IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- **Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 1.30 p.m.**

Venue:- **Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.**

Membership:- **Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Tinsley (Vice-Chair), Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, C Carter, Castledine-Dack, T Collingham, Cowen, Ellis, Havard, Khan, McNeely, Reynolds, Taylor.**

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 19 September 2023 (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2023 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. Neighbourhoods Annual Report (Pages 11 - 60)

To receive an annual report in respect of the delivery of the Neighbourhood Working Model and the Neighbourhoods Strategy.

7. Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy (Pages 61 - 90)

To consider an update report on the implementation of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.

8. Work Programme (Pages 91 - 98)

To consider and endorse an updated outline schedule of scrutiny 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 12 December 2023, commencing at 1.30pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 19 September 2023

Present:- Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Bennett-Sylvester, T. Collingham, Cowen, Havard, Jones, McNeely, Reynolds and Tinsley, and co-opted members Mrs. Kay Bacon and Mrs. Mary Jacques.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barley, C Carter, Castledine-Dack, Ellis and Khan.

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

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2023

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2023 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. FLOODING ALLEVIATION UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update report regarding the six priority flood defence works ongoing in the Borough as well as other works that had been delivered. The Chair noted the members' site visit to the Ickles Lock and the engineering of the defence. The Cabinet member noted the recent £1.9 million added funding which had been secured from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This was a testament to the confidence placed in the Council for its track record for delivering on large scale projects, such as at Ickles Lock.

In discussion, Members requested additional information about opportunities to maximise public enjoyment of the pathways and waterways which had been revitalised through these projects. The Chair noted that recreation around the areas was a topic for another conversation.

Members requested additional information around how the drainage team were communicating with other services around any issues seen. The response from the Head of Highways and Flood Risk noted that the service receives many reports from officers who are out in the Borough as part of their duties. The team noted that the works were on a cyclical basis, and that many gullies were designed to hold some water to create an airlock, so sometimes reports were received that gullies are blocked when they are working as they should. The service are always ready to provide information regarding when the drain was last maintained.

Members also expressed curiosity of the economic impact of flooding alleviation. The response from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment noted that the business case for external funding involved establishing the economic benefits. The cost benefit ratio outlines had to be provided in the application process. This affected how much funding could be obtained.

Members asked what programmes are being used to slow down the movement of water to aid absorption. The response from the Head of Highways and Flood Risk noted the tree planting that has been done and the partnership working with experts coordinated by Sheffield. Planning were also consulted in this process.

Members also asked if there was learning from the June floods that had been captured. The response from the Strategic Director noted that many new developments are responsible for the attenuation of water from the site. Planning conditions were placed on the site.

The chair sought additional information regarding capacity to work with residents around their flood plans. The Cabinet Member noted that Rotherham lead on community resilience, this involved understanding the capacity of parish councils to build resiliency to respond quickly. This involved helping people know where to go to get information and supplies. The Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene noted examples of engagement events and activities and the partnership working to deliver these events. The Head of Highways and Flood Risk noted that the interest of the public in the topic was extremely valuable in growing local awareness and participation.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

25. COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS (CSOS)

Consideration was given to a slide presentation presented by the Environment Agency's Area Environment Manager with responsibility for the Land and Water Portfolio for Yorkshire who was in attendance at the meeting. The presentation was accompanied by a written briefing from Yorkshire Water's Head of Corporate Affairs.

The Chair noted that partners had been invited to the meeting for a scrutiny discussion of combined storm overflows following on from a motion of the Council on 19 July 2023.

The Chair also noted that Severn Trent's Head of Government Affairs & Responsible Business had corresponded regarding the small coverage area southeast of Rotherham served by Severn Trent. As this was considered a very small part of the Severn Trent service area, a representative had not been sent to the meeting on this occasion. However, reporting was encouraged if Members became aware of any specific drains within these areas that were experiencing issues. Severn Trent had published its corporate ambition around rivers and reported annually on progress against targets. More information was available on the Severn Trent website.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the attendance of the EA's Area Environment Manager and the representative of the River Network.

