

THE CABINET
Monday 14 September 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Read and Allen.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services
Stuart Williams	Service Director of Children's Social Care
Mike Thomas	Electoral Services Manager
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Governance Advisor and Clerk

Also in attendance:

Steph Watt	Urgent and Community Care, NHS SYICB
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36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 July 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

39. 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.

40. ROTHERHAM COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval, in principle, for the Council to participate in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

The current service, delivered by Medequip under a contract led by South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, was due to expire on 31 March 2027 and a procurement exercise was therefore required to ensure continuity of provision.

A review of delivery options was undertaken, including a standalone procurement by the Council, an in-house model and a collaborative procurement and commissioning arrangement with Sheffield City Council, Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The joint procurement model was identified as the preferred option.

The preferred approach was expected to deliver improved value for money through economies of scale, greater operational resilience, reduced duplication and a more consistent service across South Yorkshire, whilst supporting residents to remain independent and live safely at home. The model would also support timely hospital discharge and help reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and residential care.

Sheffield City Council would act as lead commissioner for the procurement exercise, with Rotherham participating as an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The Council would retain oversight of services provided to Rotherham residents, including local performance and financial management.

Preparatory work had included the development of a common equipment catalogue and service specification across the participating organisations to improve consistency, equity of access, stock management and recycling arrangements, whilst continuing to meet individual assessed needs.

The report set out that the preferred option would increase the Council's annual contribution to approximately £0.8 million, reflecting a revised assessment of social care responsibilities within the service. This additional investment was expected to be supported through Better Care Fund arrangements. Provision had been made for the existing contract to

be extended for up to six months, if required, to support mobilisation of the new arrangements and ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

The proposed approach was intended to secure a sustainable and effective Community Equipment Service, supporting independence, improving health and wellbeing outcomes and providing continued support for residents, carers and families across the borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, in principle, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) participating in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside other partners, Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.
2. Note that Sheffield City Council will be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules will be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.
3. Approve, the Council being a party to an extension of the current Community Equipment Service contract for up to six months, if required, to support effective mobilisation and continuity of service with SY ICB as the lead commissioner of the current contract.

41. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT 2025-2026

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Adult Social Care Local Account for 2025-26. The 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care 2025/2026 summarised the achievements for the last 12 months and set out the priorities for the coming year. The Account highlighted key achievements across Adult Social Care, demonstrated the impact of services on residents and carers through case studies and feedback, celebrated the contribution of staff and partners, and outlined priorities for continued improvement during 2026/27.

The report highlighted a year of significant progress, including the achievement of a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Good rating, recognising the quality of services, partnership working, prevention activity and commitment to continuous improvement.

Key developments during the year included:

- The introduction of a new transitions assessment process to improve support for young people moving into adulthood
- Expansion of supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism

- Establishment of a hospital discharge Transfer of Care Hub
- Development of a new Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy and an All-Age Carers Strategy
- Progression of the Castle View Day Centre development
- The introduction of an involvement framework to strengthen co-production and resident voice across services

The Local Account sought to demonstrate the impact of Adult Social Care through service user case studies, resident feedback and performance information. During 2025/26, Adult Social Care supported 5,985 people, received 470 compliments and 56 formal complaints, with feedback being used to drive service improvements and inform future priorities.

The report set out priorities for 2026/27, including:

- Reducing waiting times for Care Act assessments
- Improving access to enablement services
- Reducing inequalities for seldom-heard groups
- Strengthening support for carers
- Improving provision for working-age adults with support needs
- Enhancing co-production and further improving quality assurance arrangements

The Local Account reinforced the Council's commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement, whilst recognising the contribution of staff, residents, carers and partner organisations in supporting people to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the publication of the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2025 – 2026.

42. RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - MENOPAUSE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's Scrutiny Review into menopause and perimenopause. Recommendations made by the Spotlight Review were set out in a report, endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting, and then presented to Cabinet for consideration on 6 July 2026. Appendix 1 to the report set out Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

The review had originated from a Health Select Commission workshop before being developed into a formal scrutiny review due to the strength of engagement, evidence and discussion surrounding the issue. The review examined the experiences of women in the borough and identified

opportunities to improve awareness, information, support and partnership working relating to menopause and perimenopause.

The review's recommendations covered public awareness and information, primary care improvement, mental health support, community engagement, workplace health and system leadership. Cabinet endorsed the intent and ambition of all recommendations and agreed a response which sought to build upon existing work while recognising that many of the proposed actions required the cooperation of partner organisations outside the Council's direct control, including NHS organisations, GP practices and education providers. A number of recommendations were therefore partially accepted, reflecting those limitations rather than any disagreement with their objectives.

The agreed response included:

- Further development and promotion of menopause information through existing resources on RotherHive, alongside exploration of accessible printed information for digitally excluded residents.
- Development of targeted information for men and young people.
- Partnership work to encourage improvements in primary care awareness, training, referral pathways and the use of menopause champions within GP practices.
- Continued review and promotion of mental health support options linked to menopause.
- Review and potential expansion of menopause cafés, community information sessions and outreach support to underrepresented communities.
- Progression of workplace menopause champions within the Council and encouragement of similar approaches amongst partner organisations.
- Use of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to provide system leadership, oversee delivery of actions and explore future funding opportunities.

Councillor Steele welcomed Cabinet's response in his capacity as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by the Health Select Commission and supporting officers. He expressed the hope that, although the Council could not directly implement all recommendations, it would continue to work with and influence partner organisations to maximise delivery of the review's recommendations wherever possible.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth referred to the continuing importance of encouraging partner organisations to improve awareness and support relating to menopause and perimenopause. She highlighted that the issue had become more widely recognised but that further progress remained necessary. She also recorded her appreciation for the work undertaken by the Commission and officers, describing the review as an example of scrutiny at its best.

Resolved:

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations arising from their Spotlight Review into the Menopause (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report) be approved.

43. CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Care Leavers' Local Offer and the development of a Care Leavers' Charter. The Charter set out the commitments and support available to care-experienced young adults.

The Care Leavers' Charter had been co-produced with care-experienced young people through the Look Ahead participation group and built upon the Council's Leaving Care Strategy 2024-27 and Care Leaver Local Offer. The Charter was developed to provide a clear statement of the Council's commitments as a corporate parent and to support care leavers in their transition to adulthood. It reflected the experiences, priorities and aspirations of young people with care experience and focused on practical support relating to accommodation, education, employment, wellbeing, independence and inclusion.

The report highlighted that there were currently more than 600 care leavers aged 16 to 25 supported by the Council and that Ofsted had judged the experiences and progress of care leavers in Rotherham to be good, whilst identifying opportunities for further development around education, skills and housing sufficiency. The Charter sought to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting offer and complement existing support available through the Local Offer.

The Charter brought together a range of commitments including:

- Priority access to accommodation
- Support with independent living
- Council tax support
- Education and employment opportunities including guaranteed interviews for suitable Council vacancies
- Health and wellbeing support
- Practical assistance to help young people establish and sustain independent lives

The Charter also reflected feedback from care leavers on the importance of being able to access suitable accommodation, affordable household goods, additional support when moving into a new home, and clear sources of advice and support.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth explained that the Charter had been shaped directly by care-experienced young people and represented

tangible, realistic and practical commitments that would make a difference to their lives. She emphasised that care leavers often faced the transition to adulthood at a younger age than their peers and noted that wider housing pressures had increased the challenges associated with living independently. She also confirmed that the proposed Charter had been expanded to include eligibility for the Council's Rothercard scheme up to the age of 25 at the Leader's suggestion.

