THE CABINET
Monday 6 July 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Williams.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Jane Maxwell	Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services
Niall Devlin	Service Director of Education and Inclusion
Mark Cummins	SEND Transformation Project Lead
Paul Elliott	Head of Housing Income and Support Services
Michael Hallewell	Head of Strategic Housing & Development
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Governance Advisor
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one question from Mr. Ashraf. He asked why the Council’s Scrutiny Commissions had not considered the involvement of Palantir in the NHS. He stated that Palantir had a well-documented contempt for the NHS and had a documented track record of corporate involvement in the war crimes and continuing genocide in Palestine committed by Israel. Mr. Ashraf asked why the Council had allowed the rollout of Palantir software at Rotherham NHS Trust.

The Leader stated that procuring software for the NHS was not a decision that Rotherham Council had any authority over and the Council was not in the business of providing a running commentary on what other organisations in the Borough did or did not do within their own rules.

In his supplementary question, Mr. Ashraf stated that Sheffield City

Council had recently passed a motion making it clear that it would not adopt Palantir technologies and a committee of that Council was seeking clarification on the matter. He therefore asked the Leader to find a way of ending the involvement of Palantir in the NHS. He also asked for evidence relating to the efficacy and costs associated with the adoption of Palantir software currently in use in Rotherham. Finally, Mr. Ashraf asked if there had been any scrutiny of the Palantir software technologies by Rotherham Council and if any individual Councillors had attempted to stop the rollout. He asked that he be provided with evidence of this if it had taken place.

The Leader stated that he did not know if individual Councillors had made representations on the matter and advised Mr. Ashraf to contact individual Councillors if he wanted that information. He also confirmed that it was for each Scrutiny Commission to set its own work programme and it would be up to the Health Select Commission to decide whether it wanted to look into this matter. Finally, the Leader reiterated that there was nothing the Council could do to change the decision. It was a decision for the NHS, not the Council.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th June, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Agenda Item Nos. 14 and 17 had exempt appendices, but the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

20. ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY 2027-2032

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy (2024 to 2027). It also sought formal approval to undertake a 90-day public consultation to inform the development of the new Adult Social Care Strategy, setting out how the consultation would be undertaken and providing an overview of the early engagement activity already completed. This timeline reflected that the existing Strategy ran until 2027 and that development of the new Strategy needed to begin now to ensure there was no gap without a strategy in place.

The 2024 priorities were:

- Provide information and advice to support making informed choices. (Complete)
- Prevent, reduce or delay a person’s care needs. (Complete)
- Strengthen the voice of the person. (Complete)

- Adopt new ways of meeting people's needs. (In progress)

The 2025 priorities were:

- Support young people with care and support needs to prepare for adulthood. (Complete)
- Create more opportunities to work with partners to deliver positive outcomes for people. (Complete)

The 2026 priorities were:

- Provide more opportunities for care and support closer to home. (In progress)
- Work with the local care market to provide flexible services that meet people's needs. (In progress)

Between January and March 2026, a working group was established with staff representation from all Service areas who had input throughout this process and would continue to do so up to publication. Alongside this, the Council had been consistently engaging with the Adult Social Care Co-production Board, RASCAL. Those two groups helped to identify and connect with lived-experience groups across each Service area. From April to June 2026, early engagement activity was undertaken, and was still being undertaken, to capture initial views and insights to inform and shape the public consultation. This had been done so that from the earliest stages, the contents and direction of the Strategy were influenced by the voices and priorities of the community and lived experience as well as being grounded in the experience of staff in both leadership and practitioner positions. This would provide the best opportunity to create a Strategy that best met expectations and was achievable. Findings from engagement sessions to date had been grouped into five key themes as set out in section 4 of the report:

- Clearer communication about Adult Social Care (what it is and what it offers).
- Joined-up services (especially for complex needs).
- Person-centred care and listening to lived experience.
- Faster access and earlier support.
- Community presence, relationships and prevention.

A 90-day public consultation would be conducted between August and October 2026. From November 2026 to March 2027, the Strategy would be developed and progressed through the relevant governance and approval processes, with a final Cabinet decision on the Strategy scheduled for 15th March, 2027.

Councillor Allen sought assurance that work would continue on the priorities despite them being completed. Councillor Baker-Rogers confirmed that actions undertaken to complete the priorities were now considered normal working practice.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress update in relation to the current Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027.

2. Approve a formal consultation period to inform development of a Refreshed Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032.

3. Note that the outcomes of the consultation and the final Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in March 2027.

21. HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - MENOPAUSE

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause. The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14th May, 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3rd June, 2026 meeting.

The Health Select Commission convened a multi-agency menopause Workshop to explore the lived experience of Rotherham residents, to understand challenges within current Service pathways, and identify opportunities to strengthen support across Health, community and workplace settings. The session brought together GPs and Clinicians, the Council’s Public Health, Adult Commissioning and Libraries Services, Healthwatch Rotherham and Voluntary and Community Sector providers such as Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) with Elected Members representing the Health Select Commission. Discussions revealed some consistent themes, identified some areas of strength and others where more could be done to support Rotherham’s residents through their experience of the Menopause.

