

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

Venue:- Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

Membership:- Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Burnett (Vice-Chair), Atkin, Bennett-Sylvester, C Carter, Cowen, Ellis, Havard, Hughes, Hunter, Jones Khan, McNeely, Reynolds, Sansome, Taylor, Tinsley.

Co-opted Members:- Mrs. K. Bacon, Mrs. M. Jacques.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 March 2022 (Pages 3 - 8)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 March 2022 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Questions from members of the public and the press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

6. CCTV Update (Pages 9 - 38)

To receive a report providing an overview of the local position in respect of CCTV capabilities within Rotherham and upgrades of existing assets.

7. Tree Service Progress Update (Pages 39 - 47)

To receive an update in respect of progress in the implementation of the Tree Management Protocol & Guidance, recent tree planting, and looks ahead to the next financial year.

8. Work Programme (Pages 49 - 56)

To receive an updated schedule of work and recent actions in respect of the scrutiny programme of work.

9. Urgent Business

To consider any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

10. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 7 June 2022, commencing at 1.30 pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 22 March 2022

Present:- Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Bennett-Sylvester, T. Collingham, Ellis, Havard, Hughes, Hunter, Jones, Khan, McNeely, Sansome and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkin, Burnett, C Carter, Cowen and Taylor.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed online:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

56. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 01 FEBRUARY 2022

Resolved:-

1. That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 February 2022 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hughes declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 8, as a close family member was Chair of the Rotherham Allotments Alliance.

58. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

59. 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 or public from the meeting.

60. HIGHWAYS SERVICE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report, along with the accompanying presentation, which provided a 12 month progress update on Highway Inspection and Highway Maintenance performance. The report set out performance by the service since the last report to the Commission in February 2021. Members were also provided with a progress update on the following performance areas:

- Highway Condition
- Safety Highway Inspections
- Highway Defect Repairs
- Residents Satisfaction Survey Results

- Highway Service Performance Indicators
- Customer Complaints and Compliments
- Pothole Numbers
- Highways Liability and Claims Performance
- Highway Code changes 2022

It was noted that the published performance management data for the year from 1 April to 31 December 2021 demonstrated that the target to achieve the national average of 17% by 2024, for the condition of the unclassified network (estate roads) would be achieved two years early. It was explained that this was due to the additional investment that the Council had made in local roads and good asset management. It was also noted that the number of highway inspections carried out on time was 96%, exceeding the target of 95%, which compared to a performance level of 93% in the 2020/21 financial year. It was also recognised that residents' satisfaction survey results for Highway scheme works carried out on site had been consistently high.

Members broadly welcomed the report and presentation in respect of the performance information of the service and recognised the high standard of work and compliments received from the public around the way that the service worked. It was noted that the financial investments made by the Council in previous budgets were delivering tangible results. Some concern was expressed in respect of the footways and whether there were national standards that the Council had to work to. It was confirmed that there not any national standards, but the Council's highway inspectors proactively reviewed the condition of footways across the borough on a twice-yearly basis. Whilst the overwhelming majority of footways in the borough were tarmacked, the foundations were checked for structural integrity and for trip hazards. Members were reminded that the Council spent £1m per annum on the maintenance of footways across the borough. An additional issue was raised in respect of the repair of flagstone footways which had begun to collapse after multiple works by utility companies had undermined the integrity of the footway.

Following on, concerns were expressed in respect of the condition and repair of flagstone footways in certain parts of the borough, which had anecdotally attributed to damage incurred through works by utility companies. In response to these concerns, it was explained that 20% of the borough's footways were flagstones and these had been installed with poor or no foundations, which was creating issues in terms of collapse of particular flagstones. Whilst it was acknowledged that some issues were caused by the failure to repair these adequately by utility companies, a greater issue was the common practice of motor vehicles being parked on such flagstones, which the footway had not been designed for. More broadly on the issue of utility companies or contractors in relation to the highway, it was confirmed that the Council seeks to work with and coordinate activities as much

as possible to reduce disruption and a patchwork approach to works. It was acknowledged that this could be challenging at time, but the Council was proactive in trying to manage this situation.

Members sought an explanation as to the position of the Council, as the highways authority, in making repairs to unadopted highways. In response, it was confirmed that the Council could not improve any unadopted highway, but the Highways Act 1980 did permit the Council to make repairs to unadopted highways where the safety of the public was deemed to be at risk. The Council preferred to adopt a proactive approach the owners of unadopted highways to manage such situations, however it was important to note that the Council acted in a responsible way to maintain public safety on highways across the borough. It was also noted that the Council could also be the owner of an unadopted highway, for example in relation to a housing site owned by the authority, and communication between different parts of the authority could be improved to highlight issues and get issues resolved sooner to the benefit of residents.

It was highlighted that there had been a significant increase in cost associated with the repair of potholes, rising from £12 to £22.50 and Members wished to understand the reason for this. In response, it was confirmed that the Council had to comply with a Code of Practice in respect of addressing potholes and this meant maintaining a certain level of resource to meet the requirements of the Code. The team responsible for this work was now travelling greater distances between reported potholes, given the overall improved standard of the borough's highways, and this increased time for travelling had increased costs as set out in the report.

Clarification was sought in respect of the number of potholes that were simply filled with a small amount of tarmac and levelled off, as opposed to those that were repaired by the Multihog. It was explained that the Multihog rotated around the areas covered by individual highway inspectors and that it might be helpful going forward to communicate to ward Members when it would be in their area. Further information was provided on the complexities associated with filling potholes and the impact of wintery weather conditions in undermining previous repairs. The key point referred to was the relationship and communication between ward councillors and highways inspectors.

In response to a question concerning the scheduling of gully clearance in relation to flood prone areas, it was explained that there was a schedule for all gullies across the borough and the situation on the ground was monitored to help reduce issues by identifying how well a gully works and the amount of detritus surrounding the gully. Where bad weather was anticipated, staff are sent to check gullies in flood prone areas to make them as clear as possible before heavy rainfall. Furthermore, it was clarified there are challenges in respect of overhanging trees and the impact that this has on gullies.

A request was made for highways inspectors to join estate walkabouts with representatives from Rotherfed. In response, officers confirmed that this was something that used to take place, but reductions in the level of resource had led to the end of participation in estate walkabouts. As resources had not increased, residents were encouraged to continue to approach highways inspectors with known issues from their localities and report problems through that route.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That ward members and neighbourhood teams be provided with Highway Inspector contact details and be notified of changes in personnel as and when they occur.
3. That clarification be provided outside of the meeting on the schedule of rotation for the Multihog so that ward Members can be made aware of when programmes of work will take place in their wards.
4. That the approach of Members nominating re-surfacing work, as part of the neighbourhood working model, be fully endorsed.
5. That, whilst recognising that there is no provision presently, consideration be given to developing an ambition for a similar approach for Members to nominate footways for re-surfacing works.

61. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which provided an overview and update on progress of the Council's approach to delivery of Active Travel measures. It was reported that the new Rotherham Cycling Strategy was adopted by the Council in January 2022, which would inform development and delivery of active travel schemes in the future. Members also noted the current funding schemes and bids planned for funding for future schemes.

Members welcomed the update and the approval by Cabinet of the Cycling Strategy in January 2022. Enthusiasm was expressed to further look at the potential of former railway lines and mineral lines for use as cycleways in the borough. Officers indicated that they would be happy to investigate any ideas that Members had in mind, although provided a caveat that it may not be straightforward to bring these into use and gave an example where such lines may cross local authority boundaries and the need to engage other authorities may prove more problematic.

Responding to a question in respect of low traffic neighbourhoods, it was explained that the Council had long encouraged this as part of developments and could be witnessed through the use of cul-de-sacs and shared access roads where possible. It was acknowledged that there were issues in older areas which had not been developed according to low traffic neighbourhood principles but officers were looking at ways in which this might be achieved in a different way.

Members noted that there had not been a significant response in relation to the Cycling Strategy in a number of wards across the borough and sought reassurance as to what could be done to improve this in future. In response, it was acknowledged that there was a lot of work to be done and not just in relation to cycling but to active travel more broadly, including walking. It was recognised that there was a role for ward Members and the neighbourhoods team at the Council to help feed in aspirations from a greater cross section of residents.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the external funding specifications be noted.