Stuart Williams, Service Director for Children's Social Care, stated that care leavers frequently faced challenges as they navigated adulthood and that the Charter provided clear and practical examples of how the Council, as a corporate parent, would support and 'scaffold' young people through that transition. He highlighted that the Charter had been designed by care-experienced young people themselves and reflected the principle of empowering them to shape the support they received.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the Charter, describing it as an excellent initiative that would help support care leavers through the transition from childhood to adulthood. She particularly welcomed the co-production of the document with care leavers and the inclusion of a dedicated section relating to health and wellbeing.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.
2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.
3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

44. JULY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of July 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2026/27.

As of July 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 was an overspend of £5.9m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £10.9m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £5.0m. The main pressures driving this forecast were within Social Care, largely due to market prices and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who had complex needs, and an overspend in Regeneration and Environment Directorate increased by £2.9m, mostly due to additional

overspends in Waste and Home to School transport. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate were provided in the main body of the report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained unsettled. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy and fuel costs impacting the wider economy and creating uncertainty around inflation, which has risen to 2.9% in July. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The report also provided an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme including a number of programme variations as detailed in section 2.17.

Due to a clerical error, paragraph 2.14.4 of the report was incorrect. It should have read:

The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Transport Levy, Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27, approved at Council on 4th March 2026. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the Directorates and thus held centrally.

Rob Mahon, Service Director for Financial Services, confirmed that work was being undertaken with directors throughout the remainder of the financial year to reduce pressures, mitigate the impact on reserves and improve the year-end position.

Councillor Steele reported the conclusions of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised the discussion around significant overspends within Children and Young People's Services, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, and Regeneration and Environment Directorates. He explained that questions were raised regarding:

- The sustainability of using Central Services underspends to offset budget pressures
- The Dedicated Schools Grant deficit
- Demand pressures in adult social care and SEND services, SEND assessment processes and backlogs
- Home-to-school transport costs
- Waste service expenditure and vehicle replacement delays
- Market income shortfalls

It was noted that several of these financial pressures, particularly transport-related costs and vehicle issues, had appeared repeatedly in previous monitoring reports.

Councillor Steele advised Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations outlined in the report but had also recommended that future financial monitoring reports include updates on overspend recovery actions, progress against service plans, management of key financial risks and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

Councillor Alam OBE confirmed acceptance of the additional recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.9m.
2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.
3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.17 of the report.
4. Agreed that future financial monitoring reports include updates on the delivery of overspend recovery actions, progress against savings plans, management of key financial risks, and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

45. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW INTERIM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet with an interim update on the progress of the Community Governance Review following the completion of the first stage of public consultation. A report setting out the draft recommendations arising from the review would be presented to Cabinet in October 2026 for consideration and approval. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation would be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations. Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report would then be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Following approval by Cabinet on 13 April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1 May 2026. An initial consultation took place between 1 May and 26 June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to

consider.

The consultation received just under two hundred responses, representing views on existing parish, town, and community councils, together with interest in the establishment of new parish councils. A summary of the number of responses received by area was shown in Appendix 1.

The Officer Working Group was in the process of reviewing the consultation responses, together with the statutory criteria for community governance reviews, to inform the development of draft recommendations. An information session for Members would be held during September to provide an overview of the consultation responses and the draft recommendations arising from the review.

The Draft Recommendations report would be presented to Cabinet on 12 October 2026, to seek approval to undertake a second phase of consultation on the draft recommendations. Subject to Cabinet approval, the second phase of consultation would commence on 26 October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the consultation period would be extended from eight weeks to twelve weeks. Although the consultation would span the Christmas period, the timetable had been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closed.

Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations would be prepared and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval. Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.
2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.
3. Note the extension of the second stage consultation period to twelve weeks to maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations.

46. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update on the progress against the Social Value Policy, including the amount of value committed and delivered through Council contracts. Since the last annual report in June 2025, good progress had been made to further strengthen delivery of the Social Value Policy. Social value commitments now stood at £41.6m. Importantly, validated delivery of social value stood at £23.7m, having increased by 92% compared to the previous annual report.

Resulting in tangible benefits for residents, 454 jobs had been secured for local people, and 1,169 apprenticeships weeks had been delivered since the Council introduced this Policy.

