OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time:- **Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 9.00 a.m.**

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

Membership:- **Councillors Steele (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Baggaley, A. Carter, Ismail, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Sutton, Tinsley and Yasseen.**

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.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of meeting Wednesday 7 October 2026 of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Pages 5 - 22)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 7 October 2026 and to approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 16 November 2026. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. September 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 23 - 50)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £2.9m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

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

4. Note early payment of £3.052m grant from the Transport for City Regions (TCR) fund, as detailed in section 2.18.5 of the report.

5. Note the allocation of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Revenue Fund grant from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) as detailed in 2.24 and delegate the decision to allocate and spend all future tranches to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

7. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update (Pages 51 - 72)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet note the MTFS 2026/27 to 2029/30 update.

For Discussion/Decision:-

8. Progress update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme and the Connect to Work programme (Pathways to Work) (Pages 73 - 91)

To consider an update on delivery and performance of the Pathways to Work programme, including the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and Connect to Work programmes, together with programme development, employer activation,

VCSE delivery and triage activity.

9. Investing in our Community Facilities - Update report

Report to follow.

For Information/Monitoring:-

10. Work Programme (Pages 93 - 96)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

11. Work in Progress - Select Commissions (Pages 97 - 102)

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future:

- Health Select Commission
- Improving Lives Select Commission
- Improving Places Select Commission

12. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Link to: Browse plans - Forward Plan of Key Decisions, 2025 - Rotherham Council

13. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As part of their role the Chair and Vice Chair of OSMB are appointed to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of OSMB is the Vice Chair on this committee.

This committee holds the MCA to account and ensure that all aspects of the decision-making process are transparent, inclusive and fair. The Committee are responsible for checking that the MCA is delivering its objectives and that the decisions made in policies, strategies and plans have been made in the best interests of the residents and workers of South Yorkshire.

The published agenda packs and minutes can be accessed via: South Yorkshire MCA.

Members who have comments and queries regarding any item on any agenda should refer this to the Chair of OSMB and the Governance Manager at the earliest opportunity to ensure they're reflected in debate during the relevant public meeting.

14. Call-in Issues

To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

15. Urgent Business

To determine any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 9 December 2026 commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 7 October 2026

Present: Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Baggaley, A. Carter, McKiernan, Monk, Thorp and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence: were received from Councillors Ismail, Keenan, Sutton, and Tinsley.

Council Officers in attendance:

- John Edwards, Chief Executive
- Phillip Horsfield, Monitoring Officer and Service Director - Legal Services
- Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director, Regeneration & Environment
- Simon Moss, Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport
- Nicola Curley, Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
- Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
- Kristianne Thorogood, Governance Advisor

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

45. MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2026 OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 8 September 2026 be approved as a true record.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

47. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

No questions were received.

48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no reasons to exclude the press or public.

49. PUBLIC ON-STREET LITTER BIN COLLECTIONS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

At the Chair's invitation a report was presented by Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities on the management of public litter bins across the borough, including collection arrangements, monitoring processes and planned service improvements. It was noted that there

were 2,558 litter bins across the borough, with 203 additional bins installed since 2020. Collection frequencies varied according to demand, ranging from daily servicing in high-footfall locations to weekly collections in quieter areas.

The service had received 929 reports of overflowing bins during the previous year and was achieving its target of responding to 80% of reports within five days, with the average response time reported as three days. Information was also provided on the use of solar-powered bins, monitoring arrangements, parish council responsibilities and the assessment process for requests for new bins. It was further noted that additional monitoring capacity was being introduced through the recruitment of new officers to strengthen the service's data-led approach.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries.

Councillor A Carter questioned whether a five-day response target for overflowing bins was sufficiently ambitious and suggested the introduction of QR codes on bins to make reporting easier for residents. Officers reported that the average response time was around three days and the Cabinet Member for Communities welcomed the QR code proposal for further consideration.

Councillor Thorp raised concerns about delays in repairing solar-powered bins and queried the availability of replacement units. Neil Archer, Operations Manager North, Street Scene acknowledged that lengthy repair times were unacceptable, advised that temporary replacement bins were used where necessary, and confirmed that repair arrangements would be reviewed.

Councillor Yasseen highlighted apparent differences in bin provision between wards and sought clarification on the criteria used to approve new bins. The Operations Manager North, Street Scene explained that requests were assessed through surveys considering factors such as litter levels, footfall and existing provision. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, Andrew Bramidge welcomed the submission of proposals for additional bins while the Cabinet Member for Communities suggested greater alignment between bin provision and ward priorities.

Councillor Baggaley welcomed the additional information provided in the introduction and asked how persistent hotspots and overflowing bins were managed. The Operations Manager North, Street Scene explained that collection frequencies were adjusted in response to demand data and reports from operatives. Concerns were also raised about how councillors could report urgent issues and how repeat reports were monitored. The Operations Manager North, Street Scene confirmed that direct reporting routes were available and acknowledged the need to improve the speed with which updates were reflected on the public reporting system.

Councillor McKiernan sought clarification on responsibility for bins located on different types of council-owned land. The Operations Manager North, Street Scene advised that bins located on the public highway fell within the service's remit regardless of land ownership.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Bacon questioned what lessons had been learned following reports of overflowing bins during 2025 and asked how bins were categorised as "red" on the reporting system. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that additional monitoring resources had been introduced, explained that a bin entered the red category when reported as overflowing, and undertook to provide further information on the number of bins classified in that way.

Further discussion covered the effectiveness and costs of solar-powered bins, arrangements for providing bins on new developments, and opportunities to work more closely with businesses to reduce littering associated with takeaway food outlets. It was confirmed that engagement with businesses would be incorporated into the work of the newly established High Street Business Advisor team.

The Chair then sought a show of hands from Members in support of the proposed recommendations. Upon being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB):

1. Noted the current arrangements for managing and emptying public litter bins across the borough.
2. Noted the processes for reporting overflowing bins and requesting new litter bins.
3. Noted the current partnership arrangements with Parish Councils.
4. Supported the ongoing service improvement programme, including enhanced performance monitoring and data-led review of collection frequencies.
5. Consider any opportunities for further service improvements arising from the briefing.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- Requested that the information sought by Members regarding public litter-bin management be circulated to Commission Members outside of the formal meeting process, including reporting arrangements, collection frequencies, monitoring arrangements and overflow response procedures.
- Requested that Members be provided with details of litter-bin locations under Council management, where available, together with an explanation of the respective responsibilities of the Council and Parish Councils for bin provision, maintenance and emptying.
- That consideration be given to aligning the location and provision of public litter bins with identified ward priorities, with local ward members engaged in the assessment of need to help ensure bin

placement reflects local issues, community concerns, and areas of high demand.

- That information on the number of public litter bins classified as Red across the borough be provided to Members, including a ward-level breakdown where available, to support scrutiny of service demand and maintenance priorities and information regarding repeat red allocations to the same bin.
- That the Board welcomes the introduction of QR codes on litter bins across the borough to support the timely reporting of issues and improve accessibility for residents wishing to notify the Council of bin-related concerns.

50. INFORMATION BRIEFING ON RCV REPLACEMENT

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, provided a briefing on the Council's refuse collection vehicle (RCV) replacement programme.

Members noted that the Council owned 30 refuse collection vehicles and relied on 17 hired vehicles to maintain services. Many of the existing vehicles were beyond their expected operational life, leading to higher maintenance costs and an increased risk of breakdowns. A £4.2 million contract had been awarded for the purchase of 16 new vehicles, due for delivery in August 2027, representing the first phase of a wider fleet replacement programme.

It was reported that the programme aimed to improve service reliability, reduce reliance on hired vehicles, deliver long-term financial savings and establish a rolling replacement programme to prevent the fleet becoming outdated.

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, explained that figures included in the report for 2028 and beyond represented indicative planning assumptions rather than formal decisions, with any future investment remaining subject to the Council's budget-setting process. It was further highlighted that the service was committed to developing a long-term rolling replacement programme to avoid an ageing fleet in the future.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries.

Councillor Thorp welcomed the move towards a rolling replacement programme and sought assurance that future vehicle purchases would be phased regularly rather than requiring large-scale replacement exercises. Questions were also raised about carrying out vehicle diagnostics in-house and the impact of future housing growth on fleet requirements. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment confirmed plans to develop a long-term replacement programme, explore greater in-house diagnostic capacity and consider future fleet needs as the borough

expands.

Councillor Baggaley queried the timescales for procurement and delivery of the new vehicles and sought clarification on future replacement phases. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that vehicle procurement and manufacture typically required around two years and acknowledged that planning for future phases would need to continue at pace. Concerns were raised regarding the achievability of future replacement timescales, and a request was made for a detailed phasing plan.

The Chair, Councillor Steele sought assurance that future phases of the replacement programme would be delivered on time. In response, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that work was underway to develop a long-term replacement programme and that lessons learned from the recent procurement exercise would help streamline future commissioning and procurement processes.

Councillor McKiernan asked whether the introduction of new vehicles would result in additional costs, including staff training or depot modifications. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that some familiarisation and driver training would be required but did not anticipate significant additional costs.

Councillor Yasseen sought clarification on how the replacement programme aligned with the Council's climate commitments, including the use of alternative fuels and electric vehicles. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that electric refuse vehicles were currently significantly more expensive and had not yet demonstrated suitability for local operating conditions but reported positive results from trials of HVO biofuel and confirmed that its wider use was being explored.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Bacon queried whether the replacement programme could have commenced earlier and asked whether earlier Cabinet decisions might have reduced costs.

The Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, responded that procurement timescales would have remained largely unchanged due to the length of the procurement process, although an earlier decision may have been possible if funding had been available. It was also noted that future vehicle purchases would be subject to the same procurement requirements.

John Edwards, Chief Executive, added that a review of the Council's commissioning and procurement processes was underway. This included staff training and improvements to commissioning cycles to ensure purchasing decisions progressed as efficiently as possible, while recognising that some stages of the procurement process could not be accelerated.

The Vice-Chair expressed the view that funding may have been available to support an earlier vehicle replacement programme and questioned whether the condition of the ageing fleet had contributed to previous missed collections and the suspension of the green bin service.

The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment acknowledged that vehicle breakdowns had affected the operational delivery of the service and had been a contributing factor to service disruption during the previous year. It was also explained that employment-related changes had been implemented during the previous year and that service performance had since improved. Assurance was provided that contingency arrangements remained in place, including the use of hired vehicles where necessary, and that every effort would be made to maintain service delivery until the new vehicles were received in August 2027.

The Chair sought assurance that similar service issues would not reoccur before the arrival of the replacement vehicles and noted that staffing challenges had also affected the service during the previous year.

Councillor Thorp asked whether future procurement could be used to secure greater consistency in vehicle types across the fleet to simplify maintenance, parts management and repairs. In response, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that, while there were operational benefits to fleet standardisation, procurement regulations prevented the Council from favouring a particular supplier. It was also noted that some older vehicles were retained for parts where appropriate.

Councillor Baggaley sought clarification on whether the current procurement covered future replacement phases beyond 2027. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that the only approved commitment related to vehicles due for delivery in 2027, while proposals for a rolling replacement programme beyond that date remained under development and would be subject to future consideration.

Concerns were raised about the achievability of the indicative 2028 replacement timescales given procurement and manufacturing lead-in periods. In response, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that lessons learned from the current procurement process, particularly in developing vehicle specifications, could help reduce future procurement timescales.

Councillor Baggaley requested that a detailed phased implementation plan be developed to provide greater clarity on future fleet replacement arrangements and procurement timelines.

The Chair then sought a show of hands from Members in support of the proposed recommendations. Upon being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

Resolved that: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Noted the progress being made in the purchase of 16 Refuse Collection Vehicles, with delivery in August 2027.
2. Noted the development of a long-term rolling programme for fleet replacement to avoid service delivery becoming overly reliant on hire vehicles.

Further actions that arose from discussions were:

- Requests the service continue to closely monitor vehicle delivery timescales and develop clear contingency plans to minimise service disruption if there are delays to the arrival of the new fleet to ensure risks are identified and managed early.
- That officers provide OSMB with a detailed phasing plan for the fleet replacement programme, including future procurement and commissioning timelines, to provide assurance that vehicle replacement requirements are being planned proactively, risks of delay are being managed, and service delivery impacts are minimised.

51. DRAFT STREET TRADING POLICY

At the Chair's invitation a report was presented by Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, seeking approval to undertake consultation on a proposed Street Trading Policy and the adoption of the relevant legislation required to regulate street trading across the borough.

It was explained that the report had been revised following earlier scrutiny comments and included additional context, clearer definitions of street trading, further information on consultation proposals and a stronger explanation of the intended benefits of the policy. Members were advised that the policy was intended to provide a framework for managing and supporting legitimate street trading activity, promote business opportunities, protect consumers and ensure activities were appropriately regulated. It was also noted that the report sought approval only to undertake consultation, with a further report to be brought forward following the consultation period to determine whether the policy should be adopted.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries.

Councillor Thorp queried whether the policy would address concerns regarding businesses extending trading activities onto the public highway outside their premises. Alan Pogorzelec, Head of Regulatory Services, explained that such activity was exempt from the legal definition of street trading and would instead be addressed through existing planning and highways enforcement powers. Assurance was provided by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy that enforcement

action was already being pursued where appropriate.

