or have been subject to their own climate impact assessments.

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

As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Nikki Kelly
Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)
Financial Services
Finance and Customer Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

N/A

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.

N/A

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA 688

Louise Preston
Climate Change Manager

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Community Governance Review Interim Update

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)

Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager
01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boroughwide

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an interim update on the progress of the Community Governance Review following the completion of the first stage of public consultation.

A report setting out the draft recommendations arising from the review will be presented to Cabinet in October 2026 for consideration and approval. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation will be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report will then be brought to Cabinet. It is a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.
2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.
3. Note the extension of the second stage consultation period to twelve weeks to maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Number of consultation responses by area
- Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment CIA 685

Background Papers

[Guidance on community governance reviews](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, March 2010]

[Community Governance Review Cabinet Report](#), 13 April 2026

[Community Governance Review Terms of Reference](#), 13 April 2026

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Community Governance Review

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parish, town and community councils through a statutory process known as a Community Governance Review, undertaken in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 1.2 A Community Governance Review sets out the steps a principal council must follow to consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission have produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.
- 1.3 A Community Governance Review can consider one or more of the following:
 - the creation, merger, alteration, or abolishment of a parish
 - the naming of a parish and the style of a new parish
 - the electoral arrangements for a parish (i.e. the ordinary year of election; council size; number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding)
 - the grouping or de-grouping of parishes; and
 - other types of arrangements including parish meetings.
- 1.4 Following approval by Cabinet on 13 April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1 May 2026.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 An initial consultation took place between 1 May and 26 June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to consider.
- 2.2 The consultation was accessible via the Council's consultation portal and in paper format at all Rotherham libraries. To support public engagement, seven outreach events were held at library locations across the borough, enabling residents to view maps, ask any questions, and submit a response.
- 2.3 The consultation received just under two hundred responses, representing views on existing parish, town, and community councils, together with interest in the establishment of new parish councils. A summary of the number of responses received by area is shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The responses are currently being analysed to identify common themes, levels of support for proposed changes and any alternative suggestions put

forward by respondents. The feedback received demonstrates a range of views across different communities, reflecting local circumstances and priorities.

2.5 Some of the key themes include:

- Strong support for retaining existing arrangements was evident in many areas, with respondents expressing satisfaction with current parish boundaries, governance arrangements, councillor numbers, and parish identities.
- Boundary-related comments formed a significant proportion of responses. These generally focused on ensuring parish boundaries better reflected community identity, patterns of service use, established settlements, new housing developments, or residents' sense of belonging.
- Views on parish warding were mixed. Some respondents supported the removal of parish wards to simplify governance and promote a unified community identity, while others favoured retaining existing ward structures to ensure fair representation of different parts of a parish.
- There was considerable interest in representation and governance arrangements. Responses included suggestions to increase, decrease, or retain the current number of councillors, with comments often linked to concerns about effective representation, vacancies, recruitment challenges, or the efficiency of parish, town or community council decision-making.
- Community identity was a recurring theme. Many respondents emphasised the importance of maintaining local distinctiveness, protecting existing community ties, and ensuring governance arrangements reflected how communities identify themselves.
- A small number of submissions proposed the creation of new parish councils in currently unparished areas. These responses generally cited increased local representation, stronger community advocacy, greater local accountability, and improved focus on community priorities as reasons for establishing a parish council.
- Comments on local facilities, services and community assets were also received, with respondents highlighting the role parish councils play in supporting community buildings, events, environmental improvements, and local initiatives.

2.6 No consultation responses were received in relation to Brampton Bierlow, Gildingwells, Hooton Levitt, Hooton Roberts, Orgreave, Thorpe Salvin, Thrybergh, Todwick, Ulley or Woodsetts Parish Councils.

2.7 **Development of Draft Recommendations:** The Officer Working Group is in the process of reviewing the consultation responses, together with the

statutory criteria for community governance reviews, to inform the development of draft recommendations.

- 2.8 **Next Steps:** An information session for Members will be held during September to provide an overview of the consultation responses and the draft recommendations arising from the review.
- 2.9 The Draft Recommendations report will be presented to Cabinet on 12 October 2026, to seek approval to undertake a second phase of consultation on the draft recommendations.
- 2.10 Subject to Cabinet approval, the second phase of consultation will commence on 26 October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the consultation period will be extended from eight weeks to twelve weeks. Although the consultation will span the Christmas period, the timetable has been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closes.
- 2.11 The consultation will be available online via the Council's consultation portal and in paper format at all Rotherham libraries. Targeted communications and local engagement events will also be undertaken to encourage participation from residents in areas affected by the draft recommendations.
- 2.12 Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations will be prepared and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval. Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report is for information and provides an interim update on the progress of the Community Governance Review.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - 1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.
 - 2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.
 - 3. Note the extension of the second stage consultation period to twelve weeks to maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This report is for information and, therefore, no decision is required and no

consultation needed.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The CGR will be conducted in four stages.

Commencement: 1 May 2026 - Complete

- Publication of Terms of Reference

Stage 1: 1 May to 26 June 2026 - Complete

- Public consultation on the current arrangements

Stage 2: July to September 2026 – In progress

- Consultation submissions considered and draft initial recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet.

Stage 3: October 2026 to January 2027

- Publication of draft recommendations
- Public consultation on draft recommendations

Stage 4: January 2027 to April 2027

- Consultation submissions considered and draft final recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet.
- Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council.
- Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order for any approved recommendations.

Implementation: 4 May 2028

- Implementation of approved recommendations at the next scheduled elections.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

6.2 The costs of staffing the CGR and consultation process will continue to be absorbed within the existing Electoral Services budget.

6.3 As far as possible, consultation documents will be made available online, however some printing and posting will be required and the costs associated with this will depend on the scope of the consultation and representations received during the review. Any costs relating to the consultation will be absorbed within the Electoral Services budget.

6.4 The cost of parish elections is incurred by the Council but is recharged to the parishes where a contested election is held. As it is envisaged that any changes to electoral arrangements would be implemented at the scheduled elections in 2028, there should be no additional election costs arising from any agreed recommendations.

- 6.5 Any changes to the boundaries may affect the parish precept that residents affected by a boundary change will pay; any changes to precepts and council tax bills would be applied from the date the adopted recommendations from the review become effective. Any changes will be implemented on 1st April 2028.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council has the power and duty to undertake Community Governance Reviews under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. As stated above a Community Governance Review enables the Council to consider the creation, alteration, abolition, grouping or de-grouping of parishes, together with associated electoral arrangements. The Council must conduct the review in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the 2007 Act and have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

- 7.2 In undertaking the review, the Council must ensure that appropriate consultation is carried out, that representations received are properly considered, and that any recommendations are based on the statutory criteria, namely the need to secure community governance that reflects the identities and interests of local communities and is effective and convenient. The proposed continuation of public consultation and consideration of consultation responses supports compliance with those duties.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for Human Resources.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no implications for equalities and human rights arising from this report.
- 10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The implications for CO2 emissions and Climate Change are low. A Carbon Impact Assessment is set out in Appendix 3.
- 11.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes,

and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years.

- 11.3 When carrying out a review, the Council must consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. As well as carrying out online consultation, hard copies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel.
- 11.4 To minimise the distances residents would have to travel to any consultation events held as part of the review, the locations will be chosen to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough. When travelling to consultation events, where possible, Electoral Services staff will car share.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The 2007 Act requires that local people are consulted during a CGR, that representations received in connection with the review are considered and that steps are taken to notify respondents of the outcomes of such reviews including any decisions. When undertaking the review, the Council must have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review and it is effective and convenient.
- 13.2 Following consultation, there may be representations from individuals or parish councils where the proposals are in conflict or contradictory. This may present a risk that a local amicable solution will not be possible, and the Council will have to decide.
- 13.3 There is potential for requests for new parishes, and it will be necessary for the Council to ensure they would be sustainable and there would be enough interest from local people to serve as councillors. To mitigate and manage these risks, support and guidance is available from Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the Council, and the local Parish Network.
- 13.4 Without effective consultation there is the risk that recommendations arising from the review would not reflect the identities and interests of local communities or effective and convenient community governance. That risk is sought to be mitigated by the proposed consultation.

14. Accountable Officers

Phillip Horsfield, Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/08/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/08/2026
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/2026

Report Author: *Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager*
 01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Number of consultation responses by area

Parish	Responses
Anston Parish Council	1
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	1
Bramley Parish Council	19
Brinsworth Parish Council	12
Catcliffe Parish Council	3
Dalton Parish Council	2
Dinnington St John's Town Council	2
Firbeck Parish Council Parish Council	2
Harthill-with-Woodall	1
Hellaby Parish Council	20
Laughton-en-le-Mothern Parish Council	2
Letwell Parish Council	2
Maltby Town Council	82
Ravenfield Parish Council	11
Thurcroft Parish Council	4
Treeton Parish Council	1
Wales Parish Council	2
Waverley Community Council	8
Wentworth Parish Council	7
Whiston Parish Council	3
Wickersley Parish Council	3
Other (inc. new parish requests)	11

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title

Title:

Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation

Directorate:

Corporate Services

Service area:

Electoral Services

Lead person:

Mike Thomas

Contact:

Mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk
01709 823 268

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify: Statutory public consultation

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes and abolishment of parishes to principal councils.

The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. The review process is known as a Community Governance Review (CGR).

When carrying out a CGR, regard must be given to the 2010 Communities and Local Government and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's

Guidance on community governance reviews as set out in section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007.

CGRs are undertaken to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to facilitate effective and convenient local governance and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

In developing final recommendations for local governance arrangements for parish and town council areas the Council seeks to ensure that proposals:

- reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
- are effective and convenient; and
- take into consideration any other arrangements that might facilitate community representation and engagement.

A Community Governance Review may look at the following in respect of parishes:

- amending existing parishes / parish names
- establishing parish councils
- councillor numbers
- grouping / de-grouping / amalgamating parishes
- creating / abolishing parishes
- recommendations in respect of electoral arrangements (including warding arrangements, name of wards and councillors to be elected to parish wards)

Following the review, the final recommendations must go to Council for approval and resolve to make an Order to bring any approved recommendations into effect at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x

Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

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

A CGR is a statutory process that provides all stakeholders an opportunity to contribute their views about the existing parish council arrangements. The outcome of the review can include the amendment, creation or abolishment of a parish council. The CGR process does not have any specific impact on equality and diversity.

The consultation will be available online and printed copies in all Rotherham libraries. Consultation drop-in events will also be held in different areas of the Borough to provide the opportunity for all residents to take part.

Information can be requested in alternative formats, including large print and different languages.

