

New Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Procurement of new HR System	Capital Expenditure	0.000	0.000	£0.500	£1.00	£1.500
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Assistant Chief Executive's	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.000	0.000	£0.500	£1.000	£1.500
Project Description						
Replacement of the HR Payroll and information system (HRIS), currently iTrent, which will be subject to full retender. Soft market testing has not been initiated and therefore costs are indicative and will be revised over the coming 2-year period.						
Outputs and Outcomes						
Procure a HR system to ensure the council continues to act in accordance with its statutory obligations with regards to paying and contracting employees.						
Financial Implications						
Financial implications are based on current system costs and includes an uplift to account for inflation in accordance with Bank of England projections. At present time the HR system is a shared cost between RMBC and CDC. Negotiations will be initiated to understand if this shared service agreement will continue that will affect costings.						
Risks						
Failure to procure and successfully implement a new HRIS will result in significant manual processes and the requirement to exponentially increase the number of officers employed by the HR Service to comply with our statutory obligations of payment for hours worked.						

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
In House Residential Complex Needs Provision	Capital Expenditure	0.756	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.756
Directorate	DfE Capital grant funding (amount to be match-funded by the LA)	0.378	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.378
CYPS	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.378	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.378
Project Description						
<p>The in-house residential programme forms part of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in October 2022. The Strategy was developed in line with the duty to provide or procure placements for Looked After Children (LAC) by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The proposed project would be part of the latest round of the CYPS in house residential programme. This builds on the previous phases of development which has seen 5 children's homes open with a current in house of capacity of 11 beds. An update report on the Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy was received by Cabinet in November 2024.</p> <p>In October 2024 the Department for Education launched the latest round of capital funding via the Open Childrens Home programme, the scheme provides capital funding to Local Authorities wishing to develop their own in-house residential provision. Rotherham have previously been successful with funding under previous rounds; this has provided match funding for two properties, one of which is currently awaiting registration with the other being a new build property which is scheduled to be completed in Quarter 4.</p> <p>The latest round of Department for Education funding is providing an opportunity for Local Authorities to apply for matching funding to develop homes specifically for Young People with Complex Needs, including those who have suffered significant trauma. The deadline for applications is February 2024 with the DfE expecting successful projects to be notified in May 2025.</p> <p>The CYPS Transformation Team are currently completing a needs analysis and feasibility both from a capital and service delivery perspective with the intention of seeking approval to submit an application via the Council's Grants Approval Process. This would be subject to the following next steps and activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the needs analysis from the Project Team. • Completion of the Grants approval process. • Integrated Care Board (ICB) confirmation of support. • Identification of suitable property for the provision including identification of required level of adaptation to meet the needs of young people in line with the application criteria. 						

- Successful application to the Department for Education.

Outputs and Outcomes

The project will provide a 1 bed residential provision as part of the in-house residential programme. The project if approved to progress and delivered successfully will meet a gap within the existing residential portfolio and provide an available home for a young person with complex needs. The additional capital investment will ensure that the home is fitted out appropriately to both Ofsted standards but also with the additionality to meet the needs of young people with complex needs.

The initial needs analysis has shown a shortage of this sort of provision locally, either in house or via the private sector. As such placements of this nature are often at greater distance, at a higher unit cost rate and do not always achieve stronger outcomes when compared to provision that can be created locally.

The project requires formal support from the Integrated Care Board, this will help improve the wraparound support offer for the home and support it being able to meet the needs of young people as outlined in the Department for Education grant guidance.

Financial Implications

The requested corporate investment of £378k could be match funded by the Department for Education subject to an application being made by CYPS and this being successful. The costs identified are based on a tender return from a current in-house scheme with additional funds to cover a higher level of fit out to meet the needs of young people who will access the provision. The level of fit out is consistent with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.

If the scheme is successfully implemented, revenue savings would be achieved when compared to an out of borough placement in the private sector. A significant complex need placement in the private or independent sector could cost between £12,000 to £17,000 per week (net of any health / education contribution). The annual payback period on the capital investment is less than 1.5 years at the lower end of costs.

Risks

- There is a risk that the application to the Department for Education is unsuccessful.
- There is a risk that a suitable property is not able to be located particularly one where the required level of fit out is necessary to meet both service and Ofsted requirements.

- There is a risk of unknown costs or an increase in costs that are discovered during the feasibility and needs analysis process.

All risks associated with the project will be monitored through established governance arrangements via the Looked After Children Sufficiency Board and CYPS Transformation Board.

New Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Procurement of new Education System	Expenditure	1.140	0.645	0.000	0.000	1.785
Directorate	Grant funding / contributions	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CYPS	Net (Corporate Resources)	1.140	0.645	0.000	0.000	1.785
Project Description						
<p>The Council's Children's and Young People Services (CYPS) directorate currently use the incumbent provider's system as a central database to hold demographic, school and service provision data for all children enrolled in Rotherham Schools and supports various Council services including education, inclusion, and transport. The Education services using the education system fulfil statutory functions for the Council as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Education ensure statutory responsibility is met ensuring that every Rotherham child who needs one has access to a school place. The service support the planning and allocation of school places and the Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusion teams ensure that responsibilities in relation to Children Missing Education are fulfilled. The Child Employment team ensure that statutory duties are met in relation to their specific area of work. • The School Attendance Matters Pathway (SAMP) is Rotherham's structured and consistent pathway for enforcement action where this is needed for poor school attendance. The SAMP is the local welfare-based pathway which meets the Local Authorities statutory duty of enforcement action for poor school attendance under the provision of the Education Act 1996. • Education Health and Care Planning Team has a statutory role within the Local Authority. Its purpose is to co-ordinate statutory processes under The Children & Families Act 2014 and The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015, to coordinate statutory assessment and maintains Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for children and young people aged 0 – 25; arrange placements and SEN provision including personalised budgets cited in EHC Plans; monitors and reviews specialist placements both inside and outside of the Local Authority; ensures statutory annual reviews take place. • The Virtual Headteacher meets the statutory duties under the Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children 2018, including ensuring that arrangements are in place, monitored and evaluated to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of the authority's looked-after children, including those placed out-of-authority; ensure effective systems are in place to maintain an up-to-date roll of its looked-after children in school or college settings, and gather information about their education placement, attendance and educational progress and ensure up-to-date, effective and high quality Personal Education Plans (PEP) that focus on educational outcomes, and that all looked-after children, wherever they are placed, have such a Personal Education Plan. 						

