

TIMELINE OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

September 2020 to November 2021

| | Government Announcements | Thriving Neighbourhoods | Better Health and Wellbeing | Economic Recovery | New Ways of Working | Hope and Confidence | Cross-cutting |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| September 2020 | 'Rule of Six' introduced, prohibiting gatherings of more than six people. | | 122 schools reopened safely with provisions in place for transport, catering, cleaning and school crossing patrols. | Work commenced to improve the town centre's open spaces, starting on Bridgegate. | Proposals outlining safe return to Council building completed and kept under review dependant on national situation. | <p>Seven-month Rotherham Together Programme launched, aimed at bringing residents and communities together through cultural events and installations.</p> <p>Clifton Park Museum reopened safely following refurbishment and phased reopening of libraries and leisure centres commenced.</p> | |

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| October 2020 | <p>Three-tier system of Covid Alert Levels introduced, with Rotherham placed in Tier 2 on 14 October.</p> <p>South Yorkshire moved to Tier 3 on 24 October.</p> | <p>Decision taken to offer free school meals support over half term, helping more than 10,000 children.</p> | <p>4,203 local young people participated in a survey on emotional health and wellbeing to identify ways to support children through the pandemic.</p> <p>Video featuring Rotherham-born former Arsenal and England goalkeeper David Seaman asking local residents to follow the guidelines toured the borough on the sides of digital display van.</p> | <p>Government go-ahead given and £42m of funding approved for the Parkway upgrade.</p> | <p>Q&A sessions held with Chief Executive to enable staff to ask questions about The Year Ahead Plan.</p> | <p>Three of Rotherham's parks – Clifton, Greasbrough and Ulley – received Green Flag Award.</p> | <p>Initial meeting of Climate Champions to develop carbon action plan.</p> |

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| November 2020 | National lockdown implemented from 5 November in response to rising Covid cases across the country. | Library Strategy for 2021-26 approved, including improvements to library buildings, making libraries more accessible and increasing community involvement. Virtual event held for Reclaim the Night. | New Covid-19 testing centres opened in Dinnington and Maltby. Virtual programme of events took place for Safeguarding Awareness Week 2020. | Pathways Rotherham programme launched, aiming to support residents to progress into education employment or training. | New online housing rent balance service launched and new technology, 'Voicescape', to keep in touch with tenants. New staff Wellbeing Survey launched. | Virtual memorial service held to mark Remembrance Day in Rotherham. | Proposals approved to refresh the Council's approach to equalities and to seek excellence accreditation against the Local Government Association Equalities Framework. |

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| December 2020 | National lockdown ended on 2 December and Rotherham placed in Tier 3. | Plans for use of the COVID-19 Winter Grant approved, including free school meal vouchers, Christmas food, utilities and school uniform support. | First Covid-19 vaccinations in Rotherham administered, with a 94-year-old resident the first to receive this at his local GP-led vaccination service. | Rotherham Discretionary Business Support scheme launched to support small and new businesses affected by the pandemic. | Big Hearts, Big Changes Awards 2020 held virtually, celebrating the outstanding work of Council employees during the past year. | 500 children from schools across the borough took part in virtual Christmas performance. | | |
| | First Covid-19 vaccines approved and vaccinations began across the country. | | | Purchased former Primark site and unveiled plans to demolish the building and replace with a short term pocket park. | Digital process to support garden waste collection went live. | Ofsted letter praised the Council's rapid and effective response to Covid in early 2020 and said that senior leaders had continued to respond to need as before the pandemic. | | |
| | Novel UK Covid-19 variant discovered and later confirmed to be more infectious. | Rotherham Heroes story regarding a volunteer who helped a critically vulnerable resident receive her first Christmas presents in over a decade was shared in The Advertiser. | Creation of Rotherham's first specialist education provision for children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties at the former Dinnington College Campus was approved. | | | | | |
| | National relaxation of restrictions allowed in many areas of UK on Christmas Day. | | | | | | | |

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| January 2021 | <p>Third national lockdown implemented from 5 January.</p> <p>Mass vaccination centres opened across the country and national Vaccines Delivery Plan published.</p> | <p>Plans approved for £100,000 of local financial support, alongside the national self-isolation support payment scheme.</p> | <p>Roll-out of the Community Testing Programme began.</p> <p>Lateral Flow testing for asymptomatic frontline staff began at Riverside House.</p> | <p>Forge Island deal with Arc Cinema completed.</p> <p>11 new work coaches commenced in post with DWP Rotherham.</p> <p>Local scheme launched offering financial assistance to people who fell outside the national criteria for self-isolation support payments.</p> | <p>Staff wellbeing session held on mental health support service for Council employees.</p> | <p>Video released for Holocaust Memorial Day, encouraging individuals and communities to 'be the light in the darkness'.</p> <p>Residents urged to #GetRidReyt as part of a campaign against fly-tipping.</p> | |