Councillor Yasseen reiterated concerns regarding the evidence base for the policy and the absence of equality data relating to those who may be affected. Concerns were also raised regarding the use of existing enforcement powers and the information provided on proposed charges. Clarification was provided by the Head of Regulatory Services that market traders and organised markets were excluded from the policy and would not be subject to the proposed charging arrangements.

Councillor Monk welcomed the additional information provided and sought clarification on how the policy would operate in practice, particularly in relation to fee structures, potential impacts on trading patterns and events involving mobile traders. The Head of Regulatory Services explained that the policy would enable the Council to manage trading locations more effectively and that organised markets and similar events on private land would be exempt from the policy.

Councillor A Carter questioned whether the policy represented a proportionate response to a relatively limited issue and sought information on the likely officer resources required to implement and administer it. The Executive Director of Regeneration explained that the policy was intended primarily to create opportunities for legitimate trading activity and provide a fair regulatory framework rather than address a significant enforcement problem.

Councillor Yasseen further questioned how the policy could support new businesses and consumer choice while allowing consent to be refused where similar goods were already available nearby. The Head of Regulatory Services explained that the intention was to encourage a varied trading offer, maintain consumer choice and avoid creating unfair competition for existing businesses.

The Vice-Chair sought clarification on requirements placed on mobile traders, including restrictions on how long they could remain in one location and expectations regarding movement between trading positions. The Head of Regulatory Services explained that these requirements reflected existing legislation and guidance, with traders expected to move sufficient distances to engage different customer groups rather than remain in a single location.

The Chair then sought a show of hands from Members in support of the proposed recommendations. Upon being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried noting two members voted against the proposed recommendations and one member abstained from the vote.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should

adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining the final recommendations regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

52. LOCAL PLAN

At the Chair's invitation a report was presented by Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy on the review of the Local Plan, including progress to date, key stages of the process and the proposed timetable for developing a new plan.

Members were advised that changes to the planning system required local planning authorities to prepare new Local Plans within a 30-month timeframe, significantly reducing the period available for evidence gathering, consultation and plan preparation. It was noted that the review was necessary to ensure planning policies remained up to date, reflected national planning requirements and supported the borough's future housing, employment and infrastructure needs. The report outlined the proposed programme of work, including consultation and engagement activities, leading to the production and examination of a new Local Plan.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries.

Councillor Yasseen sought assurance that consultation on the new Local Plan would be open and meaningful and requested clarification on how existing site allocations and underdeveloped sites would be reassessed as part of the new planning framework. Emma Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control explained that the report related only to the commencement of the Local Plan process and governance arrangements, with detailed consideration of site allocations and planning policies to follow at later stages.

Councillor A Carter sought clarification regarding the proposed delegation arrangements and asked how members would be involved in scrutinising emerging site allocation options. Assurance was provided by the Head of Planning and Building Control and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy that no final policy decisions would be made through the delegated consultation stages and that both Planning Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board would receive updates throughout the plan's preparation.

Councillor Thorp queried how opposition representation on the proposed

Local Plan Steering Group would be determined. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that nominations would be sought from opposition groups and that the Steering Group would operate in an advisory, rather than decision-making, capacity.

Councillor Baggaley asked whether members of the Steering Group would receive appropriate training and sought assurance that the challenging 30-month timetable could be achieved, particularly where specialist evidence and procurement exercises were required. The Head of Planning and Building Control confirmed that training arrangements would be developed and advised that project planning, governance arrangements and evidence gathering were already being progressed to minimise the risk of delays.

Councillor Yasseen raised concerns regarding member involvement and requested a more formal scrutiny schedule to ensure adequate oversight throughout the Local Plan process. The Chair advised that arrangements for future scrutiny would be considered through the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board work programme and in discussion with the relevant officers.

Councillor McKiernan welcomed the discussion and noted the Improving Places Select Commissions ongoing engagement with officers regarding the Local Plan, expressing support for ensuring appropriate scrutiny as the process progressed.

The Chair then sought a show of hands from Members in support of the proposed recommendations. Upon being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried noting two members abstained from the vote.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

2. Approve the publication of the Local Plan Timetable attached at Appendix 1 and note that it supersedes the current Local Development Scheme timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

3. Approve the publication of the formal ‘Notice of Intention to Commence’ by 30 October 2026, at the latest, in line with Regulation 19.

4. Approve the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 2.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy:
   - to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable during plan preparation;
   - to approve, publish and submit all documents required for the statutory Scoping Stage (Regulation 20);
   - to approve publication and submission of documents required for Gateway 1 (Regulation 21); and
   - to approve the content and commencement of consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23).

6. Agree that Planning Board and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout plan preparation.

7. Agree to receive a further report as the Local Plan progresses towards plan content and evidence consultation (Regulation 23(1)(a)) and seeking approvals for subsequent stages - Gateways 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).

53. IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY

The Board considered a report presenting the findings and recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission Review - School Road Safety, which had been commissioned following a Notice of Motion to Council in November 2023. The review examined school road safety across the borough and sought to identify actions that could improve safety for children, families, schools and local communities through partnership working and coordinated interventions.

Councillor McKiernan thanked Kristianne Thorogood, Governance Advisor, the review group members and Councillor Tinsley, who had chaired the review, for their work. It was noted that evidence had been gathered from a range of sources, including discussions with external organisations and neighbouring authorities, which had helped inform the recommendations. Reference was made to learning from partners including South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council, and it was emphasised that the recommendations were intended to be ambitious, with Cabinet determining how they should be taken forward. The Improving Places Select Commission had previously considered the report and raised no additional recommendations.

Councillor Baggaley welcomed the review and stressed the importance of ensuring that any actions arising from the recommendations were supported by clear timescales and proactive implementation

arrangements, given the road safety risks observed around schools.

The Chair, Councillor Steele outlined the next stages of the process, noting that the report would be submitted to Cabinet for consideration, with a formal response to be provided before the recommendations were presented to Full Council for approval. The Board subsequently supported the review and its recommendations.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1) Noted the contents of the report;

2) Received the recommendations set out below (IPSC Recommendations) for consideration and endorsement;

3) Agreed that the report, together with the approved IPSC Recommendations, be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and a formal response;

4) Asked Cabinet to formally consider its response to the Recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules; and

5) In responding to these Recommendations, requested that any response by Cabinet should identify the proposed actions, responsible Officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each Recommendation.

IPSC Recommendations

a) **Improved Cross-Directorate Working**

i) Develop a cross-directorate map of roles and responsibilities (e.g. highways, school engagement, enforcement, crossing patrol) to establish and embed stronger partnership working across Council services, including improvements to internal reporting and decision-making systems and processes aligned across directorates.

ii) Consider the feasibility of establishing a cross-directorate working group (that meets regularly, with clear terms of reference and a governance structure) to oversee school road safety in Rotherham. The aim of this working group would be to drive and coordinate delivery and provide increased accountability and visibility.

iii) Any established school road safety working group should be launched as the front-facing, main point of contact for collaboration with residents, schools, Councillors, and partners related to school road safety, to ensure the Council's

commitment to school road safety is both visible and accessible. Consider the creation of a dedicated section of the Council website on school road safety to support this.

iv) Work together with ward Councillors to progress the development of ward-specific road safety plans, each to contain a section on road safety issues around local schools. These plans would inform each ward's CAP development plans.

v) In the spirit of the new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, council services should endeavour to keep Councillors regularly informed on any new plans relating to transport and school road safety and/or works due to be carried out within their wards at the earliest possible opportunity.

b) **Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment**

i) Take steps to improve baseline data collection around schools (e.g traffic, parking, reported incidents, travel behaviours). Establishment of centralised, cross-directorate incident reporting and escalation processes would help to identify areas of concern and need, which in turn, would inform the prioritisation of potential projects and pilot school locations.

ii) Develop a coordinated, borough-wide School Road Safety Strategy, to be aligned with SYMCA's regional action plans and travel strategies – such as the new South Yorkshire Transport Strategy and the Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Strategy.

iii) Explore what regional support may be available via the Safer Roads Partnership and the Active Lives & Safer Roads teams at SYMCA, for example, access to shared data mapping tools/systems and funding opportunities.

iv) Consider the coordination of projects with neighbouring local authorities via SYMCA, which would provide opportunities for enhanced economies of scale.

c) **Funding Development**

i) Establish a defined and protected allocation for school road safety projects within wider capital transport funding to ensure longer-term funding streams that can support the shift to a more proactive and co-ordinated approach.

ii) Use the recommended enhanced data collection models to strengthen the evidence base to support future funding bids. Develop a clear pipeline of projects to maximise use of Transport for City Regions and Integrated Settlement Active Travel funding via SYMCA to support school road safety.

iii) Work with SYMCA to explore how Rotherham could benefit from the government's new Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and the projected £4.5 billion of investment to be made available over the next 5 years.

iv) Develop a balanced programme of low-cost interventions (signage, markings, speed reduction measures) and targeted higher-cost schemes, using the suggested enhanced data collection models to provide evidence to inform and justify the prioritisation of certain schools and schemes.

v) Develop a funding stream to support opportunities for increased work with and support for schools across the borough (see d) School Engagement & Active Travel below).

vi) Strengthen existing work with the Planning team to ensure early identification of any potential section 106 developer funding for specific road safety improvements/schemes.

d) **School Engagement & Active Travel**

i) Urgently undertake a borough-wide survey of all schools to better understand their concerns and needs regarding school road safety.

ii) Using the results of the survey and enhanced data mapping models (alongside existing knowledge and data), identify a priority list of schools in the borough for targeted intervention (e.g. top 10/20/30).

iii) Give consideration to the provision of additional dedicated School Engagement Officers/Active Travel Officers to strengthen trust and engagement with school leaders and governors. Such officers would be able to support enhanced engagement activities, such as assemblies, parent consultation and the promotion of Active Travel initiatives. This in turn, would help to encourage overall behaviour change from both pedestrians, drivers, and other road users around schools.

iv) Consider the creation of a borough-wide "Junior Road Safety Officer Programme" to allow schools and their pupils to lead on initiatives appropriate to their school settings. This would engage and benefit pupils in taking ownership of schemes to support their schools.

v) Conduct a full exploration of the different Active Travel schemes that are available (e.g Mode Shift Stars) and identify which schools already have an Active Travel Plan in place. Schools need support in applying for accreditation to such schemes and

in implementing them, which should form part of the role of any additional School Engagement/Active Travel Officers.

vi) Identify any schools which may be suitable for the establishment of a School Streets pilot scheme, bearing in mind the fact that any School Streets scheme would need to be supported by proven prior active travel initiatives, and an engaged and committed senior leadership team and parent community.

vii) Work towards coordinating any existing initiatives (e.g Bikeability) into a single, coherent offer, introducing more child-centred, “fun first” campaigns. Invite external experts and teams from SYMCA and neighbouring local authorities to share best practice and success stories.

e) **Enforcement & Crossing Patrol**

i) Establish better cross-directorate data-sharing systems (as per a) above), to ensure that data collected by the Crossing Patrol and Parking Enforcement teams regarding incidents/near-misses and offences are monitored and used to inform decisions on priority sites and projects.

ii) Consider opportunities for the pilot use of body-cameras by crossing patrollers, giving due regard to safeguarding and data protection concerns.

iii) Conduct a detailed feasibility review into wider camera enforcement rollout of redeployable/static ANPR cameras, including a cost-benefit analysis and identification of suitable pilot locations.

iv) Consider further investment in roaming CCTV vehicles to support compliance and enforcement for parking offences around schools. Capacity for enforcement is currently limited to one CCTV van for all 200+ schools in the borough. A lack of a regular presence leads to inconsistent and ineffective enforcement.

v) Explore the potential for increased engagement with South Yorkshire Police, including a possible joint approach to promoting local anti-parking campaigns and joint responses at problem locations.

vi) Monitor and review forthcoming government guidance on footway parking powers. Consider any opportunities to tie the local enforcement approach into any future RMBC Pavement Parking Policy.

54. WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered the current work programme. Barbel Gale, Governance Manager advised that planning for the Children's Takeover Challenge was continuing and, to allow sufficient preparation time for officers and Youth Cabinet members, the activity was now expected to take place in January 2027 rather than October/November 2026.

It was also noted that several items within the Work Programme remained listed as "to be confirmed", and work was underway with officers to allocate dates where possible.

Members raised no further questions on the Work Programme, and the update was noted.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Approved the current work programme.

2. Agreed that the Governance Manager be authorised to make any required changes to the work programme in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair and reporting any such changes back at the next meeting for endorsement.

55. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

The Board received updates from the Select Commissions on recent activity and forthcoming work.

Update from Health Select Commission:

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Yasseen reported on the work of the Health Select Commission, including consideration of physical activity for health and the importance of addressing inequalities in participation across wards. It was noted that greater emphasis had been placed on walking as an accessible form of physical activity and that members had undertaken scrutiny of developments relating to primary care networks.

Update from Improving Lives Select Commission:

The Board noted the update from the Improving Lives Select Commission, with it being confirmed by the Chair, Councillor Monk, that the written report provided a comprehensive summary of the Commission's recent activity.

Update from Improving Places Select Commission:

The Chair, Councillor McKiernan highlighted work undertaken by the Improving Places Select Commission, including scrutiny of the Investment and Development Office Business Centres review. It was noted that

members had found the review informative and that a visit to one of the centres was being arranged.

Resolved That: The updates were noted.

56. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Board received an update on forthcoming key decisions scheduled for consideration by Cabinet. Barbel Gale, Governance Manager outlined reports expected in November 2026 relating to Children and Young People's Services, Corporate Services, Policy, Strategy and Engagement, and Regeneration and Environment, including the SEND Reform Plan, financial monitoring, medium-term financial strategy, service level agreements and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

It was noted by Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services that the proposed report on the Crisis Support Service was expected to be deferred and that the advice services and voluntary sector infrastructure reports were likely to be combined into a single report.

Members considered potential items for future scrutiny, including an update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Programme, the Investing in Our Community Facilities programme, financial monitoring, and the proposed service level agreements. It was agreed that the Investing in Our Community Facilities report, including updated condition survey information, together with the usual financial monitoring reports, would be included in the Board's future work programme.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed that the following items would be added to the November agenda as part of OSMB's pre-decision scrutiny work:

- Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme - The programme will be a good way through year 2, therefore members will receive an update on both year 1 outcomes, year 2 developments and target forecasts.
- Investing in our Community Facilities - Pre-Decision scrutiny - Update report to include the updated condition survey results.
- September 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision scrutiny.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - Pre-decision scrutiny.

57. SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Board received an update on the work of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair, Councillor Steele reported that, since the previous meeting, the Committee had considered concerns regarding anti-social behaviour at the bus station in Barnsley. Following discussions between the Chair,

Vice-Chair and officers, it had been concluded that no further action was required, as the issues were not considered to be as significant as initially perceived.

It was further noted that the Committee was due to scrutinise proposals relating to Doncaster Airport at its next meeting.

Resolved That: The update was noted.

58. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

59. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 16th November 2026

Report Title
September 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 September 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first half 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 third in a series of regular financial monitoring reports for the current financial year to be presented to Cabinet.

Following the projected £5.9m overspend position reported to Cabinet in September 2026 within the July Financial Monitoring report, the Council has been working hard to mitigate this position and reduce any potential call on reserves at the year end. The position reported as of September 2026 factors in the mitigations that have been identified so far; further work will be needed to address the remaining overspend. Actions taken to date include grant maximisation, removal of non-essential spend where possible and balance sheet reviews to identify any historical grants and contributions held that are no longer required. The aim of this work has been to mitigate the financial overspend position, whilst minimising the impact on service delivery.

As of September 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 is a projected overspend of £2.9m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.9m, 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 impacting high cost residential placements and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who have complex needs. There is also an overspend in Regeneration and Environment Directorate due to overspends in Waste Management and Home to School Transport. Detailed explanations 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 escalating energy and fuel costs impacting the wider economy and creating uncertainty around inflation. 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 £2.9m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

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

4. Note early payment of £3.052m grant from the Transport for City Regions (TCR) fund, as detailed in section 2.18.5 of the report.

5. Note the allocation of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Revenue Fund grant from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) as detailed in 2.24 and delegate the decision to allocate and spend all future tranches to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

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
Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet, 14th September 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No
Council Approval Required
No
Exempt from the Press and Public
No

September 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 third 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 half 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 September 2026

Directorate	**Budget 2026/27**	**Forecast Outturn 2026/27**	**Forecast Variance over/under (-)**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**
Children and Young People Services (CYPS)	85.4	89.1	3.7
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (ACH&PH)	157.6	159.5	1.9
Regeneration and Environment Services (R&E)	56.4	58.8	2.4
Corporate Services (CORP)	42.7	42.7	0.0
Policy Strategy & Engagement (PSE)	6.2	6.1	-0.1
Central Services (CS)	46.0	41.0	-5.0
Directorate Forecast Outturn	**394.3**	**397.2**	**2.9**
Dedicated Schools Grant			8.1
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			(0.3)

2.2 As at September 2026, there is a forecast overspend of £2.9m. This position is made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.9m, 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 (£3.7m), the demand and high complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care (£1.9m) and overspends in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£2.4m), mostly in Waste Management and Home to School Transport.

2.3 Following the projected £5.9m overspend position reported to Cabinet in September 2026 within the July Financial Monitoring report, the Council has been working hard to mitigate this position and reduce any potential call on reserves at the year end. The position reported as of September 2026 factors in the mitigations that have been identified so far; further work will be needed to address the remaining overspend. Actions taken to date include grant maximisation, removal of non-essential spend where possible and balance sheet reviews to identify any historical grants and contributions held that are no longer required. The aim of this work has been to mitigate the financial overspend position, whilst minimising the impact on service delivery.

2.4 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 is being implemented at pace for maximum impact and will primarily focus on the pressures identified within social care placements and care packages.

2.5 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. 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.

2.6 **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	8.7	-0.1	**85.4**
ACH&PH	**149.1**	-1.4	10.0	-0.1	**157.6**
R&E	**56.7**	-1.2	1.1	-0.2	**56.4**
CORP	**41.3**	-1.2	0.6	2.0	**42.7**
PSE	**6.3**	-0.3	-0.0	0.2	**6.2**
CS	**62.5**	5.7	-20.4	-1.8	**46.0**
TOTAL	**394.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**394.3**

2.7 The Council's Financial Outturn report 2025/26 reported that £0.4m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2026/27 included the delivery of £3.2m of new savings, giving £3.6m to be delivered during 2026/27. Currently, £2.5m 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 30th September 2026 £'000**	**Still to be delivered £'000**
Corporate Services	704	704	0
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	1,089	237	852
Children's and Young People Services	800	800	0
Regeneration and Environment	1,040	720	320
Total	**3,633**	**2,461**	**1,172**

2.8 Activity is ongoing to deliver the remaining £1.2m of savings that relate to Working Age Adults £0.9m, Waste Route Optimisation £0.3m and Waleswood £40k. The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's current forecast overspend of £2.9m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within Directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

2.9 **Children and Young People Services Directorate (£3.7m forecast overspend)**

2.9.1 Children and Young People Services is forecasting a budget pressure of £3.7m at the end of September 2026, a reduction of £1.8m compared with the July position reported. The improved forecast position is attributable to the budget recovery actions put in place to mitigate CYPS cost pressures. The overall forecast overspend is primarily driven by continued pressures relating to Children in Care placement costs. 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, which is consistent with the position reported in July 2026.

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

- The number of children in care reduced from 481 in July to 475 at the end of September, as a number of children have exited the care system. The decrease was primarily attributable to reductions in the use of external residential children's homes and supported accommodation placements.

- External residential placements remain the main source of placement budget pressure, with 43 children placed in external children's homes compared with 48 in July. This reflects continued progress in step-down and permanence planning; however, increasing demand for high-cost residential provision for children with complex needs continues to impact the budget.
- Occupancy levels in Council-owned children's homes stood at 72% at the end of September, compared with 76% previously. Four beds remain vacant to ensure appropriate matching and maintain placement stability for existing occupants. Work continues to maximise occupancy and support more children and young people within Council-owned provision.
- The number of children placed in foster care (i.e. RMBC's own carers, with families & friends and independent fostering agencies) currently stands at 313 and remains unchanged to the July reported numbers.
- 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 £2.3m is projected across Family Help, Education & Inclusion, and other Directorate-wide services. This mainly reflects the impact of budget recovery actions to mitigate placement cost pressures, including the re-direction and slippage of grant funding, where permitted under grant conditions, together with vacancy and staff turnover savings.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets (£8.1m 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 in July 2026. There are currently no schools reporting a forecast budget deficit for the year.

2.9.6 The Council is forecasting an in-year Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit of £8.1m, comprising £7.7m within the High Needs Block and £0.4m within the Early Years Block. This is £1.7m worse than the position reported in July and reflects ongoing pressures across the SEND system. Demand for special school and Independent Specialist Provider (ISP) placements for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) is higher than expected. Demand for Tier 3 SEND Inclusion Support in early years settings is also above forecast.

2.9.7 The Government has replaced the former Safety Valve programme with the High Needs Stability Grant (HNSG), which will fund 90% of DSG deficits accrued up to 31 March 2026. Following approval of Rotherham's Local SEND Reform Plan, the Council's 2025/26 HNSG allocation of £0.4m has been confirmed; this relates to the deficit as at the end of 2025/26 and is not for the current deficit's 90% as the Department for Education (DfE) has factored into the grant calculation the £20.5m of Safety Valve grant the Council has already received. In respect of 2025/26, the

Council will be left with a deficit of £2.3m. The Council will only have to fund this deficit position at the end of the Statutory Override which ends March 2028. Taking account of the latest forecast deficit and HNSG funding, the DSG Reserve is forecast to have a cumulative deficit of £10.4m by 31 March 2027.

2.9.8 The Council's cumulative DSG deficit is forecast to reach £20.4m by March 2028, when the current statutory protection ends, and could increase by around £10m per year thereafter if demand and cost pressures continue. While no decision has yet been made, it is expected that the Department for Education may continue to provide the High Needs Stability Grant, which is expected to fund 90% of eligible deficits in the years 2026/27 and 2027/28. If this level of support continues, the Council's remaining liability at March 2028 would be around £4m. As the position depends on future Government decisions and the impact of SEND reforms, it will continue to be closely monitored and reflected in the Council's budget planning and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

2.10 **Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£1.9m forecast overspend)**

2.10.1 The Directorate is forecast to overspend by £1.9m, an improvement of £0.3m since the previous period. Demand and high complexity of care packages within Adult Social Care make up the projected overspend. The cost of care packages is forecast to overspend by £1.9m within Adult Care. There is also an overspend of £0.5m for staffing costs as agency spend and overtime spend is higher than the 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 staff 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 in Out of Borough placements that cater for individuals with the most complex needs and high-cost residential care. 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 £0.9m approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

2.10.3 Public Health is expected to underspend by £0.1m as a result of staffing vacancies.

2.10.4 Housing is forecast to underspend by £0.4m on non-Housing Revenue Account activity. The main drivers behind this are fewer people sleeping rough in need of support and additional grant provision.

2.11 **Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£2.4m forecast overspend)**

2.11.1 The Directorate is forecasting a £2.4m overspend, which is an improvement of £0.8m from the last report to Cabinet. The key variances and movements are detailed below.

2.11.2 The Waste Management service is forecasting to be £1.5m overspent, which is in line with the last report. This is largely caused by overspends on transport, as the service continues to operate with a high number of hire and spare vehicles. It is hoped this position will improve once new refuse collection vehicles arrive next 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 have 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 is in line with the last report. This position assumes that all children using the service at the end of the academic year will continue to do so from September 2026, so further changes are possible once the implications from the 2026/27 cohort are worked through; the impacts of new routes will be fully understood as efficiencies are identified, allowing a revised financial position to be determined in due course.

2.11.4 The Markets service is forecasting a £0.7m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years but a worsening of £0.1m since the last report as rent-free periods have been extended. 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.

2.11.5 The position across the Directorate has improved by £0.8m following a review of the balance sheet, grants and in-year income generation. These are mostly temporary savings and unlikely to carry forward into 2027/28.

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 as explained below, 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, which is in line with the last report. This is broadly because Facilities Management is forecast to overspend by £1.4m due to assorted building costs, largely repairs and maintenance, offset in part by additional income generation within cleaning services.

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 legal costs associated with ongoing litigation against the Council. In

addition, the Council's engagement in support of the National Grooming Gang Inquiry brings additional legal costs. 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 September forecast outturn remains an overspend of £0.5m, including £0.1m relating to Children's Social Care and £0.3m relating to Adult Social Care. Further savings and mitigating actions will be required to achieve a balanced financial position.

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, amounting to £1.2m in total. However, further savings and mitigating actions will be required to achieve a balanced financial position.

2.13 **Policy, Strategy and Engagement (£0.1m underspend)**

2.13.1 The service is currently forecasting a small underspend. Overspends due to the cost of the interim Director of PSE at the start of the year are being 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.

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 from the Capital Programme in 2025/26, means that the level of financing costs for 2026/27 are 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 an ongoing budget risk.

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

2.15 **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£0.3m underspend)**

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 underspend by £0.3m as the requests for repairs so far in the year have been lower than budgeted for.

2.16 **Capital Programme Update**

2.16.1 The revised Capital Programme is £214.931m split between the General Fund £125.434m and HRA £89.497m. The total change to the programme in 2026/27 is an increase of £8.448m from the previously reported budget of £206.483m to Cabinet on 14th September 2026. The movement is based on revised profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage / re-profiles, 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	0.100	-0.050	0.150
Corporate Resources – HRA	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	9.058	3.905	5.153
Slippage / Reprofiling	0.000	4.590	-4.590
Budget corrections	0.212	0.003	0.209
Total	**9.370**	**8.448**	**0.922**

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

- **Tenter Street, Thornhill**, £0.812m slippage. This scheme has been reviewed at outline business case stage and the spend profile amended to align with a revised programme delivery.

- **Warm Homes Phase 1**, £1.133m slippage. The Council has reviewed the programme of works with the contractor and this has now been amended to take into account inclement weather over the winter period which will impact on work that can be delivered as well as reflecting average costs being lower than budgeted. Overall, the programme is still delivering ahead of the original plan.

- **ICT Data Back up and Storage**, £0.100m slippage. The Council had completed a procurement process; however, the first placed supplier withdrew from the tender exercise which has delayed delivery of works and means less expenditure this financial year than was originally planned.

- **Bushfield Road Site B, Wath-Upon-Dearne**, £0.517m slippage. The Council is currently navigating some delays on site due to unknown ground conditions; the budget has been slipped into 27-28 as a result of these delays.