62. ROTHERHAM ALLOTMENTS ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations were invited to serve as a representative of the Commission on the Rotherham Allotments Alliance.

Resolved:-

1. That Councillor Hughes be appointed to serve as the representative of the Improving Places Select Commission on the Rotherham Allotments Alliance.

63. WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme update for the Improving Places Select Commission, which set out the proposed schedule of work for the remainder of the municipal year.

In considering the report, it was noted that the Markets Review would not be completed in time for the next meeting in April 2022. A successful meeting had taken place on 18 March 2022 and further work would be required to challenge practices and procedures governing the operation of markets.

It was suggested that a spotlight review on anti-social behavior issues should be included in the draft programme of work for the 2022-23 municipal year.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and schedule of work be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Governance Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to make changes to the scheduled of work as appropriate between meetings, reporting any changes back to the next meeting for endorsement.

64. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Commission's consideration.

65. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

1. That the next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 19 April 2022, commencing at 1.30 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 12 April 2022

Report Title

CCTV

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an overview of the local position in relation to CCTV capabilities within Rotherham from existing assets, with a focus on upgrades utilising existing assets the Council already own.

Recommendations

1. That Improving Places Select Commission note and comment on the report.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Overview of CCTV Projects
- Appendix 2 Case Study of a CCTV result by Covert Cameras
- Appendix 3 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Review of Re-Deployable CCTV

1. Background

- 1.1 Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), tackling serious and organised crime and protecting vulnerable people, are key objectives for the Council and partners through the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The use of CCTV is an increasingly important tool which contributes to the delivery of those objectives.
- 1.2 In July 2018 the Council adopted a new Overt CCTV Policy, an essential part of which was a review of CCTV capacity and capability across the teams that utilise CCTV. There are a number of areas where the Council makes use of CCTV which includes fixed systems in individual Council buildings, a fixed 'mainframe' system, which feeds into a Police monitored control room in Doncaster, re-deployable ASB cameras and re-deployable cameras used to tackle fly-tipping. Importantly, whilst the Council's CCTV capability was being reviewed, a formal authorisation process to deploy cameras was enhanced in order to ensure the Council was compliant with relevant legislation.
- 1.3 Acquisition and deployment of cameras has taken place each year for a number of years, including an allocation in 2018/19 of £60,000 of capital funding specifically to enhance CCTV capacity within Wards. This led to re-deployable CCTV units being purchased and allocated to each Ward, with a focus on being utilised where ASB concerns were raised. These units were first deployed in January 2019.
- 1.4 The review work undertaken led to further capital investment money being made available by the Council in the 2019/20 budget of £350k, with a view to modernising systems to ensure resilience, as well as enhance the Council's and partners capabilities to improve community safety and prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.

2. Council Investment in CCTV

- 2.1 The subsequent review via the partnership CCTV Project Board Delivery Plan identified that the Council currently had 98 fixed camera units within the mainframe system; a further 372 CCTV units on secondary systems on Council buildings; and a further 97 re-deployable units to support enforcement functions.
- 2.2 The project aims, overseen by the Board, were to deliver the investment into the Council's CCTV system to achieve the following three objectives:
 - Review and upgrade, where possible, fixed CCTV units, ensuring as a minimum current coverage is maintained.
 - Upgrade, as appropriate and necessary, the hardware and software associated with the system.
 - Seek to link the re-deployable units to a 'live monitoring capability'.
- 2.3 The Board's objectives were framed against a set of fundamental principles, namely:

- To enhance Community Safety across the Borough by the Prevention and Detection of Crime
- To enhance the Environment through the Prevention and Detection of Environmental Offences
- To improve perceptions of safety through a strong visible deterrent
- To support the safe management of the highways network
- To protect Council property and assets

2.4 In addition to the initial allocation of £350k, the service identified a further £70k of investment from the Outbreak Control Funding in order to target testing sites and, following extensive market engagement, a procurement process was launched in January 2022, with specific requirements as stated in section 2.2. A supplier has now been appointed and significant work will be completed by July of this year. The work will deliver the following:

- All hardware and software to be replaced with up-to-date and leading technology. This will ensure the system remains fit for purpose and resilient.
- All of the existing 98 cameras will be upgraded, improving capacity for further upgrades alongside improving capability and image quality
- Local officers will be able to access CCTV remotely, not only improving prevention and detection of crime but also improving the Council's capacity to respond and manage major incidents. As well as improving efficiency.
- All of the existing overt re-deployable cameras will be linked to a live viewing capability, realising the same benefits as stated above.

2.5

The Council has allocated further capital funding for the 2022/23 financial year of £250k in order to further enhance the capacity of the system, by adding more CCTV cameras to the fixed system and improving transmission lines to allow for digital images. Alongside the additional capital, the Council has also granted further revenue funding for a lead officer to coordinate the management and use of what is now a significant Council asset.

3.

Additional CCTV Funding

3.1

At the same time as managing and delivering the Council's own capital investment, the service has continued to identify external funding opportunities to further enhance the CCTV capability. In April 2021 Safer Streets Funding 2 was made available by the Home Office, providing opportunity for the Council to bid for investment for measures aimed at preventing acquisitive crime in disproportionately affected areas. Initiatives could target vehicle theft, robbery or burglary, among other crimes, and could include interventions to improve home security, such as installing better locks and gating alleyways, and making streets better lit at night. The Council were successful in securing funding of £80,500 for the Wath and Swinton areas to provide:

- 26 re-deployable CCTV cameras plus 20 adaptors for use on old style concrete lamp posts.

- 'Operation Shield' Smart water to all properties within the highlighted areas.
 - Increase signage and media involvement within those communities.
 - Supporting active community groups.
- 3.2 The Council were again successful at the next round of the Home Office Safer Streets Funding with £110,000 secured in order to improve women's feelings of safety in parks or open spaces. This has been focussed locally in Clifton park through:
- £95,000 to be spent on enhanced lighting
 - £15,200 to purchase 15 cameras for deployment at 5 locations in the park
- 3.3 Further investment was also secured in November 2021 for improvements to be made to the Rosehill/Victoria Park CCTV system which led to 15 new CCTV units being purchased. It was a Ward priority to ensure that the Park was a well-used resource and is accessible to all ages and abilities. However, the Park was troubled with various reports of crime and anti-social behaviour. A successful bid was made to the Safer Rotherham Partnership for enhanced CCTV provision to ensure people, particularly women and young girls, felt safe to use the Park. An award of £24,500 was made allowing the purchase and deployment of:
- 29 fixed wireless static dome cameras with 24 hour colour images and pan, tilt and zoom capabilities.
 - 1 ANPR camera specifically in relation to vehicle use in the park and links to criminality.
- 3.4 A whole new system upgrade to the Wharnccliffe flats CCTV system was undertaken in December 2021, utilising housing monies. The area had problems with drug use and dealing, knife crime and fly-tipping. The existing CCTV system was outdated and not up to standard for the level of evidence needed and allowed for some blind spots and as a result, upgrades have been prioritised. This proved very timely given a firearms incident shortly after the cameras were deployed.
- 3.5 The CCTV system in place at Victoria Street, Masborough, was found to be inoperable. Safer Rotherham Partnership funding was secured for around £6,000 to provide a 5-camera head system that now covers a larger area of Masborough.
- 3.6 In total, the team have been able to secure in excess of 60 additional cameras through this work during the current financial year.

4. Fly Tipping

- 4.1 The Council's successful use of CCTV to tackle Fly Tipping is widely recognised with Councils including Barnsley, Doncaster, Manchester, Bradford and Wakefield, learning from Rotherham. Whilst capability to deploy camera units is limited by capacity, 14 of the deployable units used across the Borough have recently been modernised and upgraded to specifications that make for effective evidence gathering for prosecutions.

