OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Tuesday 8 September 2026

Present: - Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Baggaley, Blackham, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Tarmey, Tinsley and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Clark, Ismail, and Sutton.

Council Officers in attendance:
- John Edwards, Chief Executive
- Judith Badger, Executive Director, Corporate Services
- Ian Spicer, Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
- Rob Mahon, Service Director, Financial Services
- Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director, Regeneration & Environment
- Nicola Curley, Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
- Phillip Horsfield, Monitoring Officer and Service Director - Legal Services
- Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
- Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
- Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
- Kristianne Thorogood, Governance Advisor

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at: -
https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home

31. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026 OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 1 July 2026 be approved as a true record.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

33. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

No questions were received.

34. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no reasons to exclude the press or public.

35. JULY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

At the Chair’s invitation, Councillor Alam OBE, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety reported that, as of July 2026, the forecast outturn position was an overspend of £5.9m, comprising

Directorate overspends of £10.9m offset by a projected £5.0m underspend in Central Services.

The main pressures were within Social Care, driven by increasing demand, complexity of need and market costs, and within Regeneration and Environment, where the overspend had increased by £2.9m, due to Waste and Home-to-School Transport pressures. It was noted that wider economic conditions remained uncertain, with energy and fuel costs affected by conflict in the Middle East and inflation remaining at 24.6%. The Council was expected to implement mitigating actions and was anticipated to reduce the projected overspend during the financial year.

The Service Director, Financial Services, Rob Mahon advised that the key change in the financial monitoring position was an increase in the overspend within Regeneration and Environment Services, while the position within the Social Care Directorates had remained unchanged. The £2.9m increase in Regeneration and Environment was attributed to pressures in Home-to-School Transport and Waste Services. It was noted that a significant proportion of these pressures had been mitigated through Central Services, including additional benefits from the Treasury Management Strategy and lower-than-budgeted inflationary pressures on major contracts.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries. The Vice-Chair, Councillor Bacon raised concerns regarding the scale of forecast overspends across Children and Young People's Services, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, and Regeneration and Environment, including whether the Council remained in control of its financial position. Clarification was sought on the recovery actions being implemented, accountability for delivering those actions, and the timescales for achieving a balanced budget position.

In response, the Service Director, Financial Services acknowledged that the forecast overspend remained a significant challenge. Social Care pressures were attributed to placement demand and market conditions. Actions to address the position included the in-house residential homes programme, the Children's Services step-down programme and Adult Social Care savings initiatives. It was also noted that Central Services savings, inflation contingencies, and treasury management benefits were helping to mitigate pressures while further recovery actions were being developed.

The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services reported that Children’s Services continued to face significant placement pressures, particularly in residential provision. Progress was being made through the residential homes programme, recruitment activity, and placement reviews to ensure children were supported in the most appropriate settings. The forthcoming Families First programme was also expected to strengthen preventative support for families. It was noted that these measures were beginning to reduce the overspend, although improvement would take time to be fully realised.

The Vice-Chair raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the waste collection strategy, including the reasons for the reliance on hire vehicles and whether delays in introducing greener replacement vehicles had contributed to the Regeneration and Environment overspend.

In response, the Chair noted that a further report would be presented on this topic at the next meeting. The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, Andrew Bramidge reported that increased waste service costs were primarily due to the continued use of hire vehicles and agency staff, although overall service performance had remained strong. It was noted that procurement of the replacement vehicle fleet had been completed, with new vehicles on order and expected to be delivered in spring 2027. Recruitment activity had also been accelerated to reduce reliance on agency workers through the appointment of additional drivers and loaders.

Councillor Monk asked why the report continued to reference the High Needs Stability Grant, and why the figures quoted did not appear to correspond with 90% of the Council's stated DSG deficit?

In response, the Service Director, Financial Services explained that the Council's High Needs Stability Grant allocation was affected by its participation in the Safety Valve programme and therefore did not directly equate to 90% of the reported DSG deficit. It was noted that the Council had already received substantial Safety Valve funding over previous years, with the High Needs Stability Grant effectively providing additional support through a different funding mechanism.

Members were advised that future funding beyond the end of the Safety Valve arrangement remained subject to Government confirmation, although indications suggested continued support for high needs pressures. It was further noted that the calculation methodology was complex and that additional information setting out the position and future projections could be provided to members.