Progress was reported across the Council's community wealth building programme, including the launch of England's first local authority-funded employee ownership feasibility service, support for more than 35 businesses considering succession planning options, and the introduction of the UK's first 21st Century Social Clubs programme to strengthen member-owned community institutions. Partnership working through the Rotherham Together Partnership had also expanded social value activity across anchor organisations, whilst business support programmes had continued to improve procurement readiness and local supply chain development.

Priorities were also set for the next 12 months with a particular focus on ensuring progress was made across all five themes of community wealth building that were embedded within the Council's Social Value Policy. These included:

- Strengthening contract management to ensure social value commitments were delivered
- Championing employee ownership and social clubs
- Supporting residents into good-quality employment
- Promoting the socially productive use of land and property
- Maximising local benefits arising from future investment opportunities and procurement reforms.

Delegated authority was also proposed to extend the current Social Value Policy to March 2029.

Councillor Steele presented the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised discussion around the potential impact of legislative and taxation changes on employee ownership initiatives, levels of demand for support, measurement of social value outcomes, support available to businesses seeking Council contracts, representation of ethnic minority-led businesses within procurement activity, and the long-term impact of social value interventions. He reported that, in addition to supporting the recommendations outlined in

the report, scrutiny had concluded the programme was now sufficiently established for reporting to be considered on a biennial rather than annual basis and recommended that future reports be presented every two years.

Councillor Baker-Rogers described the policy as a highly successful initiative and highlighted the scale of sustained progress achieved since its introduction. She welcomed the scrutiny undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and praised the work of officers in delivering measurable outcomes for local communities.

Councillor Alam OBE welcomed the positive report and emphasised the contribution social value activity was making to supporting excluded and marginalised groups, together with the wider delivery of the Council's social value commitments.

Councillor Williams highlighted the innovative nature of the employee ownership programme and the 21st Century Social Clubs initiative, describing both as important interventions to support the local economy and preserve valued community institutions. He referred to strong engagement from businesses at the launch of the employee ownership advisory service and welcomed continued investment in these areas.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth commented that whilst social value could sometimes appear an abstract concept, the report clearly demonstrated the significant practical and financial benefits being delivered to residents and communities across the borough. She observed that the scale of impact achieved was substantial and recognised the leadership, officer commitment and ongoing scrutiny that had contributed to the programme's success. She accepted the recommendation that future reports be referred to scrutiny on a biennial basis.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receive the annual report, noting the social value commitments along with outcomes delivered.
2. Approve that the key priorities for 2026/27 are:
 - a. Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
 - b. Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
 - c. Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
 - d. Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.
 - e. Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.

3. Agree to delegate authority to the Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.
4. To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) has agreed to scrutinise the Social Value Annual Report every two years.

47. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence consultation on the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy, which formed part of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The policy was first adopted in 2020 and reviewed in 2023. Where a cumulative impact assessment was in place, the Council was required to review it at least every three years and ensure that any continued or revised approach was supported by an appropriate evidence base.

The current policy included a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) covering part of the Wickersley area, including parts of Wickersley North, Thurgroft and Wickersley South wards. The existence of the CIZ did not prevent new licence applications from being made, but it required applicants to demonstrate that their proposal would not add to the cumulative impact already identified in that area. The recommended approach was to undertake a wide-ranging consultation with residents, businesses, licence holders, Ward Members, responsible authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The consultation would seek views on the effectiveness of the existing CIZ and invite evidence on whether any other areas of the borough may benefit from a CIZ. A further report would then be brought back to Cabinet setting out the consultation findings and any proposed changes to the policy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the commencement of a 2 month period of consultation, reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) in place in Wickersley, as well as gathering feedback on any additional areas that may benefit from a CIZ.
2. Note, following consultation, a further report will be submitted, detailing recommendations for any changes that are proposed to the policy as a result of the consultation responses.

48. 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.

49. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 12 October 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.