

THE CABINET
Monday 16 March 2026

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Baker-Rogers, Beresford, Cusworth, Marshall and Williams.

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

127. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions:

1. Mrs Hazel Hubbard asked a question in relation to the use of the pavement by shops to display and sell goods. She stated that shops were now taking up large sections of the pavement and pedestrians could no longer walk properly along this path. Mrs Hubbard referenced shops on Effingham Street and Howard Street and explained that it was not fair on the market traders who had to pay for their stalls. It was also impacting people with disabilities who relied on walking aids as they could not fit through. Mrs Hubbard stated that it was ridiculous and they should use the shop they had, not the street. She asked how this could be stopped.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy said that he understood the frustration. There were conflicting rules in place due to planning law, licensing law and highways law but Councillor Williams committed to raising the matter with those services outside of the meeting and providing Mrs Hubbard with a point of contact.

In her supplementary question, Mrs Hubbard stated that she had been complaining for three months and nothing was improving. She had been joined by two Conservative Councillors in the Town Centre but the Labour member had refused to attend as she disagreed with Mrs Hubbard's viewpoint.

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Williams would walk around the Town Centre with Mrs Hubbard and look into the current rules regarding this matter.

2. Mr Saghir Hussain spoke regarding Dignity and burial services. He stated that Dignity had increased their rates by approximately 16% and they had put this down to a number of reasons. This included inflation, previous rate freezes and the cost they had to pay to

Rotherham Council. Mr Hussain referenced High Wycombe where it cost £1500 less, even though it was close to central London. He asked what the Council could do to subsidise or remove the charges.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing with responsibility for Bereavement Services, explained that the Council were aware that fees were increasing and would have a big impact on Rotherham residents. The Council had already made it clear to Dignity that the rise was disproportionate, and they did not support it. The Cabinet Member stated that, whilst the Council disagreed with Dignity, they were entitled to take decisions to increase the fees. She therefore advised Mr Hussain to contact Dignity directly with his concerns.

In his supplementary, Mr Hussain stated that he had already spoken to Dignity, and they had stated that the reason they were putting up the rates was because there had been no increases for seven years and, more importantly, because of the cost they had to pay to the Council as charges. He asked the Cabinet Member to support the community by absorbing the costs and fetching the charges in line with other local authorities.

The Service Director of Legal Services stated that the information provided by Dignity to Mr Hussain did not accord with the information the Council had received from Dignity in relation to the pressures and reasons for the cost. The Council did not recognise the answer Mr Hussain had been given. The Leader confirmed that the Council would seek clarity on the facts of the matter and arrange to discuss further with Mr Hussain.

128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

129. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

130. PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS FOR 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the changes to the Public Health supplementary grant for 2026/27 and allocations to Rotherham Council. It provided a brief update on the 2025/26 spend and outlined the new process for allocations from April 2026, including investment proposals for 2026/27, and beyond where relevant.

In 2025/26 Rotherham Council received Supplementary Public Health

Grant funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery via the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Recovery and Improvement Grant (DATRIG) (which included the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)), Individual Placement and Support (IPS), the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSASG) and Supervised Toothbrushing. These grants were made separately as part of the Government strategies on drugs and alcohol, tobacco, employment support and oral health. The Grants had specific conditions including maintaining baseline Public Health Grant spend on the respective core services.

The report provided information relating to additional funding that was allocated to Public Health and was protected because of specific conditions attached. Issued via the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), from 2026 this funding was protected within the wider public health ringfenced grant. If the additional grants received were not spent in line with the associated conditions (as with the wider public health grant) future funding could be decreased. The supplementary grants would be added to the Public Health Grant as part of a three year financial settlement.

From April 2026 a funding simplification process would be implemented with the SSMTRG, IPS, LSSSASG grants being added to the Public Health Grant allocation and not awarded as separate streams. In addition, the Swap to Stop budget was being included within LSSSASG. The funding (with the exception of the Supervised Tooth Brushing) was part of a three-year Settlement (2026-27 to 2028-29) but would remain allocated on an annual basis, with indicative figures provided for the protected drug and alcohol funding.