Councillor Yasseen queried the ongoing reliance on Central Services underspends to offset Directorate overspends, including the source of these underspends and whether this approach was sustainable in the longer term.

In response, the Service Director, Financial Services explained that Central Services was not an operational service area but comprised budgets relating to levies, treasury management, PFIs, pensions and inflation contingencies. The underspend did not arise from services or activities being withheld but was attributable to inflation provisions not being fully required and continued treasury management savings. It was acknowledged that reliance on these savings presented an ongoing challenge, and that the associated risks were reviewed annually to determine whether such gains should remain as contingencies or be allocated elsewhere.

The Chair, Councillor Steele asked whether the 2026/27 pay award had been agreed and, if so, whether it had been fully reflected in the budget. It was reported that the 2026/27 pay award had been settled at 3.3% and that sufficient provision had already been included within the budget, meaning it did not create an additional financial pressure.

Councillor Yasseen questioned why demand in Adult Social Care and SEND appeared higher than national averages and whether the causes were being analysed. The Service Director, Financial Services and Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health, advised that regular benchmarking and demand analysis were undertaken, noting that similar pressures were experienced by many comparable authorities. They added that performance reviews, external challenge, value for money assessments and checks on proportionality of support help monitor and manage demand.

In response to the Chair’s question the Executive Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health confirmed that benchmarking was undertaken against comparable councils, enabling the authority to understand differences in performance and demand.

Councillor Yasseen asked whether above-average SEND demand could indicate that children were being over-diagnosed or over-labelled. The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services advised that the Council did not believe this was the case, noting that robust assessment and scrutiny processes were in place and that audits had not identified inappropriate diagnoses. It was further noted that the reasons for higher SEND prevalence were not fully understood and that research with a university partner was being explored.

Councillor McKiernan asked whether some of the additional demand arose from people moving into Rotherham from elsewhere, making demand harder to predict. The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services advised that, while there was some anecdotal evidence of families moving to areas with strong services, this was not considered a significant driver of demand. It was also noted that uncertainty around future SEND reforms had contributed to increased requests for Education, Health, and Care Plans. The Executive Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health, added that changes to ordinary residence arrangements could occasionally transfer responsibility between authorities, but this was not regarded as a major factor in Adult Social Care pressures.

Councillor McKiernan asked whether the existing SEND backlog was likely to create further budget pressures over the next two to three years. The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services advised that SEND remained a significant financial pressure and that future costs had been modelled as part of ongoing planning work. It was noted that expenditure was expected to continue rising without legislative reform, that the Safety Valve programme had provided temporary financial stability, and that uncertainty remained around the detail and timing of proposed Government reforms.

The Chair asked for an explanation of the overspend in home-to-school transport. The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that costs had increased due to rising numbers of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans requiring transport, a greater need for individual travel arrangements, more pupils attending provision outside the borough, and changes made to ensure transport arrangements complied with Council policy.

In a supplementary question the Chair asked whether taxi company contracts were regularly retendered and renewed. The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment confirmed that transport arrangements were reviewed and renewed through a regular procurement process, with services delivered through a combination of Council-operated vehicles and contracted taxi providers.

Councillor Tinsley asked why Markets was forecasting a £0.6m overspend from income shortfalls and whether this had been accounted for during the regeneration and refurbishment programme. The Service Director for Financial Services advised that income loss during the regeneration programme had been anticipated, but the associated loss of income had not been built into the revenue budget. It was noted that project delays had extended the impact, although income was expected to improve once the new market facilities became fully operational.

Councillor Monk asked whether route optimisation in home-to-school transport had resulted in any children who previously travelled in groups requiring individual transport arrangements. The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that he was not aware of any cases where this had occurred and explained that route optimisation was undertaken annually to identify opportunities for appropriate shared transport arrangements.

Councillor Baggaley asked how confident the Council was that the remaining £1.2m of identified savings would be delivered and whether further savings opportunities were being considered. The Service Director for Financial Services said the identified savings were considered achievable, although delivery within the current financial year could be challenging. It was noted that route optimisation, Adult Social Care savings initiatives and improvements within Country Parks and Waleswood were expected to support delivery, and that further savings opportunities would continue to be explored through the budget-setting process.