An Equality Analysis (Part B) is not required at this stage of the CGR processes; however, it may be required depending on the impact of the draft recommendations, which will be developed following the initial round of public consultation.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

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

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Horsfield	Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services	11/08/2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	11/08/2026
Report title and date	Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation 11/08/2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet: 14 September 2026 Publication: 28 August 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	12/08/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	During the consultation, it may be necessary for Electoral Services staff to travel to different parts of the Borough to conduct visits and consultation events, resulting in vehicle emissions from the journeys. It is likely that this impact will be very small.	There may be some vehicle emissions from residents choosing to travel by car to any public consultation events or their local library to view a hardcopy of the consultation documents.	The consultation will be available online. For those wishing to view a hardcopy of the consultation, copies will be made available in all of Rotherham's libraires. Electoral Services staff will car share where possible, when conducting any visits or consultation events around the Borough. Where possible, any consultation events will take place in locations across the Borough to minimise travel distances for residents.	No additional monitoring possible. Where vehicles utilised are officers' personal vehicles emissions will be monitored as part of the Council's annual reporting process through the mileage claim process.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	A small increase in waste may be produced from paper copies of consultation materials. This is likely to have a negligible impact on the Council's emissions.		Hardcopies will be only available where necessary to ensure all relevant parties across the Borough are able to access the consultation, noting variances in digital accessibility and proficiency.	Impacts are likely too small to measure.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

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

There are no significant impacts expected relating to resilience as a result of this decision.

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

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years.

When carrying out a review, the Council must consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. As well as carrying out online consultation, hardcopies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel to view it.

To minimise the distances residents, would have to travel to any consultation events held as part of the review, the locations will be chosen to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough. When travelling to consultation events, where possible, Electoral Services staff will car share.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Mike Thomas Electoral Services Manager Electoral Service Corporate Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 685 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Social Value Annual Report

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Rosie Whitley, Social Value Practitioner

Rosie.Whitley@rotherham.gov.uk

Izzy Andrewes, Inclusive Economy Project Manager

Izzy.Andrewes@rotherham.gov.uk

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Fiona.Boden@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Each year a report is presented to Cabinet updating on progress set out in the Council's Social Value Policy, including the amount of value committed and delivered through Council contracts.

Since the last annual report in June 2025, good progress has been made to further strengthen delivery of the Social Value Policy. Social value commitments now stand at £41.6m. Importantly, validated delivery of social value stands at £23.7m, having increased by 92% compared to the previous annual report.

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

Priorities are also set for the next 12 months with a particular focus on ensuring progress is made across all five themes of community wealth building that are embedded within the Council's Social Value Policy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Receive the annual report, noting the social value commitments along with outcomes delivered.
2. Approve that the key priorities for 2026/27 are:
 - a. Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
 - b. Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
 - c. Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
 - d. Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.
 - e. Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.
3. Agree to delegate authority to the Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Social value annual report
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Form A)
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Social Value Policy (2024 - 2027)
Centre for Local Economic Strategies – Progressive Procurement in Rotherham
Social value annual report, June 2025
Public Procurement Notice 026: The social value model, [PPN 026: The social value model - GOV.UK](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Social Value Annual Report

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2019, the Council adopted a Social Value Policy, which, along with its accompanying toolkit, set out how social value would be maximised in the Borough. Refreshed in 2024, the Council adopted the Social Value Hub definition of social value as:

‘The benefit to the community from a commissioning or procurement process over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes’.

- 1.2 Alongside this work on progressive procurement, as part of the Council’s Social Value Policy, a commitment was made to explore the other four pillars of community wealth building, which comprise:

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment and just labour markets.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

- 1.3 Each year, Cabinet receives a report on progress against the agreed policy priorities, including key actions set out in the previous report. The key actions for 2025/26 were to:

- Continue the work on employee ownership.
- Deliver the partnership social value action plan with the Social Value Portal, working towards the delivery of increased social value commitments across Rotherham’s anchor network.
- Deliver further support to local businesses through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- Upskill Council staff through training initiatives and one-to-one support.

- 1.4 This report also recommends priority actions for 2026/27 to continue to deliver the Social Value Policy. This includes continuing to explore the ways in which the Council can better leverage the five community wealth building (CWB) pillars.

- 1.5 Consistent with previous annual progress reports, data is included on social value commitments in the previous year (from December 2024 to November 2025). The amount of social value commitment achieved is determined by the scale, number and type of contracts let each year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This section of this report covers the following two elements:
- A summary of the annual report, setting out progress in the delivery of the Social Value Policy over the previous year.
 - The proposed priority actions for 2026/27.

2.2 Summary of progress in delivering actions from the previous annual report

2.3 The Council is continuing to make positive progress in delivering its Social Value Policy, with key priorities agreed each year through the annual report. Progress against the key priorities set in the previous annual report are summarised in the table below, with further details on progress made over the year included in Appendix 1.

2.4 Priorities set in the previous annual report	Actions undertaken and progress made
Continue the work on employee ownership	In February 2026, the Council became the first local authority in England to offer a feasibility service to enable business owners to explore employee ownership alongside other exit options free of charge (see Appendix 1). The Council has also facilitated awareness raising and business support workshops to ensure information about the employee ownership model is available in the local business community. Over the year, 5 businesses received expert support on employee ownership and a further 30 businesses engaged in awareness raising activity and succession planning discussions, helping to build interest in future. Following significant legislative changes to the Employee Ownership Trust model in November 2025, conversations are taking place to ensure the Council's intervention maximises support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as they navigate options for their future.
Continue to develop anchor networks with the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) action plan	The Rotherham Together Partnership continued to strengthen its collective approach to social value through a second phase of consultancy support delivered by the Social Value Portal. The programme focused on improving organisational capability, increasing consistency and supporting a more coordinated, needs-led approach across local anchor institutions. Support was provided on a one-to-one basis to partner organisations, as well as via six RTP social value

	champion forums, and over the course of this period there have been some significant partner achievements Despite having a largely centralised budget, South Yorkshire Police have prioritised social value where possible and are using a local contractor for the current building works on Rotherham Main Street police station. Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) became Real Living Wage (RLW) accredited in June 2025, which has increased the pay of almost one in five of their staff. As appropriate on their tenders they now have a pass or fail criteria based on whether the supplier pays RLW (acknowledging that in some markets like the third sector this is not always possible), and have plans to expand this approach. The Trust has also set targets to expand local spend within its communities by moving contracts to local businesses. Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and Voluntary Action Rotherham have shaped their distinct brokerage roles, improving links between suppliers and Rotherham organisations to support business awareness and more targeted and impactful social value delivery to meet local needs. The influence of the RTP's approach to social value is not however limited to Rotherham. Local Integrated Care Board (ICB) colleagues have taken a paper to South Yorkshire ICB executives on how to embed the Rotherham social value model at the sub-regional level. The Rotherham Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has also worked in partnership with Barnsley Hospital to embed social value within a joint procurement. Partners have committed to maintaining momentum through ongoing quarterly meetings, providing a mechanism for peer support, shared learning and accountability across the partnership. Despite some of the key achievements highlighted above, some inconsistencies have been identified due to ongoing periods of change for some partners, as well as different organisational reporting geographies and methods of measurement. Ensuring delivery against social value commitments has also been a challenge experienced by all partners.
Delivering further support to	Through UKSPF (now known as the Local Growth Fund), the Council has continued to work with Go4Growth and the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of

local businesses through UKSPF to increase capacity	Commerce to improve business capacity, procurement readiness and local supply chain development. In 2025, Go4Growth delivered 242 business engagements, including procurement training, workshops, online resources and one-to-one support, helping local SMEs build the skills and confidence needed to access public sector and anchor institution opportunities. The Chamber's programme engaged almost 200 local businesses through a series of events, including Meet the Buyer, Chamber Means Business, the Planning & Development Strategic Event, and the Manufacturing Supply Chain Expo. Together, these initiatives have increased awareness of procurement opportunities, strengthened business capability and supported the development of more resilient local supply chains across the borough (see Appendix 1). Alongside the support for business, the borough's UKSPF allocation has also been used to support more people to progress into and within work. This has included supporting young people who are not in employment, education or training to understand the full range of training and skills pathways available to them. Provision of community-based core skills (maths, English and digital) courses with a particular focus on communities of greatest need has also continued. Finally, support has been provided for working people who want to reach their career potential and thrive in their chosen careers.
Upskilling Council staff through training initiatives and one-to-one support	Through a programme of social value workshops, Lunch and Learn sessions and one-to-one support, the Council has continued to build knowledge and capability across the organisation. During the year, 107 officers attended social value workshops and a further 60 officers participated in a Lunch and Learn session, helping to improve understanding of requirements, contract management and delivery. This investment in officer skills has strengthened supplier engagement, improved oversight of commitments and supported more effective social value delivery across Council contracts. This was in addition to supplier upskilling, including the publication of a supplier social value toolkit, 2 well-

attended annual social value events and 4 training sessions to upskill voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSEs). This aligns with the Procurement Act's aim to reduce barriers to participation for VCSEs and SMEs, whilst helping to ensure that social value commitments made are specific, measurable and deliverable.

2.5 Social value delivery

2.6 Challenges

2.7 The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) framework, developed by the National Social Value Task Force, provides a clear definition of social value and a corresponding measurement tool for transparent and robust reporting. The Council has selected measures from the National TOMs that will positively impact the economic and social wellbeing of the Rotherham community, with a particular focus on employment and skills.

2.8 Since the introduction of the Social Value Policy, the total social value committed through Council contracts has increased from **£32 million by the end of November 2024 to £41.6 million by the end of November 2025**, representing growth of almost **50% (£13.8 million)**. This demonstrates sustained progress in embedding social value as a core component of procurement activity and contract delivery.

2.9 These figures exclude the housing repairs contracts with Equans and Mears Group due to these contracts being awarded prior to the Social Value Policy's implementation and as such, social value commitments were not included. Despite that, social value has been delivered through these contracts with Mears delivering £11.9m and Equans delivering £180.4k of social value, with both delivering more social value pending validation. For more detail, please see Appendix 1, including case study material.

2.10 Social value is now firmly established as business as usual for procurements valued at over £100,000 following the implementation of the Policy in 2019. This has been supported by increased officer capability, strengthened governance arrangements, and a growing emphasis on place-based delivery aligned with local priorities.

2.11 Importantly, over the past year, the total validated social value delivered has increased significantly, rising from £12.3 million in the previous annual report to £23.7 million. This represents a net increase of £11.3 million, or 92% and has been delivered across the following types of activity (also summarised in Figure 1 below):

- **Rotherham People:** includes commissioned services for residents, such as health and social care provision. Social value delivered

increased from £6.1 million to £11.4 million, a net increase of £5.3 million or 87%.

- **Rotherham Places:** covers construction, facilities management, environment, and transport. Social value delivered increased from £5.5 million to £10.9 million, a net increase of £5.4 million or 98%. This represents the largest absolute and percentage increase.
- **Rotherham Corporate:** encompasses contracts that support the operational running of the Council, including information technology, temporary labour, training, and personal protective equipment. Social value delivered increased from £794,000 to £1.4 million, a net increase of £606,000 or 76%.