The presentation illustrated the impact of mitigation and enforcement work that the EA had done and how this had evolved in recent years. EA data showed that storm overflows were the fourth reason for waterbodies failing to reach Good Ecological Status, accounting for 7% - behind agriculture at 40%, the wider water industry at 36%, and urban and transport at 18%, which have significantly higher levels of pollution. The presentation noted that discharges from storm overflows under permitted conditions were not illegal and were an essential part of the combined sewer network in England. The Environment Agency had procedures in place for investigating potentially illegal storm overflow discharges.

The Environment Agency released its annual report on the environmental performance (EPA) of all water and sewerage companies in July 2023. Yorkshire Water was rated a 3-star company in 2022, an increase from the 2-star rating in 2021.

To drive the required improvements, the EA took action to

- Undertake robust regulation to minimise impacts;
- Respond to environmental incidents and carry out thorough investigations to mitigate any impacts;
- Take enforcement action to hold water companies to account when there is a pollution event;
- Drive long term investment through the AMP process (WINEP).

The presentation further described increased monitoring and transparency from water companies in recent years. This included EDM, Flow to Full Treatment monitoring, responding to incidents and carrying out thorough investigations, robust regulation and EA routine monitoring, data analysis, site inspections/audits, incident response, Operator Self Monitoring (OSM), and consistent engagement with YWS with technical and strategic engagement to maintain oversight and action on key issues. A case study of compliance and enforcement action at Lundwood in Barnsley was provided to illustrate the effectiveness of the monitoring approach.

The presentation described regulation activities as well. The Environment Agency had to focus its resources where there was likely to be the greatest risk to human health, quality of life and the environment. Water discharge activities and point source groundwater activities were regulated with an environmental permit in a way that was consistent, transparent, and proportionate. A generic approach was then adapted according to the specific discharge, its location and receptors.

Regarding enforcement, the EA was working to hold water companies to account to reduce pollution, tackle storm overflows and invest more of their profits into the environment. If the EA identified illegal discharges from storm overflows, these were investigated, and action was taken in line with the EA Enforcement and Sanctions Policy. The EA responded to environmental incidents (one every 45 minutes) to stop and reverse damage to rivers. The EA carried out a major industry-wide criminal investigation into potential non-compliance by water companies at wastewater treatment works. The EA prosecuted the most serious polluters. There had been 58 prosecutions against water and sewerage companies since 2015 securing fines of over £147m, with Enforcement Undertakings of £1.9 million in Yorkshire.

Regarding permit breaches, the EA permitted discharges under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2016. When a permit condition is believed to have been breached, the EA

- recorded the failure on the Compliance Classification System (CCS), including any breaches observed during site inspections.
- took appropriate enforcement action depending on the impact of the breach and any mitigation measures taken by the Operator, in accordance with the Environment Agency Enforcement and Sanctions Policy.
- used CAR forms to notify operators of all permit condition breaches (generally within 14 days); we may also use CAR forms to highlight any other issues (good or bad) observed during a site inspection. Operators had 28 days to challenge the results of a compliance assessment.
- could serve an enforcement notice requiring the operator to complete specified steps by a specified date under Regulation 36 of the Environmental Permitting regulations 2016. The EA could do

this where an operator was already not complying with a permit condition or when there was reason to believe that they would not comply in the future.

The presentation further described the enforcement response of the EA. Where the EA identified non-compliances, the enforcement response was proportionate and appropriate to each situation. The first response was usually to give advice and guidance or issue a warning to bring an offender into compliance where possible, with timescales within weeks or months. The EA could prosecute when there was evidence of significant environmental risk or harm combined with deliberate, reckless or negligent levels of culpability. The timescales for this could be years. Other offence response options included

- Compliance Notices
- Enforcement Undertaking
- Formal Caution
- Fixed/Variable Monetary Penalties

Regarding long term investment, the Price Review produced an Asset Management Plan (AMP) for each water company, which covered capital maintenance, supply/demand balance, quality enhancement and enhanced service levels for the next five years. The WINEP set out actions water companies must take to protect and improve the environment in the five-year AMP. Penalties were incurred by water companies should they fail to deliver on the specified actions within the WINEP.