In 2025/26 the Public Health Ringfenced grant was £19.575m. The Public Health Ringfenced grant for 2026/27 would be £22.681m. This incorporated £6.542m that would be additionally ringfenced to specific activities, leaving £16.139m for other public health activities. Although this reduced the flexibility to spend the grant, there was currently enough spend within the ringfenced areas to meet the requirements of the grant.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the changes in the Government's approach to the allocation of Public Health Grant;
2. Approve spending plans for Rotherham's Public Health Grant outlined in the report;
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to recommission the Drug and Alcohol contract with the protected Drug and Alcohol budget;

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health (within the protected stop smoking budgets in the public health grant) to commission services designed to enable the Council to make progress in achieving a smoke free generation in line with the plans from central government.

131. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission review into access to contraception. The review was identified and prioritised as part of work conducted by the Commission in the 2024-25 municipal year following reports of inconsistencies in accessibility of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) at GP surgeries. Whilst LARC was one of the areas of concern identified, members elected to consider the full breadth of contraceptive options as part of the review process.

The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 22 January 2026 meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during its 3 February 2026 meeting for progression and consideration by Cabinet, in line with the scrutiny review process.

Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, presented the report and stated that it was a detailed piece of work which involved a high proportion of engagement with both internal and external partners. The key issues and considerations of the working group were set out. A number of appendices were included which helped form the basis and justification for the recommendations.

The report reflected that evidence gathered in 2025, identified key issues such as variation in GP services, limited male contraception options, inconsistent and fragmented online information, and increasing misinformation via social media. The challenges noted restricted informed choice for Rotherham residents and could contribute to rising termination rates and health inequalities. The review recommended improving access, strengthening digital information, expanding outreach, and enhancing support for young people. It also identified longer term opportunities, including stronger Primary Care Network collaboration, wider condom provision, and improved use of data.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the report and thanked all members involved in the review. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet committed to formally consider its response and respond to the recommendations by May 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed below along with the wider ambitions as listed in Paragraph 2.12 of the report, as approved by Health Select Commission:

a. Commissioning and Service Delivery

- i. That the relevant Council Services consider and review the feasibility of mobile outreach clinics or rotating sexual health outreach services where contraception, including LARC can be accessed in rural and underserved areas.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services and relevant partners consider Including sexual health services, specifically including contraceptive advice guidance and provision, in the new town centre health hub, ensuring flexible, reliable and discreet 'drop-in' access and reduced stigma.

b. Education, Public Awareness and Messaging

- i. That the relevant Council Services work in collaboration with appropriate partners to strengthen and extend the reach of a borough-wide, sex-positive public health campaign promoting safe, consensual, and informed sexual activity that makes effective use of the contraceptive and sexual health services available in Rotherham. The Commission particularly advocates the use of modern messaging strategies that harness the power of local 'influencers' via social media platforms (e.g. TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) wherever possible to reach younger demographics with engaging, accurate contraception and sexual health messaging that reaches them directly in places they naturally frequent and counteracts disinformation.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services encourage schools to deliver consistent, comprehensive PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), including ongoing practical contraceptive education and awareness of confidentiality rights and works with them to improve parental engagement and understanding of the benefits of making informed contraceptive and sexual health choices.

c. Digital Access and Information

- i. That the relevant Council Services work to improve Council public health websites to deliver youth-friendly information on contraception and sexual health services and providing/signposting to relevant sources of information, advice and guidance aimed at assisting that demographic to make informed choices.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services work to develop a centralised digital resource or landing page consolidating sexual health information, service locations, and confidentiality guidance, with links to age group/demographic specific issues and information.

d. Youth Access and Confidentiality

- i. That the relevant Council Services consider how, ideally in collaboration with relevant partners such as schools and NHS services, to raise awareness of Fraser guidelines and NHS app privacy settings to reassure young people about confidentiality when accessing contraception.
- ii. That the relevant Council Services work with MESMAC and other relevant youth services to expand outreach and ensure visibility and borough wide accessibility of services, particularly for LGBTQ+ and vulnerable groups.

e. Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment

- i. That the relevant Council Services include the location of sexual health clinics, drop-in centres, and pharmacies providing emergency contraception on the Rotherham mapping system (where grit salt bin locations, planning applications etc. can be found), or create a standalone map resource to allow Rotherham residents to easily identify all locations in the borough where they can access contraception.
- ii. That relevant Council Services review local data on terminations and teenage pregnancies to assess emerging trends, identify the root causes and facilitate the formulation and implementation of targeted interventions that address their drivers.
- iii. That relevant Council Services ensure that the recommendations, observations and broad ambitions

from this review are considered in the next commissioning cycle in 2027, and in the development/revision of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.