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| February 2021 | | Community days commenced across all wards, targeting cleaning work in priority areas highlighted by Ward Members. | Herringthorpe COVID-19 testing site opened. | Work began on demolishing former the Primark building on Rotherham High Street. Work started on A630 Parkway improvements. | Four wellbeing workshops for staff held: working from home, keeping fighting fit in winter, coping with uncertainty and introduction to mindfulness. | Series of virtual performances by young people held in celebration of Chinese New Year. | |
| March 2021 | Children returned to school, care homes allowed one regular visitor and two people allowed to sit together outdoors. One-year anniversary of first lockdown marked on 23 March. | Issued over 10,000 supermarket vouchers to support families in need during the Easter break. | Over 100,000 Rotherham residents vaccinated. New Respite Centre opened at Conway Crescent in East Herringthorpe for adults with learning disabilities. Beech Tree Lodge Children's home opened. | | | Hope Fields COVID-19 memorial opened to the public at Thrybergh Country Park, with a recorded ceremony. | |

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| April 2021 | Non-essential retail, personal care, outdoor hospitality and indoor leisure reopened from 12 April. | Volunteer co-ordinators supported 103 new volunteers since starting work in December 2020. | <p>First community test centre opened at the Unity Centre.</p> <p>Beat the Street, a fun, free initiative that sees how far people can cycle, run, scoot and roll in just six weeks launched in Rotherham.</p> | <p>Let's Get Rotherham Moving campaign launched, urging residents to help keep shops and local businesses open by following Covid rules.</p> <p>Bridgegate public realm improvements completed, and work began on College Street.</p> | | <p>Libraries and leisure centres across the borough reopened safely.</p> <p>Four additional zonal cleansing teams introduced.</p> | Session on Climate Change held for staff. |

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| May 2021 | Local elections took place across the country on 6 May. | 25 new ward webpages launched following the elections to reflect changes to wards and their Elected Members. | Lateral flow test kits made available from nine Rotherham libraries. | Work began to prepare riverside precinct and chantry buildings for demolition. | Recruitment commenced for Kickstart placements within the Council. | Set out legacy plans for the UEFA Women's Euros in 2022, aiming to inspire women and girls across the borough to get involved in football. | |
| | The Queen's Speech 2021 introduced 25 new pieces of upcoming legislation. | | | Awarded £12.6 million under the Future High Streets | | | |
| | Step three of lockdown easing began on 17 May: most outdoor social contact rules lifted, six people or two households can meet indoors, and indoor hospitality can open. | Member Induction Programme began, with 11 sessions held for Members during May. | | | | | |

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| June 2021 | Stage four of lockdown easing was delayed from 21 June to 19 July as the national vaccination programme was accelerated. | New community food pantry opened at Kimberworth Park. | Shared Lives Week celebrated, including a celebration event at Winthrop Gardens which focused on the strength and resilience of Shared Lives carers during the pandemic. | <p>Awarded £31.6 million from the Towns Fund to carry out ambitious regeneration projects across the town centre, Eastwood and Templeborough.</p> <p>First of a series of videos released showcasing the Town Centre Masterplan.</p> | Mental health awareness session for managers held. | <p>'Rotherham Round-Up' bulletin launched for residents.</p> <p>Clifton Park Museum reopened with two new temporary exhibitions.</p> <p>Commenced installation of solar bins in the town centre.</p> | Equalities Annual Report for 2020/21 published. |

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| July 2021 | Step four of the roadmap (delayed from 21 June) began on 19 July: all legal limits on social contact removed and reopening of final sectors of economy. | <p>Official opening of new £126,000 multi-use games area in Greasbrough.</p> <p>Issued over 10,000 vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during the summer holidays.</p> | Healthy Holidays Programme in place to offer activities ranging from football and cycling through to arts and first aid. | Two public consultations went live on cycling: the draft cycling strategy and the proposal to create cycle tracks along the A6178 Sheffield Road. | <p>Took part in Thank You Day – a UK-wide celebration of all the people whose actions have made a difference.</p> <p>New online tool to allow residents to pin a location on an online map to report faulty lights, bollards or signs.</p> | <p>Riverside Library reopened for the first time since March 2020.</p> <p>‘The Great Big Rotherham To Do List’ launched, a free pocket guide to find everyday moments of calm, interest, health and fun based activities.</p> | |