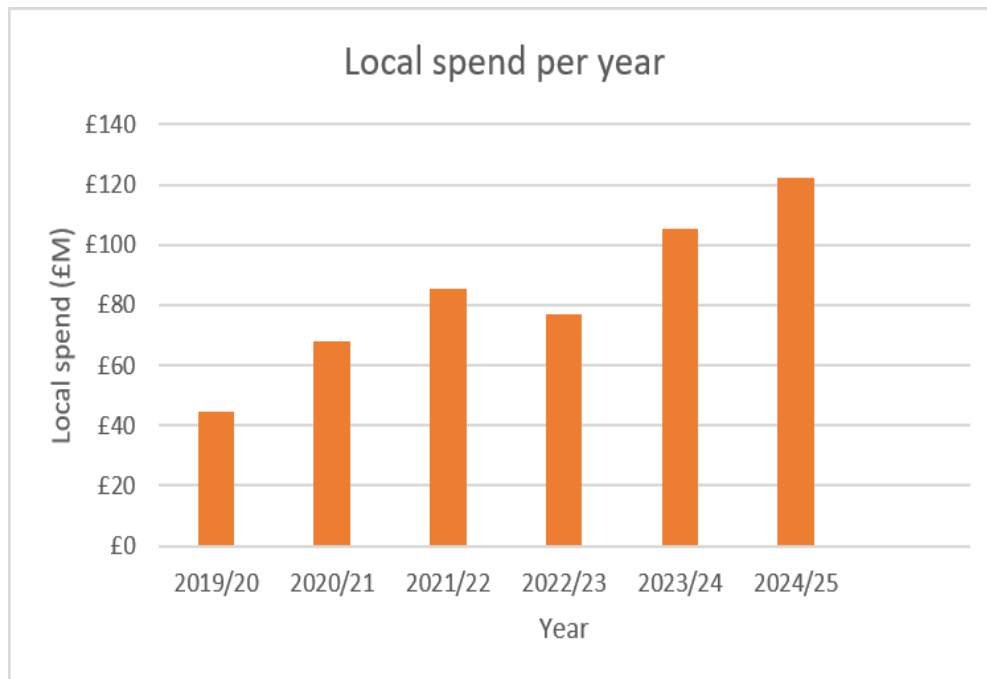
It should be noted that the categories of People, Places and Corporate used above are procurement terms used to group similar items of expenditure.

2.12 **Figure 1: Total value of social value commitments**



Note: The total value is actual, but the figures for Places, People, and Corporate are rounded and may not sum exactly

2.13 The amount of Council expenditure being spent locally has continued to increase from £44.8m in 2019/20 to £122.1m in 2024/25 (shown in Figure 2 below). This is an increase of £77.3m or 172%. A greater absolute amount of Council expenditure is being spent locally, and the proportionate share of expenditure has also increased from 17.8% in 2019/20 to 26.7% in 2024/25.

2.14 **Figure 2: Actual local spend per year**

- 2.15 Further detail on delivery across the People, Places and Corporate themes, including case studies demonstrating impact, is provided in Appendix 1. However, of particular significance is the progress made on local skills and employment, with key achievements including:
- **454 full-time equivalent jobs** secured or retained for local people through Council contracts, equating to £15.1m in social value (NT1)
 - **1,169 apprenticeships weeks** delivered, worth £266k in social value (NT10)
 - **4,985 hours of personalised career mentoring** and employability support initiatives delivered, amounting to £555k in social value (NT11)
 - **728 staff hours supporting local schools and colleges**, totalling £12.3k in social value (NT8)
- 2.16 Overall delivery currently stands at 57% of total social value committed. This has increased from 38% in the previous year. Due to the cyclical nature of procurement, with new social value commitments continually added through contract awards, delivery will never reach 100%, and performance should be considered within this context. Alongside this, a greater proportion of Council expenditure is being spent locally having increased from 24% in 2023/24 to 26.7% in 2024/25.
- 2.17 Together, these demonstrate how social value commitments are translating into tangible benefits for residents, communities and the local economy. While the value secured through contracts continues to increase, the Council's approach is increasingly focused on the quality, relevance and long-term impact of delivery. This ensures that social value commitments contribute meaningfully to local priorities, support inclusive

economic growth, strengthen community resilience, and maximise the wider benefits generated through public spending.

2.18 Risks and challenges to social value delivery

2.19 Whilst delivery remains positive overall, several challenges remain. Delivery is not consistent across all measures, with some suppliers committing to activities that overlap with existing local provision, such as employability support, whilst higher-priority needs, including work experience opportunities, remain under-served. There is also variation in suppliers' understanding of social value requirements and the importance of delivering commitments throughout the life of a contract, creating barriers in delivery and contract management.

2.20 The Rotherham TOMs agreed in 2025 have created additional challenges in fully evidencing all impact in the borough. As not all work and skills measures are currently reflected within Rotherham's framework, some outcomes cannot yet be consistently recorded or reported. This limits the Council's ability to demonstrate the full value being generated from contracts.

2.21 In the new policy approach announced on the 5th of August, the Government has also adopted a more narrowly defined focus on securing jobs and skills, especially for young people, in their own social value scoring. Whilst the detailed guidance is not yet available (it is due to be published in the autumn), this is consistent with the approach agreed by Rotherham in June 2025. Once available, it will be important to review this alongside local intelligence, as part of the renewal of the Social Value Policy to ensure that the optimum measures are utilised to measure the impact in the borough.

2.22 To address these risks, the Council has strengthened contract management oversight and increased engagement with suppliers to refocus delivery where required. Governance has also been strengthened from quarter 1 2026/27 by the introduction of a new report providing greater visibility of social value delivery performance across contracts by senior leaders. The ongoing development of guidance, training and support resources will help ensure future commitments are more closely aligned to local priorities, more realistic to deliver and capable of generating the greatest possible benefit for Rotherham's residents, communities and economy.

2.23 Plural Ownership of the Economy

2.24 This year the Council launched two new projects under the plural ownership of the economy pillar of community wealth building, to grow and strengthen Rotherham's cooperative and mutuals sector.

2.25 As summarised in the table above, the Council has become the first local authority in England to offer a feasibility service to enable business owners

to explore employee ownership alongside other exit options free of charge (see Appendix 1). During the year, government reduced the Capital Gains Tax subsidy, which is expected to reduce the number of sales to employee ownership trusts. The Council is assessing the impact of this on the project and will implement adaptations accordingly in the coming year of delivery.

2.26 21st Century Social Clubs in Rotherham launched in March 2026, the first business support programme designed and delivered specifically for Clubs in the UK. The programme aims to strengthen Clubs as democratic, member-owned institutions of the future so that they can continue to serve communities for generations to come (see Appendix 1).

2.27 **Broader progress made in the delivery of the Council's Social Value Policy**

2.28 Since the publication of the previous annual report, other notable achievements include (more detail is provided in Appendix 1):

- The Council successfully retained its status as a Real Living Wage Employer in September 2025 and continues to ensure its staff receive the real living wage, which currently stands at £13.45 per hour.
- The annual social value events were successfully held in 2025 and 2026, providing a valuable opportunity to support businesses to better understand and deliver local impact.
- Developed the innovative "Course to Job" programme through the Pathways to Work Trailblazer, aligning training provision directly with employer vacancies.
- Progressed the Council's Employer of Choice programme, introducing new approaches to attraction, recruitment and inclusion.

2.29 **Key actions and development for 2026/27**

2.30 The key actions for 2026/27 will focus on continuing the delivery of social value commitments. Alongside these, renewed efforts will focus on the other pillars of community wealth building that are embedded in the Council's Social Value Policy, approved by Cabinet in 2024, with the key priorities for 2026/27 identified as:

- Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
- Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
- Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
- Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.

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

2.31 **Continuing to ensure social value commitments are delivered**

2.32 Whilst the terms 'social value' and 'community wealth building' have previously been used interchangeably, the Council will now adopt clearer definitions:

Community wealth building is the overarching approach to retaining and maximising wealth within the local economy.

Social value is one of the key tools used to achieve community wealth building through procurement and commissioning.

Social value underpins the **progressive procurement** pillar, one of five pillars of community wealth building. Progressive procurement aims to leverage public sector and anchor institution buying power to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits.

2.33 One of the Council's key priorities in 2026/27 is to continue to deliver social value within the procurement process. Reporting to senior leaders on the delivery of social value contractual commitments will be embedded within the organisation, to greater ensure and assure that these benefits are realised.

2.34 The Government's August 2026 reforms to its procurement policy for Central Government places a stronger emphasis on social value, requiring major public contracts to deliver tangible benefits for local communities through the creation of jobs, apprenticeships, work placements and skills development opportunities. Under the new approach, the weighting given to social value in central government contracts worth £5 million or more will increase from 10% to 20%, with suppliers expected to demonstrate how they will address local skills needs, support young people into employment and training, and create high-quality jobs. These changes reinforce the growing national focus on using public spending to generate economic, social and community benefits, ensuring that procurement contributes directly to inclusive growth and opportunity in every locality.

2.35 As part of these reforms to central government procurement, the Government has also announced its intention that evidence of poor social value performance may be taken into account when determining whether there are grounds to exclude suppliers from future procurement opportunities. Detailed guidance on the application of these changes within central government procurement is expected to be published in the autumn. The Council will review this guidance, alongside wider sector learning and best practice, to assess the potential opportunities, risks and implications for local government procurement.

- 2.36 **Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs**
- 2.37 In 2026/27 the Council will continue to champion democratic business models through the employee ownership and 21st century social club projects. The Council will respond to external legislative changes to the Employee Ownership Trust model and ensure continued support for owner-managed businesses as they approach ownership transition and succession.
- 2.38 **Supporting residents into employment**
- 2.39 The fair employment and labour markets pillar of community wealth building aims to promote fair working practices and reduce barriers to employment. In 2026/27 the Council will explore further ways in which it can reduce barriers to employment across the borough both internally and externally. Being an employer of choice is one of the five priority pillars within the Council's Workforce Plan 2026-2030 and also aligns with theme 4 of the Inclusion Strategy. Work is being progressed to embed inclusion within recruitment and selection processes, with progress regularly reported to the Workforce Board.
- 2.40 Key priorities for the remainder of 2026/27 include:
- Gathering feedback from communities, schools, colleges and job seekers to understand what attracts people to work for the Council and using this insight to improve recruitment approaches.
 - Reviewing stakeholder engagement to ensure seldom-heard groups are represented and developing an outreach plan that supports the Council's ambition to reflect the diversity of local communities.
 - Reviewing recruitment-related policies and processes through enhanced new starter and exit feedback mechanisms, with a focus on inclusion.
 - Exploring alternative recruitment methods to attract more diverse applicants, building on successful initiatives such as the CV-based recruitment process used at Rother Valley Country Park, which attracted over 100 applicants.
- 2.41 The Council is also working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and the other local authorities in South Yorkshire around future skills and employment support, including the use of the Local Growth Fund in 2027/28. In addition, throughout 2026/27 the Council will support 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment.
- 2.42 **Socially Productive Use of Land and Property**
- 2.43 This pillar aims to manage public and community assets to benefit local, economic and environmental needs. In 2026/27 the Council will complete

the £600k investment in community facilities across the borough to sustain and enable the participation in activities and engagement within them.