In a follow up question Councillor Baggaley asked how sustainable the

Council's reliance on Central Services and treasury management savings was and requested further information on the £5m underspend. The Service Director for Financial Services advised that treasury management savings were built into the budget and reviewed annually as part of the budget-setting process. It was noted that confidence remained in achieving these savings in the current year and potentially the following year, subject to changes in economic conditions and borrowing requirements.

Councillor Alam OBE, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety stated that Cabinet were comfortable with the position, noting that the risks had been identified and were reviewed through the Council's regular budget monitoring process. The significant financial challenges arising from demand exceeding available funding were acknowledged and the importance of continuing efforts to deliver a balanced budget by year-end was emphasised.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations 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.

An additional recommendation to Cabinet from OSMB was that:

4. OSMB recommend 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.

Further actions that arose from discussions were:

- That a report be provided to OSMB setting out the underlying causes of the Home to School Transport overspend, together with the actions being taken to strengthen cost control, improve service efficiency, and mitigate future budget pressures.

36. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

At the Chair’s invitation, Councillor Read, Leader of the Council, presented the annual Social Value Report. It was noted that the report had been aligned with the wider Community Wealth Building agenda. Social value commitments had increased by 30% and delivery by 50% since the previous report, generating £23 million of social value through local jobs, apprenticeships and increased spending within the local economy.

Support provided through procurement brokerage; the Go for Growth programme and partnership working was highlighted as helping local businesses and residents access economic opportunities. An update was also provided on employee ownership and co-operative development, including engagement with more than 30 businesses and support for eight social clubs.

RDASH's achievement of Real Living Wage accreditation was welcomed, alongside the continued contribution of partner organisations through the Rotherham Together Partnership. Priorities for further strengthening social value delivery were outlined, and reference was made to emerging national procurement reforms intended to improve accountability for suppliers' social value commitments.

The Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, Jane Maxwell welcomed the progress made through the Social Value programme and advised that work was underway to strengthen the Council’s approach to community wealth building. It was noted that internal arrangements would be reviewed to ensure the right services were engaged and that close working with procurement and contract management colleagues would continue to maximise social value opportunities. Emphasis was placed on both contractual measures and strong supplier relationships to support the delivery of positive outcomes for residents.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries, Councillor Blackham referred to recent Government changes that had reduced the tax advantages associated with employee ownership and asked whether these changes were affecting demand for the support provided, what impact was anticipated, and how the Council intended to respond.

The Leader advised that recent changes to tax incentives had led some businesses to question whether employee ownership remained as attractive as previously but stated that it was too early to assess the long-term impact on demand for support. It was noted that work had expanded into the 21st Century Social Clubs programme and that much of the employee ownership support focused on business owners approaching retirement, promoting employee ownership as a means of protecting the long-term values and continuity of businesses. It was confirmed that the tax changes had not altered the Council’s overall approach and that the wider effects would continue to be monitored.

Councillor Blackham asked when the current uncertainty surrounding employee ownership demand was expected to become clearer. Concern was raised that, if fewer businesses pursued employee ownership because of changes to tax incentives, the dedicated officer resource could become underutilised, and clarification was sought on whether alternative uses for that resource were being considered.

The Leader advised that there were no plans to redeploy the dedicated officer, as there remained ongoing work to support existing employee-owned businesses and those considering employee ownership. It was noted that the officer continued to play a valuable role within the regeneration service, and while future policy changes could affect demand, the Council remained committed to the post.

Councillor Yasseen expressed support for the Social Value programme but sought assurance on how its impact was being measured. Reference was made to procurement readiness support provided through the Chamber of Commerce, and clarification was requested on how many businesses receiving support subsequently progressed through procurement processes or secured contracts, as this was considered a more meaningful measure of success.

The Leader agreed that measuring outcomes was important and advised that information would be sought on the results achieved through the Go for Growth programme. It was acknowledged that understanding how many supported businesses went on to secure contracts or progress through procurement processes would provide a stronger measure of impact, and further information would be provided where available.

Councillor Yasseen requested further information on Real Living Wage accreditation outcomes, the geographical distribution of support and benefits, and equalities data, particularly in relation to engagement with and outcomes for ethnic minority-led businesses. Concern was raised that relatively few ethnic minority-led businesses appeared to secure contracts despite significant ethnic minority populations in some parts of the borough.

The Leader acknowledged that these issues had been raised previously and agreed to provide further information in writing where available.

It was noted that many ethnic minority-led businesses were likely to be smaller enterprises, which could face greater challenges in accessing public sector procurement opportunities. The Leader advised that support available through the Go for Growth programme may help address these barriers and undertook to explore whether information on participation by ethnic minority-led businesses was available.

The Leader also clarified that social value activity was supported by two specialist procurement officers and an employee ownership officer within RIDO, alongside contributions from a range of services including procurement, employment support, policy and economic development. It was emphasised that delivering social value relied on a wider organisational commitment rather than a small number of dedicated posts, and a commitment was given to provide further information on geographical distribution, ethnic minority business engagement and Go for Growth outcomes.

The Chair advised that, following discussions, it was felt the policy was operating successfully and did not require annual scrutiny review. It was proposed that the policy be reported to the Board on a biennial basis. The Chair then sought a show of hands from Members in support of the recommendation. Upon being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations 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.

An additional recommendation to Cabinet from OSMB was that:

4. Cabinet is asked to note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) has agreed to scrutinise the Social Value Annual Report every two years.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- Information on the uptake of support by BAME-led businesses, particularly in relation to the support offered through the Chamber of Commerce and Go for Growth programme be provided.

- Information on the outcome measures from Go for Growth, including evidence of progression and success in response to questions about whether businesses receiving procurement-readiness support were subsequently securing contracts or progressing through procurement processes be provided to members of OSMB.

- Information be provided to OSMB setting out the specific outcomes arising from the Social Value Programme, including evidence of the tangible and longer-term benefits delivered through social value activity, the outcomes and impact of Real Living Wage accreditation, how social value benefits have been distributed across different communities and areas of the borough, and information demonstrating how social value activities and procurement opportunities are supporting equality objectives and benefiting under-represented groups.

37. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD SCRUTINY REVIEW – STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS

Councillor Steele, as Chair of the review, introduced the report and thanked Members and officers for their contributions, with particular thanks to Sam Barstow, Service Director, Community Safety and Street Scene for supporting the review and providing the information needed to develop the recommendations.

The review had included engagement with Parish Councils through a questionnaire, which received a good response, and parish representation had been involved throughout the process to ensure local views were reflected.

In presenting the recommendations, the Chair highlighted the importance of maintaining a collaborative approach with Parish Councils while ensuring compliance with the Council's policy and health and safety requirements. It was noted that where installations had been made without agreement, the Council would require them to be removed.

In conclusion, the Chair emphasised that the Council's policy should be applied consistently and made it clear that lighting columns served as an important health and safety function for the people of Rotherham.

Councillor Tarmey welcomed the review and its recommendations as a positive starting point. Concerns were raised about whether future lighting column testing frequencies could be informed by inspection findings if defect rates remained lower than anticipated.

Reference was made to the proposed guidance for Parish Councils, with a suggestion that greater clarity be provided on permitted attachments and when additional testing or approvals would be required. Consideration was also suggested for blanket approvals for simple, low-risk installations.

Councillor Tarmey further suggested that lessons could be learned from how Council policies were communicated to Parish Councils and the public. While acknowledging that the policy was based on legal requirements and best practice, it was noted that future policies could benefit from greater consideration of public perception and clearer communication.

The Chair emphasised the importance of maintaining clear communication with parish councils and keeping them informed of matters affecting them wherever possible, recognising the value of a strong two-way working relationship.

It was noted that lighting columns were subject to a three-year testing regime and that their condition deteriorated over time. The Chair stressed that the primary purpose of lighting columns was to provide illumination and maintain public safety.

Alternative options for displaying banners and other items were highlighted as part of the review. Councillor Steele thanked Members for their involvement, noting that although there had been differing views and extensive discussion, consensus had ultimately been reached on the recommendations.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Bacon welcomed the review and raised concerns about communication failures, questioning whether the relevant Cabinet Member had been aware of the issue and why it had not been addressed sooner.

The Chair responded that the review had focused on communication issues rather than individual accountability. It was explained that the matter arose from legislative changes affecting lighting column testing requirements. The review had considered policies from neighbouring authorities, and the Chair acknowledged that communication with parish councils could have been improved, highlighting the importance of ongoing liaison arrangements.

The Chair outlined the next steps in the process, explaining that the review report would be submitted to Cabinet, which would have eight weeks to respond to the recommendations. It was noted that, following consideration, the recommendations would be incorporated into Council policy as appropriate.

The Chair also highlighted the work of the review group, noting that, as the review had arisen from a resolution of Full Council, efforts had been made to complete the work and bring it to the Committee as quickly as possible.

The Committee then voted on the report, which was supported unanimously.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Received the following recommendations for consideration and endorsement.

2. Agreed that the report, together with the approved recommendations, be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and a formal response, and that Cabinet be asked to:

    a. Approve amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan to incorporate a comprehensive framework for attachments to lighting columns and associated highway assets, setting out requirements relating to permitted and prohibited attachments, risk-based approval arrangements, structural testing and retesting requirements, applicant responsibilities, and enforcement provisions. The framework should apply consistently to all users of lighting columns, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, contractors and third parties.

    b. Approve the development and publication of a standalone, publicly accessible Lighting Column Attachments Guidance Document, in consultation with Parish and Town Councils, to provide clear and practical guidance on the application of the Highway Asset Management Plan framework, including attachment classifications, approval processes, testing requirements, responsibilities, communication arrangements, and practical examples of acceptable and unacceptable attachments.

    c. Establish formal consultation, communication and engagement arrangements with Parish and Town Councils, including consultation on future policy changes, testing programmes and charging arrangements, together with sufficient advance notice of any financial implications to enable effective budget planning, procurement and decision-making.

    d. Establish clear categories for lighting column attachments, identifying which attachments are permitted without testing, permitted subject to approval and structural testing, or prohibited, and publishes consistent standards for structural testing, assessment criteria, retesting intervals, validity periods and maximum permissible loading thresholds where appropriate.

    e. Continues to coordinate structural testing arrangements on a borough-wide basis where appropriate and considers longer-term funding, procurement and cost-sharing arrangements to minimise administrative burdens and secure value for money for Parish and Town Councils whilst maintaining compliance with relevant safety standards.

    f. Ensures arrangements are developed to support the continuation of community display schemes where lighting columns are unable to safely accommodate attachments, including consideration of alternative display solutions, targeted asset replacement where appropriate, the use of structural testing outcomes to identify trends, inform the Council's future investment priorities, replacement programmes and wider asset management decisions.

g. That the service engages in meaningful discussions with interested parties including Parish Councils, seeking to install displays on lighting columns, with the aim of reaching a shared understanding regarding the timescales and process for replacing damaged or missing columns, and to explore opportunities to facilitate timely installation where feasible.

h. Strengthen the enforcement framework for unauthorised attachments by establishing clear compliance procedures and, where legally permissible, implementing arrangements for the recovery of costs incurred in the removal of unauthorised installations, and reviews the effectiveness of the new arrangements within 12 months of implementation, including consideration of feedback from Parish and Town Councils, testing outcomes and enforcement activity, with the findings reported to the relevant Scrutiny Board.

3. Asked Cabinet to formally consider its response to the above recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

4. In responding to these recommendations, it was requested that any response should identify the proposed actions, responsible officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each recommendation.

38. HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION - PROPOSAL TO APPOINT THE ROTHERHAM WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK AS A NON-VOTING CO-OPTEE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Keenan, Chair of the Health Select Commission (HSC) introduced the report, which was seeking approval to appoint a representative from the Rotherham Women's Health Network as a non-voting co-optee to the Commission.

It was noted that the proposal arose from the Rotherham Women's Health Network's contribution to the Commission's scrutiny work on access to contraception, menopause services and wider women's health issues. The Network had provided valuable evidence on health inequalities, access to services and the experiences of women within the health system in Rotherham

It was noted that the aims of the Rotherham Women's Health Network aligned closely with the remit of the Commission and the Council's priorities. The proposed non-voting co-optee role would provide ongoing access to specialist knowledge, lived experience and independent challenge on matters affecting women's health.

Alternative engagement arrangements had been considered, but a non-voting co-optee role was identified as the most effective and transparent approach. It was noted that the appointment would enable the Rotherham Women's Health Network to contribute to discussions on relevant issues as required and would strengthen scrutiny of women's health services and outcomes across the borough.

The proposal had been unanimously supported by the at the HSC meeting on 23 July 2026, and approval of the recommendations set out in the report was recommended to the Board.