- The Transport Service has a statutory obligation under the Council's home to school transport policy to transport children & young people meeting eligibility criteria to educational providers and other establishments as necessary.

The current education system supports delivery of functions under these duties and responsibilities by effectively tracking children through the school admissions system, in and out of placements and ensuring that no child is lost from statutory process.

Systems support the Local Authority discharge of statutory duty in relation to Children Missing Education but any additional functionality that could be offered in this respect or for Elective Home Education and Child Employment would be welcomed and would strengthen lines of assurance.

The current education system provides attendance data from schools to the service supporting the school attendance matters pathway; however, enforcement action is not recorded on any of the CYPS systems at this time.

To support statutory SEND processes the incumbent provider provides a basic case management system to input basic information to inform involvements of services and data systems and reporting on statutory processes. For Education Health and Care Planning this has to be supplemented with an additional digital platform supporting engagement, contributions, and collaboration on EHC assessments, new referrals, plans and reviews including consultation with settings. It offers complete transparency for families, professionals and education settings as information is visible to those working with the child. The Hub supports the statutory timeframes for EHCP processes as well as reporting (e.g. caseloads, settings).

The current ePEP system supports the Virtual Headteacher in tracking and monitoring of attendance, exclusions, part time timetables, attainment and progress of our children in and out of authority. Virtual school also access Social Care systems (Liquid Logic) to support ensuring sharing of information and to tracking and monitoring for the extended role around children with a social worker. Virtual School updates school placement details on the education management system.

The Transport Service requires a database and data logging system which links to various other departments & agencies. The requirement to route optimisation as part of this database will ensure efficiency, functionality which is not currently available.

The data is updated on a regular basis by data held in individual schools, management information systems. **The current 4-year contract with the incumbent provider ends on 31 March 2025.**

For the last 12 months, following a change in the systematic transfer of data between schools and the incumbent provider there have been significant issues with the electronic transfer of pupil data. This has resulted in poor data quality and an insurmountable increase in data conflicts, which presents risks to the council including impacting sufficiency planning, damage to Council reputation and could result in safeguarding issues if inaccurate pupil information is held. Significant resource and challenge from ICT, Commissioning, Education and Performance has not resulted in an improved situation.

In preparation for the end of the current 4-year contract a stakeholder engagement exercise was completed to inform re-procurement planning. The stakeholder engagement identified opportunities for a more favourable case management system for education and inclusion services. Alternative systems are favourable due to ease of use and functionality in addition to the benefits to aligning the case management system for Education and Inclusion and Home to School Transport to the case management for Children's Early Help Family Support, Children's Social Care and Adults Social Care.

The case management system (including third party payment system) will be re-procured with a contract to 31st March 2035. Work has been completed to identify all available routes to market capable of delivering the solution.

A dedicated project team will be required (for 18 months) to implement the new system from June 2025, including the smooth transfer and data migration from the incumbent system.

Capital investment is required to cover the one-off implementation costs of the new Education Case Management System, as well as the capitalisation cost of the proposed project implementation team.

Outputs and Outcomes

The procurement and implementation of a new system will complement the existing Childrens and Adults Social Care and Early Help Case Management Systems (LCS/LAS/EHM) and will start to bring together children and young people's data that currently sits across different systems.

This improved system functionality will improve operational activity to meet the statutory responsibilities associated with Access to Education, Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusion, Child Employment, School Attendance Education Health, and Care Planning, The Virtual Headteacher and Home to School Transport.

Migration of all education data (including pupil data via electronic transfer from schools) will result in a significant improvement in data quality and will reduce safeguarding and reputational risks. This will improve efficiency and accuracy in the production of statutory returns.

In order to ensure the smooth transfer between suppliers, a dedicated project team will be required.

Financial Implications

The following summarise the expected capital cost of implementing a new education Case Management System:

	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Total
System Implementation costs	352,319	-	352,319
Project Implementation team costs	787,860	644,791	1,432,651
TOTAL	1,140,179	644,791	1,784,970

(1) System implementation costs

The one-off system implementation costs (in the first year) is estimated at £352,319, comprised of core system costs (£118,800) and costs of implementing the various modules / portals (e.g. early years, admissions & appeals, virtual school, EHC plan, etc) as required (£233,519). It should be noted that the overall costs depends on the number of modules agreed for implementation. The cost estimates are based on direct award via the YPO framework as quoted on 30/06/2024 and on a single implementation and go live. It should be noted that any changes to the modules or portals required would impact on the overall estimated cost.

