THE CABINET
12th October, 2026

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

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

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
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 Se4rvices
Sarah Clyde	Service Director of Housing
Helen Sweaton	Service Director of Commissioning and Performance
Mike Thomas	Electoral Services Manager
Alan Pogorzelec	Service Manager, Business Regulation
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

Also in attendance:

Angel Lackova	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Ashleigh Lackova	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Isaac Troop	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership
Charlotte Oram	Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions:

1. Councillor Thorp asked a question regarding the money that the Council had received from the sale of a ransom strip of land on Worrygoose Lane and whether it could be used for road safety and school road safety schemes in the Sitwell Ward. He had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, Service Director of Legal Services and Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, followed by a second meeting with the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and

Transport, and Head of Transport. It had been made clear by the Executive Director that it was not within his gift to allocate any of the £4.5 million fund. Councillor Thorp asked whether further meaningful discussions could take place regarding how much of the money could be used for the road safety projects in Sitwell, especially in light of the removal of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Scheme and associated road safety proposals.

The Leader stated that he had been and still was sympathetic to the idea that the community that had faced some challenges due to the building of houses on the ransom strip should receive some benefit from the Capital Receipt. However, the Council's Financial Procedure Rules meant that a separate decision through the budget process would be required to release some of that funding. The Leader encouraged officers to undertake work to identify what the headline numbers for the schemes could be. It would then be part of the budget-setting process to allocate funding. The Leader stated that he would expect some of the funding to be brought forward for the schemes.

Councillor Thorp stated that he did not expect to receive the full amount; he simply wanted the schemes to progress. He also referenced Cabinet's decision to remove the £3 million funding for Worrygoose Island. Councillor Thorp explained that he wanted to ensure that the matter remained under consideration.

The Leader offered assurances that it had not been forgotten. He clarified that the £3 million for Worrygoose Island had been withdrawn because it had not been possible to identify a viable scheme. In relation to future road safety schemes, the Leader hoped to share positive news in the coming months.

2. Andrew Bates asked a question in relation to Wickersley Underpass, which had been closed for 17 weeks since Christmas 2025. He explained that he had sent emails to the Transport Service and Street Pride but had received no responses. He just wanted to find out what was happening and when it would reopen but was getting no information.

   The Leader stated that this was not acceptable and he was sorry that Mr. Bates had had that experience with the Council.

   The Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment explained that it was a complex issue as the manner in which the underpass had been constructed meant that it was very susceptible to flooding. However, progress was being made, and a specialist pump was due to be installed in the coming week. The Service was also looking at longer-term solutions, which could involve a new set of pumps or potentially filling in the underpass and creating a new surface-level crossing.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Bates asked whether a spare pump could be sourced for when the current pump fails.

The Executive Director stated that the pump due to be fitted in the coming week had been sourced from mainland Europe, but the Service would look into the request.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14th September, 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

53. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Minute No. 63 (Strategic Acquisitions – Appendix 1) was exempt under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

54. EXTRA CARE HOUSING MODEL

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the feedback received from the 90 day consultation and proposed a model for the provision of Extra Care Housing in Rotherham. Extra Care Housing (ECH) was recognised nationally for providing people aged 55 years and over with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with on-site care and support services available 24 hours a day. It aimed to support older adults to sustain their independence and tenancy by offering varying levels of person-centred care and support. Rotherham had two ECH schemes, Bakers Field Court, and Potteries Court, offering 88 tenancies in total.

In April 2026, Cabinet approved a period of consultation on a proposed model for the delivery of care and support to tenants living in Extra Care Housing (ECH) schemes in Rotherham. The focus of the proposal was to ensure Adult Social Care could deliver a quality and sustainable model that met the support needs of tenants living in the Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court ECH schemes.

The preferred option outlined in the last report and subject to consultation, was for the schemes to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) so that Council-employed staff could meet tenants' personal care and support needs, focussed on ways to strengthen the existing care and support provision for tenants living in ECH. The preferred option's intention was to ensure a flexible, person-focussed approach which would improve outcomes for people whilst ensuring value for money and sustainable investment in the Council's workforce.

