

THE CABINET
13th April, 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alam.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

142. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 2 questions:

1. Chrissy Meleady asked questions on behalf of T, a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Survivor who was unable to attend. Referencing the ongoing tribunal relating to CSE in Rotherham, the Leader was asked to publicly disown the statement T had asked him to disown by email on 27th March. Ms. Meleady also asked if the Council's Head of Legal Services understood her core responsibility was to stand up for victims and survivors of CSE and to respond to calls and emails. It was also stated that the tribunal was appalling legal expenditure.

The Leader stated that he had already informed T via email that he could not comment on matters that were subject to ongoing litigation or the subject of appeal. He also could not comment on circumstances surrounding individual members of staff.

2. Mr. Ashraf asked a question in relation to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and the ongoing conflict in Gaza. He asked for a detailed table to be provided containing information relating to the Pensions Authority's financial operations and the Pensions Authority Members' information. Mr. Ashraf also asked for the expenses information for the Rotherham Members of the Pensions Authority.

The Leader stated that this was not a question for Cabinet, but if Mr. Ashraf provided his question in writing, he would pass it on to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority for a written response.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Ashraf asked for further information from the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, including emails received, petitions, signatories and divestment changes for a period of time, specifically related to the Gaza conflict.

The Leader again stated that, as a gesture of goodwill, the question would be passed on to the Pensions Authority. However, he reiterated that the appropriate place to ask these questions was at South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, not Rotherham Council meetings.

143. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th March, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

144. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

145. EXTRA CARE HOUSING MODEL

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to formally consult on how care and support was delivered to tenants in Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing (ECH) was nationally recognised and widely defined by offering self-contained residences for people aged 55 years and above, combining independent living with 24/7 onsite care and support and communal facilities. The model offered an alternative to residential care for people needing support to live independently for longer. In Rotherham, there were two ECH schemes, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, offering a total of 87 tenancies and support to 92 people.

The current model offered tenants a multi-layered approach to care and support, but this could be disjointed, intrusive and overcomplicated. Tenants received support from multiple organisations, which increased the number of professionals involved in a person's life. There were opportunities to strengthen the existing care and support to ensure person-focussed and strength-based approaches were embedded within the ECH model, ensuring a consistent approach across the schemes.

The current model emerged following the implementation of a previous decision in 2016 which led to the reshaping of the Council's enablement provision and the introduction of independent care providers to the ECH schemes. The ECH staffing complement was retained, initially to ensure a safe transfer of care and support. However, during this time, it emerged that there was an ongoing need for tenant care and support between independent care provider visits and therefore a hybrid model evolved. Essentially, there were two co-dependent systems within the ECH schemes, and neither could maximise delivery. This could compromise the type and amount of support tenants received. All Council-employed care enablers were level 2 qualified to deliver care and support. However, as the schemes were no longer registered with CQC, staff were not

permitted to deliver personal care. This change to the care enabler role had blurred the distinction between staff delivering housing related support and, over time, some duplication had emerged (for example, the provision of social contact and tenant activities, supporting emotional wellbeing and support with daily living tasks). The current model was inconsistent across the schemes in relation to access to support and was not delivering optimum outcomes or value for money. The costs of the schemes were £1.984m per year.

It was proposed that the schemes be registered with CQC (under one registration) so that Council employed staff could legally meet tenants' personal care and support needs. It was also proposed that the existing commissioned arrangements, including Direct Payments, would cease as fully trained staff would be available onsite to deliver an enabling approach, encouraging and motivating tenants to retain their independence for as long as possible. Strengths-based, personalised support plans, tailored to individuals' needs would ensure that people were supported proportionately, on a needs-led basis, accessible on a 24/7 basis. The staffing model would include built-in capacity to flex and adapt to individuals' changing needs. Housing related support would continue to be provided by the Council to ensure residents successfully maintained their property. The provision would be modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services, and staff training needs would be identified to ensure high quality, well-led and safe care and support was provided in readiness for CQC registration. A summary of what this would achieve was set out in paragraph 3.6.