(2) Project implementation team costs

A dedicated project team will be required (for 18 months) to implement the new system from April 2025, including the smooth transfer and data migration from the existing system. Advice has been sought from potential suppliers on the level of project implementation capacity expected of the council to ensure a successful implementation and migration from the existing system. It is expected to require around £1,432,651 of project team costs across the delivery phase.

Revenue Implications

Annual IT licence and maintenance costs would be incurred by the council and payable to the system supplier for operating the system. The annual cost of a new system compared to existing cost of the incumbent system – based on a like for like comparison of the core system and associated modules / portals is expected to see a £40k additional revenue costs that will be covered within CYPS revenue budgets.

Risks

Implementation of a new case management system would be a significant transformation project. Delays to procurement and/ or implementation would pose significant risks to the Council's compliance with procurement legislation and the ability of Council services to deliver statutory duties and/ or responsibilities associated with Early Years & Child Care, Children's Centres, Early Help for children Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)/ Youth Justice, Education and Inclusion, Home to School Transport, Children's Early Help Family Support, Children's Social Care and Adults Social Care.

Poorly resourced implementations can often fail and incur additional expense later down the line, in addition there is a risk that this may

have an impact on reputation and the outcome of an inspection.

Alignment and connectivity with functionality currently provided by smaller bespoke systems (in addition to the three main suppliers and systems) needs to be considered to ensure that functionality is not lost.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Bassingthorpe Farm	Capital Expenditure	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.250
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration & Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.250
Project Description						
<p>Bassingthorpe Farm was allocated as a key strategic site for development in 2014 and sits to the north of the Borough, in close proximity to the proposed mainline station and town centre. The site is in multiple ownerships with the Council owning only 25%. However, funding is required to undertake viability assessments, infrastructure and site investigations and develop a collaborative landowner agreement.</p> <p>The strategic location of the site, its ability to support the town centre, deliver new communities with desirable homes and good local amenities, as well as support the new proposed mainline station leads to the need for public sector intervention and direction, therefore a funding contribution is required to ensure the Regeneration team can develop the project to delivery.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
Between 1,750 and 2,500 new housing units.						
Financial Implications						
<p>The long-term financial implications of moving the site into delivery are as yet unknown as the delivery vehicle is still to be determined and negotiated, however the long-term economic benefits to the Borough are significant.</p> <p>Capital is required to drive forward negotiations and bring the site to delivery – MHCLG funding is being sought in parallel to Council capital, however without this initial funding the scheme will not progress. Capital is required to secure the necessary specialist legal and commercial advisors to advise the Council on a complex transaction between landowners and subsequently a private sector delivery partner. Technical work to inform any assessment of scheme viability and the structure of any negotiations and land transaction, together with some land acquisition to assemble the site are also requirements of this investment. There is also a requirement to resource the project within the Council with a project manager and resource from a range of support services including Estates, Legal and Finance. Currently, there is a capital allocation of £328,993 but this will be insufficient to progress the project now momentum has been re-established with the majority landowner.</p>						

Risks
<p>Without adequate funding and the Council driving forward the delivery of the site the land will remain undeveloped, or developed with a lower quality product, thus failing to deliver further economic growth in the Borough.</p>
<p>Delivery is reliant upon the agreement of the majority landowners. Public intervention is required to ensure this happens and development of the project will be closely managed to manage the Council's expenditure exposure.</p>

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Business Centre Upgrades	Capital Expenditure	0.577	0.322	0.000	0.000	0.899
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
R&E	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.577	0.322	0.000	0.000	0.899
Project Description						
<p>Rotherham Investment and Development Office manage a network of five purpose-built incubation facilities to support the creation and growth of new businesses and jobs in Rotherham. The centres offer over 250 small offices, workshops and lab spaces for rent to start-up, early stage and small businesses and are highly successful.</p> <p>The centres are designed to be financially sustainable in the long term, generating an annual revenue surplus for the Council, but ageing building stock requires continued investment to maintain facilities to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose to meet the needs of private sector occupants and achieve economic impact. Rental fees are at the high end of the Rotherham property market and this creates an expectation from paying occupants for RMBC to maintain the buildings to a high standard and in a timely manner.</p> <p>This proposal outlines key essential works required for compliance, health and safety and strategic essential refurbishment.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
The priority outcome is to ensure the continued sustainability and economic impact from these purpose-built incubation centres where it is essential to maintain a high-quality offer for private sector occupants and ensure compliance with regulations.						
Project	Description					
Matrix @ Dinnington Business Centre biomass store decommissioning	Matrix Business Centre has a disused biomass heating system that hasn't been used for 14 years due to economic and reliability issues. This includes a biomass pit that is flooded with stagnant black standing water that extends into the plant room. This project is to remove equipment, fill in and make safe the pit, reinstating the plant room floor to remove the contaminated water.					