2. Formally considers its response and responds to the above recommendations by May 2026, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
3. Agrees that following submission to Cabinet, those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

132. FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in respect of the progress on the Families First Partnership Programme and on the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend.

In February 2025, the Government published the grant determination for the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant for 2025-26 (RMBC allocation £2.083m). This new grant was specifically for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families implementing the Department for Education's (DfE) Family Help and Child Protection reforms. The grant was intended to fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duties. The grant was in addition to the Children and Families Grant, which was now mainstreamed funding, initially for the Supporting Families programme and intended to enable continuation of existing prevention services.

In March 2025, the Government published the Families First Partnership Programme Guide. The aim of the programme was to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). The programme guide described the vision and objectives and set out the practice change Government expected to see to improve the support provided to children and their families. The timeline for delivery of the transformation was ambitious, with significant progress anticipated within the first year.

As detailed in paragraph 2.1.1, a number of appointments had been made to the transformation team which was a positive reflection of the appetite in Rotherham for co-production and partnership working. Paragraph 2.2 detailed the regional work that had taken place which included engagement in regional Communities of Practice.

The Families First Programme Delivery Group, chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services, was ensuring progress against the delivery plan. This meeting was monthly and was well

attended with key officers from across the partnership including South Yorkshire Police, Health, and Education, along with local authority service areas. The project team had reviewed other projects managed across the council and by partners to ensure the Families First Partnership Programme was in line with other change activity.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report outlined the co-production work undertaken to review and refresh the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document. The original document was co-produced by the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership and provided guidance for all practitioners working with children and families, who might be considering a referral to Children's Social Care services via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A refresh of the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document was expected to be published in June 2026.

Officers within the Public Health team had undertaken a Needs Assessment on behalf of the programme and had reviewed data provided from Children and Young People Services (CYPS) and partners for the period July 2024 to June 2025. The data that had emerged from the report, broadly reaffirmed the position already understood by the CYPS directorate, which was encouraging. Domestic abuse was a main reason for concern when professionals and members of the public contacted MASH, as was parental mental ill health and a need for parenting support. There was also a clear correlation between the areas of Rotherham which were most deprived and those where requests for support came from.

Work had started to review how Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) could be improved in Rotherham. FGDM was a voluntary, family-led process where relatives and other support networks created a plan to ensure a child's safety and wellbeing. This way of working supported families to identify their own solutions, reducing their reliance on services. Paragraphs 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 provided details on the work already been done and the next steps in relation to FGDM.

The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services stated that this programme linked together with a suite of other programmes as part of the evolution of Children's Social care.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made since the last update on 17 November 2025.
2. Note the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend since the last update on 17 November 2025.

133. BEST START PLAN 2026-2029

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Best Start Plan. The Department for Education (DfE) issued targets for Local Authorities (LAs) to improve Good Level of Development (GLD) as part of its "Best Start in Life" strategy, aiming for 75% of 5-year-olds nationally to reach GLD by 2028, issuing new data tools and funding to guide local planning and intervention. All LAs had to publish a Best Start Plan by 31 March 2026 in line with the guidance.

The report provided an overview of current activity across Rotherham to improve early years outcomes, tackle inequalities, and ensure that all children, especially those who were disadvantaged, got a strong foundation for school, contributing to the Council's wider ambition that children and young people achieved. The report outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Best Start Local Plan, including a comprehensive needs analysis, engagement, and consultation. The report also sought approval of the Best Start Local Plan and outlined the timeline for implementation to achieve the ambitions identified.

The Plan had to outline strategies to reach the agreed local contribution to the national 75% GLD target and address regional disparities. The reinforced legal and strategic framework shifted the local focus from simply providing childcare places to achieving specific developmental outcomes. Rotherham Council was required to improve the percentage of five-year-olds reaching a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments to 73.3% (and 56.6% of five-year olds eligible for free school meals) by 2028. Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the Rotherham Context.

Section 2.1 of the report detailed how the Best Start Local Plan was being developed. A summit led by Rotherham Council had been held in December 2025 and participants engaged in two workshops. The first focused on current practices and the second on generating ideas for doing things differently. The summit concluded by agreeing the appropriate next steps and informing the development of the Best Start Local Plan.

Section 2.2 of the report set out the guiding principles that would underpin the Best Start Local Plan. An analysis of local need was included at Section 2.3 and the priorities set out in Section 2.4 were based on this need.