In discussion, Members sought further assurances that the EA was monitoring the damage to aquatic life caused by pollution events including improper discharges. The response from the Area Environment Manager described the increased transparency that characterised the live monitoring of the overflows. The published data led to greater understanding of the problem and causation. Furthermore, community awareness had driven increasing visibility, such that, monitoring was now in place and active. There would be full coverage for holding water companies to account.

Members also requested additional assurances that the monitoring system did not rely entirely on self-reporting by the water companies. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that enforcement looked collectively at evidence to consider fully the systematic failures by the water companies. This did not rely on self-reporting because the data was freely and continuously available and public. Because of this transparency, however, the EA had observed increased proactiveness around self-reporting. This formed part of the Environmental Performance Assessments.

The representative of the River Catchment Partnership noted river ranger schemes, CSO safaris, and other schemes provided opportunities for people to play a role locally to do their part to help improve river health and sought additional information on how people can get involved in helpful ways. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that monitoring by community members was very helpful intelligence. Great Yorkshire Rivers was an example of a partnership programme organised around responding to the biodiversity crisis and impacts from pollution events. The community engagement has gathered pace through one-off ad hoc town hall meetings, and there was a desire to do this more proactively. The EA had area teams delivering regulation enforcement, but the connected overview was delivered through the catchment coordinators. Area Environment Management was patch-based in South and North Yorkshire, for example. When individuals were reporting in, they were encouraged to noted which community group they were a part of, to help ensure these groups become known and can be brought together, which can be very effective. Liaison meetings with Yorkshire Water have benefitted from information and learning gathered from engagement work, resulting in internal restructuring of River Health team and leadership, incorporating Rangers. It was felt that this had also played a role in the increase in self-reporting.

Members sought further clarification around the figures regarding fines, and whether discharges were ever responded to with full enforcement measures. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that the prosecution was sought for category one or two. Last year, the area had experienced three serious pollution events, so those three would be progressed. This went through internal governance structures to ensure a consistent and proportionate approach. This was not taken lightly nor was enforcement an easy way out. Regulation requires informed change within companies. This must be done with ongoing engagement and transparency. Visibility of EA regulation is an area that has been a learning point. All compliance is kept on a full public register which can be requested and reviewed. Behaviour change is most important alongside accountability for pollution.

Members sought additional clarification of whether these enforcement efforts and investment by the water companies had actually reduced the amount of sewage going into rivers. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that as part of the enforcement processes that result in prosecution, requirements were set out as part of sentencing that had to be complied with by the water companies, but this could take time. Enforcement Undertakings were not accepted if they company had not rectified the situation. There were two-part criteria. Notices were also served that required improvement. There were several kinds of enforcement activities, and more investigation would be carried out if it was uncertain what improvement had been done. The governance process operated to seek the best outcome through enforcement, which included behaviour change. More engagement, messaging and focus of resources in the right place was necessary, but there was not a limit on

enforcement activity. Improvements were often seen before the proceedings came to a close as a result of these additional types of enforcement action that were sometimes less obvious. Inappropriate overflows did still happen, which was not acceptable, but the EA had observed a reduction in the number of events since the increased transparency and monitoring had been implemented as part of a holistic approach to improving water quality.

Clarification was sought regarding the differences between three- and four-star performance by a water company and how this reflects accountability. The response from the Area Environment Manager reaffirmed that the goal is accountability for keeping our water clean, and that a proportionate response meant that prosecution was not appropriate in every case. Additional context was provided around the three-star rating of Yorkshire Water, and a hypothetical example was provided as to how a less severe pollution event could result in a monetary penalty. Notices requiring improvement actions were the most frequent form of enforcement issued by the EA.

Members requested to know whether customer satisfaction was built into the assessment framework for water company performance where the water company has a monopoly. The response from the Area Environment Manager, whilst unable to comment on the business or financial arrangements of the water companies, affirmed the benefit of participation in community meetings to gain insight into what additional action was needed to give people the confidence that robust regulation was being carried out. This helped ensure that EA investment in infrastructure improvements would achieve the desired outcomes in the short as well as the long term. This was relevant and important to people's livelihoods, leisure and wellbeing.