- **Former Miners Welfare, Maltby**, £2.528m acceleration. This is a new addition to the programme to buy 15 properties and bring into the housing stock this financial year.

- **St James Close, Wath**, £1.130m acceleration. This is a new addition to the programme to buy 6 properties and bring into the housing stock this financial year.

- **Brampton Vale Phase 2, Wath-Upon-Dearne,** £0.261m slippage. The developer has confirmed a slightly revised delivery profile. 7 units have been completed so far with 2 more units to be completed this financial year. The remaining units are now due in 2027/28 and 2028/29.

- **Cranworth Centre underpinning**, £0.097m slippage. We had been expecting to carry out remedial works in 2026/27 but it has been recommended that we carry out a period of monitoring for 12 months to monitor the building so that an appropriate scope of works can be developed. Therefore, work will now take place in 2027/28 once the monitoring and scoping has been completed.

- **Catcliffe Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme**, £0.500m slippage. Design work is now expected to take around one year to complete before construction work can commence. It is anticipated that there is a need for some road closures during the construction works, with diversion routes implemented throughout this period. The Council is currently undertaking highway modelling work to better understand the wider impacts this closure may have on the surrounding road network so the slippage of budget into 2027/28 better reflects programme delivery.

- **Business Centre upgrade work (firestopping, toilet upgrades and gate),** £0.304m slippage. These works have been delayed as the roofing works will need to be completed first. Roofing works commenced in October 2026 and will last for 6 months.

- **Larch Road, Maltby**, £0.243m acceleration. The programme is now expecting some earlier completed properties than expected and budget is brought forward from 2027/28 to cover this cost this year.

- **Building Decarbonisation**, £0.096m acceleration. The budget for 2026/27 has been adjusted accordingly to reflect expected in year spend following

an updated spend estimation from the contractor for the Riverside House canopy works.

- **Riverside Gardens**, £1.264m acceleration. Work is continuing to be delivered at pace and sooner than expected following the completion of the commissioning process. Budget has been brought forward to cover this.

- **Rotherham Markets**, £0.617m acceleration. Work is continuing to be delivered at pace and sooner than expected following the completion of the commissioning process, and budget has been brought forward to cover this.

- **Bassingthorpe Farm**, £.0.090m acceleration. Work is progressing on bringing the land forward for residential development and there are higher costs in 2026/27 for legal and commercial consultancy than originally planned.

- **Denman Road, Wath**, £2.987m acceleration. The budget for this scheme was incorrectly loaded and has now been corrected.

- **Corporate Resources General Fund,** £0.100m net adjustment. A budget to complete work for the Sisters Gate project has now been added into the programme £150k and the remaining balance of funding for the Property floor resilience scheme £50k has been removed from the programme.

- **Budget corrections,** £0.211m adjustment. The budgets for schemes at Bushfield Road and Valley Drive 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 September Cabinet report are listed below:

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

Directorate/Scheme	**2026/27** **£m**
Children and Young People	
Department for Education – Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) - Newman Whiston	3.219
Regeneration and Environment	
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0.557
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) - Pedestrian Movement	0.200
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) - Transforming Cities	0.070

CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme) - Green Arbour Rd Laughton Common Road	-0.013
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) - Active Travel Fund	-0.208
Section 106 - Dalton & Thrybergh Pump Track	0.080
Total	**3.905**

2.17 **Capital Programme Variations Requiring Cabinet Approval**

2.17.1 The following variations to the Capital Programme cover significant virements 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.

2.17.2 **Bassingthorpe Farm Development**

As part of the 2019/20 budget a provision was included in the capital programme to cover a value of up to £910,000 for the purchase of land off Fenton Road to be used for a housing development.

The development of the Fenton Road land plot together with the Bassingthorpe Farm strategic site aims to make a significant contribution to the Council's housing delivery target of 1,111 new homes per year.

The purchase of the freehold of the land plot (title nr. SYK41499) was formally concluded in March 2023. The budget allocated for the purchase of the Fenton Road site for a residential development had not been spent in full with the overall spend totalling at £420,183.50.

It is proposed to reassign the remaining budget of £489,816.50 to be used on the delivery of the development of the Bassingthorpe site. These funds will be spent alongside an already existing capital allocation to progress the scheme through the negotiations with the majority landowner to the procurement for a developer partner, and, subsequently to the delivery on site.

	Bassingthorpe Farm Land Acquisition Scheme	Bassingthorpe Farm Scheme
Original Budget	910,000.00	673,072.00
Spend to Date	420,183.50	186,440.00
Remaining Budget	489,816.50	486,632.00
Virement Proposed	-489,816.50	489,816.50
Updated Remaining Budget	0.00	976,448.50

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.

2.18.2 SYMCA is proposing to bring forward a limited proportion of the future Transport for City Regions (TCR) Highway Capital Maintenance allocation into 2026/27.

2.18.3 For Rotherham, the current proposal is an early drawdown of £3.052m in 2026/27 from its overall TCR Highway Capital Maintenance allocation of £34.629m. This does not increase or reduce Rotherham's total TCR allocation, it simply changes the timing of when part of the funding becomes available. Rotherham's overall allocation is based on its 30.52% share of the relevant South Yorkshire road network. The grant received in advance will be applied to the existing capital programme highway capital maintenance projects, allowing other funding streams such as corporate borrowing to be carried forward.

2.18.4 The remaining TCR allocation would then be reprofiled across 2027/28–2031/32. Indicatively, this is around £5.9m per year during 2027/28–2029/30 and £6.9m per year during 2030/31–2031/32. The difference between the first three year and final two years of TCR funding is the early draw down value (£3.052m).

2.18.5 Cabinet are asked to note early payment of £3.052m grant from the Transport for City Regions (TCR) fund that will be considered by SYMCA's Board on 27th October 2026.

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	14.645	15.033	15.210	7.020	51.908
Corporate Services	15.343	16.592	17.103	7.157	56.195
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.670	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.300
Regeneration & Environment	86.969	60.056	10.218	2.582	159.825

Total General Fund Capital	**125.434**	**99.651**	**49.668**	**18.729**	**293.482**
Total HRA Capital	**89.497**	**67.957**	**59.911**	**100.411**	**317.776**
Total RMBC Capital Programme	**214.931**	**167.608**	**109.579**	**119.140**	**611.258**

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	0.415	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.415
Grants and Contributions	69.208	42.301	14.788	3.400	129.697
Revenue Contribution	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.000	0.429
Unsupported Borrowing	55.671	57.206	34.734	15.329	162.940
Total Funding - General Fund	**125.434**	**99.651**	**49.668**	**18.729**	**293.482**
Capital Receipts	13.859	4.464	1.327	11.774	31.424
Grants and Contributions	12.421	8.541	0.000	15.246	36.208
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	37.101	30.038	28.768	28.555	124.462
Revenue Contribution	14.149	7.812	7.000	12.318	41.279
Unsupported Borrowing	11.967	17.102	22.816	32.518	84.403
Total Funding - HRA	**89.497**	**67.957**	**59.911**	**100.411**	**317.776**
Total	**214.931**	**167.608**	**109.579**	**119.140**	**611.258**

2.21 **Capital Receipts**

2.21.1 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £4.648m 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 30th September 2026**
	£m
Miscellaneous	-0.016
Land at Worrygoose Lane	-4.481
Land at Ellis Street	-0.139
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	**-4.636**
Repayment of Loans	-0.012
Total Capital Receipts	**-4.648**

2.22 **Capital Achievements**

2.22.1 The following outputs have been achieved during the period July – September 2026:

Corporate Services

Property and Facilities Services

- Oaklea Retreat - structural repairs to roof, accessibility (DDA compliance), energy efficiency measures
- The Meeting Place - painting / decorating, signage upgrades and energy efficiency measures
- Clifton Learning Partnership - condition works
- Kimberworth the Place - new roof
- Wellgate North Car Park - retaining wall rebuilt
- Badsley Moor Lane Primary - heating replacement
- Badsley Moor Lane Primary - flat roof works
- Rawmarsh Thorogate Primary - upgrade the fire alarm
- Todwick Primary - upgrade the fire alarm
- Wales Primary - nursery modular building roof
- Eastwood Village Primary - deck waterproofing works

Information Communication and Technology (ICT)

- Replacement of the Council's Compute platform that ensures that the Council can hold and store data from multiple Council systems and provides increased business continuity and resilience capability.

Regeneration and Environment

Planning, Regeneration and Transport

- Completed the demolition of Wath library which marks a significant step forward for the £9.9m scheme, which will deliver a modern library, improved public spaces and new opportunities for residents and businesses.
- The contracting strategy for the design and delivery of Rotherham Gateway rail infrastructure has been agreed, with Network Rail undertaking the rail and tram train elements.
- Carriageway works have been completed at Moorgate, adding to the improved roads across the borough.
- The repair works to the river wall at the Riverside Residential Quarter were also completed in August 2026, further future-proofing the area for future residents. The lighting columns have also been installed, pending opening of the footpath.

Culture, Sport and Tourism

- Works have commenced to renew the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium. This is part of a wider programme of works to renew community parks and facilities, which has previously completed works at Herringthorpe Valley Park Tennis Courts. The resurfacing project will provide a modern, high-quality track that meets current performance and safety standards, benefiting local athletics clubs, schools, community groups and individual users. The investment will help ensure the stadium remains a valued venue for training, competition and participation opportunities for people of all ages, supporting wider ambitions to increase physical activity levels and improve health and wellbeing across the borough.

Community Safety & Street scene

- Ocular has been awarded a contract for additional works required to upgrade and enhance CCTV in the borough. This will support the council's work in migrating Public Realm CCTV from legacy BT analogue lines to fibre and wireless infrastructure.
- The Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme continues to progress well, with Esh Construction as the Contractor. The scheme remains on programme, with construction anticipated to be completed during the first half of 2027.
- Catcliffe and Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme: Esh Construction has been appointed as the Design and Build Contractor. 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. The Council is currently undertaking highway modelling work to better understand the wider impacts associated closures may have on the surrounding road network, including potential

impacts at locations such as the Treeton Lane and Pleasley Road junction in Aughton.

- The Eel Mires Dike Flood Alleviation Scheme has achieved “Shovel Ready” status and the initial stages of the "Delivery" phase has begun with engagement with landowners to begin discussions regarding the land acquisitions necessary for delivery of the scheme. The Council is continuing to seek additional funding opportunities, including potential contributions from the Environment Agency and other external funding sources. At this stage, the construction start date remains unconfirmed and will depend upon securing the required funding package.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Strategic Housing Growth and Development Programme

- In September 2026 the Council entered the Stage 2 construction phase contract for the Tenter Street Council new-build scheme with RH Fullwood Ltd. This scheme will deliver 20 much needed new homes.
- In the same month the Council secured approval from Homes England for £2.57m in Social and Affordable Housing Grant funding for the Tenter Street scheme. This grant is crucial to the deliverability of the scheme.
- In August 2026 the Council secured a property through the Market Acquisitions workstream, meaning the Housing Delivery Programme has now delivered new housing in every ward in the borough.

Improvements and investment in Council Housing stock

The following outputs have been achieved during the 2026/27 financial year to 31st August	**Delivery in current period (July & August)**
Structural Repairs	38
Major Voids (voids with a replacement element such as kitchen, bathroom, heating system etc, or exceeding c. £5,000 in repair value)	75
The Lanes re-roofing scheme	0
East Herringthorpe re-roofing scheme	71
Brampton re-roofing scheme	0
Henley & Holmes re-roofing scheme	0
West Melton re-roofing scheme	67
Kimberworth Park re-roofing scheme	0
Internal Refurbishments (Kitchens or bathroom replacements) (not including replacements in Voids)	27
Ventilation Works (upgrade of existing, or installation of new mechanical extraction) (not including works in Voids)	507
Damp and Mould Preventative Works	0
Ad-Hoc Capital Investment (capital investment works that were unplanned for 26/27)	14

Thermal Improvements (solar panels, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and/or ventilation)	109
Garage Investment	0
Boiler Replacements (not including replacements in Voids)	380
District Heating Investment	3
Capital Electrical Works (rewires, consumer unit changes etc) (not including works in Voids)	64
Window or Door Replacements (per property)	38
Fire Door Replacements	6
Fitzwilliam Estate (Swinton) replacement Windows & Doors scheme	0
Canklow replacement Windows & Doors scheme	25
Asbestos removals	0
Environmental schemes	0
Wharncliffe electrical upgrade works	0
Loft insulation increases in Void properties	45
Kitchens in Void properties	95
Bathrooms in Void properties	25
Electrical rewires in Void properties	24
Heating system/boiler replacements in Void properties	10

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	14.645
Corporate Services	15.089	15.343
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.630	0.670
Regeneration & Environment	74.427	86.969
Total General Fund Capital	**109.727**	**125.433**
Total HRA Capital	70.955	89.497
Total RMBC Capital Programme	**180.682**	**214.930**

2.24 **City Region Sustainability Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Revenue Fund**

2.24.1 In July 2025, Cabinet noted the position on the CRSTS grant and delegated the decision to allocate and spend the remaining grant to the (then) Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member.

2.24.2 Subsequently, the Council has been allocated a further tranche of this funding and delegation is sought for this and all future allocations as set out in Recommendation four. For this tranche the Council has been awarded £1,591,196 to spend by 31st March 2028. The funding is intended to ensure sufficient resource capacity is available to progress future transport schemes and business cases. It is intended to spend the grant on the following:

- Road safety measures
- Staff training and resilience
- Structures inspections, risk database
- Digitisation of Traffic Regulation Orders
- IT Software
- Feasibility and development
- Evidence base for future bids
- Local Plan Update

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £2.9m 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.