- 2.44 Working with partners the Council will also create a Rotherham estates strategy for health and care, which will help inform the need for diagnostic and clinical spaces across the borough to improve services for residents.

2.45 **Maximise local benefits from investment**

- 2.46 This pillar aims to recirculate wealth within communities, increase local investment and ensure financial flows support local people and businesses. In 2026/27 the Council will explore how the recent announcements from the Government can be used to better meet Rotherham's needs.

2.47 **Agreement to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029**

- 2.48 It is recommended that agreement is sought to delegate authority to the Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.

The extended timeline will allow the Council to further embed, monitor and deliver the existing policy requirements.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 **Option One** recommends acknowledging the progress and achievements made in achieving social value commitments and delivery, along with setting out the key actions for the year ahead. In doing so it ensures that the Council's community wealth building aspirations, as set out in the Social Value Policy, are advanced.

- 3.2 **Option Two** would acknowledge the progress made in achieving social value commitments and delivery but would not propose actions to further the Council's community wealth building aspirations, as set out in the Social Value Policy. This is not recommended, as the proposed actions are integral to the overall programme of activities needed to deliver the Social Value Policy with clear objectives for the following year.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The social value annual report has undergone internal consultation, incorporating views and contributions from officers in procurement and

those engaged in social value working groups. Information has been gathered from partners and local businesses.

- 4.2 The Council is also continuing to enhance engagement with external agencies, local businesses and partners to boost social value outcomes through the development of anchor networks and an annual social value event. This has resulted in a renewed focus on support to SMEs.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 This report presents progress at a specific point in time along a developmental journey. It outlines achievements from the past year and recommends priority actions for the coming year.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 All associated procurement implications are detailed in the main body of this report. Where there is a need to engage third party supplier to support the delivery of any of the aspects detailed in this report, they must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependent on the route to market) and the Council's own financial and procurement procedure rules.
- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, and it has no immediate impact on the Council's revenue or capital budgets. The report provides an update on the integration of the Social Value Policy into the Council's procurement procedures and outlines options for the future development of social value activities. Any financial or operational implications associated with the application of the Social Value Policy in future procurement exercises will be considered and assessed as part of the decision-making process for those individual procurements.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council's Social Value Policy supports the delivery of social, economic and environmental benefits through commissioning and procurement activity. In doing so, it reflects the principles contained within the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, which requires relevant authorities to consider how procurement activity may improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the relevant area.
- 7.2 The Council must continue to ensure that its Social Value Policy, associated documentation and procurement practices comply with the Procurement Act 2023, Public Contract Regulations 2015, relevant regulations and statutory guidance.
- 7.3 Subject to paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above, there are no specific legal implications arising from Cabinet noting the contents of the annual report. Continued contract management and monitoring arrangements remain

important to ensure that social value commitments incorporated within contracts are evidenced and delivered in accordance with contractual and procurement requirements.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report. Any workforce implications arising from future policy developments or specific projects will be considered through the Council's established HR policies and procedures.
- 8.2 The report aligns with the Council's wider workforce ambitions, including the Employer of Choice agenda and ongoing work to support inclusive recruitment and employment opportunities.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The outcomes within the Social Value Policy support the Council's priorities: "children and young people achieve" and "an economy that works for everyone" by including support for education, employment and apprenticeship opportunities for these groups as key social value and community wealth building outcomes.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report (see Appendix 2 for equality screening). The Social Value Policy is helping to promote inclusion in terms of strengthening democratic institutions and creating employment, education and training opportunities for excluded groups.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A carbon impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3. These actions will also promote the local buying of goods and services by both the Council, local partners and local businesses, contributing to reduced emissions through shorter travel distances for contractors.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partners have already committed to advancing social value in Rotherham. They are engaged in the direct development and delivery of social value outcomes, particularly in relation to community wealth building and anchor networks. This work is being advanced through previous actions and the key actions of 2026/27.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 A social value action plan will be developed and monitored by officers across the Council to ensure that policy commitments are met through the key actions delivered. Mitigating actions and detailed profiling are used to ensure that key priorities are achieved.

- 13.2 To strengthen governance and ensure senior officer oversight of the delivery of social value commitments in contracts, a contract dashboard was established to review progress at the end of quarter 1 2026/27. This monitoring will be embedded in the organisation throughout 2026/27.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	20/08/26

Report Author: Rosie Whitley, Social Value Practitioner
Rosie.Whitley@rotherham.gov.uk
 Izzy Andrewes, Inclusive Economy Project Manager
Izzy.Andrewes@rotherham.gov.uk
 Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Fiona.Boden@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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Social Value Annual report

September 2026
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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Introduction

Over the past year, social value has continued to play a vital role in supporting Rotherham Council's ambition to create an economy that works for everyone. Through procurement, commissioning, partnership working and community wealth building initiatives, the Council has strengthened its ability to ensure that public spending generates wider benefits for residents, communities and local businesses.

This report demonstrates the significant progress made in embedding social value across the Council and the Borough's wider anchor network. Since the previous annual report, social value commitments secured through Council contracts increased to £41.6m and, significantly, validated social value delivered has increased to £23.7m. Behind these figures are real outcomes, including 454 jobs and 1,169 apprenticeships weeks having been delivered.

The past year has also seen important progress beyond procurement. The Council has strengthened its work on employee ownership, provided support for local businesses, deepened collaboration through the Rotherham Together Partnership and continued to build the skills and confidence of officers, suppliers and community organisations to deliver meaningful local impact.

While there is much to celebrate, this report also recognises the challenges that remain and sets out clear priorities for the year ahead. The focus will be on building on these achievements, strengthening delivery across all five pillars of community wealth building and ensuring that the Rotherham pound works harder for local people, places and businesses.

Social Value delivery



Delivery headlines

The Council continues to use progressive procurement to secure wider **economic and social** benefits for residents and communities.

Since the introduction of the Social Value Policy, total social value committed through Council contracts has increased from **£32m in last year's report** to **£41.6m this year**, an increase of **£9.6m** over the reporting period which ran from December 2024 to November 2025.

Validated delivery of social value stands at £23.7m, having **increased by 92%** compared to the previous annual report and was achieved across the Council's three procurement portfolios:

- **People: £11.4m delivered**
- **Places: £10.9m delivered**
- **Corporate: £1.4m delivered**



As social value delivery continues to grow, the Council's focus is increasingly on **ensuring commitments are aligned to local priorities, delivering meaningful, long-term outcomes for residents, communities and the local economy.**

Pitney Bowes demonstrates how suppliers can develop meaningful local social value delivery with the right support and engagement. Although they are a national print and postal services provider based outside the borough, the company has worked closely with the Council to better understand local needs and opportunities.

This has led to successful partnerships with Oakwood High School and St Bernard's School, where Pitney Bowes has delivered careers events, mock interviews and employability support, helping young people develop skills and confidence for the workplace. Students were also challenged to solve a real business problem and present their ideas to company representatives, providing valuable experience of professional working environments.

Building on this success, Pitney Bowes is now working with the Council's Employment Solutions Team to recruit a local unemployed resident through a tailored programme of job coaching, interview preparation and ongoing support. The partnership demonstrates how proactive contract management can help suppliers move beyond contractual requirements and create lasting benefits for Rotherham residents and communities.

Pitney Bowes Case study



Employment and skills

Social value commitments continue to play a significant role in supporting residents into employment and improving skills development.

Key achievements include:

- **454 full-time equivalent jobs** secured for local people through Council contracts, equating to **£15.1m** in social value (NT1)
- **1,169 apprenticeships weeks** delivered, worth **£266k** in social value (NT10)
- **4,985** hours of personalised career mentoring and employability support initiatives delivered, amounting to **£555k** in social value (NT11)
- **728** staff hours **supporting local schools and colleges**, totalling **£12.3k** in social value (NT8)

These interventions contribute directly to reducing economic inactivity and supporting residents furthest from the labour market.



454 FTE of Local direct employees hired or retained on contract (NT1).



1169 weeks of apprenticeships delivered on contracts Level 2,3, or 4+ (NT10).



£555,168 delivered in social value for support to assist unemployed individuals into work (under and over 24 y.o.) (NT11).

Equans and Mears

Case study

Mears and Equans demonstrate how progressive procurement can create benefits that extend far beyond core service delivery. Through significant investment in the local economy, engagement with their supply chains and a strong commitment to skills and employment, both organisations have become key partners in supporting inclusive growth across Rotherham. Alongside creating jobs and apprenticeships, they have championed opportunities for care leavers, supported more inclusive recruitment practices and worked with their supply chains to maximise the delivery of social value throughout the borough.

- 1,270+ local residents supported or retained in employment
- 546 hours of support provided to unemployed residents
- 1,631 hours spent engaging with local schools and colleges
- 675 weeks of apprenticeships delivered
- 104 weeks of workforce upskilling and apprenticeship development

A neurodivergent resident progressed from work experience placements into employment with Equans through an adapted recruitment process and ongoing mentoring support, demonstrating how inclusive employment practices can create life-changing opportunities.

As the Equans and Mears housing repairs and maintenance contract was procured before the policy these figures are not part of the main monitoring of social value so these numbers are additional to the overall delivered figure.



Maximising the Rotherham £: Increasing Spend in the Local Economy

Progressive procurement is increasingly being used to retain wealth within Rotherham, particularly through strengthening local supply chains.

Across the reporting period: **£11.5m has been spent by suppliers through the local supply chain**, generating **£5.8m of social value**. This reflects a growing recognition of the importance of local economic multipliers and the role anchor institutions can play in supporting SMEs.

The amount of **Council expenditure being spent locally has continued to increase** from **£44.8m in 2019/20 to £122.1m in 2024/25**. This is an increase of **£77.3m or 172%**. A greater absolute amount of Council expenditure is being spent locally and the proportionate share of expenditure has also increased from **17.8% in 2019/20 to 26.7% in 2024/25**.

£5,772,537.4 of Social Value
created as a result of local supply
chain on contracts (**NT18**).



Sanderson Building Services Ltd Case study

Sanderson Building Services, a **Rotherham-based company**, demonstrates how **local businesses** can maximise the impact of public sector contracts. On a single contract, the company spent over **£45,000 with 16 local suppliers, including eight local SMEs**, helping to **retain investment within the borough** and support local jobs and economic growth.

Beyond this, Sanderson has built a strong partnership with Maltby Learning Trust, supporting careers events, work experience placements and employer engagement activities, helping young people gain insight into local career opportunities and the construction sector.



