

TIMELINE OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

September 2020 to November 2021

	Government Announcements	Thriving Neighbourhoods	Better Health and Wellbeing	Economic Recovery	New Ways of Working	Hope and Confidence	Cross-cutting
September 2020	'Rule of Six' introduced, prohibiting gatherings of more than six people.		122 schools reopened safely with provisions in place for transport, catering, cleaning and school crossing patrols.	Work commenced to improve the town centre's open spaces, starting on Bridgegate.	Proposals outlining safe return to Council building completed and kept under review dependant on national situation.	Seven-month Rotherham Together Programme launched, aimed at bringing residents and communities together through cultural events and installations. Clifton Park Museum reopened safely following refurbishment and phased reopening of libraries and leisure centres commenced.	

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October 2020	Three-tier system of Covid Alert Levels introduced, with Rotherham placed in Tier 2 on 14 October.	Decision taken to offer free school meals support over half term, helping more than 10,000 children.	4,203 local young people participated in a survey on emotional health and wellbeing to identify ways to support children through the pandemic.	Government go-ahead given and £42m of funding approved for the Parkway upgrade.	Q&A sessions held with Chief Executive to enable staff to ask questions about The Year Ahead Plan.	Three of Rotherham's parks – Clifton, Greasbrough and Ulley – received Green Flag Award.	Initial meeting of Climate Champions to develop carbon action plan.
	South Yorkshire moved to Tier 3 on 24 October.		Video featuring Rotherham-born former Arsenal and England goalkeeper David Seaman asking local residents to follow the guidelines toured the borough on the sides of digital display van.				

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November 2020	National lockdown implemented from 5 November in response to rising Covid cases across the country.	Library Strategy for 2021-26 approved, including improvements to library buildings, making libraries more accessible and increasing community involvement. Virtual event held for Reclaim the Night.	New Covid-19 testing centres opened in Dinnington and Maltby. Virtual programme of events took place for Safeguarding Awareness Week 2020.	Pathways Rotherham programme launched, aiming to support residents to progress into education employment or training.	New online housing rent balance service launched and new technology, 'Voicescape', to keep in touch with tenants. New staff Wellbeing Survey launched.	Virtual memorial service held to mark Remembrance Day in Rotherham.	Proposals approved to refresh the Council's approach to equalities and to seek accreditation against the Local Government Association Equalities Framework.

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December 2020	National lockdown ended on 2 December and Rotherham placed in Tier 3.	Plans for use of the COVID-19 Winter Grant approved, including free school meal vouchers, Christmas food, utilities and school uniform support.	First Covid-19 vaccinations in Rotherham administered, with a 94-year-old resident the first to receive this at his local GP-led vaccination service.	Rotherham Discretionary Business Support scheme launched to support small and new businesses affected by the pandemic.	Big Hearts, Big Changes Awards 2020 held virtually, celebrating the outstanding work of Council employees during the past year.	500 children from schools across the borough took part in virtual Christmas performance.	
	First Covid-19 vaccines approved and vaccinations began across the country.			Purchased former Primark site and unveiled plans to demolish the building and replace with a short term pocket park.	Digital process to support garden waste collection went live.	Ofsted letter praised the Council's rapid and effective response to Covid in early 2020 and said that senior leaders had continued to respond to need as before the pandemic.	
	Novel UK Covid-19 variant discovered and later confirmed to be more infectious.	Rotherham Heroes story regarding a volunteer who helped a critically vulnerable resident receive her first Christmas presents in over a decade was shared in The Advertiser.	Creation of Rotherham's first specialist education provision for children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties at the former Dinnington College Campus was approved.				
	National relaxation of restrictions allowed in many areas of UK on Christmas Day.						

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January 2021	Third national lockdown implemented from 5 January.	Plans approved for £100,000 of local financial support, alongside the national self-isolation support payment scheme.	Roll-out of the Community Testing Programme began.	Forge Island deal with Arc Cinema completed. 11 new work coaches commenced in post with DWP Rotherham.	Staff wellbeing session held on mental health support service for Council employees.	Video released for Holocaust Memorial Day, encouraging individuals and communities to 'be the light in the darkness'.	
	Mass vaccination centres opened across the country and national Vaccines Delivery Plan published.		Lateral Flow testing for asymptomatic frontline staff began at Riverside House.	Local scheme launched offering financial assistance to people who fell outside the national criteria for self-isolation support payments.		Residents urged to #GetRidReyt as part of a campaign against fly-tipping.	