6.3 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 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. 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 unstainable.

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	27/10/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/10/2026
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	20/10/2026

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

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: September 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 third 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**
Rob Mahon	Service Director Financial Services	19/10/2026

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	19/10/2026
Report title and date	2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet 15th November 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	19/10/2026

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 *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 709 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 16 November 2026

Report Title
Medium Term Financial Strategy Update

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 of Financial Services
01709 254518 or Rob.Mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out an update of the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2029/30, including the standard technical updates required, recognition of financial pressures impacting the delivery of services and the ongoing impact on the Council's base costs of inflation.

The technical adjustments also include the Council's assessment of the Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR). During 2025 Government consulted upon and delivered the Fair Funding Review 2.0. This created a significant shift in how Local Government is funded and how the resources for Local Government are distributed. The focus of funding distribution moved more towards areas of greatest deprivation and need. The impact for RMBC of the Fair Funding Review, as confirmed with the Final Financial Settlement 2026, was a positive one, with an additional £22.6m of funding per year provided to the Council by 2028/29. Though this was a significant shift in direction that the Council welcomed, the funding was necessary to address the demand and market pressures the Council had been seeing in recent years.

The impact of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 was factored into the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 and MTFS update through to 2028/29. Given this provided Councils with funding certainty over a longer period, covering 2026/27 to 2028/29, it is not expected that this funding position will change significantly moving into 2027/28. Government will have provided a Budget announcement on 28th October 2026 that it was not possible to consider at the time of writing this report, followed by an Autumn

Policy Update in November 2026. As such these announcements will be closely considered and any changes announced factored into the Council's Budget and MTFS planning.

The MTFS will be revised further in advance of the Council Budget setting meeting in March 2027, to take account of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2027/28, when issued, along with budget policy proposals on level of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

The MTFS position may change as the Council gains greater clarity on the impact of current demand and market pressures and the impact of management actions taken to ensure that the 2026/27 financial outturn is balanced by year end. Financial monitoring through to Cabinet for the remainder of the financial year will help to manage and control this position and ensure the MTFS is as robust as possible. The Government's Budget and Autumn Policy update will help, but these announcements will not provide a definitive outcome for the Council. The Provisional Financial Settlement set to be released in mid to late December 2026 is where the Council gains a clear position on any changes to the Council's funding position.

The Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 reported that there was a balanced budget for 2026/27 through to 2028/29. It should be noted that 2028/29 was balanced through use of £9.3m of the £10.0m Recovery Grant Uplift provided as part of the Final Financial Settlement. The remaining £0.7m was used to fund additional investment into the Council's Roads Programme 2026/27. As such it was anticipated that the Budget gap for 2029/30 would be at least £10m; however, following the technical review of the MTFS across this longer term period this was revised to £11.5m.

This base position and the financial pressures faced during 2026/27, such as social care pressures, challenges in Waste Management and Home to School Transport present a challenge for the Council in the MTFS period. However, the benefits of the FFR 2.0, the outcome of the national Business Rates Reset and the continued positive delivery against savings plans offer the Council an opportunity to address these financial challenges and consider potential investments. After taking account of these pressures and opportunities, the Council is able to project a broadly positive MTFS position in the short term that would allow the Council to consider potential investment proposals. However, there will need to be consideration given to the projected gap projected for 2029/30.

Financial Year	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**	**2028/29 £'000**	**2029/30 £'000**
Opening Position – as at Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27	0	0	0	11,525
Revised Estimated Budget Gap	2,900	-3,711	-2,296	6,072

The current MTFS forecasts present surpluses ahead of a large budget gap in 2029/30. Whilst the Council may wish to utilise its positive short term position to consider investments, it will also need to plan for the 2029/30 challenge. As this

pressure is far enough into the future, it will not necessarily require to be resolved as part of setting the 2027/28 Budget. It is important to note that this position is before budget policy proposals on levels of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

Recommendations

That Cabinet note the MTFS 2026/27 to 2029/30 update.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Budget and Council Tax 2026/267 and Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council March 2026.
Financial Outturn 2025/26, Cabinet July 2026.
July Financial Monitoring Report, Cabinet September 2026.
September Financial Monitoring Report, Cabinet November 2026.

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. Background

1.1 The Council's balanced Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2026/27 through to 2028/29 was approved at Council in March 2025. Since approval of the MTFS there have been continuing financial challenges as a result of: demand, complexity of care need and market pressures impacting social care services; income pressures within Regeneration and Environment along with operational pressures in Waste Management and Home to School Transport; and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award 2026/27. Inflation remains a challenge, fluctuating through the year from 3% in January, dropping to 2.6% in June then rising back up and reaching a September 2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.5%; this increases the Council's base costs which then presents a longer term challenge for the Council.

1.2 The Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award for 2026/27 was agreed in August 2026 as a 3.3% increase on all the salary values and associated allowances for all grades. The impact of this pay offer is estimated to be £1.6m above the position built into the Council's Budget for 2026/27 and will be funded during 2026/27 through temporary savings from Treasury Management factored into Central Services and inflationary provision built into the Budget that has not been required for other purposes. The ongoing impact has been factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy as a pressure.

1.3 This update of the MTFS includes resource forecasts based on estimated increases to core funding streams that are inflated annually by CPI (September CPI, 3.5%). These resource assumptions will be reviewed again when the Government's Budget is released on 28th October and when the Provisional Finance Settlement 2027/28 is released in December 2026. The Government's Budget is not expected to reveal significant changes following the outcome of the FFR 2.0. The Provisional Finance Settlement will then further confirm the Council's funding position, setting out the specific amounts of Government funding to be provided to the Council. At this point any changes from the FFR 2.0 position will be confirmed.

1.4 This update of the MTFS also includes the Council's latest financial assumptions, taking into account estimated income from Business Rates and Council Tax, impact of inflation on service cost and demand pressures and the Council's timeline for the delivery of agreed savings across the MTFS. This update will support and inform the detailed budget setting process for 2027/28, alongside taking into account the outcomes of the Finance Settlement and the Council's policy choices and decisions on Council Tax levels. The Council's assumptions on Business Rates collection for 2026/27 had been impacted by the winding-up order made against Speciality Steel, the Council's single biggest rate payer at £2.8m a year. However, this position has improved during the last 12 months with the Government's intervention and the intended acquisition, that will ensure the rates liability is paid during the period of Government occupation of the site.

1.5 The MTFS review sits alongside the September Financial Monitoring 2026/27 report to Cabinet in November 2026, that projects a financial overspend of £2.9m. The Council expects to balance this projected outturn position before the year end; however, there is a risk that the use of the Council's reserves may be required.

Directorates are working on recovery plans to mitigate the financial overspend for 2026/27 as much as possible, to minimise the use of reserves. The Council's recent history and track record reflects an ability to bring back in line this forecast position during the year.

1.6 Within the current forecast overspend of £2.9m for 2026/27, the Directorates have a forecast overspend of £7.9m, with a Central Services underspend of £5.0m. The Directorate pressures are offset by savings generated from the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and savings on inflationary budget assumptions. The Council's overspend position is due to the following overall issues:

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care, due to demand and complexity of care requirements.
- Impact of the Local Government Pay Award 2026/27.
- Operational pressures in Waste Management mainly due to increased vehicle hire cost whilst the Council awaits delivery of the new Waste vehicles and delayed delivery of the route optimisation programme.
- Increased demand, market costs and operational pressures across Home to School Transport.
- Whilst much improved, residual pressures against income generation within Markets service and Country Parks.

2. Key Issues

MTFS Update – Planning Assumption

2.1 The MTFS has been updated across the four years 2026/27 to 2029/30 and models the following:

- Government Grant forecasts based on the impact of the FFR 2.0, based on robust information for 2026/27 to 2028/39, with a reasonable assumption made for 2029/30 which will be the first round of the next funding settlement.
- The Council's anticipated resources from Council Tax and Business Rates.
- The planning assumption for Council tax annual increases remains at 3%.
- Pay, Contractual, Price and Income inflation estimates including capital projects and National Living Wage. This includes maintaining the planning assumption of a 2% increase on fees and charges for 2027/28.
- Assumption that the agreed budget savings remain deliverable, within the agreed profile. Work is underway to review this position and has been tracked monthly through the Council's financial monitoring procedures.
- The ongoing costs of decisions made in previous budget rounds including financing costs of capital investment.
- Service demand and cost pressures that have been identified as requiring additional budget support as they cannot be mitigated at least in the short to medium term.

2.2 The Council's collection rates for Council Tax are holding up well in spite of ongoing cost of living difficulties for residents and businesses. In 2025/26 the Council's in-year collection rate of Council Tax remained above 96% at 96.74% and was the 3rd highest in-year rate of all 36 Metropolitan Councils. However, due to the impact of

the winding up order for Speciality Steel, the business rates collection was 95.83%, and as such the Council was 25th on the list of Metropolitan authorities in this area. Given the improved position with the Speciality Steel site and the Government's intended acquisition, the Council's business rates collection for 2026/27 is expected to rise back to its previous strong performance levels. As a result of these two collection rate outcomes overall, the Council Tax assumptions have been maintained at the same level with the Business Rates position softened in the MTFS.

2.3 The estimated impact of inflation and the fluctuations in energy and fuel prices have been factored into the MTFS update. The ongoing legacy of the increased inflation period continues to lead to further market price pressures for the Council's base costs and contracts. In addition, there are continued areas of escalating cost due to service demand and complexity pressures being experienced, in particular in social services, predominantly Children's. These service demand pressures are being reviewed and will need to be continually reviewed as part of the ongoing MTFS and Budget work. Work has been underway throughout 2026/27 to try to better understand the financial and service impacts of these key pressure areas, to better inform the MTFS.

2.4 A significant assumption the Council has made within the current MTFS update is that Government will continue to honour the inflationary uplift in a number of core resources that have historically been inflated by September CPI (noting inflation on business rates is set in regulation). The impact of every 1% of inflation on these core funding streams is the equivalent of £1m extra resource for the Council. As such the Council will need to continue to closely monitor announcements from Government between now and the provisional financial settlement.

Fair Funding Review (FFR) 2.0

2.5 A consultation on the Government's proposed approach to local authority funding reform through the Local Government Finance Settlement from 2026-27 was launched 20th June 2025 and ran through to 15th August 2025. The outcome of the review was announced with the Government's Budget November 2025. The consultation sought views on the approach to determining new funding allocations for local authorities and fire and rescue authorities through the Local Government Finance Settlement.

2.6 The consultation proposed a new methodology for the distribution of a large proportion of funding the Council receives as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The FFR 2.0 introduced a significant change in methodology for the distribution of Local Authority funding, known as the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The new methodology delivered a significant shift in the balance of funding back to a needs/demand basis; as such the Council was able to significantly gain from this revised approach.

2.7 This created a significant shift in how Local Government is funded and how the resources for Local Government are distributed. The focus of funding distribution moved more towards areas of greatest deprivation and need. The impact for RMBC of the Fair Funding Review, as confirmed with the Final Financial Settlement 2026, was a positive one, with an additional £22.6m of funding per year provided to the Council by 2028/29 (£13.2m by 2026/27 and £20.2m by 2027/28). Though this was

a significant shift in direction that the Council welcomes, the funding was necessary to address the demand and market pressures the Council had been seeing in recent years.

2.8 The Government's intention through the FFR 2.0 was to provide greater certainty to Councils on their available funding over the spending review period (2026/27 to 2028/29). Government therefore provided a 3-year spending period funding position; this creates greater certainty and assists long term planning. There was a clear change in approach towards the funding for Local Authorities and a clear acknowledgement that Local Authorities need more resources to support demand and cost pressures, which is positive for the sector.

New Pressures & Mitigations

2.9 Since the Council's Budget for 2026/27 was approved at Council on the 4th March 2026, there have been some financial challenges that will impact the Council's position for 2026/27 and that will continue to impact the Council's MTFS beyond 2026/27.

2.10 Following review of the 2026/27 position the following financial challenges have been identified and will need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and MTFS setting process for 2027/28.

- Placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) resulting from market pressures driving up the cost of external placements and inflation driving up the cost of internal placements. The Council has made a significant impact in reducing the cost and volume of placements in recent years. An analysis of Looked After Children (LAC) numbers 2019/20 compared with 2025/26 shows that LAC have reduced by around 130. Had previous numbers of placements still been in place, at today's inflated prices, this would have cost the Council £10m more per year. However, the Council still has a large number of external residential placements, driving the bulk of the £6.0m in year placements overspend.

- The current MTFS position does not provide for increases in the CYPS Placements budget as it is still felt the current CYPS Budget provision is sufficient if the service is able to reduce the external residential placements as planned and complete the in-house residential programme with full occupancy. This position will be closely monitored through the budget setting process. There are, however, budget assumptions for contractual inflation for CYPS Placements built into the MTFS.

- Adult Social Care pressures resulting from market inflation driving up cost of care packages along with growing complexity of care needs and an ageing demographic leading to increased demand. 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 in Out of Borough placements that cater for individuals with the most complex needs and high-cost residential care. Work is well 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 £0.9m approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

- The current MTFS position does not provide for a continuation of the Adult pressures that are being seen in the current financial year. Half of the pressures stem from a £0.9m saving target which has not yet been delivered but which the service is still confident of delivering. The bulk of the remaining pressure relates to the use of agency staff for the in-house care homes, again an issue that it is believed the service can address and reduce the cost pressure. This position will be closely monitored through the budget setting process. There are, however, budget assumptions for contractual inflation for Adults built into the MTFS.