KCM case study

As a long-established, family-run Rotherham business, KCM Waste Management has embedded social value into its everyday operations, ensuring benefits are delivered alongside contract outcomes. The company supports inclusive employment by creating opportunities for local residents, including people who were previously unemployed and those facing barriers to work, having recruited eight local people into employment during the reporting period.

KCM is also committed to strengthening the local economy through its supply chain, spending £20,026 with businesses within the borough. Alongside this, KCM has provided expert support to local VCSE organisations and actively invests in community initiatives, fundraising and local partnerships.

Through a combination of local employment, supply chain investment and community support, KCM demonstrates how businesses can generate lasting social and economic value for Rotherham while delivering high-quality services.



VCSE Support

Suppliers have continued to support the voluntary and community sector through **financial and in-kind donations**.

Key contributions include:

- **£178k** in equipment and resources donated to VCSE organisations
- **554 hours of expert business** advice provided to local SMEs and VCSEs, equivalent of **£56k of social value**

While these contributions are valuable, the Council recognises that their impact is maximised when they are aligned to local need. Working through the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP), the Council and Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) have piloted a new approach with Social Prescribing Hubs to better identify community priorities and connect suppliers with organisations requiring support. This has helped ensure that donations and professional expertise are directed towards areas of greatest need, increasing the relevance and impact of social value delivery across Rotherham.

553.8 hours
of expert business
advice delivered to
VCSEs and MSMEs
(NT15)

£177,573.5
of equipment or re-
sources donated to
VCSE's (NT16)



GM Coachwork case study

GM Coachwork, a specialist provider of accessible minibus conversions based in South West England, demonstrates how meaningful social value can be delivered regardless of geographical location. Whilst supplying 20 accessible minibuses to the Council, the company worked closely with officers to identify a social value opportunity that would create tangible benefits for Rotherham residents.

Through collaboration with the Council, GM Coachwork was connected to Rotherham Parents and Carers Forum (RPCF), a charity supporting children and adults with SEND and their families. Recognising the strong link between its core business and the needs of RPCF, the company provided £2,000 of equipment and resources to strengthen the charity's operational capacity. This support enabled RPCF to redirect funding towards frontline activities and services, helping to maximise its impact on local families.

This partnership highlights how businesses, public services and the voluntary sector can work together to ensure social value is targeted where it can make the greatest difference, transforming a contractual requirement into meaningful and lasting community benefit.



Strengthening Local Supply Chains

Through the **Council's partnership with Go4Growth**, a range of procurement readiness support has been made available to help local businesses develop the skills, knowledge and confidence required to **access public sector and anchor institution supply chains**.

During 2025, a total of **242 business engagements** were recorded across procurement readiness activities, including training, resources and tailored support.

Activity levels varied throughout the year, with the highest engagement recorded in Quarter 3 (84 engagements), driven primarily by workshop participation and uptake of procurement support resources.

The programme has helped local businesses build procurement capability, improve their understanding of public sector tendering processes and increase their readiness to compete for opportunities with the Council, other public sector organisations and local anchor institutions. These interventions support the Council's wider objectives of **increasing local supply chain participation, retaining expenditure within the borough and promoting inclusive economic growth**.



Activity Delivered

- **16 businesses participated in the Public Sector Supply Ready programme.**
- **23 businesses completed online procurement courses.**
- **88 businesses accessed video tutorials.**
- **21 resource downloads were recorded.**
- **8 businesses received tailored one-to-one support.**
- **86 businesses attended procurement workshops.**

Strengthening Local Supply Chains

The Council has been working in partnership with **Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce** to support the development of local supply chains and increase opportunities for local businesses to secure contracts.

This investment supported **engagement with almost 200 local businesses** through sector specific Meet the Buyer events and monthly digital promotion of local supply chain opportunities. Together, these activities have strengthened awareness of procurement opportunities, improved business capability, and contributed to the development of more resilient local supply chains across the borough.



Key activities delivered included:

- **Meet the Buyer and Anchor Organisations Event**
- **Meet the Buyer: Retail & Hospitality**
- **Meet the Buyer: Construction**
- **Chamber Means Business**
- **Planning & Development Strategic Event**
- **Manufacturing Supply Chain Expo**

Rotherham Together Partnership



The Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) continued to build a more coordinated and needs-led approach to social value through a second phase of support from Social Value Portal.

Key Partnership Achievements

- Delivered six RTP social value champion forums, providing peer support, shared learning and practical guidance to partner organisations.
- Supported partners through tailored one-to-one consultancy, helping strengthen organisational capability and consistency.
- South Yorkshire Police prioritised local social value delivery through the use of a local contractor for redevelopment works at Rotherham Main Street Police Station.
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) achieved Real Living Wage accreditation and strengthened social value requirements within procurement processes.
- Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber and Voluntary Action Rotherham established complementary brokerage roles, improving connections between suppliers, businesses and community organisations.
- The Rotherham model has influenced wider system partners, with work underway to explore adoption across South Yorkshire and collaborative procurement approaches developing across NHS organisations.



Rotherham Together Partnership



Through this work, partners have:

- Increased collaboration and knowledge sharing across anchor institutions.
- Strengthened mechanisms for connecting suppliers with local opportunities and community needs.
- Embedded social value more consistently within commissioning and procurement activity.
- Committed to ongoing quarterly partnership meetings to maintain momentum, accountability and continuous improvement.

Future Priorities

While significant progress has been achieved, partners recognise the need to:

- Improve consistency in measurement and reporting.
- Strengthen partner engagement during periods of organisational change.
- Enhance monitoring of social value commitments and delivery.
- Better demonstrate the collective impact being achieved across Rotherham.

Annual Social Value Event



The Council has held 2 annual social value events since the last report, in 2025 and 2026. The sixth annual social value event took place on June 1st 2026 at New York stadium and brought together 112 delegates from businesses, public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sector to share learning, build partnerships and showcase the impact of social value across the borough.

Hosted by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, the event featured local case studies, practical workshops and networking opportunities to help organisations maximise their contribution to Rotherham communities.

A highlight of the event was a Q&A session with two care leavers who shared their personal employment journeys and the transformative impact that access to work, training and support had on their lives. Their stories provided a powerful reminder of how social value commitments can create meaningful opportunities and life-changing outcomes for local people.

The event also featured a presentation from KCM Recycling, a local Rotherham business, demonstrating how social value has been embedded within its organisational model and business practices, illustrating how commercial success and community benefit can go hand in hand.

The event helped strengthen understanding of social value, celebrate local success and inspire businesses and partners to play a greater role in delivering positive social, economic and environmental outcomes across Rotherham.

Achievements and Challenges

Built internal capability and accountability through social value training for 107 officers, targeted support for key teams, and enhanced oversight of contract performance by Strategic Directors.

Strengthened supplier and market engagement through the launch of a social value supplier toolkit and delivery of the sixth annual social value event, with 112 attendees, supporting businesses to better understand and deliver local impact

Supported the wider social value local network through partnership working with Go4Growth, Voluntary Action Rotherham and the Chamber of Commerce, including VCSE training programme and promotion of best practice through the Chamber Awards in which the Council sponsored a social value award.

Alignment with local need is required, particularly for employability support where Council provision is duplicated. Increasing activity in areas such as work experience placements would help to maximise impact and better align social value with local need. A review of the current TOMs and area of delivery is taking place to address this.

Supplier understanding could be improved, with some inconsistency in awareness of social value requirements and how to deliver meaningful local impact. To address this, the Council has undertaken a range of engagement and capacity-building activities, targeted market engagement sessions, upskilling of the Business Development Team, and developed social value supplier toolkit.

Measuring impact remains a challenge as significant value is being generated through contracts but the current Rotherham TOMs set does not capture all work and skills measures, limiting the extent to which this impact can be reported.

Plural Ownership of the Economy



Employee Ownership

The Council has set up a feasibility service to allow business owners to explore employee ownership alongside other exit options for free. This has been complemented with outreach and engagement events to encourage conversations around succession planning.

Employee-owned businesses have been recognised as strategically important to the local economy and have become beneficiaries of targeted 1:1 business support via the Council's Key Account Management programme.

- 35 businesses engaged
- 5 businesses supported
- 1 business accessed the Feasibility Service



21st Century Social Clubs

RMBC Social Value Annual Report,
September 2026



21st Century Social Clubs in Rotherham is the first business support programme designed and delivered specifically for Social Clubs in the country. It aims to strengthen Clubs as democratic, member-owned organisations of the future.

- 13 Clubs engaged via outreach and survey.
- 11 Clubs reported financial pressure and risk of closure.
- 8 Clubs receiving support via the programme through workshops and 1:1 support.

“With the right support, we see the next 12 months as a turning point. Our goal is not just to survive, but to stabilise, reduce financial pressure and build a clearer plan for the future”

Fair employment



Fair employment - Employer of Choice

The Council achieved accreditation as a Living Wage employer from the Living Wage Foundation in September 2021. In 2025, this status was successfully retained for a fourth year. As a result, the Council can continue to display the Real Living Wage logo in its communications and publicity materials. Currently, the Council ensures that all its staff receive the Real Living Wage, which currently stands at £13.45 per hour. Additionally, the Council is committed to extending this standard to all in scope contracts.

Rotherham Council is committed to being an employer of choice by creating a supportive, inclusive and rewarding workplace where employees can thrive. The Employer of Choice Steering Group developed data and research-informed interventions to enhance the Council's offer around the full "employee lifecycle" from attraction and recruitment to transition and exiting the Council. The Group currently is reviewing research undertaken with both our workforce and communities on the perception of RMBC as an employer, developing an outreach plan to work with "seldom heard" groups, a range of communities, schools and universities to ensure that we reflect the communities that we serve and that our processes and policies promote inclusion and reduce barriers to employment with the Council. The Council are introducing more diverse recruitment methods and have held focus groups with hiring managers within the Council-an example of this being a pilot using CVs for recruitment to roles at Rother Valley which attracted 100 applicants.

Fair employment - Pathways to Work

At the end of 2025/26, Pathways to Work had **engaged 388 participants onto programme with 87 participants supported into paid work** (22% conversion – which mirrors regional averages across South Yorkshire). Over 45% of jobs started were full time, with 54% of jobs being permanent. 38% of participants moved into work had been long term unemployed or had never worked before.

As part of the Pathways to Work Trailblazer, Rotherham have developed a new “Course to Job” programme. This provision looks at working directly with employers by working backwards from the job role and assessing the type/quantity/training requirements for each role. This has been very successful with provisions for employers such as Concentrix and Subcontractors of Yorkshire Water, due to the positive response it is being rolled out to other local employers.



Fair employment - Bridges to Work

Bridges to Work is a partnership initiative supporting people with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals as they transition from education into employment. Led by employers including Magna and Acorn Industrial Services Ltd, the programme helps remove barriers to work by connecting learners, support services and businesses.

Following their own positive experiences of recruiting people with people with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals, Magna and Acorn Industrial have championed the Bridges to Work Expo, sharing learning and encouraging other employers to recognise the significant benefits that a diverse and inclusive workforce can bring to their organisations. The initiative is helping create more accessible pathways into employment and promoting greater inclusion across Rotherham's labour market.