Members requested more information about how the EA was responding to significant pollution via agriculture that was happening alongside the overflows. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that the attention to the topic of overflows had helped to drive significant change and increased transparency. Additional government investment had enabled additional resource within the EA to carry out more intense regulation and enforcement on farms where there were infrastructure improvements required. Because of agriculture's usual proximity to waterbodies, there was a greater risk of catastrophic water pollution events caused by agriculture. There was therefore more engagement work going on with farmers around land management practice. This focus addressed impacts through regulation through understanding where the pollution was most significant. National teams were also looking at Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to find out the impacts and increase holistic awareness of all the different factors that might impact water quality.

Members requested clarification of statistics around contributing factors to poor river water quality, specifically the 36% caused by the wider water industry, as this figure had not been included within the written briefing supplied by Yorkshire Water. The response from the Area Environment Manager noted that this could be caused by sewage pumping stations, treatment works, or network failures at any stage of the treatment process. Network maintenance had a significant impact. Regulation efforts had examined specific parts of the process to target the areas where these incidents happen. This included looking at frequent low-impact incidents. Telemetry was important in monitoring these areas and to ensure the right maintenance actions in response.

The Chair thanked the Area Environment Manager for attending and noted the outstanding questions which would be addressed to Yorkshire Water for response, specifically the request for more information regarding the River Health Team and how this team would engage with the community members and stakeholders. The Chair also expressed an intention to ask Yorkshire Water to respond to the question regarding the impacts of wider water industry.

Resolved:-

1. That the presentation be noted.

2. That the relevant outstanding questions be submitted to Yorkshire Water for response.

26. WORK PROGRAMME

Resolved:-

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.

27. URGENT BUSINESS

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

28. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-
That the next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 24 October 2023, commencing at 1.30 pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Places Select Commission – 24 October 2023

Report Title
Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2022/23

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)
Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods
martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
Progress on the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working model

Recommendations
Note the progress of the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working model

List of Appendices Included
None

Background Papers
- Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy 2018-2025
- Rotherham Council Plan 2022-25
- Rotherham Council Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2023/24
- Refresh of Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy cabinet report – 21 November 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2022/23

1. Background

1.1 This annual report primarily focuses on the municipal year May 2022 to May 2023 but also covers activity up to and including September 2023.

1.2 Cabinet approved the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025) in November 2018 following the introduction of the new neighbourhood working model in May 2017. The Strategy was refreshed and agreed by Cabinet in November 2022 (see Appendix 1). Cabinet also agreed for a Delivery Plan and a Full Equality Analysis to be presented to Improving Places Select Commission. These are attached as Appendix 2 and 4 respectively.

1.3 This Strategy helps to deliver the Council's vision under the 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving' theme within the Council Plan (2022-25) - '*Our vision for Rotherham is for every neighbourhood to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life. We want to work with local people to find solutions to local issues and to build on our heritage and assets. We will help create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe and proud. To do this, we will make it easier to get involved in the local community, work closely with our partners and local voluntary and community groups, enhance our town and village centres, green spaces and libraries, and effectively tackle community issues'.*

1.4 The Strategy aims to achieve –

- Neighbourhoods that are safe and welcoming with good community spirit.
- Residents are happy, healthy and loving where they live.
- Residents have the opportunity to use their strengths, knowledge and skills to achieve what is important to them.

1.5 The 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving' theme within the Council's Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes the following outcomes that the Council aims to achieve in 2023/24 –

- Work with communities on the things that matter to them.
- Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others.
- Neighbourhoods that are welcoming and safe
- Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces.
- Local towns and villages are improved.