- Home to School Transport pressures within Regeneration and Environment. These pressures are driven by a mix of new demand and operational pressures leading to an in year overspend of £1.1m. The Council's Budget 2026/27 addressed the historical budget challenge here with annual budget investment of £0.5m per year across the MTFS period. However, operational issues and market costs have taken the service further over budget.

- Waste Management service is forecasting to be £1.5m overspent in 2026/27. This is largely caused by overspends on transport, as the service continues to operate with a high number of hire and spare vehicles. It is expected that this position will improve once new refuse collection vehicles arrive next 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.

- Impact of the Local Government Association (LGA) Pay Award.

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) came to an end during 2025/26 and was replaced by a smaller SYMCA Local Growth Fund allocation, with 2026/27 acting as a transition year. However, dialogue is underway with SYMCA regarding the future of this funding source and if the Council wishes to continue this activity, additional funding may be required.

- The Council's income generation position has continued to improve year on year. Whilst the Waterfront Café and Thrybergh Café are having a positive first year in operation, income generation is still behind the budgeted assumptions, including from Waleswood.

- There are financial challenges within the Council's Property and Facilities Management Service in relation to compliance works, repairs and maintenance and potentially further costs to accommodate once a full suite of stock condition surveys are in place. These pressures are currently being

managed within the overall Corporate Services Directorate, through wider savings and mitigating actions.

- The Council carried a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit of £23.293m before application of the Safety Valve grants at the end of 2025/26. Government confirmed as part of the Financial Settlement that Councils would receive a High Needs Stability Grant to offset 90% of this overall deficit. However, for Councils that been through the Safety Valve arrangement, the grants they had already received through this process would be factored into that 90%. As such the Council has received £20.530m through the Safety Valve and will receive £434k from the High Needs Stability Grant, leaving a net deficit for the Council as at the end of 2025/26 of £2.239m. It is assumed that Government will continue to fund 90% of DSG deficits moving forwards, meaning that the Council estimate to receive 90% of any in year deficits across 2026/27 and 2027/28, at which point any deficit not covered by grant will have to be funded by reserves (by end of March 2028). The total deficit the Council will have to fund from reserves by the end of March 2028, when the current Statutory Override ends is expected to be in the region of £4m.

- Following on from the end of the DSG Statutory Override ending in March 2028, the Council expects to still be supported by Government funding for 90% of the in year DSG deficits, leaving the Council to fund the remaining 10%. For 2028/29 this is expected to be £1.100m and £1.120m in 2029/30. These two DSG forecasts have been built into the MTFS though it should be noted and understood that the projection of receiving a continued 90% High Needs Stability grant based on in year deficits is the Council's best estimate. It is not a guaranteed position.

Following review of the 2026/27 position the following mitigations have been identified and will need to be considered as part of the Council's Budget and MTFS setting process for 2027/28.

- The Council's funding assumed across the spending review period will be inflated by September's CPI position. The current approved MTFS assumed a flat 2% inflationary position; however now that September's CPI position has been confirmed, funding assumptions, where relevant, have been lifted by 3.5%, generating a further £1m of income into the MTFS.

- The Council's biggest Business Rates payer Speciality Steel had been wound up which was creating a budget pressure on business rates collection. However, the Government have stepped in and whilst that does not mean the site will necessarily become operational it does mean its business rates liability, £3m a year, will be paid. The Council is only directly impacted by 49% of this debt, 1% impact South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services and 50% relates to central Government.

- The Government's Business Rates reset is still underway, however, as greater clarity on the process comes to light it is now expected that the impact for the Council will be positive, potentially seeing an increase in business rates retention of £2m. The process was due to complete in the summer of 2026

however Government are now indicating the outcome will be released in late December 2026 as part of the Provisional Financial Settlement.

- The Council's delivery of savings approved as part of previous Budget reports continues to progress well as set out below.

- The Council has reviewed its medium term financial forecasts for the Treasury Management Strategy and is able to release further savings into the MTFS position: £2m in 2027/28 rising to £3m across 2028/29 and 2029/30. These projections should always be treated cautiously, and the Council will need to keep a continued close watching brief on the financial markets as major economic shocks are not in the Council's control.

2.11 The Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 outlined that social care cost pressures, Home to School Transport and the Local Government Pay Award presented the most significant risk to the Council's Budget. The legacy of the high inflation period remains with inflation and market pressures at the heart of most of the cost pressures identified above, either increasing the costs of current provision or through exacerbating the impact of rising demand. For example, CYPS placements are reducing in terms of placement numbers, however, inflation and market pressures are causing the base cost of all types of placements to rise significantly.

2.12 These pressures and mitigations are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Revised MTFS Position

Budget and MTFS Update	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	£000	£000	£000
Approved MTFS Position per Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27	**0**	**0**	**11,525**
Revised inflation assumptions: • Revised inflationary adjustments for CYPS Placements and Adults Care Packages • Reviewed inflation on core resources • Reviewed assumption on impact of Spending Review 29/30 • Other inflationary revisions	613	1,928	-1,250
Recovery Grant £9.3m used to remove 2028/29 budget gap. Possible option to change when grant is used.	TBC	TBC	TBC
Public Health Grant reviewed for core contract renewals.	297	290	350
Public Health Grant - held centrally from previous and future grant uplifts.	-297	-290	-350

Business Rates Baseline reset and Business Rates Growth	-2,323	-2,323	-2,323
DSG High Needs deficit projected at the end of 2027/28.	0	20,363	0
DSG High Needs Stability Grant Estimate **(Not confirmed)**	0	-16,354	0
DSG High Needs deficit – reserves required	0	-4,009	0
DSG High Needs deficit pressures 2028/29 onwards	0	11,000	11,200
DSG High Needs deficit pressures - DfE support longer term **(not confirmed)**		-9,900	-10,080
Revised Treasury Management Savings projections	-2,000	-3,000	-3,000
Revised Position	**-3,711**	**-2,296**	**6,072**

2.13 Following the review of the MTFS pressures and mitigations the current MTFS forecasts present surpluses ahead of a large budget gap in 2029/30. The Council may wish to utilise its positive short term position to consider investments but also plan for the 2029/30 challenge. Although there is a more substantial pressure in 2029/30, given the level of change that can happen across this period and the uncertainty that exists within the local authority funding environment, there is no requirement to address this pressure as part of the current Budget and MTFS update. This position will need to take into account the outcomes of the Financial Settlement and choices on budget policy proposals on levels of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

Delivery of Agreed Budget Savings

2.14 The MTFS update assumes delivery of the remaining previously agreed budget savings. The Council's Financial Outturn report 2025/26 reported that £0.4m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2026/27 included the delivery of £3.2m of new savings, giving £3.6m to be delivered during 2026/27. Currently, £2.5m 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 2: Previously agreed savings

Directorate	2026/27 Saving to be delivered £'000	Secured as at 30th September 2026 £'000	Still to be delivered £'000
Corporate Services	704	704	0
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	1,089	237	852
Children's and Young People Services	800	800	0
Regeneration and Environment	1,040	720	320
Total	**3,633**	**2,461**	**1,172**

Activity is ongoing to deliver the remaining £1.2m of savings that relate to Working Age Adults £0.9m, Waste Route Optimisation £0.3m and Waleswood £40k.

Summary MTFS 2027/28 to 2029/30

2.15 The MTFS, taking into account the issues described in this report, is summarised in Table 3 below. Following the review of the MTFS pressures and mitigations the current MTFS forecasts present surpluses ahead of a large budget gap in 2029/30. The main drivers of this budget gap are as follows, though as reported above, some of these pressures are mitigated;

- Financing impact of previous Capital Investment Programmes**.**
- Ongoing impact of Local Government Pay Awards.
- End of Treasury Management temporary savings plan - **£4m** per annum.
- Ongoing impact of annual funding improvements being outweighed by the annual projections for demand pressures.

Table 3: Revised MTFS

	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £0
Resources			
Council Tax and Business Rates	259,101	264,370	272,721
Government Grant	153,103	155,353	159,812
Total Resources	**412,204**	**419,723**	**432,532**
Expenditure			
Base Budget Requirement at 2026/27 pay and prices	402,023	398,523	410,723
Inflation Provision	13,073	25,392	37,548
New inflationary pressures and opportunities	613	1,928	-1,250
Treasury Management Strategy Savings	-2,000	-3,000	-3,000
Business Rates Reset & Growth	-2,323	-2,323	-2,323
Budget Savings previously approved	-2,893	-3,093	-3,093
Total Expenditure	**408,493**	**417,426**	**438,604**
Funding Gap/-surplus (Pre-Settlement)	**-3,711**	**-2,296**	**6,072**

2.16 It is important to note that this position is before the exact amount of Government grant funding for councils is provided within the Finance Settlement. This is also a technical update of the MTFS before any decisions on levels of Council Tax, reserves, fees and charges and any budget savings or investments.

2.17 Updated MTFS information will therefore form part of the Budget and Council Tax 2027/28 report to Council in March 2027 which will set out the full details of Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2027/28 alongside the final MTFS estimates for the medium term.

2.18 Given the financial position outlined for the Council, work is well underway with Executive Directors to consider opportunities for increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness of services.

Reserves Position

2.19 In considering the Council's MTFS position it is important to be aware of the Council's reserves position, as set out below in Table 4. The Council's reserves have been steadily built back up in recent years to a robust position and one that covers the Council's key financial risks. The Council's reserves are also, following positive outturn positions in recent years and robust financial management, projected to be £10m higher than they were projected to be when setting the 2023/24 Budget. This level of reserves gives the Council a more robust financial position overall and the ability to potentially manage short term pressures on a temporary basis.

Table 4: Reserves Position

Corporate Reserves	**Projected Balance as at 31 March 2027**	**Budgeted Movement 27/28**	**Projected Balance as at 31 March 2028**	**Budgeted Movement 28/29**	**Projected Balance as at 31 March 2029**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
General Fund Minimum Balance	**25.0**	**0.0**	**25.0**	**0.0**	**25.0**
Corporate Reserves					
Budget and Financial Strategy	14.1	4.9	19.0	-11.9	7.1
Local Plan Reserve	2.2	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.2
Business Rates	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0
Corporate Revenue Grants Reserve	3.1	0.0	3.1	0.0	3.1
Local Council Tax Support Grant	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.8
Collection Fund Income Guarantee Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PFI leisure	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Selective Licensing Reserve	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Treasury Management Savings	7.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	7.0
Total	**31.7**	**4.9**	**36.6**	**-11.9**	**24.7**
Total General Fund Reserves	**56.7**	**4.9**	**61.6**	**-11.9**	**49.7**

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 In refreshing the MTFS the Council has made several financial assumptions as detailed within the main body of this report. Whilst various scenarios for how Government funding could be changed and the Council's costs could vary linked to in-year and potential future cost pressures, the update presented is the Council's current MTFS.

3.2 Given the level of uncertainty within financial markets, global factors and their impact on inflation, energy and the level of Government funding, elements of the MTFS remain complex to project. As such it is expected that when the Government releases the Provisional Financial Settlement for 2027/28, there may be changes to the availability of public sector funding.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council consulted on budget proposals for 2026/27 ahead of the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report at Council in March 2026. Consultation on the 2027/28 budget is planned to be undertaken from December 2026 to January 2027, specific dates to be confirmed as the process continues.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The information, proposals and recommendations will feed into the development of specific budget proposals for 2027/28 within the Budget and Council Tax 2027/28 report to Cabinet in February 2027 and Council in March 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The financial implications are set out in the report. Following the review of the MTFS pressures and mitigations the current MTFS forecasts present surpluses ahead of a large budget gap in 2029/30. The Council will need to utilise its positive short term position to consider investments but also plan for the 2029/30 challenge. Although there is a more substantial pressure in 2029/30, given the level of change that can happen across this period and the uncertainty that exists within the local authority funding environment, there is no requirement to address this pressure as part of the current Budget and MTFS update. It is however important to note that this position is before the exact amount of Government grant funding for councils is provided within the Finance Settlement. This is also a technical update of the MTFS before any decisions on levels of Council Tax as part of the annual budget-setting process.

6.2 The Council's September financial monitoring projects an overspend of £2.9m, due in the main to pressures in social care demand and complexity, income shortfalls in Regeneration and Environment and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award. The Council is working towards mitigating this remaining forecast overspend with a view to balancing the outturn for 2026/27 so that use of reserves is not required.

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The implications are as set out in the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Reviewing and updating the Council's MTFS does not in itself affect the Council's carbon emissions, those of its contractors or the Borough of Rotherham. However, cost pressures detailed in the present MTFS review may affect delivery of the Council's climate change commitments. In some cases, there are financial 'co-benefits' of climate change actions: more efficient waste vehicle routes and the delivery of new vehicles should have financial benefits as well as reduced carbon emissions.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks and mitigation are described in the report.

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	28/10/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/10/26
Service Manager, Property and Commercial/Deputy Monitoring Officer, Legal Services	Stuart Fletcher	26/10/26

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This report is published on the Council's website.

