

**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Community Safety**

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**Please Ask For**  
Cllr Saghir Alam

18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Cllr Simon Ball  
Elected Member

Via email: [simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Ball,

**Question at Council – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September. I have set out your question and my response below.

***Why hasn't an independent body been commissioned to review whether the budget overspends stem from ideological spending over taxpayer value?***

As you are aware the Council reports regularly to Cabinet on its spending throughout the year and those reports, which are published for anyone to read, provide explanations for any significant areas of overspend.

We have consistently reported that the Councils' most significant overspends have been in relation to the children's social care placements and in complying with our legal requirements to transport children who meet certain eligibility criteria, to and from school. Those are challenges faced by similar councils across the country.

The Councils' accounts and spending are audited by external auditors that are appointed independently of the Council.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Saghir Alam OBE**

Boston Castle Ward  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety