

**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for
Finance and Corporate Services**

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23rd May 2019

Mr L Harron
By email lgaha@btinternet.com

Dear Mr Harron

It was unfortunate that you were unable to attend the council meeting held on 22nd May to ask your question but I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a response:-

“I have heard that millions of pounds have been overspent by officers at RMBC.

Can you confirm how much was overspent in the two financial years 2017-18-19, identify the position of the officer responsible for the greatest overspend and explain how such overspends were authorised and allowed to happen?”

I understand that you have written to the Leader of the Council about this, and that he responded to you in writing on 26th April.

The Council’s overall spending for 2017/18 was £3.237m less than budget, taking into account the level of planned use of reserves which was agreed at the time of setting the 2017/18 budget.

In relation to 2018/19, the February Financial Monitoring Report considered at Cabinet in April, anticipated that the Council’s financial outturn for 2018/19 would once again be within the agreed overall budget. This can now be confirmed and the financial outturn report setting out the detailed outturn for 2018/19 will be published for the Cabinet agenda of 8th July.

Within the balancing of the overall budget there have been pressures in Adults and Children’s Social Care which are well documented and mean that the Council has identified and implemented actions and measures to mitigate those cost pressures and funding shortfalls by other means, to ensure that the Council’s spending overall remains within budget. This has been reported to Cabinet throughout the year.

This situation is not unique to Rotherham and we will continue to lobby National Government along with the Local Government Association to appropriately fund Social Care.

Yours sincerely

S. Alam

Councillor Saghir Alam
Cabinet Member for Finance and Customer Services