A Council-employed team of enablement-focused staff would meet tenants' Care Act eligible care needs with the provision modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services. This approach focussed on maximising people's independence and wellbeing. Existing tenants would retain the right to choose who they received care and support from. Whilst the Council would honour the arrangements existing tenants had in place with independent providers, should tenants choose to retain this, future new tenants would be provided with core hours from the on-site care team, whilst still maintaining choice and control over their care and support for assessed hours that exceeded this.

The findings from the consultation were consistently positive with 94% of people either supporting or strongly supporting this model. Section 4 of the report provided a detailed overview of the consultation approach and the findings.

Cabinet Members expressed their support for the proposals, stating that it would result in a better service with better value for money.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the feedback from the consultation.

2. Approve implementation of the proposed final model, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report submitted.

55. MOVING ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP - DELIVERY OF PLACE EXPANSION GRANT

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of proposed further Sport England investment for Rotherham as part of the Place Expansion Programme. It outlined key activities to be undertaken to expand opportunities for physical activity and deliver on the Moving Rotherham Partnership priorities.

In 2023, Sport England invited places across the country to apply to become Place Expansion Partners as part of its Uniting the Movement Strategy. Rotherham was successful in securing a Place Expansion Grant Development Award of £455,870. Cabinet approved acceptance and expenditure of this funding in March 2025, with delivery managed by the Council's Public Health Service on behalf of the Moving Rotherham Partnership. Following the success of the development phase, Rotherham had secured a further Sport England Place Expansion Grant Main Award totalling £1.1 million to improve physical activity and continue to increase the scale and pace of the Moving Rotherham Partnership's delivery.

Following the development phase evaluation, the Moving Rotherham Partnership developed a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Rotherham. This was developed by the Partnership to provide a clear narrative of the aims of Moving Rotherham, to set priority themes for delivery and provide a framework for a delivery plan.

The Moving Rotherham Strategy described three priority audiences that aligned with Sport England's Uniting the Movement Strategy:

- Children and young people,
- People with long-term health conditions and/or disabilities, and
- Communities where activity levels are lowest.

A delivery plan set out the funding requirements from the bid aligned to these priorities. The new proposed additional funding allocated as a Place Expansion Main Award grant was £1,145,438 until March 2028. There was also an additional £15,000 Capital grant as described in paragraph 2.17.

Cabinet Members applauded officers for their work in securing this Borough-wide investment.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the acceptance and spending of the Rotherham Sport England Grants (comprising the Main Award and Capital Grant) in line with Sport England grant conditions and as set out in section 2 of the report submitted.

56. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD SCRUTINY REVIEW - STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS

Consideration was given to the report which presented the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB)/Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Scrutiny Review into attachments to street lighting columns.

The review was commissioned following a Notice of Motion approved by Full Council in April 2026 concerning the impact of structural testing requirements on community initiatives such as hanging baskets, festive decorations, remembrance displays and CCTV installations. The review examined the balance between public safety requirements and the financial and operational impact on Parish and Town Councils. Evidence was gathered from officers, Parish Councils, survey responses and examples of practice from other authorities.

The recommendations sought to establish a clear, proportionate and transparent framework that supported community-led initiatives whilst ensuring the safety and effective management of highway assets.

In moving the report, Councillor Allen thanked OSMB and IPSC for their work and for completing a very thorough review. She welcomed the recommendations, particularly the introduction of a framework that would apply to all and the efforts to improve communication with Parish Councils. Councillor Allen explained that the response would be led by herself as Cabinet Member for Communities and Councillor Williams as Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

Councillor Steele was invited to speak to the report. He thanked officers for their work and for ensuring that the review progressed at pace. Clear information had been provided to the review group which enabled a very positive, cross-party process.