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| August 2021 | All young people aged 16 to 17 in England offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday 23 August. | Garden waste collection service resumed. | Rotherham United offered free tickets to those who got a job before Saturday's match. | 44 new apartments completed at Broom Valley as part of the plans to build a thousand new Council homes. | | Consultation on the new Council Plan 2022-2025 opened. | |
| | Changes to self-isolation came into effect – double vaccinated people and children no longer needed to self-isolate if they are in close contact of someone who has tested positive. | Council set to almost double its annual Domestic Abuse budget and provide more services to victims and survivors. | New relocated mobile Covid test site opened at Constable Lane car park in Dinnington. | | | Almost three and a half miles of wildflower verges planted in 12 trial areas across the borough including Herringthorpe, Swinton, Harthill and Maltby. | |
| | Antibody tests offered to public for first time. | | | | | Garden waste collections resumed. | |

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| September 2021 | Covid Winter Plan announced. | Staff and residents informed about useful donations to Afghan people, who are housed at a 'bridging hotel' as part of the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy. | Online event took place to encourage women to talk about suicide as part of World Suicide Prevention Day. | Announced that Travelodge exchanged long term-deal to become the next anchor tenant at Forge Island. | New Hybrid Working Policy agreed to enable employees to maximise performance and productivity, whilst maintaining a good work life balance. | Rotherham Show took place with an estimated audience of 90,000. Included new site layout to accommodate COVID-19 measures and covid vaccination bus. | South Yorkshire LA's joined forces with national recycling campaign 'Recycle Now' to promote the message locally. |
| | Agreed to end the requirement for shielding guidance for people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable. | | Vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds and boosters for those eligible underway. | Council accredited as a Real Living Wage employer. | | | |
| | Vaccine invitations for those aged 12 to 15 and those eligible for a booster jab began. | | Implementation of team around the School starts, a mental health and wellbeing support programme for pupils and their families with their. | Completion of ten bungalows spread across four sites: Chestnut Close, Craig Walk, Greenwood Close, Hornbeam Road. | | | |
| | | | | | | Refurbished Rotherham Civic Theatre reopened. | |
| | | | | | | Rotherham named as one of 54 priority areas by Arts Council England. | |
| | | | | | | Refresh programme for all street litter bins commenced. | |

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| October 2021 | | <p>SY Police and Crime Commissioner successful in securing £550,000 of funding to help make women and girls feel safer in public spaces, installing innovative lighting and CCTV in Clifton Park.</p> <p>Community Champions video on the benefits of physical activity on mental health shared on RMBC twitter for World Mental Health Day.</p> | <p>New PCR testing site opened on Constable Lane car park, Dinnington.</p> <p>Families encouraged to take lateral flow tests before pupils return to school.</p> <p>Sheffield Hallam University and South Yorkshire's four LA's created a new regional strategy to improve speech, language and communication (SLC) for children under five.</p> | <p>Work began on multimillion-pound canal barrier as part of Forge Island flood defence and enabling scheme.</p> <p>Two out of three funding bids from the Levelling Up Fund approved by government, with almost £40million to help improve leisure economy and skills in the borough and Rotherham town centre.</p> | <p>Transition to hybrid working microsite went live.</p> | <p>Rother Valley Country Park, Clifton, Greasbrough and Ulley parks received Green Flag Awards.</p> <p>Work started on the restoration of Keppel's Column.</p> <p>Kiveton Park Library relaunch event following extensive refurbishment of the building and it's facilities.</p> | |

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| October 2021 <i>Continued</i> | | Issued over 11,000 supermarket vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during half term. | Partnership of organisations which deliver services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) committed to make further improvement. Residents encouraged to get winter vaccination. | Attractions from across South Yorkshire joined together to showcase the best of the region. | | | |

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| November 2021 | Health and social care providers in England required to ensure all frontline workers are fully vaccinated. | Reclaim the Night event, to stand against violence towards women and girls, making streets and public spaces safe for and everyone. | Free digital counselling and support service for children and young people launched. | College Street public realm scheme complete. | Employee opinion survey 2021 went live. | Christmas Lights Switch-On event and entertainment in the town centre. | Homes at The Lanes made cheaper to heat and energy efficient by fitting new triple glazing, external doors, improving insulation and replacing old boilers. | |
| | Face coverings made mandatory in shops and on public transport to stop the spread of Omicron variant and all travellers returning to the UK require PCR testing. | | Safeguarding Awareness Week, leaders from across South Yorkshire came together to discuss how to keep adults and children in the region safe. | | Big Hearts Big Changes virtual awards ceremony took place, to recognise the hard work of staff within the Council. | | | Customers now able to choose a collection date for requesting bulky waste online. |
| | | | Hospital Hub for 12-15 year olds who did not receive their COVID vaccines in schools opened at Rotherham Hospital. | | New Housing Management System went live. | | | |

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| November 2021 <i>Continued</i> | | | Residents reminded to take Lateral Flow Tests before attending festive events. Quarry House Children's home opened. | | | | |