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**Cabinet – 15 December 2025**

**Report Title**

Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Judith Badger, Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Service

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-wide

**Summary**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) met on 10 December 2025, and the Health Select Commission met on 20 November 2025 and again jointly with members of the Improving Lives Select Commission to scrutinise the following reports that would be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 15 December 2025.
  - Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy 2026-2029 (Listed as Item 6 on the Cabinet agenda)
  - Unpaid Carers Strategy 2026-2031 (Listed as Item 7 on the Cabinet agenda)
  - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27 (Listed as Item 9 on the Cabinet agenda)
  - Library Strategy (Listed as Item 12 on the Cabinet agenda)
  - Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy (Listed as Item 13 on the Cabinet agenda)
- 1.2 Having reviewed the reports and the recommendations, the Board, Health Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission resolved as follows in respect of these items listed:

Item	Recommendations
Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy 2026-2029 (Listed as Item 6 on the Cabinet agenda)	<p>Resolved: That the Health Select Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supported the recommendation to Cabinet to approve the publication of the Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy 2026-2029.</li> </ol>
Unpaid Carers Strategy 2026-2031 (Listed as Item 7 on the Cabinet agenda)	<p>Resolved: That members of the Health Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supported the recommendation to Cabinet to approve the publication of the Borough that Cares All-Age Carers Strategy 2026-2031, with the request that the following amendments are made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Specific local data, where possible, is added to page 6 of the Strategy.</li> <li>b) Under the 'Identification and Early Intervention' commitment on page 11, include specific reference to improving the partnership approach and associated processes to identifying young carers, given the acknowledged existing shortcomings and challenges in the context of the potential lifelong implications of failing to provide timely and appropriate support.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27 (Listed as Item 9 on the Cabinet agenda)	<p>Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet recommends to Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the proposed 2026/27 HRA Business Plan.</li> <li>2. Note that the Business Plan will be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.</li> <li>3. Agree that Council dwelling rents are increased by 4.8% and, dependent upon the Government announcement in January 2026, implement a policy of rent convergence. Allowing rents for social housing properties that are currently below the Government-calculated formula rent to increase by an additional £2 per week in 2026/27. If convergence is capped below £2 that will be the level applied.</li> <li>4. Agree that the Council should retain the policy of realigning rents on properties at below formula rent to the formula rent level when the property is re-let to a new tenant.</li> <li>5. Agree that affordable rents are calculated at relet, based on an individual property valuation.</li> <li>6. Agree that affordable rents are increased by 4.8% in 2026/27.</li> <li>7. Agree that shared ownership rents are increased by 5% in 2026/27.</li> </ol>

Item	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Agree that charges for communal facilities, parking spaces, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities are increased by 3% in 2026/27.</li> <li>9. Agree that charges for garages are increased by 10% in 2026/27.</li> <li>10. Agree that the District Heating unit charge per kWh remains at 13.09 pence per kWh.</li> <li>11. Agree that the decision to reduce the price of District Heating Charges during 2026/27 be delegated to the Assistant Director of Housing in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Financial Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing. The delegation would only be used to respond to a change in Government policy or a significant change in the Ofgem price cap that has the effect of a lower unit price.</li> <li>12. Approve the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2026/27 as shown in Appendix 8.</li> </ol>
Library Strategy (Listed as Item 12 on the Cabinet agenda)	<p>Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the review of performance against the 2021–2026 Library Strategy, including key achievements and challenges identified during the Strategy period.</li> <li>2. Approve the undertaking of a period of consultation with the public, partners, stakeholders and interested parties on the development of a new Library Strategy for the period 2027–2032 and a future service delivery model for the Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs Service.</li> <li>3. Agree that a further report be brought to Cabinet following the consultation to present a draft Library Strategy 2027–2032, which will identify potential service improvements and efficiencies.</li> <li>4. Authorise the Assistant Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism to notify the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of the intention to consult on the Library Strategy and any potential changes to service provision.</li> </ol>
Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy (Listed as Item 13 on the Cabinet agenda)	<p>Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorses the formal adoption of the Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy 2026-31.</li> <li>2. Notes that the Rotherham Employment and Skills Board is tasked with overseeing the delivery and monitoring of the Strategy and with reporting on progress to Cabinet and the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) on an annual basis.</li> </ol>

**Recommendation**

That Cabinet has regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board; Health Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission when making decisions in respect of the above matters.

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

None