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February 2021		Community days commenced across all wards, targeting cleaning work in priority areas highlighted by Ward Members.	Herringthorpe COVID-19 testing site opened.	Work began on demolishing former the Primark building on Rotherham High Street. Work started on A630 Parkway improvements.	Four wellbeing workshops for staff held: working from home, keeping fighting fit in winter, coping with uncertainty and introduction to mindfulness.	Series of virtual performances by young people held in celebration of Chinese New Year.	
March 2021	Children returned to school, care homes allowed one regular visitor and two people allowed to sit together outdoors. One-year anniversary of first lockdown marked on 23 March.	Issued over 10,000 supermarket vouchers to support families in need during the Easter break.	Over 100,000 Rotherham residents vaccinated. New Respite Centre opened at Conway Crescent in East Herringthorpe for adults with learning disabilities. Beech Tree Lodge Children's home opened.			Hope Fields COVID-19 memorial opened to the public at Thrybergh Country Park, with a recorded ceremony.	

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April 2021	Non-essential retail, personal care, outdoor hospitality and indoor leisure reopened from 12 April.	Volunteer co-ordinators supported 103 new volunteers since starting work in December 2020.	First community test centre opened at the Unity Centre. Beat the Street, a fun, free initiative that sees how far people can cycle, run, scooter and roll in just six weeks launched in Rotherham.	Let's Get Rotherham Moving campaign launched, urging residents to help keep shops and local businesses open by following Covid rules. Bridgegate public realm improvements completed, and work began on College Street.		Libraries and leisure centres across the borough reopened safely. Four additional zonal cleansing teams introduced.	Session on Climate Change held for staff.

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May 2021	Local elections took place across the country on 6 May.	25 new ward webpages launched following the elections to reflect changes to wards and their Elected Members.	Lateral flow test kits made available from nine Rotherham libraries.	Work began to prepare riverside precinct and chantry buildings for demolition. Awarded £12.6 million under the Future High Streets	Recruitment commenced for Kickstart placements within the Council. Enhanced pre-bookable face to face appointment service went 'live'.	Set out legacy plans for the UEFA Women's Euros in 2022, aiming to inspire women and girls across the borough to get involved in football.	
	The Queen's Speech 2021 introduced 25 new pieces of upcoming legislation.						
	Step three of lockdown easing began on 17 May: most outdoor social contact rules lifted, six people or two households can meet indoors, and indoor hospitality can open.	Member Induction Programme began, with 11 sessions held for Members during May.					

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June 2021	Stage four of lockdown easing was delayed from 21 June to 19 July as the national vaccination programme was accelerated.	New community food pantry opened at Kimberworth Park.	Shared Lives Week celebrated, including a celebration event at Winthrop Gardens which focused on the strength and resilience of Shared Lives carers during the pandemic.	Awarded £31.6 million from the Towns Fund to carry out ambitious regeneration projects across the town centre, Eastwood and Templeborough. First of a series of videos released showcasing the Town Centre Masterplan.	Mental health awareness session for managers held.	'Rotherham Round-Up' bulletin launched for residents. Clifton Park Museum reopened with two new temporary exhibitions. Commenced installation of solar bins in the town centre.	Equalities Annual Report for 2020/21 published.

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July 2021	Step four of the roadmap (delayed from 21 June) began on 19 July: all legal limits on social contact removed and reopening of final sectors of economy.	Official opening of new £126,000 multi-use games area in Greasbrough. Issued over 10,000 vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during the summer holidays.	Healthy Holidays Programme in place to offer activities ranging from football and cycling through to arts and first aid.	Two public consultations went live on cycling: the draft cycling strategy and the proposal to create cycle tracks along the A6178 Sheffield Road.	Took part in Thank You Day – a UK-wide celebration of all the people whose actions have made a difference. New online tool to allow residents to pin a location on an online map to report faulty lights, bollards or signs.	Riverside Library reopened for the first time since March 2020. 'The Great Big Rotherham To Do List' launched, a free pocket guide to find everyday moments of calm, interest, health and fun based activities.	

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August 2021	All young people aged 16 to 17 in England offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday 23 August.	Garden waste collection service resumed. Council set to almost double its annual Domestic Abuse budget and provide more services to victims and survivors.	Rotherham United offered free tickets to those who got a jab before Saturday's match. New relocated mobile Covid test site opened at Constable Lane car park in Dinnington.	44 new apartments completed at Broom Valley as part of the plans to build a thousand new Council homes.		Consultation on the new Council Plan 2022-2025 opened. Almost three and a half miles of wildflower verges planted in 12 trial areas across the borough including Herringthorpe, Swinton, Harthill and Maltby. Garden waste collections resumed.	
	Changes to self-isolation came into effect – double vaccinated people and children no longer needed to self-isolate if they are in close contact of someone who has tested positive.						
	Antibody tests offered to public for first time.						