The recommendations produced during the session had direct links to the Council Plan 2025-2030 in the context of the ‘Residents Live Well’, ‘Children and Young People Achieve’ and ‘An Economy That Works For Everyone’ Strategic Outcomes, which in conjunction with participants’ expressed wishes and expectations, led to the ultimate determination to re-frame the Workshop as a Spotlight Review and formalise the recommendations.

Discussions had centred around the following themes:

- Public Awareness and Information, including engaging Men and Young People (paragraph 2.4 of the report.)
- Primary Care Improvement (paragraph 2.5.)
- Mental Health Support (paragraph 2.6.)
- Community Support, Engagement and Outreach (paragraph 2.7.)

- Workplace Health (paragraph 2.8.)
- System Leadership (paragraph 2.9.)

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health thanked the Health Select Commission for its work on this extremely important matter. She stated that it was a tremendous piece of work, and she would work with the relevant Service to respond to the recommendations accordingly.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed as approved by Health Select Commission:

   Public Awareness and Information, including engaging Men and Young People:

   a) That the Council seeks to improve public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through:

   i) The establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded.

   ii) That bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers is included in that resource to ensure a holistic and Borough-wide approach to raising awareness.

   iii) That the Council works with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.

   Primary Care Improvement:

   b) That the Council seeks to support Primary Care Improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through:

   i) Encouraging the adoption of a ‘Menopause Champion’ in every GP Practice in Rotherham and sharing information regarding GPs’ Menopause Champions once achieved.

   ii) Encouraging, via the ‘Menopause Champion’ GP network and in conjunction with the NHS Healthcare in the Community Agenda, development of the Town Centre Health Hub and through collaborative work with TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) and South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board), the establishment of a clear and consistent menopause pathway, including consistent assessment tools and referral guidance.

iii) Encouraging, through the ‘Menopause Champion’ GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support Service delivery, consistency and capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.

Mental Health Support:

c) That the Council seeks to improve Mental Health Support during perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Encouraging Health partners, including GPs, to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other Mental Health pathways.

ii) Increase the visibility of Mental Health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

Community Support and Engagement:

d) That the Council seeks to improve Community Support and Engagement during perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafés and community information sessions across more venues.

ii) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.

Workplace Health:

e) That the Council seeks to improve Workplace Health in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Producing and promoting a bespoke ‘Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit’ setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the Borough to support ‘menopause positivity’, creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce.

ii) Promoting workplace ‘Menopause Champions’ in local organisations and businesses, starting with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer.

System Leadership:

f) That the Council seeks to improve System Leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Utilising the connectivity of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to support the drive for better perimenopause and menopause awareness and care across the Borough.

ii) Inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise some of the Borough's largest employers, to adopt workplace 'Menopause Champions' and to support a broader agenda of working towards making Rotherham a 'Menopause Friendly Borough.'

iii) Developing a shared multi-agency action plan with measurable outcomes in support of that aim, including considering inclusion of improvements in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

iv) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.

2. Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant Health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

3. That Cabinet provide a response to these recommendations within 2 months in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Appendix 2, The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 3, Section 1.

22. NEIGHBOURHOOD LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, replacing the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy which expired in 2025.

The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, attached in draft at Appendix 1, covered a six-year period to include the 2032 local elections and was intended to be flexible, supporting an agile approach to Neighbourhood Leadership for Councillors and officers. It dealt specifically with the role of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders, building on the strong foundations which had been delivered over the last eight years. The Strategy set out new aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to Council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery.

This aligned with local, regional, and national policy ambitions to create stronger neighbourhood working. A complementary strategy (the new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy) would be presented to Cabinet in December 2026. This would deal with broader issues of neighbourhood working, including how the Council worked with external partners within localities.

The Strategy, through a co-design process with Councillors and officers, provided new guidance on what it meant to be a '21st Century Rotherham Councillor'. Alongside the seven Nolan Principles, this had identified ten core attributes of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders. These were: Visible and Accessible; Trusted Listener; Advocate; Empower; Bridge Builder; Champion; Communicator; Responsible Representative; Connector and Problem Solver.

Six linked workstreams were identified to underpin the aspiration of the Strategy and these were:

1. Ward Priorities and Plans - Providing evidence and insight to enable Ward Councillors to have information, to complement their local knowledge, to support leadership ambitions and plans.

2. Devolved Neighbourhood Budgeting – Optimising the local budgets which can be made available to Ward Councillors and residents to respond to local need.

3. Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services – Developing new protocols and working arrangements to enable all Ward Councillors to be able to shape services specific to their area.