Key Actions for next year

Building on the progress made during the year, the Council and its partners will focus on strengthening the delivery of social value and advancing the wider community wealth building agenda across Rotherham. Key priorities for 2026/27 are:

- Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
- Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
- Continue to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
- Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.
- Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Social Value Annual Report	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead person: Sunday Alonge	Contact: 01709 254441
Is this a:	
☒ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function ☐ Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This is an annual report that provides progress against the Council's social value priorities, as set out in the approved Social Value Policy. It provides a detailed breakdown of social value commitments and delivery using the established Themes, Outcomes, Measures (TOMs) system. It also includes a review of progress against key actions agreed in the previous annual report, which were to: • Continue the work on employee ownership • Deliver the partnership social value action plan with Social Value portal, working towards the delivery of increased social value commitments across Rotherham's anchor network.

- Deliver further support to local businesses through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Upskill Council staff through training initiatives and one-to-one support. It also sets priorities for the year ahead.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The report provides information on the achievements of the Council's Social Value Policy, which is underpinned by the aim of supporting the employment (including education and training) of disadvantaged groups who have barriers to accessing the labour market. It also provides information on the upskilling of Council staff to increase knowledge and hold suppliers accountable for their social value delivery, and capacity building for local SMES so that they have the resources and support required to strengthen local supply chains.

- **Key findings**

Addressing inequalities is central to the social value outcomes that have been identified. These include a wide range of groups who will be supported through increased training, school visits, employment, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities. In addition, the policy is also about changing the way the council commissions. Taking forward the policy's principles places emphasis on co-designing services and involving service users throughout the process. This will increase the role and voice of all groups and enhances community wealth building through creating a resilient, locally rooted economy.

- **Actions**

A full equality analysis will be carried out by December 2026. To further ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion implications are considered, it will explore how the Council can deliberately target disadvantaged groups and those with protected characteristics in the procurement process e.g. targeting businesses owned by these groups for support. Priority attention could then be given to them through employment, education, and training support that comes from social value implementation.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	December 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	December 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Sunday Alonge, Policy Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Michael Holmes	Policy and Strategy Officer	3 rd August 2026
Fiona Boden	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	7 th August 2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	31 July 2026
Report title and date	Social Value annual report
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 14 September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	12/08/26

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	Council suppliers can offer corporate travel schemes available to employees, e.g. subsidised public transport, subsidised cycling schemes, and storage. Social value is promoting the local buying of goods and services by both the Council and local partners, including contractors, thereby contributing to reduced emissions through shorter travel distances for contractors. Social Value may encourage contractors to operate low or zero			Environmental commitments are monitored through the Social Value Portal where suppliers have committed to relevant environmental TOMs as part of the Social Value procurement process. Monitoring is therefore limited to contracts where environmental commitments have been voluntarily offered and agreed and does not provide a comprehensive measure of climate impacts arising from all Social Value activity.

		emissions vehicles with the aim of emissions reduction in the borough.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	The Council may encourage suppliers to increase workplace recycling and reducing the use of plastics, these efforts will lead to reducing emissions from waste.			Environmental commitments are monitored through the Social Value Portal where suppliers have committed to relevant environmental TOMs as part of the Social Value procurement process. Monitoring is therefore limited to contracts where environmental commitments have been voluntarily offered and agreed and does not provide a comprehensive measure of climate impacts arising from all Social Value activity.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Decrease	One of the aims of social value is to reduce emissions. The Social Value key actions and developments will help businesses and			Savings on CO2 emissions on contract achieved through decarbonisation is being monitored.

		partners understand how they can support the 2040 Net Zero target for Rotherham.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

Following national changes to the TOMs system in 2024, NT31 (tonnes of CO2 emissions saved on a contract) has been removed (this was the only environmental measure with a proxy value). Alternative measures for NT31 are currently in development.

Actions considered to improve data management, including the use of shared platforms, may have carbon impacts from digital services, such as those arising from data centres' energy and cooling demands. Aligning the Council's and other actors' data capture, monitoring and reporting could mitigate such impacts by avoiding duplicated effort.

Also, Social Value implementation is signposting businesses to the region-wide Low Carbon project for engagement, with the purpose of reducing emissions in the borough and in the region

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

While there are no direct impacts of the current measures on climate change adaptation, many of the outcomes related to employment and supporting VCSEs could help improve local residents' resilience more generally, and by extension could help to improve resilience to climate change

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

The Social Value Policy has the potential to contribute positively to the Council's climate objectives by encouraging suppliers and partners to consider environmental impacts alongside social and economic outcomes. However, environmental measures within the national TOMs framework currently have limited financial proxy values, and consequently environmental commitments are not consistently offered or monitored across all procurements.

Potential positive impacts include:

- Upskilling local suppliers in procurement and strengthening local supply chains, which may reduce emissions associated with travel and transportation.
- Opportunities for suppliers to commit to environmental TOMs, including sustainable procurement practices and supply chain carbon reduction measures.
- Signposting businesses to regional low-carbon support programmes, helping them identify opportunities to reduce emissions and improve environmental performance.
- Encouraging suppliers to consider initiatives such as sustainable travel schemes, workplace recycling, reduction of single-use plastics and other carbon reduction activities where appropriate.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Sunday Alonge Policy Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Social Value commitments and delivery table Social Value Policy Social Value Annual Report
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 687 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager



Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 14 September 2026

Report Title

Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report seeks approval to commence consultation on the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy, which forms part of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The policy was first adopted in 2020 and reviewed in 2023. Where a cumulative impact assessment is in place, the Council is required to review it at least every three years and ensure that any continued or revised approach is supported by an appropriate evidence base.

The current policy includes a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) covering part of the Wickersley area, including parts of Wickersley North, Thurgroft and Wickersley South wards. The existence of the CIZ does not prevent new licence applications from being made, but it requires applicants to demonstrate that their proposal would not add to the cumulative impact already identified in that area.

The recommended approach is to undertake a wide-ranging consultation with residents, businesses, licence holders, Ward Members, responsible authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The consultation will seek views on the effectiveness of the existing CIZ and invite evidence on whether any other areas of the borough may benefit from a CIZ. A further report will then be brought back to Cabinet setting out the consultation findings and any proposed changes to the policy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the commencement of a 2 month period of consultation, reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) in place in Wickersley, as well as gathering feedback on any additional areas that may benefit from a CIZ.
2. Note, following consultation, a further report will be submitted, detailing recommendations for any changes that are proposed to the policy as a result of the consultation responses.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Cumulative Impact Policy 2020-23
Appendix 2 Equality Initial Screening
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham Council Licensing Act 2003,
Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-30
Cumulative Impact Policy 2023-26

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy

1. Background

- 1.1 The concept of Cumulative Impact was introduced through Section 182 Licensing Guidance, issued by the Home Office since the implementation of the 2003 Licensing Act. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gave Cumulative Impact a statutory basis, allowing a licensing authority to publish a cumulative impact assessment.
- 1.2 In 2020, the Council implemented a Cumulative Impact Policy, as part of the Statement of Licensing Policy, which outlined the Council's approach to cumulative impact within the borough. The Statement of Licensing Policy included a cumulative impact assessment for an area of Wickersley, as the Council believed that the number of premises licensed within this area under the Licensing Act 2003, was such that any further premises would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 1.3 The Cumulative Impact Policy was subjected to a further review in 2023 and the Cumulative Impact Assessment carried out at that time, set out the evidence for the Authority to renew the Cumulative Impact Zone for a further three years. The current Cumulative Impact Policy is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The Cumulative Impact Assessment does not create a ban on the grant of licences within the assessed zone but does place an obligation on the applicant to demonstrate that the application is suitable for the area. The applicant must provide suitable evidence that their proposal will not add to the cumulative impact within the area.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council's Cumulative Impact Policy is required to be reviewed every three years, and this review must be consulted upon, with any revisions published alongside an appropriate evidence base. It is proposed that officers conduct a wide-ranging consultation with residents and all relevant stakeholders, to assess the effectiveness of the current policy and consider any changes that may be required.
- 2.2 The consultation will focus on two main elements:
 - A review of the effectiveness of the current cumulative impact zone, which is active in an area of Wickersley.
 - An analysis of any other parts of the borough that may benefit from a cumulative impact zone being implemented.
- 2.3 The outcome of the consultation will determine whether any amendments should be made to the current policy, which will then be considered for adoption by the Council.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is not required to have a Cumulative Impact Policy, but if a Policy is published, it needs to be reviewed at least every three years.
- 3.2 The Council could allow the Cumulative Impact Policy to expire, which would in effect remove the Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley.
- 3.3 However, the recommended option is that the Council consults on its existing Policy, reviewing the effectiveness of the current cumulative impact zone, as well as analysing whether any further assessments may be required for other parts of the borough.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 If the recommendations are approved, formal consultation will be undertaken with residents, businesses, licence holders, Ward Members, responsible authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The consultation will be delivered through a range of methods to ensure that those most directly affected, as well as the wider public, have an opportunity to provide evidence and representations. This will include direct contact with all current premises licence holders, direct engagement with responsible authorities and other key stakeholders, notification to Ward Members and Town and Parish Councils, and a web-based survey made available for residents, businesses and members of the public to respond to.
- 4.2 The consultation will invite views on the effectiveness of the existing Cumulative Impact Zone in Wickersley and seek evidence on whether any other areas of the borough may benefit from a cumulative impact assessment. Responses will be reviewed alongside relevant licensing, crime, disorder and community impact information before any final recommendations are brought back to Cabinet.
- 4.3 The purpose of the consultation is to gather evidence and views to inform the Council's future approach. It does not predetermine whether the existing Cumulative Impact Zone will be retained, amended or removed, or whether any additional areas will be recommended for inclusion.
- 4.4 The online consultation will be split into two sections; one section will be for local residents and those representing local people and the other will be directed towards local businesses. The sections will be further broken down according to the location of the business or the residential address, with those within the current zone (Wickersley) being asked different questions to those that are not.
- 4.5 The section aimed at local residents will seek to obtain information on whether people have experienced issues such as noise disturbance, antisocial behaviour etc. within the last 12 months (that is connected to licensed premises in their area). Those respondents within the Wickersley zone will also be asked for their views on the current zone, and what impact it has had on them.

- 4.6 Business owners within Wickersley will be asked for detail of the impact that the current policy has had on their business. Businesses elsewhere in the Borough will be asked for their thoughts on what they believe will be the likely impact of including their premises within a zone.
- 4.7 In addition to the surveys described above, the consultation process will involve a review of data held by partners (where that data relates to licensed premises).