Approval was sought to formally consult on the option set out above. A 90 day public consultation would be delivered, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to feed back on the proposal. This would involve stakeholders that would be immediately affected by the proposed changes to the model, including current tenants, families and carers, the workforce, Together Housing, commissioned providers, agencies and personal assistants.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the preferred option to remodel care and support to tenants in the ECH schemes, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.
2. Approve a formal, public consultation on this option for 90 days from May to July 2026.
3. Note that the findings of the consultation and proposed final model will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026 for approval.

146. FAMILY HUB PROGRESS UPDATE AND EXTENSION

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the successful delivery of the Family Hubs programme and the future of the programme as confirmed by the Government. It also recommended a consultation to formally deregister and rebrand the Children's Centre buildings to enable them to move into the Family Hubs system, bringing all delivery in line with the Department for Education's new Best Start Family Hubs programme and current guidance.

In 2022 Rotherham was one of 75 pre-selected Local Authorities (based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Average Rank) who were invited to sign up to the Family Hubs and Start for Life 3 year programme (ending in March 2025), without the need to complete a competitive bid, for grant funding of £3.4m. The aim was to have an improved 'whole family' approach to service delivery, with broader co-location of partners and services, utilising existing premises. It involved a highly transformative way of working, rather than simply investing in unsustainable front-line capacity. Cabinet accepted the proposed approach and the proposed spend of grant funding in February 2023.

Prior to the scheduled end of the programme, in January 2025, the Government announced a 12 month extension from 31st March, 2025 – 1st April, 2026. To support this work, grant funding of £1.1m was made available to Rotherham. The purpose of the extension was to support continued delivery of integrated services for families with children up to age 19 (and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and further develop and embed the Family Hub model, providing a one-stop-shop for families needing advice and support, particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation. In July 2025, in a Policy paper entitled 'Giving every child the best start in life', the Government set out its intention to strengthen support services for families, and to build on the Family Hubs and Start for Life approach (as well as their previous Sure Start approach), to create 'Best Start Family Hubs' across all areas of the country.

On 6th November, 2025 Rotherham received a provisional allocation of £5,052,800 for financial years 2026-29. There was now a clear and strong commitment from Government to retaining the Family Hubs identity, supported by the continued roll out of Family Hubs across the country and ongoing funding for Rotherham through the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme. The Council committed a further £370,000 in March 2024 to support Early Help Services including an additional 300 universal sessions for under 5s annually. These were divided equally across the Borough, providing universal activities such as new birth celebration sessions; baby massage; baby first aid; treasure basket sessions; reach, roll and play sessions; talking tots; toddler yoga; stay and play groups; and baby weigh sessions.

The report provided updates on Family Hubs; Connect Family Hubs and Community Network Family Hubs. The 7 dedicated workstreams under which the programme delivery would take place were set out in section 2.2 of the report. These were transformation (including digital connectivity); Parenting Support; Infant Feeding; Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships; Home Learning Environment; Start for Life Offer; and Parent Carer Panels.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the update and progress made in the delivery of the Family Hubs programme over the last year.
2. Approves a consultation on proposals to de-register the existing Children's Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Family Hubs programme and for the decision, based on the consultation, to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
3. Approves, in line with Government requirements and to ensure consistency for families, that Family Hubs and Children's Centre buildings are renamed as either Best Start Family Hubs or "Connect" Best Start Family Hubs, in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme expectations.
4. Notes the future of the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees that the decision to accept and allocate this funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

147. DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 for endorsement. The Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed through consultation with the Local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) which reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP.) The refreshed Strategy would also incorporate the Partnership's vision and commitment to addressing Sexual Offences and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). In addition, future commissioning activity, including the Domestic Abuse Support Outreach Service, would be aligned with the revised strategic aims to ensure continuity and effectiveness in service provision. The current commissioned services had worked to align with the aims of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022–2027, with provider organisations playing an active

role in the DSAPG. The Council had a statutory duty to ensure a Domestic Abuse Strategy was in place.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy (2022–2027) had undergone a formal review. The review had highlighted the successful delivery of the Strategy’s underpinning action plan, with many actions either fully completed with measurable outcomes or embedded into routine practice across partner agencies. These achievements demonstrated the strength of collaborative working and the integration of domestic abuse responses into core service delivery.