- 4.2 The projects and developments that have taken place this year outside of the Capital funding detailed in section 2.4, can be found at Appendix 1.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1 There is an increased reliance on CCTV as a tool that, as well as capturing images of offences and offenders, also deters crime, ASB and fly tipping. CCTV has proven to be very useful, successfully contributing to both Police and Council investigations. Indeed, CCTV images have been key to successful fly-tipping prosecutions, including two custodial sentences being handed down by the Court.
- 5.2 It is important to recognise however, that CCTV is not the complete solution to all problems, there are practical limitations, for example not being able to identify offenders and offences taking place in locations where cameras are not located or not within the field of vision of the camera. If an offender cannot be identified or faces are obscured, then the Council may not have the evidence required to take action. Similarly, there are only a finite number of cameras available and consequently only a limited number of incidents can be captured.
- 5.3 Most cameras are overt and consequently clearly visible. In many cases, the deployment of the units has a positive preventative effect and reduces the problems in an area. There is however a risk that, on occasion, an issue may be simply moved on to another area. However, behaviours are influenced by wider factors and certain types of behaviours do not always manifest elsewhere, for example on street alcohol consumption in an open space may not be likely to be displaced to a residential street.
- 5.4 Whilst positive, the increasing levels of CCTV assets also have resource implications in terms of officer time and expertise to manage the associated systems, together with ongoing maintenance and deployment costs. The Council has a mixture of contracts and agreements for servicing and repair however this is not consistent across the Council's assets and in some areas, such as re-deployable cameras, this means replacements cannot be provided whilst they are taken for repairs. Following upgrades to the system to modern standards, contractual arrangements for maintenance and repair will be reviewed across all CCTV assets and relevant departments.
- 5.5 Since 2018 the Council has transformed its CCTV capacity and capability to deter and detect crime, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, making a significant contribution to safety and crime reduction agendas. This is particularly important to ensure people are confident that open spaces and streets are safe.
- 5.6 The Council generates positive results, particularly such as in relation to enviro-crime. Appendix 2 provides several case studies where the Council has utilised evidence as a result of CCTV installations in order to progress legal action. Demonstrating the wider positive impacts of the equipment.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

This report is for the purposes of Improving Places Select Commission and therefore members are asked to note and comment on the content.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 No consultation is necessary at the stage.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The update reflects the current position in relation to CCTV and the Upgrades of existing systems and assets which will remain ongoing through the year.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 The funding for the additional Capital and revenue budgets for CCTV has been subject to approval through the Council's budget setting which was approved at the Council Meeting of 2nd March 2022.
- 6.2 The Safer Streets Funding 2 and 3 have been subject to approval through the grant funding process.
- 6.3 The Clifton Park and Rosehill Park schemes have been subject to approval through formal Safer Rotherham Partnership applications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 In order to comply with Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (fair and lawful obtaining and processing), individuals will be made aware that a CCTV system is in use. A number of camera warning signs will be sited around the area, including one on the lamp post to which the camera is fixed. The signs will be clearly visible and legible.
- 7.2 In accordance with Principle 5 of the Data Protection Act 1998, images linked to offences will be kept only as long as necessary for the specified purpose. Data not retained for this purpose will be deleted within 30 days of capture.
- 7.3 Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 details the offence of fly-tipping, and the additional offences of 'knowingly causing' or 'knowingly permitting' fly-tipping.
- 7.4 Section 33(8) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that anyone who commits an offence is liable to an unlimited fine and/or a custodial sentence of up to twelve months.
- 7.5 Section 33(ZA) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the issuing of a fixed penalty fine, which upon payment discharges the offence. In Rotherham the level of the fixed penalty fine is set to £400 with a reduced fee of £200 if the fine is paid within 10 days.

- 7.6 Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 establishes a general duty of care. Anyone who produces, imports, keeps, stores, transports, treats or disposes of waste must take all reasonable steps to ensure that waste is managed properly. It also applies to anyone who acts as a broker and has control of waste.
- 7.7 Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, inserted by the Waste (Household Waste Duty of Care) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005, places specific duty of care obligations on householders. Householders must ensure that household waste is properly disposed of. Household waste is defined in section 75(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and includes waste from domestic properties, caravans and residential homes. The householder duty of care is provided by.
- 7.8 Where offences are committed relating to the general and householder duty of care, Section 34(6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, those responsible are liable upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; and on conviction on indictment, to an unlimited fine.

7.9 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The revenue funding allocated will result in a new post, which will be subject to existing policy and procedure for recruitment.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 CCTV will act as a deterrent and will contribute to giving vulnerable adults and children reassurance.
- 9.2 This project will help people feel safer on our streets as well as tackling local acquisitive crimes like car theft and burglary and crimes which take place in public places such as sexual harassment and violent attacks, the cameras will help to increase the safety of public spaces and will help change attitudes and behaviours in local communities and try to stop the offences happening in the first place.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A screening assessment is attached at Appendix 1
- 10.2 A full impact assessment is not required at this stage as the report is a position statement of the work being currently undertaken by the Council

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct implications for climate change that are measurable in relation to fly tipped material. However, release of carbon into the environment from fly tipped material will add to the overall emissions where otherwise the carbon might be captured through correct disposal or recycling.

11.2 There is significant risk from fly tipping that are linked to bio diversity and impacts on the denaturing of the Borough. This is particularly so with contamination of environments and habitats from a range of toxic chemicals impacting directly on the health of fauna and flora. Additionally, the trapping of small vertebrates and invertebrates in the waste impacts directly on populations along with reducing food available to predators.

11.3 A Carbon Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The new systems in place together with the planned improvements to the mainframe system will improved access for all users with remote access and data download available together with live views from one of the iPads that the Council has purchased. Local Policing Teams and Officers from Community Protection and Environmental Health now have a 4g iPads that can connect direct to the CCTV systems enabling Officers to get an up-to-date view on an area.

12.2 iPads are also available to the Councils 'Out of Hours Service' enabling Officers to dial in to camera immediately should there be a call in relation to a disturbance particularly in the Eastwood area.

12.3 24/7 digital recording in the Council Housing areas will also gather evidence and aid officers in housing when taking enforcement actions against any council tenancies.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Failure to effectively deliver key responsibilities and obligations will negatively impact on the Council's image whilst failing to deliver national and local priorities.

13.2 Risk of this system being outdated within a few years' time due to technical advancements will require future funding streams to be sought

Accountable Officer(s)

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Sam Barstow

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Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

(S.151 Officer)		
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author: Richard Bramall***Error! Reference source not found.**

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Appendix 1: Overview of CCTV Projects

1. The Council's Main Frame CCTV upgrade

In 2018/19 the Council allocated a total of £60,000 of capital funding to enhance CCTV capacity within wards through the purchase of additional re-deployable CCTV units. These CCTV unit were available to each ward through the allocation of this funding. This was achieved. The cameras arrived in November 2018 with the processes for deployment established by December 2018. The first deployments took place in January 2019.

In January 2021 the Council's Community Safety and Regulatory Services were seeking to upgrade and to modernise the Council's CCTV assets to improve community safety and prevent or detect crime and anti-social behaviour. Community Safety and Regulatory services would be responsible for a range of activities including on-street enforcement of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime, alongside working with partners at a strategic level to develop initiatives and influence ways of working to prevent, reduce or address crime.

CCTV Project Board Delivery Plan was created with various partner agencies looking at assets that the Council own in relation to CCTV. It was identified that the Council currently had 98 fixed camera units across the town centre and other areas within the Borough. The images from these units pass through Rotherham and into a control room in the Doncaster area with no current local viewing capability. In addition, the Council had a further 372 CCTV units on secondary systems (on Council buildings) and a further 97 re-deployable units to support enforcement functions, which are a mixture of overt and covert cameras but again, there is no current remote viewing capability.

The Council was also aware that some of the systems and hardware, including camera heads, were outdated and in some cases no longer supported with upgrades. A number of the camera units are analogue, without digital capability and limited fields of view, many of the system did not integrate meaning the Council was not able to realise the full potential of its current assets.

The aims and objectives for the Project board was to look at setting aside the funding to deliver further investment into the CCTV system, the Council identified the following three objectives:

- Review and upgrade, where possible, fixed CCTV units, ensuring as a minimum current coverage is maintained.
- Upgrade, as appropriate and necessary, the hardware and software associated with the system.
- Seek to link the re-deployable units to a 'live monitoring capability'.

The Council and its partners have a range of strategic objectives through the Safer Rotherham Partnership which this project will contribute towards. These include reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, tackling serious and organised crime and protecting vulnerable people.

The Council's Capital Investment will focus primarily on the upgrade of the fixed CCTV system, which includes 98 camera heads (as referenced above), associated hardware and software and to ensure the system itself is fit for purpose, including the hardware and software associated with the system. Secondly, the priority is to provide a local remote viewing capability for the existing system of fixed CCTV units. Thirdly, the Council is seeking to link the current (and/or future) re-deployable CCTV units to a remote monitoring capability, making use of the existing system. Finally, the Council is seeking to modernise and upgrade as many of the fixed CCTV units as possible, providing as much advantage in terms of viewing capability as can be achieved within the funding available.

All hardware and software must be compliant with data protection legislation and guidance from the Information Commissioners Office. Image quality must be at least evidential quality as per any current requirements and wherever possible, fit for any future changes in requirements. All works must comply with relevant Policies or practices of the Council both in relation to CCTV and the Council IT infrastructure.

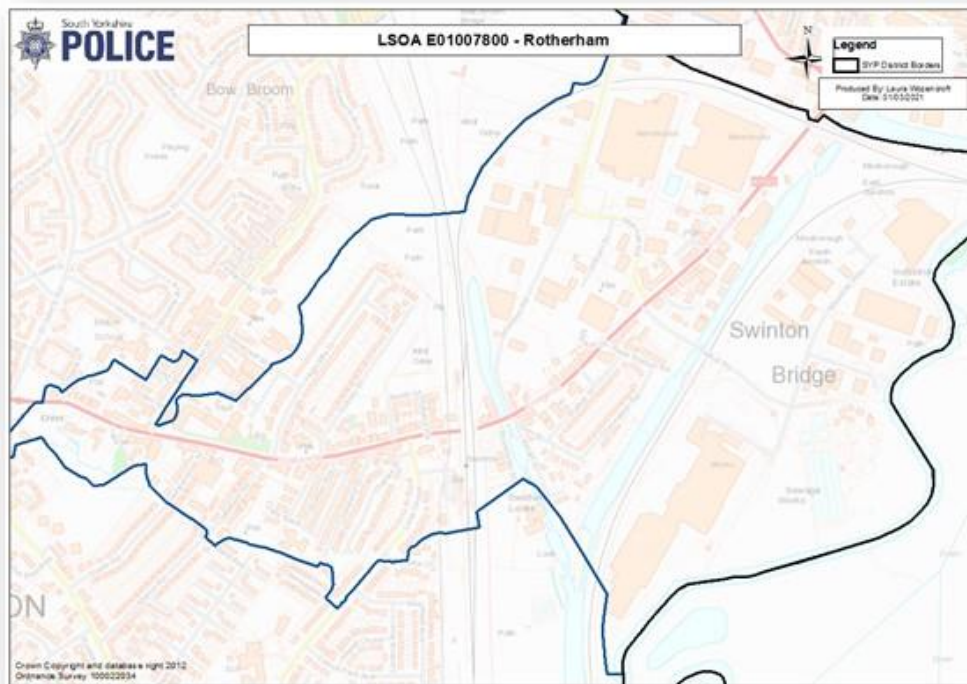
2. Safer Streets Funding 2

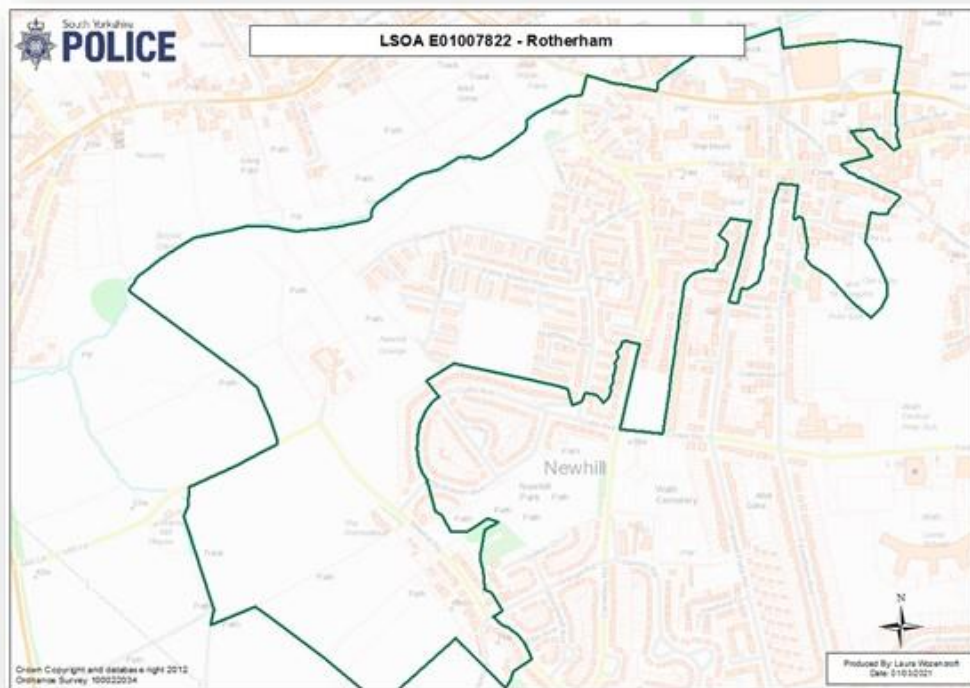
In April 2021 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across England and Wales were able to bid for Safer Streets Fund investment for measures aimed at preventing acquisitive crime in disproportionately affected areas. Initiatives could target vehicle theft, robbery or burglary, among other crimes, and could include interventions to improve home security, such as installing better locks and gating alleyways and make streets better lit at night. Each crime prevention plan will have the potential to make communities safer while freeing up the time of police and other agencies to focus on more complex crimes. The fund was designed to ensure local communities can participate in the development of these plans and will also include money for community projects that complement them. PCCs must work with local authorities and other partners to develop these plans, which need to be based on evidence, demonstrate value for money and engage local communities. As they are rolled out, each initiative will be assessed to help inform future government investments.

To meet the bid requirements, the following offences were mapped against Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs):

- Acquisitive Crime – Residential Burglary/Burglary in a Dwelling, Personal Robbery, Theft from the Person and Vehicle Crime (Taking From a Motor Vehicle and Taking of a Motor Vehicle).

The areas that were awarded such funding in Rotherham were parts of Wath town centre and including some surrounding streets including most of the White bear estate and Swinton Precinct, including some surrounding streets and along Station Road including parts of Swinton Industrial estate. Maps of the areas covered in Swinton and Wath are as follows:





In summary, this proposal looked to invest in:

- CCTV cameras
- “Operation Shield” Smart water to all properties within the highlighted areas.
- Increase signage and media involvement within those communities
- Supporting active community groups.

The Council will take control of the re-deployable camera units and be responsible for ongoing maintenance and re-deployment as part of its overall management. This will allow for the intervention to remain active for as long as the cameras remain functional and see a continuation of the benefits described above for many years to come. We expect the cameras to last a minimum of 5 years.

Rotherham was successful in securing £63,000 for CCTV cameras to cover Wath and Swinton, this allowed the Council to purchase 20 re-deployable cameras (10 for each area identified in the report) on lamp columns which would be viewable by a 4G network and would eventually interlink into the Councils mainframe project. A further £17,500 was identified from the same project (externally funded) for an underspend on property marking, so authority was sought so the funding could be re-allocated into additional cameras. The request was successful and a further 6 cameras and 20 adaptors were purchased so that the cameras could be fitted to the Council's older concrete style lamp columns.

It is expected that the project will contribute to the following outcomes.

- Reduction in fear of crime
- Reduction in acquisitive crime
- Local residents see action in the area
- Improved public relations
- Reduction in fear of crime and improvement in residents' perceptions of safety (to be measured by external evaluation company)
- Increased awareness of local crime prevention activity (to be measured external evaluation company)

3. Safer Streets Funding 3

A further funding bid of £110,000.00 was also successful under Safer Streets Fund 3 to address safety in Clifton park.