Resolved That: The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Approved the appointment of a non-voting Co-optee from the Rotherham Women's Health Network (RWHN) to the Health Select Commission's membership.

2. Approved that the RWHN non-voting Co-optee seat on the Health Select Commission shall remain in place until such time as it is deemed no longer necessary or appropriate by the Commission.

39. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited the Governance Manager to introduce the Board's work programme, which included a proposed review of the Council's consultation processes. It was noted that Members had agreed at a prioritisation meeting that this topic should be included in the scrutiny work programme. The proposed scope of the review was outlined, including consideration of how consultations were planned, managed and governed, the use of consultation tools and guidance, and quality assurance arrangements.

It was noted that the review would examine how consultations were made accessible and inclusive, particularly for underrepresented groups, and how feedback was analysed, communicated and used to inform future decision-making. Councillor Steele was proposed as Chair of the review group, and all Scrutiny Commission Members would be invited to participate. The proposed scope was agreed.

The Governance Manager introduced a proposed joint scrutiny review titled "Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales". It was noted that the review had arisen from a Notice of Motion approved by Council on 15 July 2026 concerning the sale of illicit tobacco, counterfeit cigarettes, illegal vaping products and underage sales. Concerns had been raised regarding the increasing availability of such products within local communities and the impact on residents, legitimate businesses and public safety.

The proposed scope of the review, which reflected the terms of the approved motion, was outlined. It was noted that the review would be undertaken jointly by Members of OSMB, the Health Select Commission and the Improving Lives Select Commission. Given the joint nature of the review, Councillor Bacon was proposed as Chair, and a minimum of two Members from each of the three commissions would be invited to participate. The proposed scope was agreed.

The Governance Manager provided an update on the Notice of Motion titled “Stop Polluting Our Rivers and Hiking Our Bills”, which had been approved by Council on 15 July 2026. It was noted that the motion requested OSMB to invite representatives from Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent to attend a special meeting to answer questions from councillors and members of the public regarding infrastructure improvements and the reduction of sewerage discharges in Rotherham. Members were advised that invitations had been issued to both organisations, outlining the motion and requesting their availability for a future meeting.

The Chair advised that the format of the meeting had also been discussed. It was proposed that all elected Members would be invited to submit questions in advance to help shape the discussion and support the development of clear recommendations. The meeting would be open to all Members, including Cabinet Members, although responsibility for any recommendations arising from the meeting would remain with OSMB. The proposed approach was supported by members of OSMB.

An update was provided on the Children’s Takeover Challenge, noting that while the event had been scheduled for 7 October 2026, preparatory work with the Youth Cabinet on lines of enquiry and potential recommendations was still ongoing. To ensure participants were able to gain maximum value from the process, it had been proposed that the event be deferred for a short period. Members noted the revised timescales.

Councillor Yasseen raised concerns about the scrutiny prioritisation process, suggesting that motions and petitions already debated and approved by Full Council should proceed directly to the relevant scrutiny body without being subject to further prioritisation. It was argued that additional prioritisation could risk delaying or altering the intent of decisions made by Full Council.

Councillor Steele explained that the prioritisation process was intended to assess additional scrutiny topics proposed by Members and ensure resources were used effectively, rather than to prevent agreed motions from progressing. It was noted that matters referred by Full Council formed part of the scrutiny work programme and had been treated as priorities, with the lighting columns review cited as an example.

In response, Councillor Yasseen acknowledged that approved motions had so far been progressed appropriately but suggested that safeguards should remain in place to ensure such matters could not be deprioritised in future.

Councillor Steele assured Members that motions approved by Full Council would continue to be progressed through the scrutiny process in accordance with established democratic procedures and would not be prevented from being implemented.

Resolved that: the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Agreed the draft scope for the OSMB Scrutiny Review - The Council's Consultation Process and appointed Councillor Steele as Chair of the review group.

2. Agreed the draft scope for the OSMB Scrutiny Review - Protecting Children, Supporting Honest Businesses and Cracking Down on Illicit Vapes, Tobacco and Underage Sales and appointed Councillor Bacon as the Chair of the review group.

3. Noted the updates provided on the work programme.

40. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

Update from Health Select Commission:

Councillor Keenan provided an update from the Health Select Commission and advised that scoping had been completed on 26 September and highlighted that two significant topics would be progressing through the Health Select Committee. Councillor Keenan thanked the Members involved in the scoping work and Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor for their tireless efforts and support.

Update from Improving Lives Select Commission:

Councillor Monk noted that there was little to add to the report. The most recent session had focused on the devolution reform proposals, which had been submitted and were awaiting a decision. As the matter was not yet in the public domain, part of the discussion had been held in private session. This provided Members with an opportunity to ask a wide range of questions and receive assurances.

Update from Improving Places Select Commission:

Councillor McKiernan noted that the timing of meetings had created some overlap, as IPSC had met the previous week but too late for updates to be included in the current report. As a result, two meetings had taken place since the report was prepared. IPSC had considered the Local Growth Plan at one meeting, with the remaining elements due to be considered at a future meeting following a delay to the timetable. Councillor McKiernan also advised that the School Road Safety Review had been approved by IPSC and would be submitted to OSMB at a future meeting.

The Chair reminded Members that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report would be presented to Full Council the following day. Chairs were encouraged to contribute to the debate and provide any additional context or updates relating to their respective commissions.

41. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Governance Manager highlighted items on the Cabinet Forward Plan for October that may require scrutiny's consideration, including the draft Street Trading Policy and Community Governance Review recommendations for consultation.

It was noted that the Children and Young People Strategy had already been considered by the Improving Lives Select Commission, which had provided feedback to inform the final version before submission to Cabinet. The engagement session had been well received by both Members and young people, with positive feedback received on the constructive and supportive approach taken.

Members were also advised that an update on the replacement of refuse vehicles and on-street litter bin collections was scheduled for the October meeting.

The following Cabinet items expected to Cabinet in October were noted:

- Adult Care, Housing and Public Health: Extra Care Housing Model; Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement; Homelessness Prevention Grant Commissioned Services; and Place Expansion Grant Delivery Arrangements.
- Children and Young People's Services: Children and Young People Strategy.
- Corporate Services: Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation and Property Transactions.
- Regeneration and Environment: Draft Street Trading Policy and Local Plan.
- Non-Key Decisions: Business Rates Relief Applications.

It was further noted that the OSMB's review of street lighting columns was expected to be considered by Cabinet.

Councillor Jamie Baggaley sought clarification on the Community Governance Review item scheduled for Cabinet in October and asked how it differed from the review already considered by OSMB. Philip

Horsfield, Service Director - Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, explained that the report would present refined proposals arising from the initial consultation and seek Cabinet approval to undertake a further consultation on those specific proposals. In response to a question about the number of consultation stages involved, the Monitoring Officer advised that this was intended to be the final consultation exercise before the responses were considered and final recommendations were submitted to Cabinet and Full Council for approval.

The Chair suggested that the consultation process be allowed to conclude before any further scrutiny consideration was undertaken, if required.

Councillor Cameron McKiernan sought clarification on the Local Plan item listed on the Forward Plan. Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that, in line with the timetable previously approved, a report would be submitted to Cabinet seeking approval to notify the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of the Council's intention to formally commence preparation of a new Local Plan.

The Chair asked whether Councillor McKiernan wished the matter to be considered by scrutiny before its submission to Cabinet. Councillor McKiernan indicated that this was not necessary.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed that the following items would be added to the October agenda as part of OSMB’s pre-decision scrutiny work:

- Draft Street Trading Policy – Pre-decision scrutiny
- Replacement of refuse vehicles
- Public on street bin collections

42. SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that there were no updates and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee was meeting on 8 September 2027.

43. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

44. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported an item of urgent business concerning changes to the membership of the Planning Board arising from the Town and Country Planning (Size and Composition of Planning Committees) (England) Regulations 2026, which were due to come into force on 31 October 2026. Members were advised that the Council was required to amend its constitutional arrangements and recalculate committee memberships to reflect the new requirements.

It was noted that, because of the revised political balance calculations, the Labour Group's representation on the Planning Board would reduce from 13 to 12 seats, the Conservative Group's representation would reduce from three to two seats, and the number of non-aligned members would increase from one to two seats. Membership allocations on other committees would remain unchanged.

In response to a question regarding the reason for the changes affecting the Planning Board, it was explained that these arose from the application of political balance requirements and the committee structure prescribed by the new regulations. It was further noted that a report on the changes was due to be considered by Full Council.

The Chair noted that there were no further urgent business and thanked Members for their attendance before closing the meeting.