



Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13th April 2026

Report Title

Street Safe Team Update

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Paul Murphy, Community Safety and Protection Manager,
Emma Ellis, Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services.

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the development and progress of the new Street Safe Team for 2026. Established as part of the Council's approved revenue budget investment in March 2025, the initiative is designed to strengthen community safety and enhance public confidence in the town centres. The report sets out the progress achieved so far, and emphasises the vital role of partnership working, ongoing staff training, and meaningful community engagement in supporting the successful delivery of the Street Safe Team's objectives.

Recommendations

That Cabinet note the progress to date.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Initial equality screening assessment
Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact assessment

Background Papers

June 2025 – [Street Safe Cabinet Report](#)
[Environmental Protection Act 1990](#)

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers
Statutory guidance for frontline professionals, Home Office, March 2023](#)

[Public Spaces Protection Order for Town Centre and Clifton Park – Rotherham
Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Street Safe Team Update

1. Background

- 1.1 In March 2025 Council approved a £570k Revenue Budget Investment to create a new Street Safe Team which, working with a range of partners, would contribute to the creation of safe and attractive town centres across the Borough to create safer neighbourhoods, improve public perceptions, act as ambassadors for the areas they are working in and safeguard those at risk.
- 1.2 The aim of the Street Safe Team is to reduce both actual, and perceived crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), and increase feelings of safety, also identified as a priority in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2028. The Safer Rotherham Partnership provides governance across varying partnership activities to maximise impact and track progress and performance, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority.
- 1.3 The Street Safe Team aims to improve feelings of safety and security in the Town Centres of Rotherham, Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby. The team provide a visible, uniformed Council presence, with a particular focus on hot spot areas.
- 1.4 The Street Safe Team have provided dedicated resources utilising their ability to deploy various powers to bolster enforcement and alongside existing uniformed presence, provide a welcoming and reassuring presence in the town centres.
- 1.5 By being a highly visible presence, the team has acted as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Council and are identifying and reporting issues where they are unable to intervene directly. They are also developing a deeper understanding of the areas they are working in, advising and engaging with members of the public who approach them and developing relationships with key partners in these areas. The Team have focused on making best use of intelligence data and information to target resources and problem solve community issues.
- 1.6 The Street Safe Team has increased the Council’s capacity for both preventative and responsive interventions such as building and coordinating local intelligence, dealing with street drinking, anti-social behaviour, as well as enforcement for issues such as littering and wider environmental issues (commercial waste etc). The Team will be undertaking parking enforcement once training is complete.
- 1.7 A ‘Feelings of safety in the Town centre’ survey was undertaken between November 2025 and January 2026, which has received over 1,100 responses and these are currently being analysed. This survey will be repeated twice a year, with the next survey scheduled to take place in July/August 2026 which will help measure the impact of the service.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Street Safe Team went live on Monday 3 November 2025 with six officers recruited and having started on that date. The Team were further bolstered by four more officers starting in post on Monday 5 January 2026. The Team are now covering between 8am – 8pm from Monday through to Friday and 10am – 6pm on a Saturday and Sunday and are now operational in Rotherham Town Centre, Wath, Swinton, Maltby and Dinnington.
- 2.2 The Team have set out to support the delivery of a range of community safety services within specific neighbourhoods, including enforcement and regulation, providing regulatory advice and guidance while supporting the delivery of projects aimed at prevention and early intervention.

Performance management

- 2.3 To measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe team, a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators have been identified, aligned with community safety objectives. These will include:

- Reduction in reported incidents - Monitoring trends in anti-social behaviour, street crime, and environmental nuisance reports within the designated areas.
- Number of proactive patrols, community interactions, and engagement events conducted by the team.
- Feedback from residents through surveys and Street Safe reporting tools to assess perceived safety and trust in the service.
- Evidence of collaborative working with police, housing, and other agencies, including joint operations and referrals.
- Volume and effectiveness of enforcement actions (e.g., warnings, notices) and compliance rates following interventions.
- Visibility and presence - Measured through patrol logs and community feedback on the visibility of the Team in priority areas.

- 2.3.1 These indicators will be reviewed regularly and reported through performance dashboards (to commence Quarter 1 2026/27), to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.

2.4 To date (February 2026), the team has: -

- Provided dedicated resources to enforce Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) and wider relevant legislation including the Environmental Protection Act. This has resulted in:
 - 12 Community Protection Warnings
 - 9 Fixed Penalties Notices (PSPO)
 - 17 environmental waste cases raised

- Contributed towards the improvement and feeling of safety in and around the town centres with high profile daily patrols.
 - 1,620 hrs of high-profile patrols in Rotherham Town Centre
 - 112 hrs of high-profile patrols across other town centres, (n.b. these patrols did not commence routinely until staffing capacity increased in January 2026 and training was fully completed)
- Provided support to local partner agencies through both physical high-profile interactions / patrols along with intelligence gathered from daily deployments. This has resulted in:
 - 6 vulnerable adult referrals
 - 17 actionable intelligence reports submitted
 - 4 incidents that Street Safe officers have dealt with leading directly to the arrest of individuals
- Provided a visible presence in targeted locations and attended dedicated events supporting the community with the feeling of being safe.
 - 11 community events attended
 - Positive community feedback through social media received.
 - Verbal feedback from community and Elected Members: *“it’s so good to see you on patrol, we have needed this for such a long time”*
- Identified environmental vulnerabilities and supported opportunities to ‘design out crime’ through ‘target hardening’ (a crime prevention approach that focuses on making a potential target more difficult to damage or access unlawfully) in locations across the town centres.
 - e.g. the team has arranged for building repairs to Wharncliffe flats (previously affected by waste), which means access has now been prevented which will therefore prevent the waste deposits.
- Provided advice and guidance when approached by members of the public and supported vulnerable individuals through both referrals and medical care.
- Supported vulnerable individuals through providing first aid and providing pathways to wider support.
 - Critical first aid provided on 4 occasions, including a domestic violence incident raised as a result of the first aid response.
- Engaged with business and community groups across the Town Centre and Townships throughout the Borough.
 - Worked with outreach and community safety teams in the town centre and provided a visible presence and business events and CAPS