4. Ongoing Support and Leadership Development – Supporting Ward Councillors to evolve as leaders.

5. The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership – Supporting Ward Councillors to encourage residents to get proactively involved and have greater influence and agency in their area.

6. Measuring Impact and Feeding Back - Better measuring the impact of the Neighbourhood Leadership and Neighbourhood Co-ordination functions. Enabling more frequent and centrally collated resident feedback to provide further influence over the core functions of the Council.

The report was considered by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be supported. An additional recommendation was that:

Cabinet considers the removal of the following text under "Action Area 4:

Ongoing Support and Leadership Development” of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy:- “Within the Strategy period, the 2028 local election will be used to reallocate Neighbourhood Co-ordinators to new Wards to ensure Councillors have access to new skills and perspectives. This will be repeated in future electoral cycles.”

Select Commission Members felt strongly that the proposed introduction of a cyclical rotation of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators at local elections could be detrimental to neighbourhood working and the aims of the Strategy, as significant local knowledge, connections and stability could be lost at a time of potential political change.

The Leader invited Councillor Allen, current Cabinet Member for Communities and former Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working to explain the history behind the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator role. The Leader then stated that Cabinet would not be accepting the additional recommendation. It was felt that the rotation of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators was important to ensure that the role and responsibilities of Ward Councillors was not blurred with that of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators. Further, it was for management to decide how best to allocate staffing resources, not Ward Councillors.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the approach of producing two strategies: A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, focusing specifically on the role of Ward Councillors; and a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy setting out the overarching ambition for how the Council supports local working.

2. Approve the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy and the aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to Council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery and note the accountability arrangements for services and enhanced focus on wellbeing and health inequalities.

23. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on key achievements across the Children, Young People’s and Families Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme for 2025/2026. The report also requested approval of the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

The update on key achievements for 2025/26 was split across the three aims of the Programme:

Condition works maintained schools - the 2025/2026 programme was supported by a grant of £719,080 by the DfE. This supported condition works across the 16 Local Authority Maintained Primary schools, 3 Nursery Schools and the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). Schemes were identified following the completion of condition reports by Property and Facilities Services, with regular support provided by each school's Building Officer. Schemes were completed on a rolling cycle based on priority and the resources available. Paragraph 1.4.3 provided a breakdown of the works completed.

Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools - As approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and in line with the continued increase of dwellings on the Waverley estate, there was a requirement to increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Waverley Junior Academy to provide 210 additional places. As the requirements were related to an increase in new build homes within the school catchment, the scheme was funded by private sector contributions from the developer through a Section 106 agreement. The additional classroom space was completed and opened in September 2025 in line with the 2025/2026 academic year.

Send Sufficiency - 2025/2026 was the last year of the Safety Valve Agreement. This included a further round of accessibility small grants which were available through an application, short-listing, and award process. 36 schools had been successful in receiving a grant across the Safety Valve period. The Accessibility Small Grants Programme enabled schools to make capital adaptations and improve access to the curriculum for SEND learners, ensuring more pupils were able to be educated in local mainstream schools. Further, the capital completion of a number of new resource provisions on mainstream sites was finalised in year with Thurcroft Junior Academy, Winterhill and Maltby Manor Academy provisions opening successfully.

Investment in Special Schools to increase capacity continued in 2025/2026, including a capital grant to install modular classrooms at Kelford School and the development of a second site of Elements Academy. In total this resulted in an increase of 54 special school places. As previously agreed at Cabinet, a programme of improving works had commenced across the three sites occupied by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. This had included works to improve accessibility, and the curriculum offer at Catcliffe and Hutton Park. Further works were planned in 2026/2027 at the main Rawmarsh site.

The proposed School Capital Programme for 2026/27 was detailed in section 2 of the report. Paragraph 2.2.3 outlined the priority schemes for Condition Works in Local Authority Maintained Schools. There were no current plans for mainstream schools' expansion in 2026/27 due to their being no immediate concerns in discharging the Statutory Duty to offer a mainstream school place to every child that required one.

In relation to SEND Sufficiency, it was noted that the new SEND

Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in February 2026. The Strategy showed the anticipated demand for SEND provision across both mainstream and special schools until 2030. Further, from 2026/2027, capital planning would be aligned to the SEND Reforms as detailed in the DfE's White Paper 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'. The Local Authority was required to submit a SEND Reform Plan which showed how capital funding would be used to support mainstream inclusion including the development of Inclusion Bases. A future Cabinet report would detail the local arrangements for the implementation of the SEND Reforms. The SEND Sufficiency priorities for 2026/27 were set out in paragraph 2.4.3.

As outlined to Cabinet in March 2026 following a request from the DfE, the Council had become the grant recipient of Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) funding. This was following the decision of the DfE to re-broker the existing Multi Academy Trust arrangements at Newman and bring in another Trust to run the School. The capital works would provide a new build block on the main Whiston site and a refurbishment of the School's listed corridor. A contractor had been secured for the works which were scheduled across 2026/2027 and early 2027/2028.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the achievements in the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2025/2026.

2. Approve the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

24. EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE - NEW MODEL OF DELIVERY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model, setting out how the Service would operate in practice following approval of the associated recurrent investment through the 2026/27 budget.

The Educational Psychology Service would focus on three main areas of work:

1. Statutory work (legal duties): This was the biggest part of the Service and included assessments and advice for Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

2. Targeted early help: Extra support for schools and areas where needs were highest, to prevent problems getting worse.

3. Universal and traded support; Ongoing advice, training and support that schools could access.

In the past, when demand increased, nearly all capacity was pulled into statutory work. This meant Early Help and support for schools reduced which often led to more children needing formal assessments later. The new model was different because it would plan further ahead for statutory demand, protect more time for Early Help and set clear limits on what could be delivered, so the Service was more consistent in its delivery.

Around 1,800 days per year of Educational Psychologist time would be set aside for statutory work (EHC assessments). This was to make sure that legal deadlines were met, advice was provided on time, and the Council avoided legal and reputational risks. To support this, the Council would recruit two additional permanent Educational Psychologists that would reduce reliance on agency staff, give families and schools more consistent support and improve oversight and quality.

Around 120 days per year would be set aside specifically for early intervention. This would focus on schools with the highest levels of need, children at risk of needing more intensive support and key transition points (for example, starting or moving school). Support would include working directly with schools to understand and manage needs, short-term, practical help to stabilise situations and helping schools put the right support in place early.

The Service would continue to provide support to all schools, including advice and consultation, training for staff, help with planning support for children, critical incident support and wider work to improve inclusion. This would be delivered through a mix of Council-funded work, grant funding and traded services schools could buy into. Overall, around 1,200 days per year would be available for this work.

The new model would be implemented from September 2026. This would introduce a clearer balance between statutory work, Early Help, and support for schools, with protected time for early intervention and reduced reliance on agency staff.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revised Educational Psychology Service delivery model.

2. Note the approach to implementation, governance and assurance arrangements.

25. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report which provided a detailed outline of the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26.

The Council set a balanced budget position for 2025/26 as part of the

Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved at Council on 5th March, 2025. A Revenue Budget of £359.0m was set for General Fund services, this excluded schools' budgets and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) position was based on sound financial assumptions at the time, factoring in budget contingencies for Service demand pressures, in particular within Social Care, Home to School Transport and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award.

However, demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types, and the cost and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care had continued to increase. Market prices had increased at above inflation levels, which in turn had placed further pressures on the Council's Budget. The Local Government Pay Award was agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact was £2.3m above the budget allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council had no control over the level of pay award agreed.

The December Financial Monitoring Report 2025/26 submitted to Cabinet on 9th February, 2026 outlined that the Council anticipated an overspend of £3.4m. This forecast position was also outlined in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report which was submitted to the same Cabinet meeting and also to Council on 4th March, 2026. The overspend was proposed to be funded from Council Reserves. However, the report noted the Council's intention to further improve the outturn position, if possible, which would see a lower value call on reserves. The actual financial outturn position reflected an overspend of £0.3m, an improvement of £3.1m from the December Financial Monitoring reported to February Cabinet. This improvement was a result of Service areas delivering further savings ahead of year end, maximising grant allocations, improvements in income and the Council generating further savings in Treasury Management. The Council's final overspend position of £0.3m had been funded by £0.3m of the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve as approved within the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained volatile. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs, and commentators anticipate a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The Housing Revenue Account had an underspend of £4.3m. As a result of this the HRA use of reserves was able to be reduced from £7.2m to £2.9m. This would help the HRA to mitigate the financial challenges presented by increased maintenance requirements over the medium term.

The Capital Programme outturn position showed slippage and an underspend of £15m against the Budget for 2025/26. Capital expenditure (programme delivery) in the year increased from the previous years to

£150.6m (2024/25 outturn was £140.6m).

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position for 2025/26.

2. Note the required transfer from HRA reserves decreased by £4.3m following the revenue and capital outturn position.

3. Note the carry forward of the combined surplus schools balance of £2.395m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.

4. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.16.

5. Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.25.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2025-26

Consideration was given to the report which reviewed the treasury activity for 2025/26 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code. The actual Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 for Rotherham MBC, with comparators, were shown in the attached Appendix 1. Background to these was provided in the section 2 of the report.

The Council received an Annual Treasury Strategy Report in advance of the 2025/26 financial year at its meeting on 5th March, 2025 and Audit Committee received a mid-year report at its meeting on 25th November, 2025, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2025/26. In addition, quarterly updates were received by Audit Committee on 29th July, 2025 and 17th March, 2026.

The report met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council was required to comply with both Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

The Bank of England Base Rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75% during 2025/26 as inflation continued to fall from the previous highs.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

Note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

27. MAY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of May 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first two months of 2026/27.

As of May 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 was an overspend of £4.6m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.6m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £3.0m. The main pressures driving this forecast were within Social Care, largely due to market prices and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who had complex needs. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate were provided in the report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained volatile. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs impacting the wider economy and economic commentators anticipating a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

Paragraph 2.17 of the report detailed the Capital Programme Variations and provided updates on the Local Regeneration Fund and Dinnington project.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £4.6m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.17 of the report.

28. COUNCIL HOMES HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME REPORT - JULY 2026 UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided the usual six-monthly Housing Delivery Programme update to Cabinet. The report covered the period between 1st December, 2025 and 31st May, 2026, during which time 66 homes were delivered. The report also sought approval for changes to the overall Programme position, including specific additions to the Programme. These changes were designed to maintain delivery of the 1,000 new Council homes target, while providing the flexibility to mitigate risks to this delivery.

By the end of May 2026, 808 new Council homes had been delivered, including 114 homes in the 2025/26 financial year. The 808 new homes comprised 670 Council Rent homes (83%) and 138 Shared Ownership homes (17%). A further 125 Market Sale homes were delivered between August 2020 and April 2023 (as per Appendix 3). As these were not Council homes, these did not contribute towards the 1,000 new Council homes target. A map showing the location of the new Council homes delivered to the end of May 2026 was attached at Appendix 4.

Between 1st December, 2025 and 31st May, 2026 (the ‘reporting period’ covered by this report), the Programme delivered a total of 66 new homes. This comprised 21 Council build homes, 26 Section 106 acquisitions and 19 market acquisitions. Appendix 5 provided a photographic overview of this delivery, together with a selection of tenant feedback. Over the same period, work progressed to bring forward upcoming projects from the Council’s new-build pipeline. A planning application was submitted for the conversion of Hurley Croft Neighbourhood Centre to residential accommodation, and planning consent was granted for 38 homes across sites in Wath, and at Tenter Street in Thornhill. Construction commenced on 28 homes across three sites in Wath, with construction ready to start in June on 31 homes across 2 sites at Eastwood. The construction of 43 homes across 2 sites at Maltby continued with good progress made in line with the project programme.

A further SME project with the potential to deliver 8 homes at Maltby had been added to the Programme, with more information detailed in exempt Appendix 2. The developer would provide a full proposal for evaluation against Programme requirements and a strategic needs assessment.

On 19th January, 2026, Cabinet approved Programme changes to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new homes by Summer 2027, and within the financial resources allocated to the Programme from the HRA. The approved Programme position was summarised in Table 1 of the report. The inclusion of 10 additional homes beyond the 1,000 new Council Homes target provided a degree of mitigation against slippage in delivery, or homes not coming forward as expected. However, this did not provide sufficient programme level mitigation against risks to the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes. Accordingly, further mitigations were outlined in the previous report. These mitigations had been utilised to bring forward further changes to the overall Programme position, providing additional flexibility to support the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027. The proposed Programme position was summarised in Table 2 with further detail provided in exempt Appendix 1.

The proposed Programme position now included 61 homes above the 1,000 new Council homes target. This surplus provided the flexibility to support delivery of the 1,000 homes on time, while simultaneously providing an initial pipeline to begin delivery of the estimated 500 additional new homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38. There would be some movement between the current and future elements of the Programme which would be determined by progress at an individual project level.

The Council owned a residential property, 2a The Parade, Rawmarsh (Appendix 6), which previously formed part of a commercial lease alongside the retail unit below. The lease had now expired, and the residential property was surplus to commercial requirements. This provided the opportunity to add a 2-bedroom flat to the Council housing stock as part of the Housing Delivery Programme. There were a further 7 flats above commercial units at this location, all of which were already Council Homes managed via the HRA. Significant demand existed for 2-bedroom flats in Rawmarsh, with an average of 111 bids for this property type in 2025. The property had been surveyed and was suitable for refurbishment, within the financial parameters of the Market Acquisition workstream, and letting, as part of the Council stock. It was therefore recommended that the property should be appropriated to the Housing Service and brought into use as General Needs accommodation.

The Housing Acquisitions Policy, attached at Appendix 7, was approved by Cabinet on 16th October, 2023. In line with the Policy a review had taken place. As a result some changes were proposed and included in recommendation 5.

The Programme changes outlined in the January 2026 report included moving the Grayson Road Council Build project from the current Programme to post-Summer 2027 delivery. Subsequent work on this project had determined that it was not financially viable for the Council to deliver homes on this site, and it was, therefore, recommended that it be removed from the future Programme and the site be reviewed as part of the proposed Housing Growth Framework.

Councillor Allen asked if there was an opportunity to look at removing the service charge for some of those other neighbourhood centres that had equally high levels of un-use as Hurley Croft. She asked if the Service could look at the principle of removing the service charge where the facilities were not being used. The Cabinet Member agreed to look into the matter and provide a written response.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the continued progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, including the delivery of 66 new homes in the period covered by this report, and the ongoing work to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027.

2. Approves the Programme changes outlined in this report to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027, within the financial resources allocated to the programme from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

3. Approves the appropriation of 2a The Parade (see Appendix 6) into the HRA, and work to refurbish the property to the standards required for letting as general needs accommodation.

4. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to remove the service charge at Hurley Croft once work to convert to residential accommodation is ready to start.

5. Approves the proposed changes to the Housing Acquisitions Policy referenced at Paragraph 2.12. The draft Policy is attached at Appendix 7.

6. Approves the removal of the Grayson Road Council Build site from the delivery pipeline.

7. Agrees to continue to receive an update on the Housing Development Programme every six months.

29. TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE - SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which set out the 2025/26 Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) survey for Housing Services. It showed how the Service had performed against previous years and national data benchmarking. 11 out of 12 tenant satisfaction measures were currently above the national median, based on 2024/25 data published by the Regulator of Social Housing. When comparing Local Authorities (LAs) only, the Council ranked in the upper quartile for 11 of these 12 measures. The report also set out areas that required improvement and actions in response.

During the 2025/26 financial year, 3,334 tenants were surveyed by an independent research partner (Kwest Research Ltd), representing over 16.5% of the total tenant population. This substantially exceeded the

Regulator of Social Housing's minimum requirement to survey 5% of tenants and demonstrated the Council's strong commitment to meaningful tenant engagement. As with previous years, contact methods remained aligned with industry best practice, with 85% of surveys conducted by telephone and 15% via email. Importantly, the tenants surveyed closely reflected the Council's tenant Equality and Diversity profile, providing confidence that the results were representative and inclusive.

The year-end position for 2025/26 showed a slight decline in satisfaction that the home was well maintained, reducing by 0.3 percentage points to 77.4% compared to the end of year 2024/25 figures. However, satisfaction with home safety improved to 81.8%, and both repairs-related measures continued to rise. Satisfaction with the overall repairs service reached 78.7%, and satisfaction with the time taken to complete repairs increased to 78.1%. Compared to the 2023/24 baseline, these represented gains of 4.6 and 6.0 percentage points, respectively, highlighting sustained improvement in service delivery.

At the year-end position for 2025/26, the percentage of tenants who felt well informed had decreased slightly by 0.4 percentage points to 76.4%, while perceptions of fairness and respect had remained stable at 83.1%. However, the proportion of tenants who felt listened to has reduced by 1.8 percentage points to 69.7%, and satisfaction with complaints handling had remained static at 34.5%.

The Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) for 2024/25 showed that satisfaction with how well communal areas were kept clean and well maintained experienced the largest decline, falling by 3.5 percentage points compared to 2023/24. This decline was reinforced by tenant comments captured through the tenant perception survey. In response, the Council invested an additional £135,000 in caretaking services for 2025/26 and introduced refreshed Service Level Agreements to strengthen standards and accountability. As a result of this targeted investment and Service improvement, satisfaction with communal areas became the most improved measure year on year between 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing by 4.8 percentage points. The key initiatives to improve anti-social behaviour were outlined in paragraph 2.8 of the report.

The ten Council-reported TSMs also remained strong. Repairs performance was a particular strength, mirroring the positive perception survey results with 97.5% of non-emergency repairs completed within target timescales (15.0 percentage points above the national median) and 98.6% of emergency repairs completed within target (3.7 percentage points above the national median). In addition, the Council had achieved full compliance across all health and safety-related measures, except for Gas Safety, which stood at 99.9%. 13 properties were non-compliant as at end of March 2026 and actions were underway to gain access to those properties. The proportion of non-decent homes had risen slightly from 6.38% at the end of 2024/25 to 7.58% at the end of 2025/26. By comparison, the median non-decency rate across Local Authorities in

2024/25 was 3.2%. This increase was anticipated and reflected the accelerated progress of the Stock Condition Survey Programme. As the Programme continued, the recorded level of non-decent stock was expected to fluctuate as a more accurate and up-to-date picture of stock condition emerged.

In 2025/26, the Council recorded 69.8 ASB cases per 1,000 properties, which was 33.8 above the national median. Reported hate incidents stood at 0.3 per 1,000 properties, 0.4 below the national median. While this could initially appear positive, it raised a potential concern regarding under-reporting. As part of the improvement journey, a detailed audit of ASB cases was underway to ensure hate incidents were being accurately identified and recorded. Where gaps were identified, targeted actions would be implemented to strengthen staff awareness, reporting pathways, and case classification.

Complaint volumes also highlighted an area for improvement. In 2025/26, there were 23.1 stage one complaints per 1,000 properties (30.4 below the national median) and 1.8 stage two complaints per 1,000 properties (6.5 below the national median). While low complaint rates could suggest satisfaction, it was recognised that in this context they were more likely to indicate barriers to reporting or a lack of tenant confidence in the complaints process. In response, a programme of improvements was being taken forward, focused on increasing accessibility, transparency and trust. This included making it easier for tenants to raise complaints through clearer communication and simplified channels, alongside strengthening internal processes to ensure timely, thorough and learning-focused responses. These changes were being aligned with Housing Ombudsman expectations, with a strong emphasis on using complaints as a driver for service improvement.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report.

2. Agrees to receive a further update in six months’ time.

30. COUNCIL PLAN AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the progress of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26 (and the associated Council Plan performance measures) was approved by Cabinet on 19th May, 2025. In line with the previous Council Plan, it was agreed that there would be two monitoring reports published over the year. Cabinet received the first progress update on 19th January, 2026. The second progress report for 2025-26 was attached at Appendix 1. It included progress on Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions up to 15th June, 2026, performance measures at Quarter 4 (January to March 2026), and the year-end overview of the long-term measures of success.

As of 15th June, 2026, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan were rated as follows:

- 82% (73) complete
- 2% (2) are delayed by less than 3 months
- 16% (14) will not be met within 3 months of original target date.

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the performance measures was:

Progress against targets

- Performance has met target – 22 measures (81%)
- Performance has not met target – 5 measures (19%)

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the 12 Social Care measures was:

Progress against targets

- Performance is on or above target – 7 measures (58%)
- Target cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. Annual measure or awaiting publication of data) – 2 measures (17%)
- Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. Volume/Demand measures where ‘good’ is neither high or low) – 3 measures (25%)

For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the long-term measures of success was:

Progress against baseline 2024/25

- 22 measures have improved since the baseline (58%)
- 10 measures have not improved since the baseline (26%)
- 6 measures are N/A - do not have data for current reporting period (16%)

During the meeting, the Leader explained that there were four updates to report:

- Kimberworth Park Partnership were successful in their bid to The Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area and have secured £75k to progress the project, alongside additional £80k of Council investment.
- Groundworks began on the new homes at Eastwood – one of the two actions marked as amber in the report.

- The Rotherham Market Hall main floor area, where the stalls would be, was handed over on Friday, 19th June. The new market would be open to the public from Friday, 10th July 2026.
- Whiston Flood Alleviation Scheme was progressing, with the contractor commencing works onsite on 6th July to install a new culvert on Worrygoose Lane.

Councillor Marshall spoke in support of the commencement of works for the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme and reported that progress had been made with the Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Scheme with a delivery partner being appointed to develop the design.

Councillor Cusworth highlighted several aspects for the Children and Young People's Portfolio. This included baby packs, development reviews and EHCP timelines.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Three additional recommendations had been put forward. These were, that:

1. OSMB recommends that Cabinet ensures the Council clearly demonstrates in future updates how delays affect residents, the seriousness of the associated risks, and the measures in place to mitigate them.

2. OSMB recommends that Cabinet ensures the Council clearly identifies the main reasons for missed targets, demonstrates what actions are being taken to improve performance, and evidence whether those actions are delivering results, supported by named ownership, detailed action plans, progress tracking, impact data, and clear examples of learning and escalation.

3. OSMB recommends that Cabinet, in collaboration with senior officers, undertakes a review of the Shop Unit Grant Programme to assess whether the full range of available mechanisms and powers, such as planning controls, design standards, and regulatory tools, were being effectively utilised to maximise long-term improvements to Rotherham's high streets.

Cabinet accepted all of the additional recommendations. However, the Leader stated that the Shop Unit Grant Programme would be underway shortly and so the review would have to wait until time could be allocated.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.

2. Note the Quarter 4 data for the Council Plan performance measures.

3. Note the updates on the Council Plan long term measures of success.

4. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

5. Ensures the Council clearly demonstrates in future updates how delays affect residents, the seriousness of the associated risks, and the measures in place to mitigate them.

6. Ensures the Council clearly identifies the main reasons for missed targets, demonstrates what actions are being taken to improve performance, and evidence whether those actions are delivering results, supported by named ownership, detailed action plans, progress tracking, impact data, and clear examples of learning and escalation.

7. In collaboration with senior officers, undertakes a review of the Shop Unit Grant Programme to assess whether the full range of available mechanisms and powers, such as planning controls, design standards, and regulatory tools, were being effectively utilised to maximise long-term improvements to Rotherham's high streets.

31. TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC SITES

Consideration was given to the report which presented the regeneration proposals for five Strategic Sites in Rotherham town centre. The five sites were:

- Westgate Car Park
- Sites on Sheffield Road (SIG and Bedell land)
- The Statutes Car Park
- Snail Yard, High Street
- 3-7 Corporation Street

The report outlined the Council's ambitions for the sites, the phased approach to redevelopment, and the outcomes of the work to date, including feasibility work to produce initial outline concepts and Strategic Regeneration Plans (SRPs) which were contained within exempt Appendix 1. Exempt Appendix 2 contained the financial breakdown associated with the proposals.