The 2022-2027 Strategy had provided a clear framework for co-ordinated efforts to tackle domestic abuse and had enhanced support for victims/survivors and their families. While the Strategy commitment was for a 5 year period, the Safer Rotherham Partnership had agreed that there was a need to remain responsive to evolving local and national contexts and as a result, the partnership had undertaken a fundamental review, resulting in a refreshed Strategy with additional or amended priority areas. The refreshed Strategy would span 3 years (2026/27 to 2028/29). This reduced period would allow for earlier reflection and adaptation to emerging trends and demands and reflected lessons learnt in the delivery of the current Strategy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 (attached at Appendix 1.)
2. Note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and the Improving Lives Select Committee.

148. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence a Borough-wide Community Governance Review. The Council had a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes, including town and community councils. Following initial consultation, a draft recommendations report would be brought to Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2026, to be followed by a further consultation. Following this consultation on the draft recommendations, a final recommendations report would be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) was the legal process that a principal council had to follow to consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This meant making sure

that those living in the area, and other interested groups, had a say in how their local communities were represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission had produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

The last Borough-wide review in Rotherham took place in 2008. Since then, there had been significant new development and population movement across the Borough. The Borough had also been in dialogue with Ravenfield Parish Council who had expressed a desire to have a reconsideration of their Parish Boundaries. As set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it was considered good practice for a principal council to conduct a review every 10-15 years. Following the good practice arrangement set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, conducting a Borough-wide review would allow any approved recommendations to come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4th May, 2028.

The Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review were attached at Appendix 1. The timetable for the Review was summarised in Section 5 of the report and set out in detail in Appendix 2.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They requested that the consultation findings and final proposals be taken back to Scrutiny.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Borough-wide Community Governance Review.
2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.
4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.
5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.
6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

149. STREET SAFE TEAM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the development and progress of the new Street Safe Team for 2026. Established as part of the Council's approved revenue budget investment in March 2025, the initiative was designed to strengthen community safety and enhance public confidence in the town centres. Detail was provided on the progress achieved so far, and emphasised the vital role of partnership working, ongoing staff training, and meaningful community engagement in supporting the successful delivery of the Street Safe Team's objectives.

The aim of the Street Safe Team was to reduce both actual, and perceived Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and increase feelings of safety, also identified as a priority in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025–2028. The Safer Rotherham Partnership provided governance across varying partnership activities to maximise impact and track progress and performance, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority. The Street Safe Team aimed to improve feelings of safety and security in the Town Centres of Rotherham, Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby. The Team provided a visible, uniformed Council presence, with a particular focus on hot spot areas.

To measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe Team, a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators had been identified, aligned with community safety objectives. These included:

- Reduction in reported incidents - Monitoring trends in anti-social behaviour, street crime, and environmental nuisance reports within the designated areas.
- Number of proactive patrols, community interactions, and engagement events conducted by the Team.
- Feedback from residents through surveys and Street Safe reporting tools to assess perceived safety and trust in the Service.
- Evidence of collaborative working with Police, Housing, and other agencies, including joint operations and referrals.
- Volume and effectiveness of enforcement actions (e.g., warnings, notices) and compliance rates following interventions.
- Visibility and presence - Measured through patrol logs and community feedback on the visibility of the Team in priority areas.

Paragraph 2.3 detailed the work that had been completed by the Team up to February 2026. Overall, the Team had provided a high-profile community presence across Rotherham to challenge negative behaviours

and help to minimise harm to communities. The Team had been through a significant training and upskilling programme with the aim of meeting the requirements for initial deployment. The aim was to map out the further training requirements of the Team to support an omnicompetent skill set that could support the wider enforcement opportunities held by the Council.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the progress to date.

150. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - THE ROTHERHAM HOSPICE TRUST

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the application for business rates relief from the Rotherham Hospice Trust. The Rotherham Hospice Trust was a registered charity and the only adult hospice serving the people of Rotherham and its surrounding towns and villages. The Hospice offered specialist palliative care through a range of holistic services aimed at supporting patients to live life as fully as they could to the end of their life.

The Charity ran retail and cafe outlets throughout the Borough which were operated with the sole purpose of generating income to help fund the running costs of the Hospice. These were staffed and supported by a team of volunteers who gave their time to assist with daily operations, serve customers and help maintain a welcoming environment. The shops and cafes provided valuable social opportunities for the volunteers, many of whom were retired, socially isolated or looking to gain confidence and work experience. The shops promoted sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and reducing waste. Overall, these retail premises played a vital role in supporting the Hospice's charitable aims, fostering local engagement and delivering lasting social impact throughout the Borough.

The Charity benefited from an award for discretionary rate relief at their main hospice premises and the retail and café outlets since 1st April, 2025, and it was now seeking additional support for the new premises which they had taken on from 25th November, 2025. The property would be used for the sorting and storage of donations. It would also be used to park the charity vans and provide additional office space.

The application for the award of discretionary relief was in line with the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy. The Charity provided access to facilities which were open to all sections of the community and worked to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery, volunteering, and staffing. The Charity was applying for discretionary relief with regards to their 2025/26 and 2026/27 rates liability. The cost to RMBC would be £441.59 for 25/26 and £1,248.91 for 2026/27.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 of the report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial year.

151. COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE - YEAR AHEAD PLAN 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which presented the 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan for approval. The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan was the second delivery plan that had been produced to deliver the Council Plan 2025-2030. It set out the key activities to be delivered over the upcoming financial year ending 31st March, 2027.

The Plan included 81 priority actions and 35 performance measures, alongside a further 12 Social Care measures. Six monthly progress reports would be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports would include progress and performance updates on the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The year-end progress report would include an update on the long-term measures of success. It was proposed that the mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, be reported to Cabinet in January 2027 and year-end report for the period October 2026 to March 2027 be reported to Cabinet in July 2027.

During the meeting the Leader confirmed that 4 changes were to be made to the Plan:

- Measure Reference P4 (Deliver at least 50 enforcement interventions, including formal warnings, FPNs and notices) – amended to include specific reference to the Street Safe Team.
- Measure Reference P31 (Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%) and P16 (Plant at least 500 trees across the Borough) – amended from the Cabinet Member from Finance and Community Safety to Street Scene and Green Spaces.
- Measure Reference SC1 (Proportion of adults with Social Care support, remaining at home) – amended the table to show that good is high, rather than not applicable and the target is 73% rather than not applicable.

Cabinet Members highlighted aspects of the Year Ahead Plan from their portfolio. Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, praised on the ongoing work in Public Health which had been very successful.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy highlighted the commitment to deliver the first 12 Ward Road Safety Plans and to complete the designs for 5 pedestrian crossings. Regeneration work was continuing throughout the Town Centre with the

new Central Library set to open along with the completion of Phase one of the Town Centre Health Hub.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, highlighted the Best Start Plan and the focus on improving development in the early years of a child's life. She spoke in support of the Families First Partnership and of the Best Start Family Hubs programme. Work would continue on the Neighbourhood Strategy and on delivering the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, spoke about the commencement of works on the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation scheme and the procurement of a contractor for the Treeton Lane/Catcliffe Bridge replacement scheme. Work would continue to development the Country Parks. Councillor Marshall encouraged everyone to attend the St George's Day celebrations in Clifton Park on 18th April, 2026.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, highlighted the work done to deliver new Council Homes across the last year and the work that would be done to continue the programme in the coming year. Work would also be done to improve the existing Council homes stock with refurbishments, repairs and energy efficiency works. Councillor Beresford also praised the work done to involve tenants in the Selective Licensing process.