- 2.5 Overall, the Team have provided a high-profile community presence across Rotherham to challenge negative behaviours and help to minimise harm to communities. .
- 2.6 The Team continues to work collaboratively with key partners and consistently engage with communities to further build on the successes to date and see this as an essential aspect of helping continue to evolve and make further improvements. The team will continue to provide better connected services, that regularly engage with communities who are at the heart of what the Council do.
- 2.7 The Street Safe manager commenced in post on 3 September 2025 and the Coordinator and Officers have been recruited from two full recruitment processes which included group assessment centres as well as formal interviews. One officer role is still vacant but is currently being advertised. All the Street Safe Team have attained enhanced DBS clearance prior to deployment.
- 2.8 All Street Safe staff have been issued with the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
- All outer clothing including both winter and summer jackets. (RMBC logo).
 - High visibility vests. (RMBC logo)
 - Personal body camera and SOS device.
 - Personal radio.
 - Cold weather attire – hats / gloves (RMBC logo).
 - Personal issue footwear.
- Other equipment issued: -
- Laptop and smart device.
 - Rucksack, for agile working across the Borough.
 - Locker to store all work attire.
 - Document pouches for enforcement notices.
 - First aid kits including face shield and multi tool.
 - Torch.
 - Needle stick guard gloves.
- 2.9 The Team have been through a significant training and upskilling programme with the aim of meeting the requirements for initial deployment. The aim is to map out further training requirements of the team to support an omni-competent skill set that can support the wider enforcement opportunities held by the Council.
- 2.10 The training provided so far / planned before the financial year end: -
- All mandatory on-line training completed for new starters.
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Domestic Abuse (DA) Matters training.

- Stalking and Harrassment
- Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service (ROADS) Training - Naloxone issued (all Street Safe officers now carry this capability), which provides Emergency Overdose Reversal as the primary antidote for acute opioid toxicity, restoring breathing in victims of overdoses
- Anti-social Behaviour, Community Protection Warning & Community Protection Notice legislation training.
- First Aid at Work.
- First Aid responder training including CPR.
- De-escalation training.
- Trauma informed training
- Driver training.
- Dynamic risk assessment training.
- Needle stick training.
- Legislative training including: -
 - Police and Criminal evidence act training.
 - Regulation of investigative powers act.
 - Fixed penalties issuance training.
 - Statement taking.
 - Enforcement interview training.
 - Criminal procedure and investigations act training.
 - Giving evidence in court training.
 - CIVICA Case Building.

2.11 A refreshed communications and perception-management plan has been developed and presented at the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board in February 2026.

The plan focuses on:

- Rebalancing the narrative around town centre safety.
- Improving transparency about enforcement and partnership work.
- Promoting positive developments (e.g., Forge Island, Street Safe Team).
- Encouraging public reporting and use of support services.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 That Cabinet note the progress to date and commit to receiving further updates annually as the team continues to evolve and develop.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Key stakeholders have been involved in the development and delivery of the induction and training programme.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The report does not provide for a specific decision. The Service Director for Community Safety and Street Scene retains overall accountability.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Street Safe Team was established following an approved revenue investment of £570k, as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process. As recruitment to posts was delayed, the Service are currently reporting an underspend against this investment in 2025/26, however, it is anticipated that the investment will be spent in full in 2026/27.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
- 7.2 The service are aware of legal requirements in relation to enforcement staff and a full training program is being delivered to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct HR implications arising from the report.
- 8.2 The newly established Street Safe team has been supported through structured planning, training, and targeted managerial support to ensure successful integration and effective performance. Any HR issues would be addressed with the support of the HR Consultancy team if required.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Street Safe Team provides an increased focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people and receive additional training to identify and support vulnerable individuals, ensuring they receive appropriate help and protection.
- 9.2 The Team need to understand and respond to trauma experienced by vulnerable individuals to respond to sensitive situations empathetically and build trust within the community, especially among vulnerable groups to enhance overall public safety and reducing risks for vulnerable individuals.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An initial equality screening has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 An initial Carbon assessment has been completed and submitted and is attached at Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The Street Safe Team continues to require enhanced coordination and collaboration with key partners such as South Yorkshire Police, neighbourhood teams, substance misuse services, homeless services and relevant communications teams to share progress and relevant information.
- 12.2 This collaboration continues to involve regular joint training sessions, information sharing, and coordinated responses to community issues. Partners will need to align their plans and resources to support the new team effectively, ensuring a comprehensive and unified approach to community safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals. This increased collaboration aims to strengthen relationships, improve service delivery, and enhance overall perceptions of safety.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Creating a new Team involves potential risks such as recruitment and retention challenges and impact on the capacity of the wider Community Protection and Environmental Health service who support the ongoing training and induction. To mitigate these, the service has implemented clear role definitions, detailed budget planning, targeted recruitment strategies, and a structured induction programme.
- 13.2 Focusing on community engagement, regular joint training with partners, thorough legal training, mental health support, hands-on technology training, and strategic patrol plans will seek to ensure the team's successful integration and operational capability.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Ellis: Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/2026
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/2026

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