In summary, this proposal looked to invest in:

- New lighting - £95,000.00
- CCTV - £15,200.00

This will help make users feel safer particularly during the evenings.

The system will include 15 camera heads in 5 locations around the park.

The Council will take control of the re-deployable camera units and be responsible for ongoing maintenance and re-deployment as part of its overall management. This will allow for the intervention to remain active for as long as the cameras remain functional and see a continuation of the benefits described above for many years to come. We also expect these cameras to last a minimum of 5 years.

4. Rosehill/Victoria Park CCTV upgrade

A funding bid to Safer Rotherham Partnership for improvements to Rosehill Park, Rawmarsh for CCTV was successful in November 2021 to improve lighting and CCTV and access control.

The system consists of:

- 29 fixed static dome cameras with 24hr colour along with 4 PTZ (pan Tilt Zoom) cameras that can be moved to look at different locations with an upgraded 64 channel NVR recorder then wireless links from each camera location to get it back to the recorder in the house. This allows the Council to get the cameras back to the recorder without digging the park up to run

cables, plus 1 ANPR camera pointing at the car park in response to the CSE issues.

This work links to the aims of the Police and Crime Plan by helping to protect vulnerable people and assisting to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

Reports of drug use and dealing, stolen vehicles and incidents with gangs and knife crime have all taken place in Rosehill Park over the past 12 months.

The additional cameras will help women and young girls feel safer after comments were made from residents that they will not walk through the park as they don't feel safe as they know the existing cameras did not work.

Improvements to Rosehill Park contributed to many of the local Ward Priorities for the north area. including:

Rawmarsh West

Priority 1 - Improvements to the local community

- *Improving Open Spaces*

Priority 3 - Ensure Rosehill Park is a well-used resource and is accessible to all ages and abilities

Priority 4 - Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- *Support partnership working initiatives that make people feel safe where they live or work*

To summarise the total CCTV cost was £24,500.00

5. Wharncliffe flats CCTV Upgrade

After ongoing ASB in the area of Wharncliffe flats it was decided that the current CCTV system was outdated and not up to standard for the level of evidence needed and was some blind spots so to tackle the ongoing ASB and drug use in the area.

6. Victoria Street, Masborough Upgrade

Further funding by the Safer Rotherham partnership has allowed the council to upgrade this systems from a none working unit to a fully operational 5 headed systems that now covers a larger area of Masborough and will interlink in with the Council's mainframe CCTV systems.

Victoria street was identified to have an old fixed CCTV system with 1 PTZ camera linked across the road to a road side cabinet that was not working.

7. Eastwood, Operation Grow Upgrade

After growing concerns from residents within Eastwood in relation to constant power cuts a joint operation was formed to tackle the issues a number of streets in Eastwood was identified to have a number of cannabis cultivations The Council deployed 8 new re-deployable cameras that had remote access for police and council officers to live watch and have instant playback if it was needed.

The cameras have helped with gathering intelligence as well as helping combat fly tipping in the area with 2 FPNs being served from the footage and 1 ongoing investigation leading to prosecution.

The cost of the cameras deployed within Eastwood is £25,152.

Covert CCTV for Fly Tipping

There is also an increasing reliance on CCTV as a tool to deter fly tipping as well as capturing images of incidents and offenders. CCTV has proven to be very useful, although it should be recognised that it has limitations. If an offender cannot be identified or faces are obscured the Council may not have the evidence to take action. Similarly, there is only a finite number of cameras that are available and consequently only a limited number of incidents can be captured. That said, the use of CCTV has proven very successful resulting in successful prosecutions, including two custodial sentences being handed down by the Court. Whilst positive, the increasing levels of CCTV assets also have resource implications in term of officer time and expertise to manage the associated systems. An example of the re-deployable fly-tipping cameras is as below:



The work undertaken in Rotherham is very well recognised by other Local Authorities regionally with five Councils having visited Rotherham over the past few years to

learn the methods deployed here. The success is reflected in these Councils now utilising Rotherham's tactics to tackle fly tipping in their own areas of Barnsley, Doncaster, Manchester, Bradford and Wakefield.

Currently Rotherham has access to 14 deployable units which are spread across the Borough.

The above units are operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and must be maintained twice a week with battery changes due to the remote locations that the cameras are often in, for example at Hoover below:



Appendix 2 Case Study of a CCTV result by Covert Cameras

Case study 1 Ambrose King

Illegal deposit of waste (Fly tipping)

Alleged Offences contrary to section 33 (1) (a), Depositing controlled waste on land; Knowingly causing/ permitting controlled waste to be deposited on land.

The details of the case are as follows:

REDACTED OFFENDER DETAILS - S33 EPA Waste Offence – Long Lane, Treeton

The above matter was heard in the Sheffield Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 13/08/2019.

The Defendant appeared unrepresented, and pleaded guilty to the offence(s).

The Court imposed:

Penalty: £500.00

Costs: £398.98

Victim Surcharge: £50.00

The total, of £948.98 is to be paid by instalments of £50.00 per week, with the 1st Instalment within 7 days days.

The details of the case are as follows;

On the 15/02/2019, an Enforcement Officer, visited Long Lane, Treeton, Rotherham. He discovered ten bags of soil /rubble in a lay by alongside the highway.

While at the site the Enforcement Officer photographed the fly tipping. He also removed the hard drive to a hidden camera that had previously been installed with authorisation at that location to gather evidence of persons fly tipping.

The hidden cameras footage was reviewed and on Tuesday 12/02/2019 a white Vauxhall REDACTED with registration REDACTED was seen to arrive in the lay by at 15:12hrs, the male driver who was alone then removed nine black bags from the rear of the vehicle and deposited them in the layby before driving away

A check on South Yorkshire Polices vehicle database showed the current keeper/ insured of REDACTED with registration REDACTED to be REDACTED. He had been the registered keeper since 2/06/2018.His date of birth was REDACTED.

On 1/03/2019, a letter was sent to REDACTED requesting that he attend a recorded interview, with reference to this matter.

On 13/03/2019, REDACTED attended a recorded interview at Rotherham North Neighbourhood Team building, Green lane, Rawmarsh, Rotherham. In the interview he admitted to being the person filmed dumping the bags on the footage shown to him taken on 12/02/2019. He also stated that he ran a driveway design and installation business. He accepted that the waste was commercial waste relating to his business.

Long Lane Treeton



Case study 2 Paul Booth

Illegal deposit of waste (Fly tipping)

Alleged Offences contrary to section 33 (1) (a), Depositing controlled waste on land; Knowingly causing/ permitting controlled waste to be deposited on land.

The details of the case are as follows;

REDACTED - S33 EPA Waste Offence – Back Lane, Nether Haugh and Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough

The above matter was heard in the Sheffield Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 13/08/2019.

The Defendant appeared, represented by his/her solicitor, and pleaded guilty to the offence(s).

The Court imposed:

Penalty: £480.00
Costs: £200.00
Victim Surcharge: £48.00

The total, of £728.00 is to be paid by instalments of £5.00 per week, with the 1st Instalment within 28 days.

The details of the case are as follows;

On the 25th March 2019, an Enforcement Officer, visited Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough, Rotherham. He discovered mounds of soil/ rubble that had been deposited on the highway there.

While at the site the Enforcement Officer photographed the fly tipping using a digital camera. He had previously installed a hidden camera at the location for capturing evidence of people fly tipping waste. He removed the hard drive and reviewed the footage taken.

Footage showed that on Saturday 23rd March 2019, a black Suzuki Swift with registration REDACTED, arrived at 15:40hrs and the male driver was seen to deposit several blue bags of soil/ rubble from the vehicle and empty them into the lay-by, before driving away. He burnt this footage to a disc to be used as evidence.

On 27th March 2019, the Enforcement Officer received an email from Police Community Support Officer Neil Entwistle of Rotherham North Neighbourhood Policing Team which showed that the Police vehicle database had the keeper and insured driver of Black Suzuki Swift registration REDACTED, to be a REDACTED.

On 27th March 2019, a letter was sent to REDACTED, requesting that he attend a taped interview, with reference to this matter.