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 If the recommendations of this report are agreed, consultation will commence following Cabinet approval and will run for a period of eight weeks.
- 5.2 The findings of the consultation will be evaluated, and a further report brought back to Cabinet for consideration of any appropriate revisions to the current policy.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The costs of this consultation will be contained within the approved budget for the Licensing service. Any financial implications resulting from proposed changes to the Cumulative Impact Policy following the consultation will be considered as part of the next report to Cabinet.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Where a cumulative impact assessment has been introduced by the Licensing Authority, Section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003 states the assessment must be reviewed before the end of the relevant period (three years beginning with the publication of the cumulative impact assessment or a revision of the cumulative impact assessment). As stated in paragraph 3.2 the Cumulative Impact Zone would automatically lapse if an assessment was not undertaken.
- 7.2 When determining whether it remains of the opinion set out in the cumulative impact assessment, the Licensing Authority is required to consult with those agencies listed in section 5(3) Licensing Act 2003. If the Licensing Authority is no longer of that opinion a statement to that effect must be published; if the Licensing Authority remains of that opinion, it must revise the cumulative impact assessment so that it includes a statement to that effect and also sets out the evidence as to why the Authority remains of that opinion.
- 7.3 Any revision of a cumulative impact assessment must also be published and be summarised with the Licensing Authority's Licensing Policy.

- 7.4 The recommended option set out at paragraph 3.3 will mitigate the risk of legal challenge. A decision to allow the Policy to expire without review may leave the Council open to legal challenge. The Licensing Act 2003 is very clear as to the steps which must be taken where a cumulative impact assessment has been published. Any consultation should be carried out over a sufficient period of time; and the recommended eight-week period of consultation is deemed to be sufficient.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for children, young people, or vulnerable adults associated to this report. However, the protection of children is a licensing objective under the Licensing Act 2003. Every license holder is required to promote this objective.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct implications for Equalities or Human Rights associated to this report.
- 10.2 An initial equalities screening assessment has been carried out and is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change associated to this report.
- 11.2 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included as Appendix 3 to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. Relevant partners will be consulted as part of the review process, where they are responsible authorities as set out in the Licensing Act, or have a role which is relevant to upholding the licensing objectives.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Council's Cumulative Impact Policy must be reviewed every three years as a minimum. If the policy is not reviewed appropriately, the Council could be open to legal challenge if an application is rejected or amended using a current Cumulative Impact Assessment. The Council will mitigate this risk by carrying out the consultation recommended within this report and using this to make any relevant changes.

14. Accountable Officers

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/08/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/08/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/26

Report Author: Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cumulative Impact Assessment 2023

Licensing Act 2003

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Background

The concept of Cumulative Impact has been included within Section 182 Licensing Guidance issued by the Home Office since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Act regulates the sale of alcohol, late night refreshment and the provision of entertainment. Section 5 of the Act requires licensing authorities to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every five years (amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act). This Statement of Policy sets out the Council's framework in regulating the trade.

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy was reviewed and consulted upon between June 2019 and March 2020. A reviewed policy was introduced in June 2020, the policy must be reviewed on a five yearly basis.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gave Cumulative Impact a statutory basis and this is now included in primary legislation. A licensing authority may publish a 'cumulative impact assessment' stating that it considers that the number of premises licenses or club premises certificates is at such a level that it would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives to grant any further licences or certificates in that area and restrict changes to licensable activities of existing licenses.

The inclusion of cumulative impact within primary legislation gives licensing authorities a prescribed method for implementing cumulative impact assessments and provides guidance for the level of evidence required for an assessment to be successfully included and upheld. This part of the Act was commenced in April 2018, alongside revised Section 182 Guidance issues to licensing authorities.

Any cumulative impact assessment must set out the evidence for the authority's opinion, must be consulted upon before it is published, must be reviewed every three years as a minimum, and any review must be consulted upon and any revisions must be published alongside an evidence base.

Implementing a Cumulative Impact Assessment

Publishing a cumulative impact assessment sets a strong statement of intent about the approach that will be taken when considering applications for the grant and variation of premises licenses or club premises certificates in the area described. The Council will have regard to the assessment when determining or revising the Statement of Licensing Policy, as well as when making determinations alongside the Section 182 guidance.

Any cumulative impact assessment does not change the fundamental principles of which licensing decisions are determined and the Council reserves the right to grant an application where it is appropriate and demonstrates through the operating schedule that the applicant would not add to the cumulative impact of the area in which they are applying.

However, the Council would expect an applicant to consider the potential cumulative impact of their licence on local issues when setting out the steps that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives. An applicant must be able to demonstrate to the Council and other responsible authorities that granting a new or varied licence will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced within the area.

This policy does not create a ban on the grant of licenses within the assessed zone and the Council can only consider cumulative impact to refuse an application if one or more relevant representations are made. Where no representation is received, the Council must grant the licence, as stated in the Licensing Act 2003.

Therefore, a cumulative impact assessment does not reduce the onus placed on responsible authorities, local residents or residents' groups in making representations where they consider this necessary in order to uphold and promote the licensing objectives. This policy gives a basis of information which can be used when making a representation; a representation can be made just on the fact that an assessment has been published. Any person making a representation must be able to demonstrate that the representation withstands the scrutiny which it will be subjected to at a Licensing Committee, or sub-committee meeting.

The obligation to demonstrate that the application is suitable for the area is placed onto the applicant. An applicant must suitably evidence that their proposal will not add to the cumulative impact within the area. To assist this process, the Council recommends early consultation with responsible authorities. This can be achieved separately with each responsible authority, or through the Council's Licensing service.

Evidencing a Cumulative Impact Assessment

This Cumulative Impact Assessment has been carried out in accordance with Section 5a of the Licensing Act 2003.

A large variety of data has been included for analysis within this policy, to evidence the need for a Cumulative Impact Assessment. The following methods and data have been included in this policy:

Public Health Licensing Toolkit

As a responsible authority, Public Health has a meaningful contribution to make to licensing decisions. However, as health is not explicitly mentioned as part of any licensing objective, it is challenging for Public Health to fully engage with licensing decision making. However, the Council believe that Public Health has an important role to play within Licensing and should be encouraged to influence the process, within the boundaries of the legislation.

One way in which Public Health are now able to input into licensing decisions is through a 'toolkit', which uses a wide range of data from responsible authorities, including public health. This toolkit has created a rating system of each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) within the borough to inform decision makers of the 'risk rating' associated to the location of any application.

The data sources included have been chosen due to their relevance to the licensing objectives, alongside contextual factors such as health data which allows decision-makers to understand the wider implications of granting an application within certain areas. All responsible authorities, as well as the public, will have access to this toolkit and can use it when deciding to make a representation against a licence, or when negotiating appropriate licensing conditions.

This toolkit is in-line with recommendations made by Public Health England.

Police and Crime Data

South Yorkshire Police publish crime data monthly through the police data portal (data.police.gov.uk). This data has been used alongside confidential intelligence reports shared between the police and its partner agencies, including the Council. These reports focus on specific areas and give further information and analysis around particular areas and its associated crime.

All crime data records offence type, location, date and time which has been used to analyse crime statistics within the borough. Although a borough-wide assessment has been undertaken, only relevant information to the Cumulative Impact Assessments undertaken has been included within this report. This is partly due to the sensitive

nature of some crime statistics and some of these are not able to be published. Further information is available through the Licensing Service if needed.

Community Protection and Regulation Data

Data provided by the Community Protection and Regulation service was focused on noise complaints which are recorded by the Environmental Health unit. This data stores information regarding every noise complaint which is sent to the Council, alongside the case information which is updated as and when the Council assess the complaint received.

Public Consultation

A consultation period occurred between July and September 2023 which asked specific questions regarding the current Cumulative Impact Assessment and the issues associated to a large number of licensed premises. The survey received 53 responses.

An assessment of the above data brought to attention two main areas of interest with regards to Cumulative Impact. These were:

1. Rotherham Town Centre
2. Wickersley

Rotherham Town Centre

Rotherham Town Centre is the largest urban centre within the borough. The data provided through the assessment process shows that crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental health rates are at their highest in this area and that there could be links between these statistics and licensed premises, although this does reflect the town centre being the largest urban centre in the borough.

The Council is looking to encourage responsible licensable activity within the Town Centre to create a thriving and bustling historic market town as part of its ambition set out in the Town Centre Masterplan. This vision relies on diversifying the offer within the Town Centre, creating new leisure and entertainment venues incorporating places to eat out, as well as bars and cafes. Currently, the density of licensed premises in the centre is decreasing, meaning that CIA may have very little use.

The focus on improving licensed premises in the town centre should focus on those premises that are already licensed. There are a number of measures in place to improve the centre, including a Public Space Protection Order, alongside significant resource deployed by responsible authorities.

Currently, the Council believe that the Town Centre would not benefit from a Cumulative Impact Zone. Taking a decision to implement a zone may detract from the overarching ambition of regenerating the Town Centre and attracting new businesses, increasing footfall and diversifying the current offer. However, this decision will be regularly reviewed and amended if the licensing objectives are being undermined within the town centre.

The Town Centre Masterplan also focuses on improving the residential offer which could mean that a Cumulative Impact Assessment may be relevant in the future.

Wickersley

Wickersley is a village which is situated on the urban fringe of Rotherham town centre. Although the village is well served by road, with direct links to the M1, M18 and A1(M) motorways, it is a settled, residential community with distinct heritage and associated characteristics. It has a population of approximately 8,000 people.

There are currently 23 premises within Wickersley. In total, 19 premises are located along a 300 metre section of Bawtry Road, with all nineteen located within a 350 metre radius of one another. Of these 23 premises, 14 are on-licensed drinking establishments.

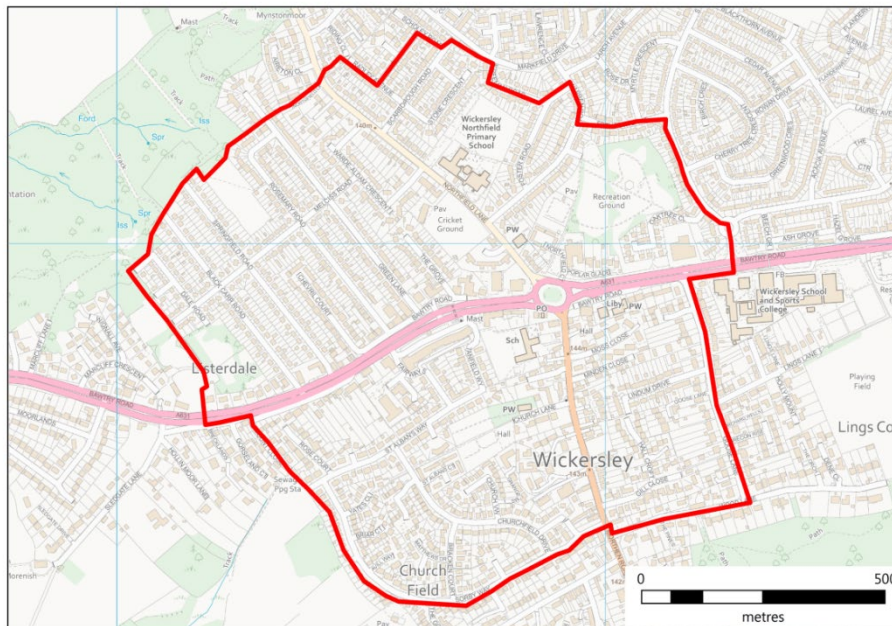
In recent years, Wickersley has become an urban centre with a significantly increased range and number of licensed premises. The area attracts a large amount of people from across the borough and surrounding areas of South Yorkshire. Currently, the density of premises within Wickersley West LSOA is 37.6 premises per square kilometre (pkm²). Across the broader Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) of Bramley and Wickersley, the average density is 12.7 pkm², whilst the average across the borough is 2.2 pkm². The MSOA covering Rotherham Town Centre has a density of 23.6 pkm², which suggests that proportionately, Wickersley's evening economy is the busiest within Rotherham (outside of Rotherham Town Centre).