<p>CFL lighting replacement with LEDs</p>	<p>Project to renew lighting with LEDs in various areas within the business centres that still use fluorescent lighting, where fixtures have reached end of life and are obsolete, including emergency lighting. This includes some communal areas where the Council will see budget savings in energy and maintenance, but the majority are in offices and workshops rented to businesses that will in turn receive the benefit from reduced electricity usage costs, and provide improved lighting levels, some of which are below required standards due to ageing fixtures. This investment will decrease maintenance / caretaking pressure and ensure workspace lighting is compliant with regulations.</p> <p>Matrix @ Dinnington Business Centre - communal areas, offices, workshops Fusion @ Matrix Business Centre - communal toilet facilities, offices, workshops Century Business Centre – workshops</p>
<p>Century Business Centre toilet block refurbishment</p>	<p>25-year-old toilet facilities at Century Business Centre need complete refurbishment across the building, including 4 blocks. This project has been scheduled after completion of the roofing works due to ongoing water ingress damage.</p> <p>Following the opening of Century 2 Business Centre, this work is required to bring Century Business Centre up to the standards expected by occupant businesses to ensure it continues to be a thriving business community.</p>
<p>Century Business Centre boiler replacement</p>	<p>Century Business Centre relies on 25-year-old obsolete boilers, where maintenance engineers have reported that key parts are no longer possible to source (ignition assemblies etc.). In the event of an irreparable breakdown, a like-for-like replacement boiler no longer exists for direct replacement, risking prolonged repairs and major operational problems for the service and occupant businesses, along with potentially high reactive maintenance costs. Failure of the heating system would cause serious disruption to onsite businesses and create health and safety risks.</p> <p>In the long term, addition of an air source heating system has been proposed as viable for the office areas, as specified in an unsuccessful Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) bid in 2024. The earliest this bid may be resubmitted is 2026-27 but does not include workshop areas with roller shutters (due to incompatible heat losses), so the building will fully or partially rely on gas heating for the foreseeable future. As such, replacement boilers would still be required in the longer term, albeit operating at less capacity with redundancy.</p> <p>A challenge has been highlighted by the Energy Team that investing in replacement boilers for the short term may affect the ability to secure funding to decarbonise the building. However, operating a facility with 40+ businesses on site with heating that cannot be maintained is a significant risk to the service.</p> <p>It is noted that the new Century 2 Business Centre was designed with low carbon air source heating in for office and communal areas but still utilises a pair of gas boilers for heating workshops similar to the proposed solution at Century Business Centre due to the heating losses associated with light industrial workshop units.</p>

Firestopping works at Matrix, Fusion and Century	Fire stopping at Matrix Business Centre was recently identified during maintenance works as missing in one area. A compartmentation survey was then commissioned for the whole facility that highlighted remedial actions. Fusion and Century are also identified as requiring work on fire stopping, and surveys will be undertaken to establish the level of work required to meet fire safety and insurance standards. The value is a ballpark estimated budget cost for remedial work, to be confirmed in consultation with surveyors in Asset Management to establish a more accurate budget cost and evaluate priorities in line with building fire strategies. Ensuring the integrity of fire compartmentation is a priority for compliance with fire regulations, and in case of fire minimise risk to life and slow spread of fire to protect the premises.
Budget for routine capital spend	On an annual basis the Business Centres undertake a variety of essential reactive and planned maintenance work. This funding is to be utilised for small renewal projects across all 5 Business Centres and for essential maintenance projects.
Century electric gate	This project will install an electric gate to bring Century up to the standard of the adjacent new Century 2 Business Centre for increased security out of hours and assist in maintaining the centre as an attractive, secure place to locate a business. The centre currently relies on the last occupant to leave shutting and locking the manual gate, but this is inconsistent, and has regularly been requested by occupant businesses.

Financial Implications

Project	Budget estimate	2025-26	2026-27	Total
Matrix @ Dinnington Business Centre biomass store decommissioning	Estimate £23,245.61 inclusive of 15% fees Jun 2024. Budget ask is incremented to include 10% contingency and 5% inflation.	£ 26,849		£ 26,849
CFL lighting replacement with LEDs	Estimate £114,166.25 inclusive of fees and 10% contingency Oct 2024. Incremented 5% for inflation.	£ 119,875		£ 119,875
Century Business Centre toilet block refurbishment	Estimate £259,000 inclusive of 15% fees, Oct 2024. 5% increment for inflation to push into 26-27 year.		£ 272,048	£ 272,048
Century Business Centre boiler replacement	Budget estimate £80k including fees, contingency and legals from Russell Phillips, based on the outturn of a recent similar project.	£ 80,000		£ 80,000

Firestopping works at Matrix, Fusion and Century	Survey undertaken at Matrix, guide estimate for remedial works £70k. Budget estimate ballpark including Century and Fusion, pending accurate forecasts.	£ 250,000		£ 250,000
Budget for routine capital spend	Based on previous year end spend with provision for additional small renewal projects.	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	£ 100,000
Century electric gate	Estimate at current prices £40k + fees and contingency.	£ 50,000		£ 50,000
	Total:	£ 576,723	£ 322,048	£ 898,771

Risks

If this work is not completed and the buildings are allowed to deteriorate, the following outlines a number of risks:

- Compliance with regulations, e.g. health and safety, fire, standing water, lighting levels.
- Loss of current occupants and the inability to attract future occupants.
- Reduced licence fee revenues through reduced numbers and decreased perceived value (the Council charges premium rents for a high-quality property offer).
- Increasingly expensive maintenance.
- Risk to the long-term sustainability of the service and delivery of RMBC corporate priorities to create new businesses and jobs.
- Moorgate Crofts is the flagship office building for the Town Centre and degradation would lead to fewer businesses locating in the area
- Loss of reputation for the Business Centres, RiDO and RMBC.
- Occupants demanding compensation for services that fail for prolonged periods.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Catcliffe Village (River Rother) Flood Alleviation Scheme	Capital Expenditure	0.350	0.500	1.150	4.000	6.000
Drainage Team	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.350	0.500	1.150	4.000	6.000
Project Brief						
<p>Following the flooding in October 2023 (Storm Babet), Catcliffe suffered severe flooding from the River Rother. As part of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) duties a Section 19 flood investigation was carried out by the Council. Contained in the Section 19 report were “Catcliffe and Treeton next steps” which identified three options the Council could investigate to help reduce the risk of future flooding in this area.</p> <p>Whilst flood risk management of main rivers is the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA), the Council recognises the devastation and hardship experienced by residents affected by flooding and has engaged its staff in evaluating these three options. Following the initial evaluation, there is a key area of focus emerging for the Council in relation to seeking to alter the existing bridge on Treeton Lane to improve the flow path of the River Rother, which this bid therefore focusses on. Whilst this bid is specifically in relation to the bridge, work will continue in relation to the development of upstream storage of storm water through working with the Environment Agency and neighbouring local authorities, alongside further consideration of any change to the Environment Agency’s existing flood defences in the area provided by the flood wall.</p> <p>Bridge alteration evaluation – Initial hydraulic modelling shows that a reduction in the thickness of the existing bridge deck at Treeton Lane can improve conveyance in the River Rother. This would result in removing the existing bridge and replacing it with a new one built to modern design standards, allowing a greater distance between the bridge deck and the river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs are estimated to be around £6m. Delivery of the scheme, if approved through all appropriate stages, would take around 3 to 5 years. The initial modelling shows that a thinner bridge deck - allowing a greater flow of water beneath it - increases the standard of protection of the current flood defence wall from 1 in 75 to greater than 1 in 100. However, further modelling is required to determine the exact increase in benefit. In addition, more detailed modelling is required to demonstrate that it is not increasing flood risk further downstream. 						
Outputs and Outcomes						
This proposed Capital bid is to provide the funds required to fully investigate, design and construct a new bridge on Treeton Lane. If funding is secured the projected timescale for completion is 3 to 5 years.						

The outcome of discussions and any further evaluation will be presented in June 2025.

Financial Implications

It is proposed to carry out more detailed modelling of this option to confirm the suggested benefit of the initial basic model. This modelling is required to show that any alteration to the bridge does not increase flood risk downstream. The Environment Agency would have to approve the proposal. If all permissions are granted there is the potential for partnership funding through Grant in Aid from DEFRA. Opportunities to access funding via DEFRA would be explored. Any funding obtained would reduce the final amount required directly from the Council.

Risks

The EA holds the responsibility for managing flood risk from main rivers. The Council has been proactive following the widespread flooding that occurred in 2019.

There is a risk that all the optioned “next steps” schemes may not be financially viable and / or the necessary permissions cannot be obtained from the Environment Agency. This would mean the communities in Catcliffe and Treeton would remain with the same risk of future flooding.

The cost of the Council’s response to Storm Babet was around £1m. Even though the responsibilities for flood risk from main rivers is with the Environment Agency, the Council is keen to progress improvements to reduce flood risk as quickly as possible.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Strategic Acquisitions Fund	Capital Expenditure	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	2.000
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration & Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	2.000

Project Description

The Council’s regeneration programme is now well underway, facilitated through central Government and Council funding. Public control of key land and property assets is essential to secure appropriate development and prevent continued degradation of underutilised, vacant and derelict land and property.

Over the last three years the Council has used a combination of its own capital and Government grant to facilitate the acquisition of buildings in the town centre, many of which have been demolished or prepared for redevelopment. Public sector control of property along Corporation Street, the former Boots building and land fronting the river has all been enabled by the Council’s interventions.

A further £2m is sought on top of the previous allocation of £3m (over two years) to continue acquiring strategic sites in the town centre and around the proposed mainline station site, with the outcome of progressing the Council’s ambitions for regeneration within the town centre and across the Borough.

Outputs and Outcomes

Another allocation to a Strategic Acquisition Fund will allow the Council to respond to opportunity acquisitions as and when strategic sites are presented to market by willing sellers. The fund being provided by the Council, as opposed to a central funding body, gives additional flexibility and allows the Council to move at pace when the opportunity to acquire is presented.

Financial Implications

Revenue liabilities result from potential holding costs while awaiting redevelopment or future occupation. Feasibility Fund has been allocated to accommodate these costs and as properties are brought forward as capital schemes these revenue costs may be capitalised.

Acquisition of tenanted properties will likely result in a revenue benefit.

As with previous year’s allocation the Strategic Acquisition budget will be managed within the Regeneration team

Risks

In acquiring property, the Council becomes responsible for its maintenance and security. Properties will be managed through the Corporate Landlord function with support from revenue grants. Where appropriate, demolition or temporary occupation will be sought to limit liability. Where unavoidable, holding costs can be accommodated within revenue grant specifically allocated for this purpose.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Waleswood drainage works to tent field	Capital Expenditure	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.063
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.063
Project Description						
<p>An area at Waleswood Caravan park is designated for camping from April - October. During construction, value engineering meant that appropriate drainage was excluded, with the consequence that the area floods in heavy rains and can take weeks and months to recover.</p> <p>This has happened to a significant extent in the past two years, resulting in the area being unusable into July in these years. This represents a loss in revenue of bookings to >c. £30k, per annum, but also in secondary revenue, with campers spending significantly more than the average, possibly up to £20k.</p> <p>Site management is awaiting a report from the RMBC drainage teams on solutions to alleviate this flooding more easily by enabling water to run off site more effectively, allowing the site to dry out and be used as intended and protect revenue.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
<p>The project will enable the campsite to open on time each year and grow revenue, which has been curtailed in the past two years due to intense winter and spring rainfall. This is alongside other works to repair pitches, which have been repaired and improved cyclically since opening to protect capacity on site. It will improve revenue on site and enable users, a majority of whom are local to have an improved experience.</p> <p>It is intended to deliver the works in late Spring/early Summer 2025 in advance of the main holiday season. However, this is dependent upon the ground being dry enough in April/May to deliver the works in advance of the peak season. If this is not possible, the works will have to be pushed back to September/October.</p> <p>It is forecast that the cost of the works will be paid back within three years through increased revenue.</p>						

Financial Implications

Not undertaking some works will risk this part of the site remaining unusable for extended periods of time, losing revenue and regular customers and damaging reputation.