On the 8th April 2019, an Enforcement Officer visited Back lane, Nether Haugh, Rotherham. He found a box and bags of household waste that had been deposited at the side of the highway.

Footage showed that on Thursday 4th April 2019, a black Suzuki Swift with registration REDACTED, arrived at 18:03hrs and the male driver was seen to deposit a box and several black bin bags which contained household waste from the vehicle into the lay-by, before driving away. He copied this footage to a disc to be used as evidence.

On 10th April 2019, REDACTED attended a recorded interview at Rotherham North Neighbourhood Team Building, Green Lane, Rawmarsh, Rotherham. In the interview he admitted to being the person captured on CCTV depositing waste from Black Suzuki Swift registration REDACTED on 23/03/2019 at Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough and on 4/04/2019 at Back Lane, Nether Haugh, Rotherham.

Bassingthorpe Lane, Munsbrough



PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: CCTV

Directorate: Regeneration and Environment

Service area: Regulation and Enforcement

Lead person: Richard Bramall

Contact: 01709823187

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The report details a review of the Council's response to the use of CCTV.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Richard Bramall	Community Protection & Environmental Health Manager	13 th March 2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	13 th March 2022
Report title and date	CCTV Use in Rotherham 22 nd March 2022
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	22 nd March 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

User guidance:

- The first section of this form guides users through considering major areas where emissions are likely to occur. If emissions are impacted in a way not covered by these categories, please identify this at the bottom of the section
- The first section should be filled as such:
 - **Impact:** identify, in relation to each area, whether the decision of the proposal does the following: *reduces emissions*, *increases emissions*, or has *no impact on emissions*. If it is uncertain this section can be labelled *impact unknown*
 - If **no impact on emissions** is identified: no further detail is needed for this area, but can be added if relevant (e.g. if efforts have been made to mitigate emissions in this area.)
 - **Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions:** two sections deal respectively with emissions from the Council (including those of contractors), and emissions across Rotherham as a whole. In both sections please explain any factors that are likely to reduce or increase emissions. If **impact unknown** has been selected, then identify the area of uncertainty and outline known variables that may affect impacts.
 - In most cases there is no need to quantify the emission impact of an area after outlining the factors that may reduce or increase emissions. In some cases, however, this may be desirable if factors can be reduced to a small number of known variables (e.g. if an emission impact is attached to a known or estimated quantity of fuel consumed).
 - **Describe any measures to mitigate emission impact:** regardless of the emission impact, in many cases steps should be taken in order to reduce mitigate all emissions associated with each area as far as possible; these steps can be outlined here (For example: if a proposal is likely to increase emissions but practices or materials have been adopted in order to reduce this overall impact, this would be described here).
 - **Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out:** in this section outline any steps taken to monitor emission levels, or steps taken to monitor the factors that are expected to increase or reduce emission levels (for example, if waste or transport levels are being monitored this would be described here)
- A **summary paragraph** outlining the likely overall impacts of the proposal/decision on emissions should then be completed - this is not required if the proposal/decision has no impact across all areas.
- The supporting information section should be filled as followed:
 - Author/completing officer
 - **Research, data, or information** may refer to datasets, background documents, literature, consultations, or other data-gathering exercise. These should also be added to the **supporting documents** section of the cabinet report

-
- Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports
 - Prior to publishing reports, Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback
 - Report authors may also use the above email address to direct any further queries or to access further support regarding completing the assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	NONE				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Additional visits from CCTV Officer and Streetlighting for maintenance of the camera, lens cleaning, camera movements etc.	As previous.	Movement towards electrical vehicles alongside procurement with colleagues in	Fitzwilliam Road, Bellows Road amongst other planned areas in Rotherham is a key locality in relation to the Clean Air Zone policy and is routinely monitored for emissions, impact on air quality and traffic impact.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	NONE				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	NONE				

Emissions from construction and/or development?	NONE				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	NONE				
Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:					

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Richard Bramall Community Protection and Environmental Health Manager - Borough
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	None required
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not relevant

Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Not required
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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 19 April 2022

Report Title

Tree Service Progress Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Leanne Buchan, Acting Assistant Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism
01709 822056 or Leanne.Buchan@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report updates Improving Places Select Commission on the implementation of the Tree Management Protocol & Guidance which was adopted in August 2021. The report also details recent tree planting progress against targets set out in the Protocol & Guidance and looks ahead to the next financial year.

Recommendations

The Improving Places Select Commission is asked to:

- Note the report and comment on any issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Tree Management Protocol & Guidance

Background Papers

N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Tree Service progress Update 2022

1. Background

- 1.1 In June 2019, Cabinet endorsed a new Cultural Strategy which set out the goal of: “getting more people, more active, creative and outdoors, more often.” The strategy was co-produced with people and partners from across the borough and set out seven ‘game changers’ including:
- **A Vibrant Heart** – supporting town centre recovery and regeneration
 - **Vital Neighbourhoods** – revitalising our neighbourhoods
 - **Adventures in Rother Valley** – developing the green and active leisure offer in the south of the borough
 - **A Great Place for Wentworth and the Dearne Valley** – building on the cultural heritage of the north of the borough
 - **Turning Passion into a Profession** – developing skills and talent pathways into industry
 - **Amazing Events** – creating magical shared experiences to bring people together and build pride in Rotherham
 - **Children’s Capital of Culture** – working with children and young people to strengthen their voice in the development and delivery of Rotherham’s cultural and leisure offer
- 1.2 The Tree Service plays a key role in delivering on the Vital Neighbourhoods strand of the strategy, ensuring access to nature and supporting the Council’s ambitions to reduce the effects of the Climate Emergency across the borough.
- 1.3 Through the budget setting process for 2021/22 a two-year investment in tree planting programmes was agreed split across two financial years. The approved investment committed the Council to planting 200 trees in 2021/22 and a further 300 new trees in 2022/23.
- 1.4 In August 2021 a new Tree Management Protocol & Guidance was introduced to guide the management of the Council’s existing tree stock in urban areas and areas where woodlands border urban conurbations. The new protocol and guidance set further targets for new tree planting, committing the Council to planting 500 new trees in urban settings each year, with a net gain of 250 new trees in urban setting per year accounting for tree loss throughout the year.
- 1.5 This report will set out progress against the above targets and update on the implementation of the Tree Management Protocol & Guidance and planting programme.

2. Key Issues

Tree Management Protocol & Guidance

- 2.1 Rotherham Council’s Tree Service and Countryside Service are jointly responsible for the care and management of the Council’s tree stock across a range of landscapes including: Highways and pavements; Housing and social care owned land; Parks and green spaces; and Woodlands.
- 2.2 The Tree Management Protocol and Guidance is intended to direct the management of Council-owned trees in urban settings including those in woodlands which impact on residential and industrial areas. The guidance applies to a number of Rotherham

Council departments including: Asset Management, Green Spaces, Highways, and Housing.

The guidance aims to:

- Promote the importance and value of trees across a range of urban settings
 - Set out guiding principles and technical arrangements for the care and maintenance of the Council's existing tree stock
 - Guide the Council's contribution to the planting of new trees, woodlands and hedgerows, contributing to woodland creation for improved biodiversity and supporting measures to tackle the climate emergency
 - Provide a practical framework for elected members, officers and residents in considering the importance and impact of trees and woodlands when responding to common issues
 - Make clear the roles and responsibilities of all parties and establish values in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Green Spaces Strategy
- 2.3 Whilst the Council works with many partners and tree owners this guidance relates only to the care and management of its own tree stock.
- 2.4 The Protocol & Guidance covers a range of scenarios for the management of tree stock ranging from pruning and felling to trips and hazards, dropped kerbs and commitments to increased planting and tree cover. The full Protocol & Guidance is attached as an appendix to this report.