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September 2021	<p>Covid Winter Plan announced.</p> <p>Agreed to end the requirement for shielding guidance for people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable.</p> <p>Vaccine invitations for those aged 12 to 15 and those eligible for a booster jab began.</p>	<p>Staff and residents informed about useful donations to Afghan people, who are housed at a 'bridging hotel' as part of the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy.</p>	<p>Online event took place to encourage women to talk about suicide as part of World Suicide Prevention Day.</p> <p>Vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds and boosters for those eligible underway.</p> <p>Implementation of team around the School starts, a mental health and wellbeing support programme for pupils and their families with their.</p>	<p>Announced that Travelodge exchanged long term-deal to become the next anchor tenant at Forge Island.</p> <p>Council accredited as a Real Living Wage employer.</p> <p>Completion of ten bungalows spread across four sites: Chestnut Close, Craig Walk, Greenwood Close, Hornbeam Road.</p>	<p>New Hybrid Working Policy agreed to enable employees to maximise performance and productivity, whilst maintaining a good work life balance.</p>	<p>Rotherham Show took place with an estimated audience of 90,000. Included new site layout to accommodate COVID-19 measures and covid vaccination bus.</p> <p>Refurbished Rotherham Civic Theatre reopened.</p> <p>Rotherham named as one of 54 priority areas by Arts Council England.</p> <p>Refresh programme for all street litter bins commenced.</p>	<p>South Yorkshire LA's joined forces with national recycling campaign 'Recycle Now' to promote the message locally.</p>

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October 2021	SY Police and Crime Commissioner successful in securing £550,000 of funding to help make women and girls feel safer in public spaces, installing innovative lighting and CCTV in Clifton Park.	New PCR testing site opened on Constable Lane car park, Dinnington. Families encouraged to take lateral flow tests before pupils return to school.	Work began on multimillion-pound canal barrier as part of Forge Island flood defence and enabling scheme.	Transition to hybrid working microsite went live.	Rother Valley Country Park, Clifton, Greasbrough and Ulley parks received Green Flag Awards.	
	Community Champions video on the benefits of physical activity on mental health shared on RMBC twitter for World Mental Health Day.	Sheffield Hallam University and South Yorkshire's four LA's created a new regional strategy to improve speech, language and communication (SLC) for children under five.	Two out of three funding bids from the Levelling Up Fund approved by government, with almost £40million to help improve leisure economy and skills in the borough and Rotherham town centre.		Work started on the restoration of Keppel's Column. Kiveton Park Library relaunch event following extensive refurbishment of the building and it's facilities.	

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October 2021 <i>Continued</i>		<p>Issued over 11,000 supermarket vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during half term.</p> <p>Partnership of organisations which deliver services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) committed to make further improvement.</p> <p>Residents encouraged to get winter vaccination.</p>	Attractions from across South Yorkshire joined together to showcase the best of the region.			

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November 2021	Health and social care providers in England required to ensure all frontline workers are fully vaccinated.	Reclaim the Night event, to stand against violence towards women and girls, making streets and public spaces safe for and everyone.	Free digital counselling and support service for children and young people launched.	College Street public realm scheme complete.	Employee opinion survey 2021 went live.	Christmas Lights Switch-On event and entertainment in the town centre.	Homes at The Lanes made cheaper to heat and energy efficient by fitting new triple glazing, external doors, improving insulation and replacing old boilers.
	Face coverings made mandatory in shops and on public transport to stop the spread of Omicron variant and all travellers returning to the UK require PCR testing.		Safeguarding Awareness Week, leaders from across South Yorkshire came together to discuss how to keep adults and children in the region safe.		Big Hearts Big Changes virtual awards ceremony took place, to recognise the hard work of staff within the Council.		
			Hospital Hub for 12-15 year olds who did not receive their COVID vaccines in schools opened at Rotherham Hospital.		Customers now able to choose a collection date for requesting bulky waste online.	New Housing Management System went live.	

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November 2021 <i>Continued</i>			<p>Residents reminded to take Lateral Flow Tests before attending festive events.</p> <p>Quarry House Children's home opened.</p>				