

## Cabinet – 9 February 2026

### Report Title

Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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

No

### Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

### Report Authors

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### Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

### Summary

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) met on 3 February 2026 and 4 February 2026 to scrutinise the following reports that would be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 9 February 2026.

- Rotherham Baby Pack: Outcomes and Future Commissioning (Listed as Item 7 on the Cabinet agenda)
- Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report (Listed as Item 10 on the Cabinet agenda)
- Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Listed as Item 13 on the Cabinet agenda)

1.2 Having reviewed the reports and the recommendations, the Board, resolved as follows in respect of these items listed:

Item	Recommendations
Rotherham Baby Pack: Outcomes and Future Commissioning (Listed as Item 7 on the Cabinet agenda)	Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the high level of satisfaction with the baby packs, particularly in relation to the quality and usefulness of the items provided.</li> </ol>

Item	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Approve an open procurement exercise to ensure continuity of registering and delivery of baby packs to Rotherham families.</li> </ol>
<p>Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report (Listed as Item 10 on the Cabinet agenda)</p>	<p>Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the Inclusion Strategy 2026-30.</li> <li>2. Approve the action plan for February 2026 to March 2027.</li> <li>3. Note the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2024-2025.</li> </ol>
<p>Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Listed as Item 13 on the Cabinet agenda)</p>	<p>Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet recommend to Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2026/27 as set out in the report and appendices, including a basic Council Tax increase of 1.95% and an Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%.</li> <li>2. Approval of the extension to the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme, that will provide up to £131.44 of additional support to low-income households accessing the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme. It will support those most financially vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills as described in Section 2.5.15</li> <li>3. Approval of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2028/29, as described within Section 2.6.</li> <li>4. Approval of the Reserves Strategy as set out in Section 2.8 noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting the financial outturn for 2025/26.</li> <li>5. To delegate authority to the Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Service Director of Financial Services and Cabinet member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to approve the specific detailed allocations and use of the Local Plan Reserve.</li> <li>6. To note and accept the comments and advice of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of Reserves for which the Budget provides as set out in Section 2.14.</li> <li>7. To note the feedback from the public and partners following the public consultation on the Council's</li> </ol>

Item	Recommendations
	<p>budget for 2026/27 which took place from 28 November 2025 to 9 January 2026, attached as Appendix 5.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Approval of the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Direct Payments as set out in Section 2.4.</li> <li>9. Approval of the proposed approach and increases in Children’s Social Care costs as set out in Section 2.4.23.</li> <li>10. Approval of the revenue investment proposals set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 2.</li> <li>11. Approval of the proposed revenue savings set out in Section 2.7 and Appendix 4.</li> <li>12. Approval of the Council Fees and Charges for 2026/27 attached as Appendix 7.</li> <li>13. Application of the Business Rates Reliefs as set out in Section 2.10, in line with Government guidance.</li> <li>14. Approval of the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme as presented in Section 2.12 and Appendices 3A to 3F.</li> <li>15. Approval of the Treasury Management matters for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 9 of this report including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy.</li> <li>16. Approval that any changes resulting from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27 be reflected in the Budget and Council Tax Report to Council on 4 March.</li> <li>17. Continuation of the principles and measures adopted since April 2020 to make faster payments to suppliers on receipt of goods, works and services following a fully reconciled invoice as described in Section 2.11.</li> <li>18. Approval of the procedure for Budget allocations for the Community Leadership Fund as set out in Section 2.9.</li> <li>19. Approval that the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2025/26 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2025/26 report to Cabinet.</li> <li>ii. In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council’s approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Item	Recommendations
	<p data-bbox="687 235 1463 338">iii. Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.</p> <p data-bbox="603 376 1337 412">An additional recommendation to Cabinet was that:</p> <ul data-bbox="655 421 1463 674" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="655 421 1463 674">• OSMB recommends the Council review and refines its approach to producing reports, ensuring that they are clearer, more concise, and easier to read. Streamlined reporting will also help to reduce printing requirements, contributing to lower costs and supporting the Council's work to improve its carbon footprint.</li> </ul>

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet has regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board when making decisions in respect of the above matters.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

None