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: Medium Term Financial Strategy	
Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	**Service area:** Financial Services
Lead person: Rob Mahon	**Contact number:** 01709 8254518
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☑ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report sets out a technical update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2029/30. The information within the report will support the development of detailed budget proposals for 2027/28. No changes to the Council's approved budget and financial strategy are proposed within the report.

Appendix 1

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

The report is a summary report of the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy, it makes no recommendations for action around investments, savings or anything that would change current approaches of the Council's service delivery.

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
Rob Mahon	Service Director – Financial Services	21/10/26

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	21/10/26
Report title and date	Medium Term Financial Strategy
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 – 16/11/26
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21/10/26

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	The delivery of new waste management vehicles as well as planned route optimisation work should reduce fuel use and deliver financial benefits while reducing carbon emissions.	None	N/A	Emissions from the council's corporate fleet vehicles are included with the Council's greenhouse gas emissions monitoring.
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:					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? Reviewing and updating the Council's MTFS does not in itself affect the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change, though it does support Council services' resilience indirectly, by ensuring their financial sustainability.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: Reviewing and updating the Council's MTFS does not in itself affect the Council's carbon emissions, those of its contractors or the Borough of Rotherham. However, cost pressures detailed in the present MTFS review may affect delivery of the Council's climate change commitments. In some cases, there are financial 'co-benefits' of climate change actions: more efficient waste vehicle routes and the delivery of new vehicles should have financial benefits as well as reduced carbon emissions.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rob Mahon Assistant Director of Financial Services Financial Services Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate 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.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA712 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

Agenda Item 8

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 10 November 2026

Report Title
Progress update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme and the Connect to Work programme (Pathways to Work)

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Fiona Fletcher, System Service Manager - Pathways to Work
Fiona.Fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides an update on delivery and performance of the Pathways to Work programme, including the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and Connect to Work programmes, together with programme development, employer activation, VCSE delivery and triage activity.

Recommendations

1. That progress on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, Connect to Work and the wider Pathways to Work programme be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Presentation to OSMB on Pathways to Work

Background Papers
Cabinet Report on Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, 14 April 2025
https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s151836/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20EIT%20P2W.pdf

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update Report. 9 September 2025
https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s154073/Pathways%20to%20Work%20Data%20-%20OSMB%20Briefing%20Note%20Sept%202025%20v2.pdf

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 14 April 2025
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 09 September 2025

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Progress update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme and the Connect to Work programme (Pathways to Work)

1. Background

1.1 The Economic Inactivity Trailblazer (supporting our economically inactive residents into employment) and Connect to Work (focused on supporting disadvantaged groups) are DWP funded programmes, managed in South Yorkshire by the Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and form part of the Pathways to Work programme. Funding is passed on to each of the local authorities, who have responsibility for delivery of the programme within their area.

1.2 Funding for the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer is currently agreed only until 31 March 2027, and Connect to Work under the integrated settlement, is due to run until 31 March 2030.

1.3 Significant progress has been made since the last report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in September 2025, when mobilisation and implementation were still in progress.

1.4 Below is a report based on the 6 key areas of delivery: the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, Connect to Work, Programme Development, Employer Activation, VCSE Partners, and Triage.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Below is a highlight view of the progress made since the launch of the Economically Inactive Trailblazer and Connect to Work as part of the Pathways to Work system.

2.2 Setting up the Team

Since last year, the team and system has been enhanced substantially with the additions of staffing in key roles such as:

- Commissioning Manager,
- Employer Activation and Partnerships Manager,
- Programme Developer,
- Performance Monitoring Officer.

These additions to the team have been introduced throughout the year and have had significant impact on the building of the system, and the efficiency and innovation that has been added over the last 12 months.

2.3 RMBC Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and Advance (In-Work Support)

- Since the launch of the Pathways to Work service, 956 participants have started on one of the programmes. Of these, 790 participants were economically inactive at the point of enrolment, while 166 were already in paid employment and received in-work support. Of the 790

Economically Inactive participants engaged, 281 reported as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

- The programme has supported 210 participants into fully evidenced employment, with a further 20 job outcomes awaiting evidence and an additional 24 participants holding confirmed job offers that are yet to commence. 50 of these Jobs were achieved by NEET participants.

- In addition, 196 participants have progressed into professional skills training while engaging with Pathways to Work. Longer-term employment outcomes remain positive, with 82 participants sustaining employment for 13 weeks or more and 40 participants sustaining employment for 26 weeks or more, all of which have been fully evidenced.

- In September the service was visited by the National Evaluator for the DWP the National Centre for Social Research who heard from staff, participants and local partners regarding the support the project is providing. The evaluator chose Rotherham from the South Yorkshire collective for their evaluation. We are looking forward to receiving the findings of the visit in the coming months.

- Please note that these figures are in addition to the participants supported through the Employment Solutions (Elevate) delivery model. The Elevate team support residents who are unemployed and claiming work related benefits. Since April 2025, the Elevate team has engaged with 675 residents and has assisted 203 residents to gain employment.

2.4 **Connect To Work**

Connect to Work is a DWP funded programme operated in South Yorkshire within the integrated settlement and will run until March 2030.

Connect to Work operates two strands, the Supported Employment Quality Framework strand, which started delivery in September 2025 and the Individual Placement and Support strand which commenced delivery in July 2026.

In Rotherham the SEQF strand is delivered internally by the Supported Employment team within Adult Social Care and the IPS strand is currently delivered through our commissioned partners The Growth Company and South Yorkshire Housing Association. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority also commission directly further activity for individuals with medium to long term health issues on the IPS pathway.

- Since September 2025, the Supported Employment team has engaged 161 neurodivergent residents through Connect to Work, achieving 114% of DWP expectations. To date, 55 participants have entered paid employment, with 48 sustaining employment for at least

three months and 20 achieving six-month sustainment, all ahead of expected performance curves.

- The programme has also supported 12 residents already in work, with 7 successfully sustaining their employment. In addition, the service recently achieved Supported Employment Fidelity accreditation from the British Association for Supported Employment.

- The commissioned IPS programme, delivered by Growth Company and South Yorkshire Housing Association commenced slightly late of schedule in July 2026, provides intensive employment support to residents with experience of the criminal justice system, those at risk of homelessness, and survivors of domestic abuse. Despite a three-month delayed start, services have engaged 37 residents, with 8 securing employment and 4 achieving three-month sustainment, and remain on track to recover performance by year-end.

2.5 **Programme Development**

With the employment of a Programme Developer the service has started to co design training directly with employers and generating a successful course to job approach, where the employer's language systems, cultures and values are shared with residents before meeting with the employer. This training is open to all residents accessing employment support.

- A **Course to Job** programme was developed in partnership with Concentrix to address recruitment and retention challenges while preparing residents for customer service roles. The programme focuses on the communication, customer service and compliance skills required to succeed in the role.

  So far of the 19 participants taking part in the course, 12 have gone on to successfully obtain roles at Concentrix, 2 have moved into work in other roles and 1 has returned to university, showing a 79% positive progression route for the course.

- In addition, we have also commenced delivery of **Construction Skills Certification Scheme** (CSCS) courses internally since September 2026, allowing residents to access construction qualifications and the pass to work on sites as well as receiving work experience and taster sessions with the construction company ESH. 19 residents have now accessed this provision, which includes those under 19 who would usually be ineligible in other funding streams.

- The programme developer also launched a **Youth Programme**, a test and learn course designed for young people and delivered this to a small cohort earlier this year, following the successful trial the course has been honed and will be delivered at a larger scale in the coming months, this course focuses on the development of skills, recognition of strengths and development areas, building motivation and job identification.

2.6 Employer Activation

The Employer Activation role has focused on internal and external developments to increase inclusive employment opportunities for residents since the Employer Activation post was filled in March 2026.

- Internally, a coordinated employer engagement approach has been established through improved systems, stronger cross-service working, standardised onboarding, and the introduction of single point of contact management for strategic employers. Enhanced referral pathways and intelligence sharing have improved employer access to support, reduced duplication, and strengthened workforce development outcomes.

- Externally, partnerships and networks have been strengthened through closer collaboration with training providers, education partners, business organisations, and neighbouring local authorities, increasing opportunities for employers to access cross partnership support and share best practice. Increased relations with Chamber have supported growth in employer activity.

- Greater engagement across business forums, networking events, and strategic boards has raised the profile of employment and skills services while strengthening relationships with employers and key stakeholders across the region.

- Support for local businesses to achieve social value TOMS whilst providing opportunities, further support for residents and closer working relationships.

2.7 **Voluntary and Community Sector Delivery and Development**

As part of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme, we have commissioned voluntary and community sector providers to deliver direct personalised support and wraparound services to residents.

Currently 9 VCSE services are commissioned to provide employment support with 2 of these also delivering wraparound services in addition to 2 other VCSE partners delivering wraparound support.

Wraparound support currently available is based on improving health outcomes to lead to greater opportunity to secure employment with services such as mental health support, solution focused therapy and physical fitness support being commissioned for economically inactive residents.

On personalised support, VCSE delivery is maturing and overall performance has seen a significant uplift in outcomes this year, with performance increasing in Q2 and Q3 and job outcomes rising by over 240% since Q1.

So far through VCSE partners have to date, the network has supported the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme through;

- Engagement of 168 residents.
- Supporting residents to achieve 28 job outcomes of which 12 have sustained employment outcomes.

2.8 **Triage Service**

The Pathways to Work triage is a single front door for all related employment support requests from residents, ensuring a smooth transition to the relevant service to meet their needs.

The triage service has attended local events such as school / college careers fairs, job centres, DWP events and job fairs to increase awareness of the Pathways programme and to reach those out in the community looking for support.

Since April 2026 the Connect/Pathways to work Triage service has taken 1392 Referrals into the service, of those 928 successfully engaged into an employment service.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is for noting.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report reflects programme performance data, partner feedback and operational delivery experience across the Pathways to Work system.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Monthly highlight/progress reports are submitted to SYMCA, and contract meetings are conducted monthly. Reporting has now moved to the VERTO system and internal reporting is done via the Inclusive Economy Board.

5.2 In regards future planning for the Economic Inactive Trailblazer, funding from April 2027 is currently unclear, with no definitive decision yet made. This picture is expected to be clearer post budget.

5.3 Confirmation is needed on future funding of the programme. This is a priority to avoid impacts on project staffing and activity that has been commissioned to the local VCFSE.

5.4 Current discussions are ongoing with SYMCA to look at potential increases to the Connect to Work funding from April 2027 until March 2030, following the success of current delivery.

5.5 Further development of the Course to Job approach that expands across employers and sectors now proof of concept has been delivered.

5.6 Further development and delivery of youth specific training provision to ensure young people (NEET) receive targeted support that improves engagement, progression, and employment outcomes.

5.7 Whilst this remains dependent on funding, continued growth and maturity in local Voluntary and Community sector organisations in employment support, developing high quality and high achieving, hyperlocal place-based community support.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

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 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising directly from this report

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change arising directly from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Delivery of employment and skills relies on collaboration with SYMCA, DWP, commissioned providers, VCSE organisations and employers. This is managed through the Employment and Skills Board under the Rotherham Together Partnership.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The principal risk is the uncertainty regarding future funding from April 2027. Ongoing engagement with SYMCA and performance monitoring will help mitigate delivery risks.

Accountable Officer
Martin Beasley, Head of Economic Development

Report Author
Fiona Fletcher, System Service Manager - Pathways to Work
Fiona.Fletcher@rotherham.gov.uk
This report is published on the Council's website.

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Pathways to Work

OSMB November 2026

Pathways to Work



The Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and Connect to Work are DWP funded programmes, managed in South Yorkshire by the Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and form part of the Pathways to Work programme. Funding is passed on to each of the local authorities, who have responsibility for delivery of the programme within their area.

Funding for the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer is currently agreed only until March 31st, 2027, and Connect to Work under the integrated settlement, is due to run until March 31st, 2030.

Significant progress has been made since the last report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in September last year, where mobilisation and implementation were still in progress.

The system provides a cohesive support system to all elements of local employment delivery.

RMBC Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and Advance (In-Work Support)

- 956 residents engaged and supported through the Trailblazer and Advance since launch, including 790 economically inactive residents, of these 281 were NEET. 166 of the engaged were residents in work wanting assistance.
- 210 evidenced job outcomes achieved, with a further 20 awaiting evidence and 24 residents holding confirmed job offers yet to start.
- 196 residents progressed into skills training, supporting employment readiness and career development.
- 82 participants achieving 13-week employment sustainment and 40 achieving 26-week sustainment.
- In September, the service was visited by the National Evaluator for the DWP the National Centre for Social Research who heard from staff, participants and local partners regarding the support the project is providing. We are looking forward to receiving the findings of the visit in the coming months.

Data is accurate as of 26/10/2026,
Please note that these figures do not include participants supported through the Employment Solutions (Elevate) delivery model



One of our Economic Inactive Trailblazer Employment Officers who provides 1 to 1 support to residents.

Connect To Work



Connect to Work participant L during his successful work trial

Connect to Work is separated into two strands focusing on support for specific cohorts of disadvantaged residents

SEQF

- Delivered internally through Supported Employment
- 161 neurodivergent residents engaged, 55 participants entered employment, with 48 sustaining for 3 months and 20 sustaining for 6 months, all ahead of expected DWP performance.
- Supported Employment Fidelity Accreditation achieved through the British Association for Supported Employment in October 2026.