This bid includes a small contingency and management fee to ensure works can be completed without requirement for additional investment.

There will be some small income loss for the period that the drainage works take place.

Risks

Not doing so will lose revenue after intense seasonal weather events.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Civic Theatre LED Stage Lighting Replacement	Capital Expenditure	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.064
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration & Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.064

Project Description

Project Overview: LED Stage Lighting Replacement

Theatre productions rely heavily on high-quality stage lighting to enhance visual storytelling and create immersive experiences for audiences. The theatre’s current LED stage lights, purchased in 2016, were designed with an expected lifespan of 50,000 hours. However, these fixtures have now been operational for over 100,000 hours, double their intended usage period. This has led to a noticeable decline in performance, including reduced output and inconsistent colour reproduction. Such issues compromise the visual quality of productions, undermining the theatre’s ability to deliver the professional standards audiences expect. The issue has also been raised by visiting touring productions. This could lead to productions opting to tour to competitors or requested a higher share of income to reflect the costs they need to incur in hiring in better quality lighting for their productions.

Beyond aesthetics, there are critical health and safety implications to consider. A failure in lighting during live performances could result in hazards for performers and crew, as well as disruptions to the show that could frustrate and endanger audiences.

This project proposes replacing the outdated LED fixtures with modern, high-efficiency models to restore lighting quality, improve reliability, and ensure compliance with health and safety standards. With over 295 performances per year upgrading the lighting system is essential for preserving the theatre’s reputation and income, enhancing productions, and safeguarding performers, crew, and patrons alike.

Outputs and Outcomes

The LED stage lighting replacement project will deliver a fully modernised lighting system featuring energy-efficient, high-performance fixtures. Physically, this will restore optimal light output and colour consistency, ensuring professional-grade visual quality for all theatre productions. The upgraded system will enhance operational reliability, significantly reducing the risk of failures during performances and improving health and safety for performers, crew, and audiences.

Wider outcomes align with the Cultural Strategy in enabling the theatre to contribute to its aims of “Thriving Neighbourhoods” and “A Vibrant Economy.” High-quality productions will enhance the cultural appeal of the theatre, attracting more visitors and bolstering the local economy

through increased footfall in nearby businesses. Additionally, replacing outdated lights with energy-efficient models supports the Council's sustainability goals under the "Better Places to Live" theme by reducing energy consumption and the theatre's carbon footprint, promoting environmentally responsible practices in the community.

Financial Implications

The total cost of the LED stage lighting replacement project is detailed as follows:

36 Chauvet Colo Rado 2 Quad Zooms: £43,550

2 LDR Astro Followspots: £13,000

Replacement DMX and Power Cables: £1,500

Half Coupler Clamps and Safety Bonds: £1,000

Delivery Costs: £500

The combined subtotal is £59,550. To account for potential price increases before the project begins, a 10% contingency has been added, totalling £4,955. This brings the full project cost to £64,505.

There are no anticipated revenue implications or additional income generated as the purpose of the project is solely to replace existing lighting to maintain the current level of service. This ensures the continued high quality of productions and safeguards health and safety standards, rather than creating new revenue streams or expanding services. The investment is essential to uphold operational standards and mitigate reputational or safety risks.

Risks

The LED stage lighting replacement project faces several potential risks. Cost increases remain a significant concern, with potential rises in material or shipping costs due to market fluctuations. While a 10% contingency has been included in the budget, unforeseen cost escalations could strain financial resources.

Supply chain disruptions are another risk, including delays in manufacturing or shipping the lighting fixtures, accessories, or replacement parts. These delays could push back the project timeline, potentially affecting scheduled theatre productions.

Additionally, there is a risk of technical challenges during installation, such as incompatibilities with existing systems or unforeseen infrastructure issues. These could increase installation time and costs.

To mitigate these risks, proactive measures include securing supplier agreements early, building flexibility into timelines, and ensuring contingency funds are sufficient. Regular monitoring of supply chains and close collaboration with suppliers and contractors will help minimise potential disruptions.

New Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles	Capital Expenditure	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	4.000
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	4.000
Project Description						
<p>The Council owns 32 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV). Of these 32, 16 were purchased in 2016 and have been nearing the end of their operational lifespan with increasing faults and breakdowns creating operational impacts. As a result of these impacts, some budget was provided in order to refurbish the vehicles, expanding their lifespan to 2026. These vehicles will now need replacing in order to manage the risk associated with the ageing fleet both in respect of costs for repair and maintenance, and also the cost of hire vehicles for when vehicles are not operational.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
<p>The Council currently faces significant operational challenges in relation to the ageing vehicles which leads to increased maintenance costs and down time. These impacts translate into additional costs and also require additional hire vehicles which currently cost over £500k per annum.</p> <p>A modern and well-maintained refuse collection fleet also limits the Council's carbon impacts by ensuring the vehicles meet the most modern emission standards.</p>						
Financial Implications						
<p>Average cost of a diesel fuelled RCV to purchase is circa £250,000. For 16 vehicles the total anticipated cost is £4m, this would be spread over two years.</p>						
Risks						
<p>Risks associated with delivery are largely in relation to price increases for vehicles combined with ensuring appropriate resourcing across the relevant services.</p>						

New Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Grounds and Streets Plant Refresh Phase 3	Capital Expenditure	0.375	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.375
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.375	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.375
Project Description						
<p>This project aligns with providing a cleaner and greener environment across the Borough, by providing modern, efficient and effective plant equipment to perform numerous grounds and cleansing activities.</p> <p>The plant equipment used within grounds maintenance and street cleansing is vital to maintaining the upkeep of the Borough within desired standards. The various types of equipment are used daily, so require updating every few years to help maintain standards in an efficient and effective manner.</p> <p>By updating the plant machinery, we are also ensuring the service has the correct/equipment to deliver the best works possible.</p> <p>The service has undertaken a full review of all plant equipment and have put together a strategic replacement programme based on the longevity, maintenance, breakdowns, and performance of the equipment. This has enabled the project to spread the procurement and costs over an initial 2-year period (2023-2024, 2024-2025). These stages, plant refresh phase 1 is complete and phase 2 is about to be awarded. These initial 2 phases have spent/will spend around £1.3m and have been delivered on schedule.</p> <p>Stage 3 is the plant equipment that is outstanding for purchase in 2025-2026 and is required to deliver a modern and efficient service.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
Financial Implications						
<p>The remaining equipment to purchase is outlined below with an estimate purchase cost for each item.</p>						

Description	Amount Of Item	Roadworthy	2025 Required	Cost Paid 2018	Total 2018	Cost Poss 2025	Phase 3
Tomlin Slitter	2		Yes	£2,750.00	£2,750.00	£3,429.46	£3,429.46
Wessex RMX500 Batwing	2		Yes	£22,895.00	£45,790.00	£30,600.00	£61,200.00
Water Bowser	2		Yes	£1,500.00	£3,000.00	£1,762.00	£3,524.00
Ransomes TG4560 Hydraulic Gangs	2		Yes	£24,375.00	£48,750.00	£30,468.75	£60,937.50
Bomford Wren 3.5m	2		Yes	£8,565.05	£17,130.10	£9,953.00	£19,906.00
McConnell PA5455 Flail (Large)	1		Yes	£14,408.00	£14,408.00	£21,750.00	£21,750.00
Kubota M5 - 091 36*36 Gearbox	4	Yes	Yes	£33,955.00	£135,820.00	£39,999.00	£159,996.00
Case Farnall 95A	1	Yes	Yes	£36,450.00	£36,450.00	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
					£304,098.10		£375,742.96

The plant refresh items will come with a 1+ years warranty package but will require ongoing maintenance over the term of the capital payment period. This is estimated over 7 years.

Risks

There are various risks in the delivery of this scheme these are:

- Not supplying the plant equipment would compromise the grounds maintenance activities within the Borough for both scheduled and seasonal work. The service has standards it must achieve and by having the right equipment to perform the tasks is vital to maintaining those standards.
- The above items are vital to grass cutting, shrub and hedgerow maintenance which we perform on a schedule and seasonal.
- New equipment is more efficient and effective and will help the service increase productivity as the old equipment is less reliable and coming towards the end of its life cycle.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Clifton Park Overflow Car Park and Event Space	Capital Expenditure	0.033	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.033
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.033	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.033
Project Description						
<p>The Reytons concert at Clifton Park in 2024 showed that there was an appetite for well-run large scale events at Clifton Park and that this event could be built upon to provide economic advantage for the park, town centre, Borough and region.</p> <p>The stage area and immediate environs did not stand up well to the deconstruction phase of the event owing to poor weather immediately after the event. The soft ground became churned up owing to heavy machinery and required reinstatement, which had a knock-on effect on parking income for the rest of the year. This remains a risk for future staged events. In normal operation, the space is used for summer overflow car parking so could be made more capable of providing a sustainable space through the construction of a grid and gravel parking system which would be able to bare the weight and traffic during construction, use and deconstruction phases of a staged event as well as normal parking operations.</p>						
Outputs and Outcomes						
<p>A reinforced car park system consisting of plastic cells containing pea gravel to provide a surface complementary to the Grade 2 listed park landscape as well as providing an area capable of being used for staging large scale events, and summer parking. This replaces the existing light weight grass reinforcing that is only suitable for summer overflow parking with light vehicles.</p>						
Financial Implications						
<p>The provision of an area suitable for staging large events has been shown to be required for the future. The Reytons event was shown to have provided an extra £1m to Rotherham's economy and £1.36m to South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Once installed there are unlikely to be any ongoing maintenance costs and would provide some small-scale maintenance savings.</p> <p>This bid contains a 10% contingency and a standard 15% management fee to ensure the impact and outcomes can be successfully delivered without requirement for further funding.</p>						

Risks

Risk of inflation in the project have been built into the project cost considerations.

Not providing a sustainable surface may jeopardise any opportunity to build on the success of the 2024 Reytens concert.

Car parking income at Clifton Park dropped by £40k in 2024, owing to the loss of parking spaces in the overflow car park due to surface reinstatement of the soft landscape.