The Leader spoke in support of the Delivery Plan, particularly the delivery of public realm improvements in Maltby and Swinton along with the work to be done on the Rotherham Gateway Station project. He highlighted the additional healthy holidays places that had been funded along with playground improvements and the in-house children's residential care programme. The Castleview Day Centre was also complete and over 65's would be able to access cheaper swimming at leisure centres.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussion had focussed on building programmes being off target, especially around the Dinnington area and HR issues.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.
2. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

152. CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposals for the use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) for 2026/27 and the broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full 3 years. The CRF was announced in the June 2025 Government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It would initially operate for 3 years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The new Fund had broader aims than the HSF. Instead of focusing primarily on crisis support to vulnerable households, it put more emphasis on building financial resilience and creating a more connected local support system. The CRF also incorporated Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 was £5.2m. This represented an increase of around £300,000 on the combined HSF and DHP allocation for 2025/26.

Funding had to be allocated across 4 distinct elements:

- Crisis payment – providing support to those in crisis.
- Housing payment - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who faced a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- Resilience services - funding for services that improved financial resilience.
- Community co-ordination - investment in activities that connected and enhanced the local support landscape.

Further details on how the funding would be allocated in accordance with these requirements was set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.14. The specific year one (2026/27) proposals were outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.14.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Debate had focussed on the impact of inflation and the impact of the ongoing conflict in Iran. Concerns were raised relating to the food parcels and voucher schemes.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree provisional allocations of the CRF for the following areas of activity in 2026/27:

Crisis Support

- a) £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme
- b) £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer holidays
- c) £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments
- d) £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme

- e) £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas/New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement
- f) £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations
- g) £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

Resilience Services

- h) £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham
- i) £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

Community Co-ordination

- j) £50,000 to co-ordinate CRF elements, raise awareness, and improve data capture and referral systems

Administrative Costs

- k) £81,699 for DHP administrative costs
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.
 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.
 4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the Fund.

153. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Playing Pitch Strategy – Part 1 (PPS) for approval. The PPS provided an up-to-date, robust, Sport England compliant assessment of the supply, demand and future needs for outdoor sports facilities in Rotherham. It covered football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis and padel. It was essential for:

- Planning Policy (evidence base for Local Plan review to 2040)
- Developer contributions (Access to Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator)
- Investment (supporting bids to the sports funders such as the Football Association, English Cricket Board and Lawn Tennis Association)

- Protecting playing fields as per the National Planning Policy Framework requirements
- Meeting participation demand, across all pitch sports

The Strategy identified significant current and future shortfalls in multiple sports, particularly football (youth formats), cricket, rugby union and 3G pitches. It provided a clear action plan for the next 3-5 years, with strategic direction to 2040.

The most recent PPS for Rotherham was produced in 2005, followed by a subsequent review which led to adoption by Cabinet in 2009. However, the methodology utilised by Sport England had been updated and they no longer recognised the 2005 version. The new Sport England guidance was produced in 2013. It was not possible to produce a new strategy until now, due to lack of resource: the loss of the Sports Development Team due to Local Government austerity and changes to Sport England grant funding. Following the availability of funding via Section 106 in 2024 and the creation of the new Sport and Physical Activity Manager post, it had been possible to deliver a new Strategy.

The PPS would be presented in two parts. Part 1 covered the needs assessment related to playing pitch provision in Rotherham. Subject to approval of Part 1, Part 2 would outline a clear vision, cover how the recommendations would be implemented and resourced, working in collaboration with the stakeholders on the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out the aims of the Strategy and detailed how the aims would be achieved. Paragraph 2.3 outlined the headline findings from the PPS for each individual sport. Paragraph 2.4 detailed the monitoring and delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The report was considered by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be supported. A report would be taken back to the Improving Places Select Commission once delivery of the Strategy was underway.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the headline findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026–2029 Part 1.
2. Approve and formally adopt the Part 1 Strategy as the evidence base for:
 - a. Local Plan review to 2040
 - b. Planning decisions
 - c. Developer contributions (via Sport England PPS calculator)
 - d. Investment planning with National Governing Bodies

3. Agree to receive a further report on the Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2 which will set out the response to the recommendations contained in Part 1, including Rotherham Council's vision and implementation plan.
4. Agree that the PPS is monitored annually and reviewed every 3 years, or sooner if significant changes occur.
5. Delegate implementation oversight to the Service Director for Culture, Sport and Tourism, supported by the Sport & Physical Activity Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces.