Councillor Williams thanked Scrutiny for their work on this matter. He also reiterated that there were no restrictions relating to the installation of poppies on street lighting columns. The Leader confirmed that incorrect information had been given out by the Council on this matter and he wanted to be clear on this as Remembrance Sunday approached – there were no restrictions on poppies.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet receives the recommendations listed below, as approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

    1. 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 street lighting columns, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, contractors and third parties.

    2. Approve the development and publication of a standalone, publicly accessible Street 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.

    3. 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.

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

5. Continues to co-ordinate 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.

6. Ensures arrangements are developed to support the continuation of community display schemes where street 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.

7. That the Service engages in meaningful discussions with interested parties including Parish Councils, seeking to install displays on street 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.

8. 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.

2. That Cabinet formally considers its response to the above recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. That in responding to these recommendations, it is requested that Cabinet's response should identify the proposed actions, responsible officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each recommendation.

57. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of current activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure children and young people's voices were influencing priorities, informing challenge to leaders and co-producing solutions across the partnership. In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed to develop a strategy that showed how important children and young people were in Rotherham, what was great about Rotherham from a children and young people's perspective and what the Board were going to do to make it even better.

The report outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Children's Strategy, including a needs analysis focused on things that were important to children and young people, consultation and engagement and co-production. The report sought endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy and outlined the timeline for implementation to achieve the aims identified.

Angel Lackova, Ashleigh Lackova, Isaac Troop and Charlotte Oram from the Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership spoke about their Strategy. They explained that young people felt left behind and wanted to ensure that their voice was heard. The Strategy was about levelling the playing field and creating real change. It was noted that Town Centre safety, vaping and the lack of jobs for young people were huge concerns. The young people also stressed the need for Council communications to be more relevant and age appropriate.

The Young People highlighted the priorities from the Strategy which were:

1. To continue to scrutinise the Rotherham Plan - to keep Rotherham a family friendly Borough, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board would make sure children and young people continued to influence decision making and service delivery in Rotherham, challenging and supporting adults.

2. To develop a Youth Club Curriculum - to improve the support available to children and young people attending community groups and youth clubs, CYPPB would develop a toolkit for workers to use to talk about things that were important to children and young people.

3. To create opportunities for children and young people to develop content to improve communications with children and young people - to help more children and young people know about the fun things to do in Rotherham and the work the Council and other organisations did to make it cleaner and safer, CYPPB will improve communications.

The Rotherham Children's Strategy detailed how each action would be delivered (when and what) and the impact under each aim. The Rotherham Children's Strategy was included as Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

Cabinet Members thanked Angel, Ashleigh, Isaac and Charlotte for attending the meeting and they applauded the way in which they used their voices to champion young people. Members fully supported the Strategy and looked forward to the meaningful outcomes.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the activity to date of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance, where young people set priorities, challenge leaders, and co-produce solutions alongside senior leaders across the partnership.

2. Endorse the Rotherham Children's Strategy for implementation from October 2026.

58. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the first stage consultation responses and set out draft recommendations 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 submitted to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Following approval by Cabinet on 13th April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1st May 2026 as set out in the agreed Terms of Reference (Appendix 1). An initial consultation took place between 1st May and 26th 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. The anonymised First Stage Consultation Responses were shown in Appendix 2.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report provided details of the responses received that were outside of the scope of the review.

Paragraphs 2.3 to 2.33 of the report provided a summary of the consultation responses by Parish/Town/Community Council/Meeting. Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.31 outlined the recommendations in relation to each Parish/Town/Community Council/Meeting:

Parish Council/ Meeting	Consultation Summary – Paragraph Number	Recommendation Summary – Paragraph Number
Anston	2.3	3.1
Aston-cum-Aughton	2.4	3.2
Brampton	2.5	3.4
Bramley	2.6	3.3
Brinsworth	2.7	3.5
Catcliffe	2.8	3.6
Dalton	2.9	3.7
Dinnington St John's	2.10	3.8
Firbeck	2.11	3.9
Gildingwells	2.12	3.10
Harthill-with-Woodall	2.13	3.11
Hellaby	2.14	3.12
Hooton Levitt	2.15	3.13
Hooton Roberts	2.16	3.14
Laughton-en-le-Morthen	2.17	3.15
Letwell	2.18	3.16
Maltby	2.19	3.17
Orgreave	2.20	3.18
Ravenfield	2.21	3.19
Thorpe Salvin	2.22	3.20
Thrybergh	2.23	3.21
Thurcroft	2.24	3.22
Todwick	2.25	3.23
Treeton	2.26	3.24
Ulley	2.27	3.25
Wales	2.28	3.26
Waverley	2.29	3.27
Wentworth	2.30	3.28
Whiston	2.31	3.29
Wickersley	2.32	3.30
Woodsetts	2.33	3.31

In addition to the above, three responses proposed the creation of a Parish Council within the Rawmarsh area, with one respondent suggesting that two Parish Councils could be established. However, no consistent proposal was put forward regarding the geographical extent or boundaries of any new parish area. Based on the proposals submitted,

the area under consideration would encompass an electorate of approximately 13,700.

Four responses proposed the creation of a Parish Council within the Wath upon Dearne area. However, the proposals varied considerably in terms of the geographical area that any new parish would cover, resulting in estimated electorates ranging from approximately 6,700 to 11,500.

Given the scale of the proposals, the differing views regarding the geographical extent of any new Parish areas, and the relatively limited level of support demonstrated through the consultation, the responses received did not provide sufficient evidence of community support to justify undertaking further consultation on the creation of a new Parish Council in either Rawmarsh or Wath upon Dearne as part of this review. Therefore, it was recommended that no further consideration be given to those proposals at this stage.

Subject to Cabinet approval, consultation on the draft recommendations would commence on 26th October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the duration of the consultation period would be 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 by the Officer Working Group 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.

During the meeting it was confirmed that other representations, outside of the ones already covered in the report, would still be considered when formulating final recommendations. It was also agreed that the Electoral Services Manager would attend a Parish Councils Joint Working Group meeting to discuss the next steps of the Community Governance Review process.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the retention of the existing community governance arrangements for the following Parish, Town and Community Councils and Parish Meeting, and agrees that no further consultation is required. These arrangements will therefore be carried forward to the Final Recommendations Report:

a) Anston Parish Council
b) Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
c) Catcliffe Parish Council
d) Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council
e) Hellaby Parish Council
f) Maltby Town Council
g) Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
h) Todwick Parish Council
i) Treeton Parish Council
j) Ulley Parish Council

2. Approves consultation with the affected Parish Councils and their electors to seek views on the revision of the number of council seats as outlined below:

   a) Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council: An increase of three Council seats from 15 to 18
   b) Bramley Parish Council: An increase of one seat from 13 to 14
   c) Brinsworth Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 11 to 14
   d) Ravenfield Parish Council: An increase of two seats from 7 to 9
   e) Thrybergh Parish Council: A decrease of four seats from 15 to 11
   f) Thurcroft Parish Council: A decrease of five seats from 18 to 13
   g) Wales Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 15 to 13
   h) Waverley Community Council: An increase of five seats from 7 to 12
   i) Whiston Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 9 to 12
   j) Wickersley Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 16 to 14
   k) Woodsetts Parish Council: A decrease of one seat from 9 to 8.

3. Approves consultation with electors at Nos. 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils to seek views on the transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

4. Approves consultation with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current Parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered.

5. Approves consultation with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

6. Approves consultation with Dalton Parish Council and its electors to inform consideration of whether Dalton Parish Council should be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council and the Parish Wards renamed to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton Ward, and Brecks Ward.

7. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Penny Hill area, together with Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the properties within the Penny Hill area should remain within the Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council or be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

8. Approves consultation with electors within the Gildingwells Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:

   - Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
   - Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Letwell Parish Council;
   - Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Woodsetts Parish Council; and
   - Abolishing Gildingwells Parish Meeting

   In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Letwell Parish Council and Woodsetts Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

9. Approves consultation with electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:

   a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
   b) Merging Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council;
   c) Abolishing Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

   In addition, it is proposed that consultation is undertaken with Laughton-en-le Morthen Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

10. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Firsby area and within the Hooton Roberts Parish area, together with Ravenfield Parish Council, to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting to Ravenfield Parish Council, or to retain the existing parish boundary arrangements.

11. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council and Thurcroft Parish Council, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish

Council to Laughton-en-le Morthen Parish Council, or the retention of the existing Parish boundary arrangements.

12. Approves consultation with the electors of Nos. 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

13. Approves consultation with Wentworth Parish Council and Parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward, to seek their views on changing the name of Harley Ward to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

14. Approves the commencement of a twelve-week public consultation on the draft recommendations set out in Recommendations 2-13 of this report.

15. Notes that a final recommendations report will be brought forward following the consultation on the draft recommendations. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend their adoption by Council in Spring 2027.

59. THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF TENANT ENGAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report which presented the proposals to introduce a hybrid model for tenant engagement. The Council had outsourced a large proportion of its tenant engagement activity for Housing Services for many years. The initial term of the current contract was due to expire in March 2027. The report proposed an approach to build on the strong foundation of tenant engagement in the Borough through a more agile model which better met the diverse needs of tenants, the requirements of the new housing regulations, and the need to respond swiftly to the changing regulatory environment, as required.

Rotherham Council had a strong history of effective engagement with its tenants and residents and had worked with a local provider, RotherFed, to successfully deliver engagement activity across the Borough for approximately 17 years. The current contract's initial term was due to expire in March 2027. However, since the contract was last procured in 2023, there had been significant changes across the sector which focused on housing providers demonstrating how tenant feedback was heard, acted upon, and influenced decision making within Policy, service design and delivery and that the landlord must have a direct relationship with its tenant panels and groups. New expectations around this were set out in the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards.

Whilst the current contract had performed well, there were some limitations which had prevented the Council and RotherFed from having the flexibility needed to respond to the sector's changing requirements. These included data protection issues which reduced the current contract

provider's ability to carry out targeted engagement, and difficulties for the Council in evidencing clear outcomes due to an indirect relationship with tenants. It had also been challenging to provide clear evidence of how tenant views and feedback were used to shape and improve services.

Four options had been considered as part of the options appraisal, as detailed in Section 3 of the report:

a) Re-procure and outsource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service externally via a full tender process from April 2027.
b) Introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.
c) Fully insource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service from April 2027.
d) Extend the current contract for 12 months.

Option B (Hybrid Model) was the preferred option. This approach would bring most tenant engagement activity directly into Housing Services, strengthening accountability, oversight, visibility and alignment with the Tenant Engagement Framework, while retaining an externally delivered tenant scrutiny function to provide independence, specialist expertise and confidence in the rigour of scrutiny activity. This model provided the strongest overall response to the issues identified through the appraisal and offered the best balance between tenant confidence, regulatory assurance, service integration and deliverability.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the proposal to introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.

2. Approve the proposal to procure an external provider to manage and deliver a tenant scrutiny function.

60. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT - COMMISSIONED SERVICES

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals for the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, to provide accommodation with support, for people who were at risk of rough sleeping. The Government's National Plan to End Homelessness was published in December 2025 and aimed to make homelessness 'rare, brief and non-recurring'. As such it had provided a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (HRSDAG) to local authorities to help prevent homelessness, reduce rough sleeping, and support people at risk of losing their homes through local housing and support services.

The Council's Housing Strategy, agreed in 2025, and the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleep Strategy, agreed in 2026, shared these aims.

Rough sleeping continued to be prevalent in Rotherham. In 2025/26, 688 reports of rough sleeping were received, with 256 verified instances recorded. These verified instances did not equate to 256 unique individuals, as some people were reported multiple times while being supported over several months. During the same period, the Council's Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Team supported 104 single people and 8 couples, including individuals who engaged with the Service on more than one occasion (again accounting for duplicate instances).

The Strategic Commissioning team had worked alongside Housing officers to undertake an analysis of need and demand, to formulate recommendations for the commissioned provision, including all commissioned provision funded under the grant. Those recommendations were:

- That the Rough Sleeper Initiative Accommodation Hub (RSI Hub) be recommissioned. Details on the RSI Hub were provided in paragraph 2.4 of the report. Feedback from stakeholders suggested that the size of the current provision was both manageable in terms of risks and complexity of residents and was meeting demand. The current contract value was £171,000 per annum; however, this had not been uplifted throughout the contract term (as dependent on a specific ring fenced grant) and there had been increased costs associated with the delivery of the Service. It was recommended,, therefore that this Service was procured with an increased budget of £200,000 per annum, funded from the HRSDAG. Whilst a maximum number of units would be set to enable the provider to manage risks associated, the exact number of units and contract value would be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms would enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI.

- To re-commission the Single Dispersed Supported Accommodation and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme as a combined service. The accommodation would be dispersed across the Borough with visiting support from the provider that could be flexible according to need, but with at least one visit per week. This Service would be made more flexible to enable access for people within the rough sleeping cohort as well as single homeless people. This would relieve pressure on the current RSI accommodation hub, acting as a step down provision from the intensive onsite support. This provision was currently £230,854 per annum, £205,854 allocated through the HRSDAG. It was recommended that this Service be procured with a budget of £231,000 per annum, with an anticipation of approximately fifty units dispersed across the Borough in locations agreed by the Council during the tender process. The exact number of units and

contract value would be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms would enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI. Further details on these two schemes were set out in paragraph 2.5 and 2.6 of the report.

- To procure a Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for Women. Operating in a similar way to the RSI Accommodation Hub for males, it was recommended that a 'women only' hub be established and procured with an annual budget of £208,000. Feedback from the market and key stakeholders suggested that this provision should be for approximately 5 units with a focus on trauma stabilisation. The Council would work with the successful provider to identify the right type and location, incorporating the views of women who had experienced homelessness, with the final decision being made by the Council as part of the procurement process.

A full breakdown of the budget allocations for each project was set out in paragraph 3.1.14.

Cabinet Members were pleased to support all of the recommendations, particularly the proposal to aimed at helping vulnerable women. The Leader welcomed the Government funding and thanked the Housing Service for the incredible work they did helping to prevent homelessness.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the proposals to:

1. Re-procure the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

2. Re-procure dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

3. Procure an Accommodation Hub specifically for women for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend up to a further 2 years.

61. DRAFT STREET TRADING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which introduced the Draft Street Trading Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report. It proposed a regulatory approach to street trading that would see the control, and promotion, of street trading achieved through the use of consents issued by the Council in accordance with a Street Trading Policy. Street traders were currently able to operate with minimal regulation and without appropriate consideration of the consequences of their activities on other local businesses (particularly those that trade from retail premises). In addition, the absence of a clear framework meant that the way that street

traders operated currently was not transparent, equitable or fair. In addition, the introduction of a street trading framework would allow well managed traders to develop and flourish, further supporting business growth and employment opportunities.

In order to introduce the framework, the Council had to first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The adoption of this legislation, together with the introduction of a clear Street Trading Policy, would provide the Council with the framework to ensure that street trading was controlled, fair, appropriate and contributed to business growth throughout the Borough.

Cabinet was asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation in relation to the adoption of Schedule 4 and approve a draft Street Trading Policy which would be consulted on at the same time. The Street Trading Policy would allow the Council to ensure that trading took place in an appropriate manner and without adverse impact on the local community (for example by minimising nuisance and regulating the number and location of traders within an area). The Policy would also allow the Council to set out conditions and expectations that would apply to street traders, such as:

- the safety and suitability of trading units
- the standard of hygiene for traders selling food items
- waste disposal
- trading times and limitations on trading in certain areas
- background checks on traders.