Data is accurate as of 26/10/2026

IPS

- 3 target cohorts with 2 commissioned partners
- The Growth Company are delivering to residents with experience of the criminal justice system.
- South Yorkshire Housing delivering to survivors of domestic abuse and those at risk of homelessness.
- So far, IPS delivery has engaged 37 residents, resulting in 8 job outcomes and 4 three-month sustainment's despite a delayed programme start in July 2026.

Programme Development

- Introduced a Course to Job model, co-designed with employers to improve recruitment, preparation and retention outcomes, it includes the employers' systems, values and tasks undertaken in the roles that they have vacant.
- Partnership with Concentrix delivered a 79% positive progression rate, with 15 of 19 participants progressing into employment or education.
- Internal CSCS provision launched, supporting 19 residents to gain construction qualifications, work experience and industry exposure through ESH Construction.
- Youth employability programme successfully tested, with wider rollout planned following positive pilot outcomes.
- Two other large employers already in development for course to job provision for the close of this year.

DETECTRONIC
An Adler and Allan company

concentrix

Detectronic and Concentrix were the first course to job employers



ESH CONSTRUCTION

Residents on the CSCS course completing work experience with ESH

Employer Activation



Working with local businesses Magna and ACORN to deliver the first Bridges to Work expo in 2026



Attending the unLTD business expo promoting services to other businesses

Employer Activation has focused on internal and external key developments

- Established a coordinated employer engagement model internally, to improve service offered to local employers and reduce duplication and market fatigue.
- Introduced a single point of contact approach and strengthened cross-service intelligence sharing and single capture of employer vacancy and skills development.
- Raising awareness of the offer through closer partnerships such as the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber as well as maintaining consistent presence at business events throughout the region.
- Supported local organisations to achieve social value TOMS and delivery of some of these to participants across the Pathways to Work programmes.

Voluntary and Community Sector Delivery and Development

BENCHMARK

LifeSKILLS CENTRES

PIVOTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

FITNESS - MENTAL HEALTH - SOCIAL - EDUCATION

RUSH

EMPOWERING ALL TO BE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE

- 9 VCSE organisations currently commissioned to deliver employment support, with additional partners providing specialist wraparound services.
- Residents can access wraparound support including mental health provision, solution-focused therapy and physical wellbeing services.
- Performance has strengthened significantly this year, with job outcomes increasing by more than 240% since Q1. VCSE partners have supported 192 residents, delivering 31 job outcomes, including 13 sustained employment outcomes.
- Course to job activity has also developed within the VCSE, with a dedicated course to the employer Detechtronic, who have a contract to Yorkshire Water developing into paid employment opportunities for residents on the Trailblazer programme.

Data is accurate as of 26/10/2026

Triage Service

Provides an impartial single front door for employment support, ensuring residents access the most appropriate service quickly and without the need for self navigation.

- Conducted outreach through schools, colleges, Jobcentre events, DWP activities and local job fairs.
- Since April 2026, the service has received 1,392 referrals from residents seeking support.
- Successfully triaged 928 residents towards employment support services, creating a strong pipeline into provision, with others receiving signposting to non-employment related services when more suitable.



Triage team representing the service and meeting residents at the LEAF jobs and careers fair

System Cohesion

Overall, the Pathways to Work system has strengthened cohesion amongst the employment support in Rotherham, including working and linking with alternative providers to enhance the offers of all, for residents of Rotherham.

The single front door to a co-ordinated employment support pathway, reduces fragmentation, removes confusion and creates clear routes to support.

Linked up employer activity and programme development is leading to innovative new ways of working and engaging, stretching the boundaries of the previous employment support available to our residents.

Pathways to Work

Made in South Yorkshire, for South Yorkshire

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2026-27

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele **Vice-Chair: Cllr Joshua Bacon**
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale **Link Officer: Phillip Horsfield**

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:
- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:
- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
C: Contribution to the corporate plan

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
Wednesday 6 May 2026	Jayne Metcalfe	Progress Update on Future Rothercare Model
	Ian Spicer	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026 2031 - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Rotherham Markets and Libraries - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Selective Licensing Community Impact - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 3 June 2026	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Finance Update June 2026 - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Renters Rights Act Policy Consultation - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Menopause Scrutiny Review by Health Select Commission
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 1 July 2026	John Edwards	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision
		Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda.
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Financial Outturn 2025-26 - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Treasury Management Outturn 2025-26 - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Financial Monitoring for May - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Draft Street Trading Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 8 September 2026	Jane Maxwell	Social Value Annual Report - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	July 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision
	Barbel Gale	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Review – Street Lighting Columns
	Phil Horsfield	Health Select Commission - Proposal to Appoint the Rotherham Women's Health Network as a Non-Voting Co-optee
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
Wednesday 7 October 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Replacement of refuse vehicles: Information to be provided to give an update on the procurement of the new refuse vehicles and progress against the target for renewal of the fleet. These briefings should be split to represent the different phases of the programme.
	Andrew Bramidge / Sue Procter / Barry Connolly	Public on street bin collections: Information to be provided regarding the emptying of public bins. This information should include details of how overflowing bins can be reported, how often collections are scheduled for and how those are monitored, what join arrangements are in place with Parish Council's, if any, and a list of the locations of bins under RMBC management, if available.
	Andrew Bramidge	Draft Street Trading Policy 2026 - Pre-decision
	Andrew Bramidge	Local Plan - Possible Pre-decision
	Kristianne Thorogood	School Road Safety Scrutiny Review
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 10 November 2026	Andrew Bramidge / Simon Moss / Fiona Fletcher	Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme - The programme will be a good way through year 2, therefore members will receive an update on both year 1 outcomes, year 2 developments and target forecasts.
	Kevin Fisher & Judith Badger	Investing in our Community Facilities - Update report to include the the updated condition survey results
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	September 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 9 December 2026	Judith Badger	Complaints Annual Report
	Judith Badger	HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2027-28 - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Jane Maxwell / Fiona Boden	Crisis and Resilience Fund - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Library Strategy - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 12 January 2027	John Edwards	Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	MTFS Presentation
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	November 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Extraordinary Meeting proposed for January 2027	Mat Dyson	OSMB Children's Takeover Challenge - The RYC has selected Mental Health as the theme for this year's Takeover Challenge.
Tuesday 2 February 2027	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	December 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Overt CCTV Policy - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Draft Street Trading Policy 2026
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 3 February 2027	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Budget and Council Tax Report 2027-28 - Pre-decision
Wednesday 10 March 2027	Judith Badger / Mike Thomas	Community Governance Review Final Recommendations - Possible Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 7 April 2027		
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Substantive Items for Scheduling		
Mar-27	Mike Thomas	It was agreed that the final Community Governance Review report would be presented to OSMB as part of its pre-decision scrutiny work ahead of its consideration by Cabinet
End November / December 2026		Notice of Motion relating to Stop Polluting Our Rivers and Hiking Our Bills - Considered and agreed by Council on 15 July 2026. 2.Invite the Chief Executives of Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent to a special meeting of [delete] Full Council [insert] Scrutiny with all Members to answer questions from councillors and members of the public and to establish urgent commitments and timescales to improve their infrastructure and reduce sewage discharges in Rotherham.
Spring 2027	SD of Community Safety & Street Scene	12 Month Review of Street Safe Team (joint with IPSC)
Reviews for Scheduling		
Completed	Sam Barstow	Lighting Columns - Cut unnecessary red tape
November / December 2026	Jane Maxwell / Fiona Boden	Consultation Process - Following consideration using the scrutiny prioritisation tool this review was prioritised as a topic for review. This has been added to the work programme report for further discussion at the meeting on 8 September 2026
November / December 2026		Notice of Motion: relating to Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales - Considered and agreed by Council on 15 July 2026. 4.Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) considers this issue within six months and, where appropriate, refers elements to the relevant Select Commission(s). OSMB should receive a further progress report within 12 months.
Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)		
Nov-26	Andrew Bramidge	An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via an off-agenda briefing.
TBC	Luke Sayers	IT Systems: Workshop to be arranged for members of OSMB to understand what IT systems the Council is using, what the purpose of those systems is, are those systems as up to date as possible, how updates to those systems are managed, how the Council is using artificial intelligence (AI), is the Council using outdated technology, and was the Council spending too much or too little in this area.
TBC	Lynsey Linton	Recruitment: Initially information has been requested to understand how recruitment is carried out across the Council, indicating if the same processes were used across all directorates, detailing if recruitment was centralised, was there a reliance on agency staff to cover staff vacancies. After consideration of the off-agenda briefing Members of OSMB will then consider if a workshop needs to be held to discuss this in more detail.
End November 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Smaller Road Schemes - Briefing note - Briefing Note to be shared with Members re. Highway and Transportation Schemes Remit/Funding

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
		Items for Future Consideration
Sep-28	Jane Maxwell / Fiona Boden	Social Value Annual Report, Pre-decision scrutiny - It was agreed by OSMB at it's meeting on 8 September 2026 that this item would be considered every two years going forward.
Jul-29	Andrew Bramidge / Polly Hamilton	At it's meeting on 10 December 2025 during its consideration of the Library Strategy as part of it's pre-decision work OSMB agreed to receive a mid-point progress update on the implementation of the Library Strategy 2027–2032.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Health Select Commission (HSC) Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) meeting on 10 November 2026

Items covered since the last meeting:

There have been no Health Select Commission Meetings since the last OSMB meeting, so there is no further information to provide.

Work programme 2025-26 updates:

- **Reviews**

  Expressions of interest have been received in relation to the two reviews prioritised by the Commission. Work is due to commence on the first of these reviews in relation to Life Saving Equipment in Rotherham, which is being conducted jointly with members of the Improving Places Select Commission, in due course.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the HSC meeting on 19 November 2026 the following items are due to be considered:

- Place Partners Winter Plan 26/27
- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Delivery Update
- Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Improving Lives Select Commission Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on Tuesday 10th November 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:-

- There has been no meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission since the last update provided to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Training Session

- Members of the Commission were invited to attend a training session on school finance, led by the Finance Team. The session was well attended, and insightful discussions took place relating to the following:
    - Decreasing pupil roll numbers, attributed to falling birth rates, and the potential impact this may have on the future levels of school funding.
    - The changes to the Government School Food Standards and how this would impact schools financially.
- Further written information was circulated to members of the Commission following the session which related to the SEND Budget and the specific funding factors used in the calculation of each individual schools notional SEN budget.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:-

The Improving Lives Select Commission will next meet on the 3 November 2026, during which the following is scheduled to be scrutinised:

- The Maintained Schools Long Term Maintenance Plan (LTMP)

- The Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Chair's Briefing: for OSMB meeting on 10 November 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:

The last meeting of IPSC took place on Tuesday 20 October 2026. The following items were covered at this meeting:

- **Pre-Decision – Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2**

  IPSC Members considered a presentation on Part 2 of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which takes the approved PPS through to delivery stage. Members challenged officers on the deliverability of the Action Plan, performance measures, increased community access to school facilities, the potential for community asset transfers and the equitable distribution of investment across the borough.

  Through questioning, Members obtained assurance that the PPS provides a robust evidence base to influence future planning decisions, attract increased external funding, support participation growth, (particularly amongst women and girls) and guide long-term investment towards areas of greatest need.

  Members made recommendations around future progress reporting to IPSC at a midway point in the Strategy and requested that Members are kept informed of developments being undertaken within their wards, in order that they can support the PPS via raising awareness in their local communities of enhanced facilities.

- **Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety Scheme (LNRS) Programme - Lessons Learned Review**

  Further to a recommendation from OSMB when it considered the Transport Capital Programme 2026-27 in March 2026, IPSC Members were presented with a report from the Transportation team which provided a reflective "Lessons Learned" analysis of the key challenges and successes identified during the delivery of Tranche 1 of the LNRS Programme.

  Members challenged officers on a number of concerns relating to scheme delivery under Tranche 1, including; inconsistent communication; poor project scoping; insufficient consultation, inaccurate cost estimations, prioritisation processes and the operation of the Minor Works Programme. In their questioning, Members drew on examples from their own wards where schemes had been significantly delayed or altered, scrapped entirely or failed to meet local expectations.

  Assurance was sought that the lessons learned set out within the Report were being actively embedded into future practice. Members welcomed evidence of strengthened governance arrangements, greater use of specialist expertise, more robust project development processes and the introduction of the Minor Works Board. The need for

clearer and earlier communication with Members on schemes being delivered within their communities was highlighted.

Members made the following additional recommendations:

1) establishing enhanced methods of communication with Members regarding schemes within their wards, including attendance by officers at CAP meetings;
2) a further update report to IPSC on the delivery of Tranche 2 schemes; and
3) that post-implementation evaluations would be routinely undertaken on completed schemes to assess whether the intended road safety outcomes have been achieved.

Work Programme Updates

- **Improving Places Select Commission Scrutiny Review – School Road Safety** Following OSMB's approval of IPSC's recommendations at its October meeting, Cabinet is due to the consider the report at its meeting on Monday 16 November 2026.

- **RiDO Business Centres** – IPSC Members are due to attend a visit to the Century Business Centre 2 in Manvers on Wednesday 25 November 2026.

- **Cultural Strategy Workshop** – a pre-decision workshop session has been arranged for IPSC Members on Tuesday 15 December 2026 to consider development of the draft Cultural Strategy, which is due to go to Cabinet next year.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the next meeting of IPSC on 1 December 2026, Members are due to scrutinise the following items:

- Neighbourhood Leadership Annual Report 2025-26; and
- Pride in Place Update.