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Green Spaces Capital Repairs Programme	Capital Expenditure	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.240
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Regeneration and Environment	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.240

Project Description

Green Spaces manages three Country Parks, 12 urban parks and 45 woodlands alongside smaller community pocket parks, the Council’s tree stock and a range of play equipment. Whilst it is encouraging to see more residents spending time outdoors and active in line with the Cultural Strategy goals, it does bring increased pressure to the service in terms of managing the general maintenance and repair of sites.

Across the service maintenance and repair budgets are stretched and there are areas that have become worn through general wear and tear, weather damage or anti-social behaviour. Throughout the year the service also receives a high volume of Member and MP Casework from residents raising specific issues which could range from antisocial behaviour to off-road bikes. In each case a solution is found but brings an additional pressure to the revenue budgets as these enquiries cannot be predicted at the start of the year and can range in cost from £500 up to £5,000 for new gates, fencing, boulders and tree management. As there is no allocated budget to support this work the service has on occasion been unable to provide a solution to these issues.

Outputs and Outcomes

Capital investment in previous years has provided the service a budget to undertake a programme of general maintenance and repair across its portfolio including:

- Replacement of worn fencing
- Replacement of rusted gates
- Proactive management of trees and hedges
- Replacement of pavements
- Repair of damage across sites caused by weather, wear and tear and antisocial behaviour
- Small scale local improvements

In addition to the programme of proactive maintenance this investment will also create an opportunity for the service to respond to reactive casework from Members and MPs to support enquiries and issues raised by residents. These requests are in the majority of cases for physical improvements to prevent or discourage anti-social behaviour affecting residents in a specific ward. The service would like to be able to respond more favourably to more of these requests as relatively small investments can significantly improve the quality of life for residents.

The investment meets a number of needs for Rotherham residents, with the focus on local people feeling more connected to their community and that people trust the Council to deliver on its commitments as well as developing a positive environment.

Financial Implications

Green Spaces does not have specific budgets for casework requests, and maintenance and repair budgets only allow for the very minimum of works to be undertaken to make sites safe rather than to proactively care for these sites. The financial implication of this is a pressure on Revenue budgets each year across the service. Capital investment would allow the service to not only reduce this revenue pressure, but to also proactively maintain sites which is likely to reduce the volume of requests from casework, further reducing the likelihood of a pressure on revenue budgets.

Risks

Not investing in casework support could have the following risks:

- Reduced physical and mental health of people living adjacent to affected green spaces.
- Increased crime levels in residential neighbourhoods.
- Reduced property values
- Weaker community cohesion.
- Reputational damage to the Council
- Loss of confidence from investors and funding bodies
- Loss of accreditation e.g. Green Flag Award

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Investment in Community Facilities	Capital Expenditure	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.600
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Finance and Customer Services	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.600

Project Description

The Council currently owns a number of Community Facilities across the Borough that are either directly operated by Council Services or are operated by the Third Sector. These facilities support a range of community activities which include, but are not limited to: youth clubs, healthy eating clubs, community meetings, sports and recreation activities for various groups, centres for adults with learning disabilities and Autism, Friends Groups and Local History Groups.

The project will be to identify Community Facilities that are already in use but would benefit from investment to sustain and increase the participation, community activities and engagement within those facilities. Through working with the Property and the Neighbourhoods teams a number of facilities have already been identified that would benefit from investment. However additional buildings are being reviewed across the Borough to determine a broader and more planned approach to investment in the Council’s Community Facilities.

Those already identified include:

The Black Hut – improvements to the building to bring it up to full compliance and including repair to dance/meeting room floor, roof work, external windows and general decorations. Improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.

Oaklea Retreat – internal and external works to include signage, decoration and rainwater goods, refurbishment of rooms within the building, opening up better usage and greater space. Improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.

Clifton Learning Centre – Replacement windows, signage and decorations, Repairs to paths and carparking areas, improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.

The Meeting Place (at Wingfield) - General improvements across the building, including painting signage and Net Zero works.

Artworks, Brook Hill – Investment in the external appearance of the building, rainwater goods, sound proofing and Net Zero improvements.

All schemes will include improvements that will support the Council's Carbon Net Zero targets, through the provision of LED lighting and roof and wall insulation.

As mentioned further facilities are currently being reviewed and this will filter into the project plan of works, subject to funding. A further review of buildings will also be carried out over the next 12 months, and a more detailed long term investment plan will be produced from 2027/28 onwards.

Outputs and Outcomes

The project will deliver against a number of outcomes include ward priorities:

- *Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents*
- *Addressing Environmental Issues and Making Good Use of Green Spaces/Community Assets for Everyone*
- *Support Opportunities for Bringing People Together,*
- *Enhancing Community Spirit and Support the Communities and its Groups to Thrive*
- *Supporting your community*
- *Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life*
- *Improving the environment and enhancing community facilities*

By improving the Council's Community Facilities, it will ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose and compliant and continue to deliver key services to our residents across the Borough. The planned work will also include a series of Net Zero improvements which will assist the Council in meeting its Net Zero 2030 and 2040 targets.

Financial Implications

The buildings identified (community buildings) are either owned and operated by the Council or leased out to charity or community groups. In both cases there is no rental income generated.

Once completed, the buildings that are leased, will require the tenants to continue to maintain and manage those buildings at their own cost. Where those buildings are operated by the Council, the operating cost will not increase but are likely to reduce where net Zero Measures are completed.

Risks

Through review and survey of buildings it could be identified that some buildings require more investment than required. Where this is the case, priority will be given to structural or/and compliance work.

The budget is finite, and not all buildings will be able to benefit from the investment being made, a wider programme of investment will be identified through following years, subject to funds.