154. STREET CLEANSING AND FLY TIPPING IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which provided a progress update on rural verge cleansing, outlined the forthcoming Gateway Maintenance Programme, and noted the agreed development of a second Rural Verge & Principal Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance (RVGC) team. In March 2025, Council had approved a £307k investment to create the new Team to improve the cleanliness and appearance of rural verges and key gateway locations across the Borough. Following recruitment and Traffic Management (TM) training, the Team became fully operational in October 2025.

Headlines to date (since mobilisation):

- 117 sites completed (133 remaining, targeted for completion by the end of March 2026.)
- 146 km of roadside verge litter-picked.
- 4,200 bags of waste removed and 12 tonnes collected, plus additional tonnage from several large fly-tipping jobs.
- Data capture enhanced: daily bag counts, weights, and hotspot intelligence (flytipping, asbestos, drug paraphernalia) now recorded to inform future schedules and enforcement.

From late March/early April the RVGC Team would switch to the Gateway Programme, while the established Verge Team commenced its May–October cycle. The gateway work was a new scheduled activity covering several key routes in and out of the Borough. The scope included detritus removal, weed treatment/clearance, litter-picking, removal of overhanging branches/hedges, grubbing out, and other tasks needed to improve gateway appearance. Officers would monitor progress, recognising that some locations might require a return visit to complete the full scope of works required. This Programme was in addition to any routine jobs logged by residents in these areas.

In March 2026, Council approved a further revenue investment of £272k to create a second RVGC team. Recruitment commenced in mid-March 2026 and a full-year update on both Teams' performance would be reported in April 2027.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note:

1. The progress delivered by the RVGC team since mobilisation.
2. The planned April–October Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance Programme and the improved data capture now in place to inform future scheduling.

155. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the progress of the 2025/26 Climate Emergency Action Plan to the end of December 2025 and proposed an action plan for the 2026/27 Municipal Year. Programmes for corporate property decarbonisation and electric vehicle infrastructure (EVI) were presented at Appendix 3a and 3b, respectively. Climate change data and performance measures were also reported (Appendix 5) for the 2024/25 carbon accounting period. A high-level summary of progress to date on Nature Recovery in Rotherham was provided, recognising the links between the Nature Crisis and Climate Emergency.

The table at paragraph 2.4 outlined the Council's performance measures in relation to its Net Zero by 2030 targets. Paragraphs 2.5 to 2.10 provided more detail on the emissions targets and performance.

The table at paragraph 2.13 presented the 2024/25 performance measures relating to the Net Zero by 2040 target. The Council continued to measure several Key Performance Indicators in relation to the Borough's performance. In general, emissions were declining, however the portion of fossil fuels in the Borough's energy mix remained high. UK-wide action to develop a net zero National Grid by 2030 would only affect approximately 20% of the Borough's energy emissions, which meant that local action to transition to low carbon heating types, such as air source heat pumps or heat networks was key to reaching net zero. It was expected that the above performance measures could evolve as work to develop the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy continued. Work with partners to co-create this Strategy had already commenced with workshops taking place throughout October and November 2025. Actions proposed in the 2026/27 action plan associated with this report would also support the development of these measures. Appendix 5 provided more detail on the Council's emissions.

Paragraphs 2.17 to 2.24 detailed the work being done in relation to energy. In January 2025, the Council was successfully awarded funds as part of the final iteration of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS 4) to deliver decarbonisation works to 3 Council buildings - 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens Community Centre and Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library. The contract for these works had now been awarded, with final designs approved and works scheduled to commence in late March or early April. Decarbonisation works at these sites and at Peacock Lodge Children's Home all had expected completion dates in June 2026. It was expected that this project would reduce emissions by 35.35tCO₂e per annum.

The report also provided updates in relation to transport; housing; waste; built and natural environment; biodiversity; influence and engagement (Children's Capital of Culture); and adaptation.

