TIMELINE OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

January to April 2021

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

KEY

- Government Announcements
- Thriving Neighbourhoods
- Better Health and Wellbeing
- Economic Recovery
- New Ways of Working
- Hope and Confidence
- Cross-cutting

2020

JANUARY

- Staff wellbeing session held on the Access to Work Mental Health Support Service, a fully funded mental health support service for Council employees.
- Video released for Holocaust Memorial Day encouraging individuals and communities to 'be the light in the darkness'.
- Cabinet agreed the process for recommissioning domestic abuse support services.
- 11 new Work Coaches commenced in post with DWP Rotherham.
- Budget consultation 2021/22 opened to obtain residents' views on the budget and future spending and savings.
- Forge Island deal with Arc Cinema completed.
- Cabinet approved plans for £100,000 of local financial support, alongside the national self-isolation support payment scheme.
- Roll-out of the Community Testing Programme began.
- Lateral Flow testing for asymptomatic frontline staff began at Riverside House.
- Remediation work complete at all three sites in the town centre housing development programme.
- The Council worked with the Environment Agency to monitor river levels and provided almost 3,400 sandbags in response to the threat of flooding in the borough.
- Third national lockdown implemented from 5 January.
- 23.75m funding for councils announced to boost the Community Champions scheme.
- Mass vaccination centres opened across the country and national Vaccines Delivery Plan published.

FEBRUARY

- Four wellbeing workshops were held for staff: Working from Home, Keeping Fighting Fit in Winter, Coping with Uncertainty and Introduction to Mindfulness. Recordings of the sessions were shared on the staff intranet.
- A series of virtual performances by young people were held on the RMBC Events Facebook page in celebration of Chinese New Year.
- Residents invited to share ideas for green tributes and activities for the Hope Fields Covid memorial.
- The findings of the Winter Wellbeing survey were shared with staff.
- Staff Q&A session with Chief Executive held.
- The government vaccine uptake plan was published.
- New Herringthorpe COVID-19 testing site opened.
- The roadmap for the easing of lockdown restrictions was set out on 22 February.
- Community Days began to be delivered across all wards, with Streetpride Grounds Maintenance teams targeting cleaning work in priority areas highlighted by Ward Members.
- Work began on demolishing the former Primark building on Rotherham High Street.
- Work started on A630 Parkway improvement.
- Draft cycling strategy approved by Cabinet.

MARCH

- Rotherham residents urged to #GetRidReyt as part of a campaign against fly-tipping.
- £25,000 made available to help unpaid carers in Rotherham access the help and support they need thorough the Council's partnership with Crossroads Care.
- Residents invited to comment on plans to transform the look of College Street via a virtual information session.
- An International Women's Day event took place via Microsoft Teams with the theme of 'Choose to Challenge', highlighting what we can all do to challenge gender bias.
- New Respite Centre opened at Conway Crescent in East Herringthorpe for adults with learning disabilities.
- An engagement session on equalities was held with staff, led by the Assistant Chief Executive.
- Council agreed 2021/22 budget.
- Confirmed that over 100,000 Rotherham residents have been vaccinated.
- New seven-day night-time anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance response service launched and promoted through social media.
- One-year anniversary of first lockdown marked on 23 March.
- Children returned to school on 8 March, care homes allowed one regular visitor and two people allowed to sit together outdoors.
- The Council issued over 10,000 supermarket vouchers to support families in need for the Easter break.
- All ward budgets were fully allocated to projects and activities aligned with ward priorities by the end of March.
- 2021 budget set out by Chancellor.
- Free online activities shared on Council social media for children over the Easter break.
- Hope Fields COVID-19 memorial opened to the public at Thrybergh Country Park on 27 March with a pre-recorded ceremony.
- The Rotherham Together Programme concluded in March, with an estimated 400,000 people having taken part over the seven-month programme of activities.

APRIL

- Beat the Street, a fun, free initiative that sees how far people can cycle, run, scoot and roll in just six weeks launched in Rotherham.
- Session on climate change held for staff.
- Let's Get Rotherham Moving campaign launched, urging residents to help keep shops and local businesses open by following Covid rules and being considerate.
- The new voluntary and community sector infrastructure service level agreement became operational.
- 48 videos added to the Council's YouTube channel over the past 12 months, including Covid-related broadcast messages and public self-help videos.
- Rotherham's first community test centre opened at the Unity Centre on 9 April.
- Year Ahead Plan update session for staff took place with the Chief Executive.
- The new advice services service level agreement became operational.
- Libraries and leisure centres across the borough reopened safely.
- Residents asked to share positive changes they made during the pandemic to help create the Great Big Rotherham To-Do List, a free pocket guide for inspiration to find everyday moments of calm, interest, health and fun based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing.
- Bridgegate public realm improvements completed and work began on College Street.
- Details of the Member Induction Programme 2021 finalised and signed off.
- Recruitment and planning underway for a summer youth work programme as lockdown restrictions ease.
- Non-essential retail, personal care, outdoor hospitality and indoor leisure reopened from 12 April.