

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

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Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
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18th September 2025

Cllr Simon Ball
Elected Member

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Ball,

Question at Council – 10th September 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on 10th 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 Council's 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 Council's 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