The Cabinet Member advised that progress against the Best Start Local Plan would be monitored by the Best Start and Beyond Steering Group. Regular updates would be provided to the Health and Care Place Board, Children and Young People's Change Management Board and Senior Leadership Team. Overarching responsibility would sit with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people who would report into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the data included, equalities considerations and terminology.

An additional recommendation was put to Cabinet that Children and Young People's Services work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan. This recommendation was accepted.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the high level of satisfaction with the baby packs, particularly in relation to the quality and usefulness of the items provided.
2. Approve an open procurement exercise to ensure continuity of registering and delivery of baby packs to Rotherham families.
3. Agree that Children and Young People's Services will work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan.

134. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to approve a further 5-year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver adoption services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). In January 2021 Rotherham partnered with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield children's social care departments to create One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY) as their Regional Adoption Agency. The arrangement was agreed for 5 years and had progressed since this date. The partnership agreement was scheduled to end in December 2025; however, the four local authority Directors of Children's Services agreed to an extension through to April 2026 as a review had just been completed making recommendations relating to the operating model and the associated funding formula.

There was a continued need for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver adoption services. This was a statutory obligation and ensured that children with a care plan for adoption could secure legal permanence through an adoption process when no longer considered safe or in their best interest to remain with their parents or wider family network. The partnership arrangements to date had been a broad success. There had been development since their inception and some of the challenges experienced had been addressed more recently following a review of the

operating model by an external consultant.

The proposed revised delivery model would see an increase in flexibility within the RAA enabling more efficient service delivery. This would also address the reduction in adopter approval activity that had been seen in recent years alongside the increase in the need for post order support services. These were the services that were offered to families who had adopted a child and required support in the years that followed. This was a national trend, and the local area reflected the general downward trend in permanent homes being provided via adoption.

The continued partnership arrangement would see a move towards a thematic model of working aligning the service under three workstreams (Adoption Support, Recruitment and Assessment and Family Finding) rather than four Local Authority adoption services operating within a RAA almost independently of each other. It also built in capacity for a Keeping-in-Touch team within adoption support (a known growth area) and the potential for a recruitment and assessment front door team. Keeping in Touch (KIT) in adoption referred to agreed, often voluntary, arrangements allowing adopted children to maintain relationships with birth relatives or significant people, supporting their identity and emotional wellbeing. This model would generate the additional capacity by moving resource from the family finding team (where work had been reducing) to the other workstreams. It also generated flexibility to manage short term absence and crucially to deliver a consistently high standard of service across the South Yorkshire Region.

The associated cost reduction for RMBC was based on a revision of the funding formula of the RAA. This was based primarily on the reduction in the number of children Rotherham were placing for adoption. There were a variety of reasons for this including a comprehensive and robust Family Help offer, the enhancements in the use of Family Network Activity and an improved Kinship offer leading to more children and young people remaining at home with their parents or wider network. The reduction in costs had been absorbed in the alternative delivery model meaning a redistribution in Service Manager capacity and management of inter-agency budgets. The inter-agency budget was the fund used when the RAA purchase adoptive placements from other RAAs or may income generate from selling placements to other agencies. It was not considered that there would be an impact on service delivery and there were no risks in relation to redundancy based on these proposals. The implementation plan aimed to move to this model of delivery in April 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve a further 5-year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver adoption services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency.

135. MODERN SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT - ANNUAL REFRESH

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery and a refreshed draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 for consideration and approval prior to publication. (Appendix 1).

Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the changes to the 2026/27 Statement compared to the 2025/26 Statement. These included the commitment, the polices and work that had been done. Work included:

- Working with landlords to raise awareness.
- Working with South Yorkshire Police on the enhancement of reporting pathways and intelligence sharing.
- Developing a Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Information Sharing Agreement with South Yorkshire Partners.
- Development of a "Strategic and Tactical Response to Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime in South Yorkshire, 2025-2028."
- Delivery of four bespoke Human Trafficking Modern Slavery training courses for Council staff.

Staff within the procurement team undertook the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) ethical procurement and supply training as required in the Co-operative Party's Charter for modern slavery in 2018 when the charter was adopted. The team had been undergoing a refresh of this training with all relevant staff having completed this. This training had now been programmed for renewal in every three-year period as part of the overall modern slavery training provision.

Between April 2022 and December 2025, a total of 161 referrals from Rotherham were made by the Council and other first responder organisations to the National Referral Mechanism. All referrals were reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board via the Performance Management Framework.

Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board praised the work done on this matter and noted the progress that had been made since 2018.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to date.
2. Approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 and its publication on the Council's website.

136. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 TO 2029/30

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval for the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Housing Capital Programme. Key areas of focus included improving Council homes with continued investment in external and internal refurbishments, providing aids and adaptations, and acquiring and building new Council homes. The report summarised the investment that had taken place or was planned to take place during 2025/26, provided an outline four-year Capital Programme (2026/27 to 2029/30) and a detailed programme for 2026/27.

The total planned Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment in the years 2026/27 to 2029/30 was £312.6m. This sum had been modelled and included with the 2026/27 HRA Business Plan that was approved by Council on the 14 January 2026.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report provided details on the improvements to Council homes and estates aspect of the programme. This included investment up to an average of £60k per unit, totalling £1.3bn over the 30-year plan period. The additional funding would be used to ensure that the Council, as a social landlord, continued to meet and/or exceed the regulatory requirements of ensuring tenants' lived in safe, warm and decent homes. Over the next 4 years this would result in an investment of £198.6m in existing Council homes.

The detailed 2026/27 programme was attached at Appendix 2. The programme budget for 2026/27 was £43.2m. The programme included £17.5m for continued delivery of phased refurbishment works. External refurbishment works included renewing roofs, guttering and fascias, balcony structural and resurfacing works, and windows and doors. External works would take place across the borough including, in Kimberworth Park, The Lanes, East Herringthorpe and Brampton, Swinton and Fitzwilliam would benefit from replacement windows and doors to 224 properties. The programme also included internal refurbishment works for c.200 kitchens or bathrooms. The programme included £2m for larger planned repairs. This included repairs to paths, paving and boundary walls, plastering and pointing.

The programme also included £7.7m for major refurbishments to properties that became empty and were due to be re-let to a new tenant. This budget had increased significantly in recent years, driven by factors such as the need to replace outdated kitchens and bathrooms, damp-proofing works, and rewiring. An additional £5.3m was earmarked for mechanical and electrical works (including boiler replacement.) £6.3million would be invested in the Warm Homes Scheme and with an additional £2.5million for ventilation and damp and mould works.

In relation to providing aids and adaptations, £13.4 million would be provided over four years with £3.4 million in 2026/27 to delivery approximately 600 major adaptations and 500 minor adaptations.

The proposed Capital Programme included £98.5m to support the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. This included £63.7m to deliver the existing pipeline of projects to achieve 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027, alongside a further £34.8m to ensure the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme beyond 2027. This programme of activity would continue to deliver much needed affordable housing within the borough while increasing rental income to the HRA and helping to reduce the impact of Right to Buy on Council housing stock levels.

It was forecast that in 2026/27 an estimated 150 units would be added to the Council's housing stock. 68 new build homes would be completed including 43 across 2 sites at Maltby, 15 at Warden Street Canklow and 10 at Wath across 2 sites. 82 homes would be acquired, 15 as part of the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative, 28 directly from the market and 39 S106 homes including Laughton Gate, Waverley and Poppyfields. The budget of £29.8m reflected the current approved budget.

In relation to investing in IT to support digital transformation, the Council had an established rolling programme of capital investments into its IT and digital infrastructure and certain elements of this were supported with HRA investment. In line with this, the proposed Capital Programme included £2.1m over the 4-year programme and £338k during 2026/27. Paragraph 2.23 detailed the housing digital transformation programme which was being developed.

Paragraphs 2.24, 2.25 and 6.6, along with Appendix 6, set out the funding sources and grants and contributions information.

Cabinet Members fully supported the proposals and stated that the level of investment in new and existing Council homes was exciting news for the borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the four-year outline Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30 with total planned investment of £312.6m broken down into the following areas of investment:
 - Improving homes and estates £198.6m
 - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £13.4m
 - Housing Delivery Programme £98.5m
 - IT and digital transformation £2.1m
2. Approve the detailed 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with total planned investment of £76.8m broken down into the following areas of investment:

- Improving homes and estates £43.2m
- Aids and adaptations to Council homes £3.4m
- Housing Delivery Programme £29.8m
- IT and digital transformation £0.4m

137. LOCAL GROWTH FUND 2026/27 ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals and recommendations for the use of Rotherham's £2.95 million allocation from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in 2026/27. For 2026/27, LGF would operate as a continuation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), forming part of a further transitional programme. This transitional year built upon the £10.48 million of UKSPF that the borough received over four years from April 2022 to March 2026.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), introduced by government as the successor to the European Structural Funds, had been a major source of investment for Rotherham since 2022. With the introduction of an integrated settlement for South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) from 2026/27, UKSPF had been replaced by a new Local Growth Fund. Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over three years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas).