Tree Planting Programmes 2021/22

- 2.5 In 2021/22 the Council exceeded its target of planting 500 new trees planted, planting a total of 22,139 new trees across both woodland and urban settings.
- 2.6 The target for tree planting set by the protocol & Guidance is for 500 per year in urban settings. Of the 22,139 new trees planted 1,485 of these were in urban settings.
- 2.7 The target for overall net gain in urban settings is 250 trees, taking into account trees that are felled or fallen or new planting which is damaged as not all new trees survive the natural environment. In 2021/22 398 trees were felled or lost due to storm damage or natural causes and the service estimates that around 10% of new planting (2,215) will not survive. This gives an estimated overall net gain of 19,546 new trees in 2021/22 and estimated net gain of 1,336 in urban settings.
- 2.8 The Tree Management Protocol and Strategy also set a target to dedicate a minimum of 5 hectares of land to woodland creation, either through planting or re-wilding, up to 2030. This will see the Council's woodlands estate increase in size by at least 10%. To date the Council has already exceeded this target planting 10 hectares of new woodland this planting season of which nearly roughly 1.5 hectares was planted by volunteers.

New planting took place in locations across the borough including:

Location	Type	Tree Nos.
Woodland Tree Planting		

Holmes/Ickles Lock	Whips	2768
Swinton Piccadilly	Whips	3802
Greenland Park	Whips	2610
Winterhills - Western Boundary	Whips	4500
Brecks Lane/ Herringthorpe Wood	Whips	4725
Herringthorpe extension	Whips	1800
Holmes/Ickles Lock	Semi Standards	61.5
Swinton Piccadilly	Semi Standards	84.5
Greenland Park	Semi Standards	58
Winterhills - Western Boundary	Semi Standards	100
Brecks Lane/ Herringthorpe Wood	Semi Standards	105
Herringthorpe extension	Semi Standards	40
Total Number of Woodland Trees Planted		20,654
Urban Tree Planting		
Fenton Road		1100
Eldon Road		8
Cherry Tree Park		70
Bawtry Road		116
Effingham Road		3
Herringthorpe Playing Fields		143
Broom Valley Road		22
Newhill Park		23
Total Number of Urban Trees Planted		1,485
Total Number of Trees Planted		22,139

- 2.9 Trees planted in new woodland settings are a mixture of native species such as Pedunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Spindle, Hazel and Sweet Chestnut.
- 2.10 In urban settings the service has planted a mix of native and non-native trees at a ratio of 2:1. The planting of non-natives is in response to climate change as non-natives should be more resilient to changing climatic conditions and diversify our tree stock to mitigate species specific tree diseases such as Ash Dieback.

- 2.11 Following the principle of 'right tree, right place', species chosen for urban settings tend to be species that are smaller at maturity to reduce concerns from some residents regarding larger trees near their homes.
- 2.12 Since the appointment of the Trees & Woodlands Engagement Officer in June 2021, 24 tree planting programmes have been delivered across a range of community groups with some groups becoming more established, meeting regularly and undertaking repeat activities and some acting as more of a drop-in for people to try something new. To date these events have engaged with 555 residents in total.
- 2.13 Outside of these community programmes relationships have also been forged with local schools engaging 392 children and young people from six different schools within the borough.
- 2.14 Case studies from the Tree Planting programmes include:
- **A Family Tribute at Brecks Lane Woodland**
A family contacted the Council wanting to celebrate their Mum, Meg's 100th birthday, with the planting of 100 trees. The family raised money to buy the whips, a rustic bench and an owl box to go in the corner of the field that was being planted. In total 14 people attended and it was set up for all to take part with Meg planting the 100th tree to mark her birthday. The family brought a picnic and arranged for a birthday cake to mark the occasion.
 - **Rotherham Scouts**
Rotherham Scouts booked in over a weekend on individual group sessions to do tree planting. Seven different groups attended and planted up nearly a quarter of Brecks Field planting the woodland edge species near the hedgerow. The explorer scouts in the scout hut directly next door to the field have adopted the planted woodland for the next three months to ensure that trees remain guarded and well as part of their work towards one of the badges.
 - **Rotherham Fire Cadets**
This dedicated group had two different planting sessions one at the start of planting season on Herringthorpe extension and again on Winterhill Field overall the group planted nearly 600 trees and are keen to join in planting in the next planting season.

Leveraging additional funding

- 2.15 In 2021/22 the service was successful in securing an additional £272,600 in grant funding to support tree planting programmes including:
- £82,600 from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund
 - £140,000 from the Urban Trees Challenge Fund
 - £50,000 from South Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral Fund
- 2.16 The service is waiting to hear the outcome of further bids to the Emergency Tree Fund which, if successful, will include both Capital and Revenue funding to further support tree planting programmes, community engagement opportunities, volunteer and ranger training and the provision of electric vehicles to support the tree planting programmes, further reducing the carbon impact of the service and its activities.

Tree Planting programmes 2022/23

- 2.17 Building on the relationships that have been established in the first year of the Tree Planting programme a number of groups are looking to return again this including:

- A number of local schools have expressed an interest in volunteering, and some are looking to also undertake foraging activities to collect seeds and nuts to grow their own trees as part of a longer-term environmental education programme.
- Rotherham U3A are looking for an area of land for planting to celebrate the groups 40th anniversary. The group are keen on the idea of also starting a volunteer tree warden group to look after the trees.
- Education and awareness raising will take place at key events including UEFA Women's Euros and Rotherham Show helping to launch volunteer and tree adoption programmes.

2.18 In addition to the above programmes which build on the relationships and connections made in 2021/22, additional trees will be planted as part of the 'Queens Green Canopy' programme for the national Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.




2.19 After an initial year of targeted tree planting programmes which have taken place across the borough the service will be undertaking a review of its consultation processes and is inviting feedback from Elected Members on local groups in order to shape a new Consultation protocol for future tree planting programmes.

Additional Investment

2.20 On 2nd March 2022 the Council approved its budget for the year ahead which included:

- Permanent investment in supporting tree planting programmes through the provision of a dedicated Trees & Woodlands Engagement Officer and a small operating budget to support engagement programmes. The total investment for this provision is £50,000 per year.
- An additional allocation of £100,000 to the base Tree Service budget to be ring fenced to support additional works from service requests and member case work.

2.21 The Tree Management Protocol & Guidance sets out a RAG rating system for tree works following tree inspections which is used to prioritise its available resources.

RAG Rating	Description	Timescale
	Urgent or emergency works requiring the removal of immediate danger	24 hours response and works within one month
	Foreseeable threat or risk that requires remediation or repair	Within six months
	Works that would be of benefit to the trees health but are not health and safety related	When resources allow

2.22 The Protocol and Guidance introduced a more conciliatory approach to tree management taking a case-by-case view of where tree works might be required to improve the quality of life for residents but where these works were identified the service did not have the means to undertake them. Previously the Tree Service budget allowed only for 'Red' works with a backlog of 'Amber' works to the value of £158,000 and a backlog of requested 'Green' works to the value of £5,000.

2.23 Additional investment added to the base budget for the service will be ringfenced to case work and will be apportioned as follows:

- 70% of the budget is allocated to 'Amber' works to prevent future service requests.

- 5% of the budget is allocated to undertaking existing 'Green' works.
- The remaining allocation is held to manage 'Green' service requests throughout the year
- Any remaining funds in January 2023 will be used to manage the backlog of 'Amber' works at that time.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report is for information however members are invited to comment on its content and provide feedback on the consultation process for tree planting programmes.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There are no specific proposals as the report is for information purposes. However, elements of the activities outlined in this report such as the location of future sites for tree planting will be consulted upon in due course as they are identified.

5. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, which is for information purposes. The body of the report includes information on both Council investment and external funding, which has supported both the management of the Council's existing tree stock and the development of new planting schemes across the borough

6. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 6.1 There are no direct Legal implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

8. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 8.1 Encouraging children and young people to learn about the natural environment, conservation and climate change is a key aspect of the Trees Service's work. In the last nine months partnerships have been developed with six schools and more are in discussion with volunteer programmes established with young people's charities and volunteer groups including Rotherham Scouts, and Rotherham Fire Cadets.

- 8.2 Examples of work with schools include:

- Winterhill School Outdoor Learning & Conservation
Winterhill School Ponds Project Group were one of the first groups to take part in tree planting on Winterhill Field planting several of the trees in the first section of planting. Lots of trees were carefully planted and with the group meeting regularly to do conservation work on site will be checking on the trees.
- Eldon Road Adopt a Tree Programme
This was delivered in partnership with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust Natural Neighbours team. Trees were planted and the local schools adopted a tree each (due to tree size they couldn't actually plant the tree). The Trees were placed in pre-dug holes by the Council's Grounds Maintenance team and students planted bulbs around the trees. They then named their tree and an information board was put on each with

the species, the trees adopted name (one is called Buzz) and which school had adopted it.

9. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 9.1 The service is committed to ensuring equal access to its trees and woodlands. The service undertakes specific Equality Impact Assessments relating to its activities and hosts regular consultation sessions working with a diverse range of groups with protected characteristics.

10. Implications for Partners

- 10.1 Over the coming months the Council will work with partners to convene a group of landowners and estate managers in order to co-produce a shared Tree Planting Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to:
- Agree shared targets for tree planting, rewilding and woodland creation
 - Identify areas of land and estate across the borough that is suitable for planting programmes
 - Unlock further funding and investment in environmental programmes, education and climate conservation

11. Risks and Mitigation

- 11.1 Competition for funds: In the short term, funding for new tree planting and management of existing woodlands has been available from a number of external funding bodies and a number of successful bids has allowed the service to over achieve on its early forecasts and targets as described above. Funding has also been sought in partnership with the other three South Yorkshire local authorities, the SYMCA and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust and the Yorkshire Wildlife trust along with other partners in a consortium known as the South Yorkshire Woodland Creation Partnership to allow capacity building and further shared external bidding for trees and woodland expansion.
- 11.2 However, longer term funding for tree planting and woodland creation is uncertain and could reduce the Councils capacity to continue to increase woodland cover in the medium and long term.
- 11.3 Damage to new planting schemes: The right tree in the right place is a concept adopted by the Councils Green Spaces Service which hopes to reduce perceived nuisance reports in future by planting suitable species in urban locations so that trees are more welcomed by their near neighbours.
- 11.4 A minority of planting schemes have seen some early resistance from individuals or have fallen foul of vandalism and have suffered damage to or complete removal of newly planted trees. The current level of damage and early loss is within the 10% expected and is sustainable within the schemes overall objectives but will remain a risk if damage or removal increases.
- 11.5 Identification of suitable land for planting: Further work is required to identify suitable land for tree planting both in the urban and woodland context. Many residents welcome trees but there are also many that are resistant to new trees near their properties. We hope to overcome these fears through engagement and sharing information regarding to positive benefits trees provide and the development of a clearer consultation protocol. We are also seeking further land for woodland expansion but at a time of demand for land for new homes, green energy production and other uses there is a call on suitable sites for a number of beneficial uses. In

future we hope to be able to work more with private landowners to provide space for trees. To this end we are starting to make these links with larger landowning bodies such as Wentworth Estates and Parish Councils.

12 Accountable Officer(s)

Leanne Buchan, Acting Assistant Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism

Approvals obtained on behalf of: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Leanne Buchan, Acting Assistant Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism
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Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 19 April 2022

Report Title

Work Programme Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor
01709 254532 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To provide an update on the Work Programme of the Improving Places Select Commission.

Recommendations

1. That the report and proposed schedule of work be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Governance Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to make changes to the schedule of work as appropriate between meetings, reporting any changes back to the next meeting for endorsement.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Work Programme – Improving Places Select Commission

Background Papers

Agendas of Improving Places Select Commission during the 2020/21 Municipal Year
Minutes of Improving Places Select Commission during 2020/21 Municipal Year

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

IPSC – Work Programme Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The remit of the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) is to undertake scrutiny activity in respect of all matters pertaining to the borough of Rotherham as a place. In broad terms, this remit relates to business and economic development, employment, emergency planning, environment, housing, climate change, leisure, culture and tourism, transport and highways, as well as regulatory services such as trading standards and environmental health. The breadth of functions and services that fall within the Commission's remit is significant.
- 1.2 The way in which the Commission discharges its scrutiny activity is a matter for itself, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and any direction from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The IPSC has chosen to scrutinise a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development, performance monitoring, information updates and follow up to previous scrutiny work.
- 1.3 The IPSC has eight scheduled meetings over the course of 2021/22, representing a maximum of 20 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming 2.5 hours per meeting. Members therefore must be selective in their choice of items for the work programme. The following key principles of effective scrutiny are considered in determining the work programme:
 - Selection – There is a need to prioritise so that high priority issues are scrutinised given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time available. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what the session is intended to achieve.
 - Value-added – Items had to have the potential to 'add value' to the work of the council and its partners.
 - Ambition – the Programme does not shy away from scrutinising issues that are of greatest concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything to promote economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities. Subsequent Acts have conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.
 - Flexibility – The Work Programme maintains a degree of flexibility as required to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration during the year and to accommodate any further work that falls within the remit of this Commission.
 - Timing – The Programme has been designed to ensure that the scrutiny activity is timely and that, where appropriate, its findings and recommendations inform wider corporate developments or policy development cycles at a time when they can have most impact. The Work Programme also helps safeguard against duplication of work undertaken elsewhere.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Members are required to review their work programme at each meeting during the 2021/22 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of the borough.
- 2.2 A revised draft of a work programme for Improving Places Select Commission is appended to this report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members are recommended to discuss potential areas of scrutiny work to be added to the work programme.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The work programme is subject to consultation with the Chair and Members of the IPSC. Regular discussions take place with Cabinet Members and officers in respect of the content and timeliness of items set out on the work programme.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The decision to develop a work programme is a matter reserved to the Commission and will be effective immediately after consideration of this report.
- 5.2 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer (Head of Democratic Services) is accountable for the implementation of any decision in respect of the Commission's work programme. The Governance Advisor supporting the Commission is responsible on a day-to-day basis for the Commission's work programme. Members are recommended to delegate authority to the Governance Advisor to make amendments to the programme between meetings.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The authority of the Select Commission to determine its work programme is detailed within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Responsibility for Functions parts of the Constitution. The proposal to review the work programme is consistent with those provisions.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Whilst there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, equalities and diversity are key considerations when developing and reviewing scrutiny work programmes. One of the key principles of scrutiny is to provide a voice for communities, and the work programme for this Commission has been prepared following feedback from Members representing those communities.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO2 emissions or climate change arising from this report. Members will have regard to the Climate Emergency when selecting potential items for scrutiny.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The membership of the Commission includes co-opted members from RotherFed who contribute to the development and review of the work programme. Where other matters are being considered for inclusion on the work programme, relevant partners or external organisations are consulted on the proposed activity and its timeliness.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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Improving Places Select Commission - Work Programme 2021/22 Municipal Year

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
29 June 2021	Initial Work Programme 2021/22
	Aids and Adaptations Tenant Scrutiny Review
20 July 2021	Rough Sleeper Strategy Update
	Revised Work Programme 2021/22
7 September 2021	Housing Energy Efficiency
	Flood Alleviation Update
	Bereavement Services Annual Report
2 November 2021 (Reports 22 October)	Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report
	Progress on Library Strategy and Action Plan
November/December 2021 Spotlight Review	External Funding for Regeneration and Development
14 December 2021 (Reports 3 December)	Rotherham Town Centre Update
	Allotments Self-Management Update
	Outcomes from External Funding Spotlight Review
February 2022 Spotlight Review	Cultural Strategy (with Improving Lives Select Commission)
1 February 2022 (Reports 21 January)	Environment Bill – Waste Management
	Fly Tipping Update
March 2022 Market Service Review	Site Visit and Spotlight on Recovery and Future Engagement
22 March 2022 (Reports 11 March)	Active Travel Update
	Highways Service Update
March 2022 Site Visit	RENEWI: Manvers Waste Processing and Recycling Centre
19 April 2022 (Reports 8 April)	CCTV Update
	Tree Service Update
April 2022 Market Service Review, continued.	Market Service -- Review of Local Regulations

2022/23	
June 2022 Spotlight Review	Antisocial Behaviour Strategy – Consultation with Members
7 June 2022 (Reports 27 May)	Capital Works Programme 2022
	Housing Repairs and Maintenance – Tenant Scrutiny Review (TBC)
	Scrutiny Recommendations: Cultural Strategy and Markets Recovery
	Initial Work Programme 2022/23