

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 13 November 2024

Report Title

Response from Cabinet 16 September 2024 to the Scrutiny Review
Recommendations – Referral from Council to Overview and Scrutiny Management
Board (OSMB) - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and
To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region"

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Adviser

caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to feedback the response of Cabinet (following its meeting of 16 September 2024), to the recommendations arising from OSMB's consideration of the petition referred from Council "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region".

The response, as outlined in Appendix 1, details those recommendations that the Cabinet can act upon. Progress in discharging those actions is detailed in Appendix 2.

Recommendations

- 1) That OSMB notes the Cabinet response to the petition as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2) That OSMB notes the progress made in discharging those recommendations requiring action, as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 3) That progress on discharging any outstanding actions arising from its recommendations be reported to OSMB in six months.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Letter from the Leader to Cllr Brian Steele, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Appendix 2 Petition Action Log.

Background Papers

[Meeting of Council, Wednesday 28 February 2024 \(Item 97.\) Agenda item - PETITIONS - Rotherham Council](#)

[Meeting of Cabinet, Monday 16 September 2024 \(Item 51\)](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Council – 28 February 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 24 July 2024

Cabinet – 16 September 2024

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Referral from Council to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region"

1. Background

- 1.1 A Petition was presented to Council on 28 February 2024, calling on the Council to commit to a permanent ceasefire and promote peace in Palestine and in the region. As it contained 4031 valid signatures, it triggered a debate on the salient issues raised by the petitioners and was subsequently referred to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) for consideration.
- 1.2 A sub-group of OSMB met with representatives of the petitioners on two occasions to formulate its response and recommendations. The sub-group committed to ensuring that its recommendations were reported formally at the earliest opportunity. However, the report was deferred from its scheduled presentation to OSMB on 5 June 2024 until 24 July 2024 because of restrictions relating to the pre-election publicity period for the General Election.
- 1.3 Following its submission to OSMB, Cabinet received a formal request from the Chair, Cllr Brian Steele, to expedite its response. Recognising the unique circumstances surrounding this petition and delay owing to the pre-election publicity period, Cabinet agreed to the request to amend the usual timescales and processes for responding to scrutiny recommendations. The response was provided alongside the report's formal receipt by Cabinet at its meeting of 16 September 2024.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report outlines the Cabinet's response to those recommendations it can act upon, as outlined in a letter to Cllr Steele (Appendix 1). Progress made in discharging those recommendations requiring action, is outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 At the time of writing, of the 13 actions requiring further action, 8 are complete with the remaining 5 in progress.
- 2.3 It is suggested that a further briefing be submitted in six months to outline progress on discharging any outstanding actions arising from the Cabinet response to OSMB's recommendations.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

Both OSMB's recommendations and the Cabinet's response have been informed by advice from officers and in compliance with relevant policy and/or local government legislation.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Members have regard to the expressed views of their constituents in their formulation of scrutiny priorities and lines of enquiry. Prior to forming

recommendations, Members consulted with officers of the Council and representatives from the Petitioners.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with Cabinet and relevant officers

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this petition. Regarding the recommendations dealing with the Council's procurement approach for goods and services the Council has a set of Financial Procurement Procedure Rules (FPPR's) and an Ethical Procurement Policy and will always procure goods services in line with these rules and this Policy.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct Legal Implications as a result of this petition which are not already captured in this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report however it is recognised that council employees may be affected by events referenced in this report and where needed, will be supported through our established channels.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Furthering equalities and human rights are key objectives in undertaking scrutiny activity; therefore, Members have considered equalities implications in the development of scrutiny work programmes, lines of enquiry and in their formulation of recommendations designed to improve the delivery of council services for residents

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. There are no implications for partners directly arising from the report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Members have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the services under scrutiny and have made recommendations accordingly.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Report Author: Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
emma.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

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