1.6 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report, which was presented to cabinet in September 2023, provided positive feedback on the Council's neighbourhood working model stating – '*The Council's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aspires to strengthen the role of ward members as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and those delivering service in communities to bring about the changes that communities want to see. The peer team was impressed by the exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead.*'

2. Key Issues

Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and Delivery Plan

2.1 A refreshed version of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025) was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 (see Appendix 1). The main differences from the original strategy were –

- Reference to the Council's 'Place-Based' and 'Strengths-Based' approaches
- Greater emphasis on the role of the Councillor, referencing Birmingham University's 21st Century Councillor Model
- Removal of case studies – as there are now better avenues to promote these such as ward e-bulletins, ward webpages and Elected Members' ward reports to Council.

2.2 Cabinet agreed that the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy Delivery Plan and Full Equality Analysis were to be developed by April 2023 and presented to the Improving Places Select Commission in Spring 2023. Due to unforeseen circumstances the agreed dates had to be pushed back to later in the year.

2.3 The Delivery Plan (Appendix 2) is deliberately high level and combines the Council Plan's Outcomes and Commitments along with the common themes coming out of the ward priorities. It also references existing relevant council strategies, programmes and plans. The detailed delivery of activity is captured within the 25 Ward Plans which Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Teams review and update on a regular basis.

2.4 The Delivery Plan and Full Equality Analysis have been informed by consultation that also promoted the Strategy and helped inform the setting of the 2023/24 ward priorities. This took place between March and May 2023 and involved a range of community-based meetings, presentations and drop-ins across all 25 wards as well as an online questionnaire. A summary of the consultation findings is attached as Appendix 3.

2.5 This consultation exercise supported the ongoing day-to-day Elected Member led community engagement taking place within the ward which regularly identifies local issues and trends.

Elected Members as Community Leaders

2.6 Elected Members are at the centre of Rotherham's neighbourhood working model, which provides them the opportunity to maximise their role as community leaders.

Member Development and Support

2.7 Between February and May 2023 Members who were elected for the first time in 2021 were offered the opportunity to have a mid-term review to discuss their community leadership role with managers from the Neighbourhoods Team. Eight Elected Members took up this opportunity. The common learning and

development requests were subsequently shared with the Member Democratic Panel in July 2023. These included -

- Feedback on the 2021 Member induction programme
- Time commitment needed to be a councillor
- Communication and engagement methods / use of social media
- Planning regulations and enforcement
- Understanding and knowledge of Directorates and Council committees / commissions
- Health and safety of Councillors
- Managing difficult relationships / conflict

Ward issues and any additional specific support required were picked up by the Neighbourhoods Team.

2.8 A 'Be A Councillor' campaign took place in May and June 2023. This provided prospective councillors the chance to find out more about the role and responsibilities. Two sessions took place at the end of June, one in the Council chamber and one via Teams. Approximately 20 individuals took part in the sessions and the information provided remains on the Council 's website. This includes a series of videos of current Elected Members explaining their role.

2.9 Elected Members are supported on a day-to-day basis by the Neighbourhoods Team. During 2022/23 the Neighbourhoods Team facilitated 294 ward Member briefings. These ward briefings are fundamental to the neighbourhood working model as they provide Members with the opportunity to review their ward priorities, plans and budgets, engage with various partners and services, consider any emerging issues, take a lead on any projects or initiatives, and discuss how to involve the local community.

Ward Priorities and Plans

2.10 Elected Members were given the opportunity to refresh their ward priorities and plans in May/June 2023. Members were provided with new ward data, input and advice from council services and partners and local community intelligence, including the results from the Thriving Neighbourhoods consultation exercise that took place between March and May 2023 (see Appendix 3). The refreshed ward priorities were published on the Council's website in June 2023.

2.11 Elected Members have continued to work with the Neighbourhoods Team, the local community and a range of partners to develop projects and improve local services to tackle their ward priorities. Details of these initiatives are captured in the individual ward plans, are included in the monthly ward e-bulletins and summarised in Ward Members' reports to full Council.

2.12 The Elected Members' reports to Council include numerous stories and case studies illustrating the impact of neighbourhood working, their role as community leaders and progress on ward priorities. The reports started in May 2022 and will continue up to January 2024. They are published on the ward webpages once presented.

2.13 As well as forming the basis for local action, the ward plans, and the priorities identified within them, are used to inform Council decision making, policies, strategies, service plans and resource allocation.