In 2025/26, the government provided a further transitional year of UKSPF, albeit at a reduced level compared to 2024/25. UKSPF investments in this year were required to align with the government's five national missions. Rotherham received £3.28 million from the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26, consisting of £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital. Some of the outputs from this funding were listed in paragraph 1.4 of the report. From 2026/27, the Local Growth Fund provided a three-year allocation (four years for capital) to SYMCA for activity broadly focused on economic development and regeneration. The allocation was approximately £15.1 million in 2026/27, with £15.8 million in 2027/28, £19.6 million in 2028/29 and £16.9 million capital in 2029/30.

Rotherham had been allocated £2.95 million in 2026/27, comprising £2.09 million revenue and £858,585 capital. This represented a reduction of £328,447 (around 10%) compared to the 2025/26 allocation. Funding in 2026/27 would continue to focus on the priorities of supporting local business, people and skills, and communities and place. A summary of the proposals for each theme was set out in the report, with a more detailed breakdown included at Appendix 1. The recommendations set out the allocations also detailed how the funding would be allocated.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral

Combined Authority for award of LGF for 2026/27 as follows:

a) Local Business Support

- i) £946,845 (£464,915 revenue and £481,930 capital) for sub regional business support supporting three strands of Launchpad (start-up support), Productivity and Low Carbon.
- ii) £666,655 (£110,000 revenue and £556,655 capital) for Shop Unit Grants.
- iii) £60,000 to support Rotherham Town Centre Markets.
- iv) £36,559 for Social Value to increase opportunities for local businesses.

b) People and Skills

- i) £441,203 for a skills programme incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work.)
- ii) £300,781 for Young People's Skills Development.

c) Communities and Place

- i) £424,219 for Events, delivering a wide-ranging programme of civic and cultural events and festivals.

- 2. Agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the Local Growth Fund. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.

138. TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which provided details on the Transport Capital Programme for the upcoming 2026-27 financial year, including its funding sources and programme areas, and explained how projects would be managed within them. The 2026-27 financial year was the final year of the current five-year funding round. Based on spend to date and current commitments, the present forecast for available funding for 2026-27 was £344,000. This was made up of the remaining City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local and Neighbourhood Transport Complementary Programme block funding of £95,000 and reallocation of the remaining funding for the delivered moving traffic offences pilot, and the crossing at Morthen Road.

An allocation of £225,000 from 26-27 funding was proposed to enable the delivery of the first prioritised crossing following the completion and approval of the prioritisation process undertaken and reported as part of the 25-26 capital programme.

Given the need for the Council to monitor against delivery on outputs and outcomes for all Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) /CRSTS funded schemes, a proposal for a £15,000 allocation was required for year 3 monitoring and evaluation assessment of the Moor Road, Manvers TCF scheme, as well as monitoring the performance of the broader programme to inform future work.

In relation to School Crossing Patrol Improvements, an allocation of £104,000 was proposed for investigation and delivery of schemes to mitigate risks at School Crossing Patrol Sites, and a delegation was sought to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27.

There was also an allocation of £426,400 for structures for the 2026-27 financial year. It was proposed that this be allocated to the following:

- Bridge Joint Replacement Programme (£150,000)
- Grafton New Bridge concrete and parapet repairs (£200,000)
- Minor essential maintenance arising from inspections (£76,400)

A number of Capital investments were proposed as set out in paragraph 2.3.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the proposals regarding Treeton Lane crossroads, the five pedestrian crossings, involvement of ward members and the broad nature of the delegation.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the schemes and allocations of funding, as set out in paragraph 2.3, following approval of the Council Budget on 4 March 2026.
2. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report, including the reallocation of savings made on capital projects delivered within budget as described in paragraph 1.5.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 through to 2029-30 with the Minor Works

allocation, following approval of the Council Budget in March 2026.

4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 with the School Crossing Patrol Improvements allocation referred to in paragraph 2.2.6.
5. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the use of any underspends across the Transport Capital Programme to fund the delivery of other approved transport programmes, or the progression of designs for potential future projects.

139. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

140. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 13 April 2026, commencing at 10.00am.