The proposed action plan for 2026/27 was attached at Appendix 2. A critical piece of work would be the commissioning and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan. This work would span the Rotherham Borough, provide proposed pipeline projects for the delivery of the Net Zero by 2040 target and directly feed into the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. It would also provide an opportunity for the development of investment proposals for renewables as part of the Council's wider estate.

A proposal for the delivery of actions to decarbonise the Council's estate over the next 5 year period was also presented as detailed in paragraphs 2.70 to 2.75.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Questions related to how realistic the 2030 net zero target was and the activity described within the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.
2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.
3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026 2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of

Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15th February, 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

156. DON VALLEY CORRIDOR

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. It set out how the Programme would be co-ordinated and how Rotherham Council would work with its partners, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council (SCC), to jointly resource, collaborate and use a shared framework to prioritise, deliver and monitor activity within this Regeneration Programme.

The Don Valley Corridor (DVC) had been identified in South Yorkshire's Local Growth Plan as a spatial priority for growth and regeneration. It was also identified as a focus for growth in the Government's Northern Growth Strategy published on 19th March, 2026. The Corridor, as seen in Appendix 1, stretched from Sheffield City Centre through the Lower Don Valley to the Liberty Steel site at Aldwarke. Within this geography sat key regeneration priorities, including Rotherham Town Centre, Bassingthorpe and Rotherham Gateway station. The geography included some of the Borough's most deprived Wards as well as key employment areas at Aldwarke, Templeborough and the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

This geography combined the potential for inclusive housing and employment growth, alongside established innovation assets and existing infrastructure investment. Across the entire DVC geography, investment was expected to deliver in the region of 10,500 new homes, 18,500 new jobs and an annual Gross Value Added (GVA) uplift of £1.3bn, as confirmed in the 'Economic outputs from the development of strategic sites across the Don Valley' report by ADE Regeneration in November 2025.

In agreeing to partner on the DVC, the Council would move into the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone. A Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) was a non-statutory entity. It differed from a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) which was a statutory entity with special powers which needed to follow a specific legal process to designate. A MDZ did not confer statutory powers, change planning authority functions, alter land ownership or governance, create new administrative bodies, predetermine future delivery vehicles, or commit the partners to statutory or other intervention. It signalled to Government and potential public and private sector partners, that the Partnership was committed to using its existing strategic economic development and regeneration powers, resources and relationship to progress this Programme.

Commitment to this Partnership and the scale of this Programme required resourcing to co-ordinate activity across the geography and develop co-investment proposals. SYMCA would provide a core central co-ordinating team to drive strategic programme development across the Don Valley Corridor as a whole and would deliver any SYMCA-led projects or assist scheme delivery as required. The proposed model would see the establishment of a Don Valley Programme Board for co-ordination of cross border activities. This Board would report into SYMCA's Board and Investment Board as required.

Together the Partnership would create a comprehensive funding and delivery strategy by summer 2026. Behind this was the development of a co-investment model which would see local commitment of Gainshare in order to leverage in regional, national and private investment. Gainshare was funding provided by SYMCA which originated as part of the devolution deal with Central Government. Each Local Authority in South Yorkshire had been allocated an amount per year for 30 years, starting in 2020/21. Both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils would look to utilise some Gainshare funding to develop the Don Valley Corridor and thoughts on this would be developed as part of the funding strategy referred to in paragraph 2.5.1. Any specific propositions for the use of Gainshare funding would be subject to future Cabinet approval. Each Authority would commit £400,000 of its Gainshare revenue allocation toward Programme resourcing and feasibility work for priority projects for the first 3 years of the Programme.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the establishment of a Don Valley Corridor Programme and Partnership with SYMCA and SCC.

2. Endorse the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone for the Don Valley Corridor with delegation to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to agree the governance principles and implement the preferred model.
3. Agree to: allocate £400,000 of Gainshare revenue to the resourcing of the Programme and project feasibility for its first 3 years, this being subject to SYMCA's formal approval; and delegate to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, the allocation of this £400,000 to specific activities.

157. 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.

158. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 11th May ,2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.