The consultation would commence by the end of November 2026 and continue for an eight week period. A further report would be presented to Cabinet early in 2027 outlining the outcome of the consultation and making a final recommendation regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

During the meeting, the Cabinet Member confirmed that a number of amendments had been made to the Policy following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting held in July 2026. Clearer definitions had been provided and the rationale for why this Policy was required had been explained better. The report had since been re-considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining the final recommendations regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

62. LOCAL PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. Government planning reforms introduced through the Regulations came into force on 25th March 2026. The Regulations required local planning authorities to prepare a new style Local Plan through a prescribed process including gateway assessments, statutory consultation stages and adoption within a 30 month plan making period, following an initial four month commencement phase.

Government guidance and the Regulations stated that the Local Planning Authority was required to submit and publish a 'Notice of Intention to Commence' (Regulation 19), submit and publish a Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 4 and 5) that would replace the Council's current Local Development Scheme, and undertake a scoping consultation (Regulation 20). These tasks had to be completed prior to the submission of a Gateway 1 self-assessment to the Planning Inspectorate. Subject to the successful outcome of the Gateway 1, the Council could proceed to the prescribed 30 month plan making process.

The Council had to commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan and establish suitable governance arrangements to ensure delivery within the required timescales. The report sought approval of the Local Plan Timetable, attached at Appendix 1, establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group, the Terms of Reference for which were attached at Appendix 2, as well as delegated authority arrangements for procedural matters required throughout the Local Plan process to ensure that the Council could respond as necessary to the new streamlined plan making system.

Following a request from Councillor Allen during the meeting, it was confirmed that a Parish Council representative would be included on the membership for the Local Plan Steering Group and the Terms of Reference updated to reflect this.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

2. Approve the publication of the Local Plan Timetable attached at Appendix 1 and note that it supersedes the current Local Development Scheme timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

3. Approve the publication of the formal 'Notice of Intention to Commence' by 30th October 2026, at the latest, in line with Regulation 19.

4. Approve the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 2, including the addition of a Parish Council representative to the Membership.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy:

    - to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable during plan preparation;
    - to approve, publish and submit all documents required for the statutory Scoping Stage (Regulation 20);
    - to approve publication and submission of documents required for Gateway 1 (Regulation 21); and
    - to approve the content and commencement of consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23).

6. Agree that Planning Board and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout plan preparation.

7. Agree to receive a further report as the Local Plan progresses towards plan content and evidence consultation (Regulation 23(1)(a)) and seeking approvals for subsequent stages - Gateways 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).

63. STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS

Consideration was given to the report which sought authorisation to acquire a property in Rotherham Town Centre for the purposes of future regeneration. An opportunity had arisen to acquire a key property within

the Don Valley Corridor. The property proposed for acquisition had been the subject of previous masterplan and feasibility work, demonstrating the strategic value of the property for regeneration purposes. The property details, the estimated value and associated costs were set out in Appendix 1 (exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act).

Acquisition would enable the Council to secure control of the property while future development options were assessed. Those options could include refurbishment, redevelopment, reuse in conjunction with adjoining Council interests, or incorporation within a wider regeneration proposal.

The property was vacant and understood to require significant investment. Acquisition would therefore expose the Council to immediate holding, security, insurance, compliance and maintenance costs pending agreement and funding of any future use. The financial assessment at Appendix 1 included provision for the identified acquisition costs and an initial assessment of the potential property liabilities. Exempt Appendix 1 set out the proposed acquisition limit and made provision for associated purchase costs and essential initial property-management measures.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the acquisition of the property identified in Appendix 1 of the report submitted for future regeneration purposes.

2. Approve the use of the Capital Contingency Fund for the acquisition and associated costs, up to the maximum total financial limit set out in exempt Appendix 1.

3. Delegate authority to the Service Director for Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree the acquisition terms and complete the acquisition within the due-diligence requirements and financial limits contained in Appendix 1.

(Appendix 1 was exempt under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

64. 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.

65. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 16th November 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.