The report also set out the next steps required to progress through Stage 2 of the process to produce detailed, deliverable, costed development plans, with financial models, over the next year that would clearly illustrate how the sites could be delivered in the final stage and recommended an allocation of £2.42m from the Council's Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate this. No decision was required at this stage on the ultimate development plans for the sites, their funding, financial models or land ownership arrangements, however emerging thinking was referenced. A Cabinet report would be presented in Summer 2027 which detailed the final proposals.

Paragraph 1.9 of the report detailed the aims of the Town Centre Regeneration Proposals. Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out Stage 1 of the process which included a summary of the outcomes of the Strategic Regeneration Plans for the five sites. This included design concepts, programme details and the funding strategy, viability & development options & structure.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report outlined Stage 2 of the process. Stage 2 culminated in the production of Full Business Cases (FBC) for each of the Strategic Sites. Specifically, this must include as a minimum:

- Intrusive site investigations in preparation for remediation of vacant sites
- Detailed viability appraisals and funding strategies
- RIBA Stage 3 design concepts
- Securing Planning Permissions
- Raising of the required development finances
- Detailed cost plans
- Presented as a HM Treasury Compliant 5 Case Full Business Case

Progression to Stage 2 would require the Council to meet the pre-development costs of £2.42m. It was proposed that this was funded through unallocated Local Regeneration Grant. The Local Regeneration Grant was the name applied to the Central Government funding previously known as Pathfinder, the name for the collated pots of Town Deal, Future High Streets and Levelling Up funds. Use of this underspend to progress these schemes accorded with the longstanding strategic intent to diversify the Town Centre through the development of these sites. It was also consistent with the Government's intention to enable local authorities to have flexibility over the use of these funds.

Up to the conclusion of Stage 2, the financial risk to the Council was £3.02m, of grant funding and would represent the full costs incurred to achieve detailed development plans and planning approval for the five strategic sites. There remained a risk that ultimately the Council may decide not to proceed past Stage 2 and into delivery. This was considered a necessary risk in order to unlock these strategically important sites to achieve transformational change in the Town Centre and for the Council to retain control of the development activity and regeneration message. It was acknowledged that this stage only represented the comprehensive feasibility work and, therefore, there was a risk that the outcome would be that the sites were not feasible to be developed in this way, due to the funding gap identified as part of the scope of works.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the completion of Stage 1 of the Council's phased approach to the redevelopment of the 5 Strategic Sites.

2. Approves the allocation of £2.42m from the Council's unallocated Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate the completion of Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the sites, the detail of which is described in section 2.1.

3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & Local Economy and S151 Officer to negotiate contract terms with Capital and Centric and enter into contract to complete all elements of Stage 2 development work for the 5 strategic sites.

4. Notes the presentation of a further report to Cabinet in Summer 2027 summarising the outcome of the stage 2 work and setting out final recommendations for a detailed delivery strategy that will form stage 3.

5. Approve necessary consultation and engagement activity with all stakeholders to inform and support the progression to the next stages of development.

32. DRAFT STREET TRADING POLICY

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who recommended that Cabinet deferred consideration of the Draft Street Trading Policy and did not proceed to public consultation until further development work had been completed and sufficient supporting evidence was provided to ensure the Policy was evidence-led and fit for consultation. This work should include clearer data on current trading activity and issues, improved impact assessments, clearer scope and definitions, and more detailed operational and fee proposals. During the meeting, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board confirmed that he would like the matter to return to Scrutiny in due course.

Cabinet accepted this recommendation and deferred the Draft Street Trading Policy without further discussion.

Resolved:

That Cabinet agree to defer consideration of the Draft Street Trading Policy until further development work has been completed.

33. PRIMATE LICENSING

Consideration was given to the report which sought to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application. Recent changes to Animal Health Legislation included the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provided for the licensing of primate keepers.

The Legislation prohibited the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals could meet the rigorous conditions of a new licensing scheme, which included the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates had complex welfare and social needs, and the standards were designed to ensure that only those who could demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare would be permitted to keep primates.

An individual who kept, or was proposing to keep, a primate could apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate.

Before issuing a licence, a suitable officer must inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions were likely to be met if the application were to be granted. If licence conditions were likely to be met, then a licence could be issued. Conversely, if licence conditions were not likely to be met, then the application must be refused. Where the Council was satisfied that a licence could be issued, the licence could be issued for three years unless the applicant specified a shorter period. The Regulations made further provisions for renewal, variation, revocation and surrender of licences, together with provisions in the event of the death of a licence holder.

The Council could set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There was already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which covered the same direct and indirect costs of licensing as proposed for Primate Licensing. Consequently, the same fee of £199 was proposed for the Licence fee along with any variation or renewal applications.

Resolved:

That Cabinet recommend to Council that the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

34. 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.

35. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 14th September, 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.