However, the centre does not have the required infrastructure to deal with a large and sustained night-time economy, and the current number of licensed premises is negatively impacting the largely residential properties that are in close proximity to designated retail space.

There are less resources designated to Wickersley currently by the responsible authorities to deal with the impacts of licensed premises, which maximises the impact of these premises on those who live there.

The Council believes that the number of licensed premises within Wickersley is at such a level that it would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives to grant any further licenses or certificates in the area, and restrict any changes to licensable activities of existing licences.

Wickersley Cumulative Impact Assessment



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The Wickersley Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) is situated in the centre of Wickersley and covers parts of both the Wickersley and Hellaby wards. Bawtry Road acts as a boundary between the two wards and this runs throughout the zone. The CIZ is related to the sale of alcohol for consumption on, or on and off the premises, including premises such as, but not limited to, pubs, bars, late night opening restaurants and clubs. The CIZ is saturated with premises of these types.

This zone has been selected by overlaying current premises, LSOA boundaries, local plan data, crime, anti-social behaviour, noise complaints and areas which were raised by residents through consultation. The zone is the outcome of this analysis.

Whilst each individual premise may comply with their licence conditions, and where problems are found they can be dealt with through action plans, or subsequently a review of the licence, this particular zone has become saturated as new businesses open, or existing businesses vary the use of a particular premise.

The Council considers the number of premises licences or club premises certificates is at such a level that it would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives to grant any further licences or certificates in the Wickersley Cumulative Impact Zone, and to restrict changes to licensable activities of existing licenses.

Therefore, it is the Council's policy on receipt of relevant representations that applications for the sale of alcohol for consumption on, or on and off, the premises will

be refused, unless the applicant can show that their licensed premise would not increase the impact of such premises on the zone, as described in this assessment.

To set out the Council's opinion, evidence has been gathered from the responsible authorities and residents. This data has been divided into the four licensing objectives.

1. Public Safety

The Public Safety licensing objective concerns the physical safety of people whilst within the vicinity of licensed premises. This includes both the prevention of accidents and the immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption, such as alcohol poisoning.

The most recent statistics concerning alcohol-related ambulance call-outs indicates that there were a total of 277 such call-outs in the two Middle Super Output Areas that cover the Wickersley area – this ranked 6th highest in the Borough (out of a total of 32 areas, excluding Rotherham Town Centre).

The higher level of alcohol-related call outs indicates that those who come to the area can drink excessive amounts, sometimes across a number of premises which leads to a medical emergency such as alcohol poisoning.

Furthermore, the Council believe that the setting of Wickersley centre on either side of the A631 (Bawtry Road) should also be considered when assessing public safety, as this is a busy road which links the M1 and M18, as well as Rotherham town centre with outlying urban areas. The density of premises within the area often leads to people, who may be intoxicated, walking between multiple premises within an evening, which is dangerous due to the proximity of this A-road.

Public safety also concerns the safe departure of those using the premises. Currently, there is one agreement in place between a licensed premise and a private hire operator, which has an operator base within its car park. Apart from this, there are not any permanent transport options in Wickersley which would meet the demand of a night-time economy such as a taxi rank, late night bus network or railway station. Although individual premises may advertise private hire companies to their customers, as well as a small number of Hackney Carriages who may ply for hire on side streets, this does not give an adequate and sustainable capacity to move people from the area when premises close. This correlates to the temporal analysis of crime which shows a peak between the hours of 2300-0200. This trend, especially when dealing with offences categorised as anti-social behaviour, suggests that when people are leaving premises, they are not leaving the area immediately, which may be due, in part, to a lack of suitable transport.

2. Prevention of public nuisance

When considering the licensing objectives, the Council and responsible authorities should focus on the effect of licensable activities on any person living and working in the area around the premises, which may be considered disproportionate and unreasonable. This will usually concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.

Although not given a statutory definition in the Licensing Act 2003, it covers anything which may be considered to reduce the living and working amenity and environment of persons living and working in the proximity of premises. It may also cover the impacts of licensed premises where they are prejudicial to the health of residents.

Within Wickersley, there are two key areas of concern which fall under this licensing objective. Many residents cited noise nuisance from premises as a key issue in the area, alongside issues with street scene such as broken glass, fouling and vomiting.

The Council's Environmental Health team record noise complaints and those concerning licensed premises within Wickersley, do not represent a disproportionately high number when compared to other areas.

That said, feedback provided during the consultation period indicated that a significant proportion of those residents that responded to the survey had experienced issues relating to licensed premises and noise, littering and anti-social behaviour. Many that attended the drop-in session said that they did not feel that the current systems in place could deal with noise issues from premises, and therefore felt some unease at the suggestion that the Wickersley Cumulative Impact Zone could be removed. Residents often cite three main areas of concern:

1. Outside drinking and live music in gardens and terraced areas in summer months
2. Noise from customers leaving premises and staying in the area after licensed times
3. Noise from premises staff after licensed hours, such as continuing to play loud music or emptying glass bins outside.

Although the Council understand that these issues are not breaching individual licence conditions, the impact of the noise of several premises to residential properties within close proximity has a detrimental and consistent negative impact. This is intensified in summer months when multiple events happen in the same evening, or when multiple premises clean the outside of premises after licensable hours. This means that residents are not only being impacted to the early hours of the morning by the noise of a licensed premise, but also by other activities related to the running of a licensed premise through the night.

Another key issue raised under this licensing objective is the negative impact of licensed premises on the overall cleanliness and appearance of the community. Residents are very concerned at the amount of litter that is left in and around premises, which often includes broken glass. Further concern was raised around urine and vomit being present on streets, especially at a weekend, both of which are clearly linked to the use of licensed premises.

3. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

This licensing objective relates to any disorder which takes place on or around premises, including offences such as anti-social behaviour, drug-dealing, theft and assault. South Yorkshire Police is the main partner agency who advises on these matters, although the Council also have teams in place to deal with anti-social behaviour and community protection. Data from both of these sources has been used when evidencing this section.

Although crimes associated with licensed premises in Wickersley have decreased since the zone was introduced in 2020, this is thought to be as a result of changes within the hospitality industry since the lifting of lockdown restrictions. Alcohol related crime remains a concern. The most recently available crime data indicates that offences of violence against a person (where alcohol is a contributing factor) that occurred in the Wickersley North Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) are the 7th highest number in the whole of the Borough (excluding Rotherham Town Centre), this is out of a total of 33 MSOAs.

When the figures for Wickersley North are combined with those of Wickersley South MSOA, the total figure is the highest in the Borough (10.91%) – excluding Rotherham Town Centre.

The most common crimes committed in Wickersley that are connected to licensed premises were offences of a violent or sexual nature, which includes offences such as violence against the person, grievous bodily harm and sexual assault. This was followed by anti-social behaviour which consists of personal and environmental issues, as well as nuisance behaviour. Both of these offence types have a clear link to a night-time economy, or to those people who have visited a licensed premise before committing an offence.

Other offences listed which could be associated to a night-time economy are theft, public order, drugs and theft from the person. Taking all of these offences into account, the majority of all crime recorded in Wickersley could be linked to the night-time economy within the area.

4. Protection of Children from Harm

There is no evidence to show that this licensing objective is being undermined within the Cumulative Impact Zone.

Conclusion

The assessment has been carried out in accordance with Section 5(a) of the Licensing Act 2003. The assessment has been published as the Council remains of the opinion that the number of licensed premises within the area described in the assessment is such that granting any further licences, or varying existing licenses, would be inconsistent with the Council's duty under the Act to promote the licensing objectives.

Factors considered when granting applications in a Cumulative Impact Zone

When considering the presumption against granting or varying a licence in a CIZ, the Council must be satisfied that the applicant will not impact any further on the cumulative impact of existing licensed premises.

Applicants may suggest measures which they believe will demonstrate there will be no further impact from their premise. Examples that the Council may consider as demonstrating that there will be no further impact include:

- Small premises who operate outside of the peak hours of disruption, as described in the CIA.
- Premises which are not alcohol-led and operate during the day-time economy.
- Instances where a business is relocating to a new premise but retaining the same style of business.
- Conditions which ensure the premise will operate in a particular manner, such as a minimum number of waiting staff to secure a food-led premise.

Examples of factors the Council will not consider include:

- That the premise will be well managed and well run.
- That the premise will be constructed to a high specification
- That the applicant operates similar premises in other areas without complaint.

Any representation made which supports the grant of a licence within a Cumulative Impact Zone will also be taken into account by the Council.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead person: Alan Pogorzelec	Contact: Alan Pogorzelec
Is this a:	
☒ Strategy / Policy	☐ Service / Function ☐ Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
We are recommending to Cabinet: 1. That approval be given to commence a period of consultation, reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Assessment in place in Wickersley, as well as gathering feedback on any additional areas that may benefit from a Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Appendix 2

2. That following consultation a report be submitted to Cabinet, detailing recommendations for any changes that are proposed to the policy as a result of the consultation responses.

This screening assessment is limited to this recommendation.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

The decision relates to the commencement of consultation with relevant stakeholders – this will encourage the involvement of communities and those that will be affected by the policy in the actual development of the policy.

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

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

Appendix 2

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	1/12/2026 (following completion of the consultation)
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	31/12/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Alan Pogorzelec (Licensing Manager)

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director (Regeneration and Environment)	10/08/26
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.	19/08/26

6. Publishing

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

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

Appendix 2

A copy of all screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	17/7/26
Report title and date	Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 14 th September 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	30/07/2026

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

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

None.

There are no emission impacts associated with this proposal as the decision relates solely to the commencement of consultation in relation to the potential review of the policy. It is accepted that there may be impacts associated with the development of the new policy, but these will be addressed in a future report that relates to the adoption of the policy.

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

No.

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

Consultation will be online to avoid the need for travel associated with a response to the consultation (avoiding associated emissions). The use of online responses will also avoid emissions from paper waste that would otherwise be associated with the completion of physical documents.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Alan Pogorzelec Licensing Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
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Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	None.
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If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	n/a
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Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 683 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer
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