Devolved Ward Budgets

2.14 In 2022/23 the devolved budgets for Elected Members were as follows -

- Each Elected Member received £1,584 Community Leadership Fund (revenue)
- Two member wards received £7,120 Capital Budget
- Three member wards received £10,680 Capital Budget

These figures are the same for the 2023/24 financial year.

2.15 Any underspend in both CLF and Capital budgets has previously been carried over to the following financial year. However, any underspend at the end of 2023/24 financial year will not carry over to 2024/25 due to the pending elections.

2.16 In 2022/23 Elected Members allocated £259,747 to projects, services and activities tackling their ward priorities. £110,820 came from their CLF and £148,927 came from the ward Capital budget. Summaries of the allocations made in each ward in 2022/23 have been published on the Council website.

2.17 Approximately £95,411 was invested directly into the Voluntary and Community Sector, supporting a total of 267 community organisations. The number of groups supported is similar to the previous year. £139,348 went into the public sector for additional activities, services or equipment. The remaining £24,988 was used to purchase items/equipment from the private sector for community activities.

2.18 Elected Members also have access to –

- Ward Housing Hub monies - a revenue budget from the Housing Revenue Account that can be spent on environmental improvements which benefits council tenants and are in line with ward priorities. There is a base budget for each ward of £4,000 along with an enhancement dependent upon the number of Council homes in the ward. In 2022/23 Members allocated a total of £117,761 Ward Housing Hub monies on projects. Any underspend at the end of this financial year will not carry over to 2024/25.

- Community Infrastructure Levy - a charge that Councils can apply to new developments to raise funds for local infrastructure. Wards that are not covered by a Parish Council retain the CIL 'Neighbourhood Portion'. This equates to 15% of the total CIL. This has been made available to Elected Members in non-parished wards since April 2022. In 2022/23 Elected Members did not allocate any CIL money on projects. There is no deadline to spend the CIL money.

Community Engagement

2.19 How both Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Team communicate and engage with residents, stakeholders and partners is fundamental to Rotherham's neighbourhood working model. The Neighbourhoods Team have ward focused Communication & Engagement Plans which are developed and monitored in consultation with Elected Members.

2.20 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report (September '23) stated that – '*The peer team was impressed by the exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead'*.

Website

2.21 The Neighbourhoods home webpage includes information on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, an interactive map of all the wards, details on how to apply for devolved ward budgets, links to the Parish Councils section of the Council website and links to all 25 ward pages. In 2022/23 there were 6,618 unique views of this webpage. This is a reduction 2,171 views in comparison to 2021/22.

2.22 The 25 ward webpages include Elected Members details, a latest news feed, and useful links to other websites. They also allow people to access the ward priorities, ward data profile, annual ward budget statements and the Elected Members' report to Council. There were very few articles posted on the newsfeed in 2022/23. This is primarily down to a software issues, which the Communications Team are looking to resolve.

Ward E-bulletins

2.23 Each ward produces and circulates a monthly e-bulletin. These are written in consultation with Elected Members and provide local information and numerous stories illustrating the progress made in tackling ward priorities and the impact of neighbourhood working within the ward.

2.24 Subscriptions increased from 7,860 to 10,590 in 2022/23, an increase of 2,730. The engagement rate (which indicates whether the bulletin has been read) remains at 80%, which is significantly higher than most other Council e-bulletins.

Supporting Community Organisations

2.25 Supporting local community groups who provide activities that help tackle ward priorities is a core function of the Neighbourhoods Team.

2.26 In 2022/23 the team supported 682 community organisations with general advice, legal status, funding, volunteer recruitment and linking them into various partnerships and services. This figure includes the establishment of 19 new community organisations. This is almost double the number of groups that were

supported in 2021/22. This work was alongside, and in addition to, the ward budget funding which was awarded to 267 community organisations.

Community Events

2.27 The Neighbourhoods Team continue to work alongside Elected Members to bring communities together through a range of enjoyable, cultural and social activities and events, which will inspire hope and pride in local communities across the Borough. 395 community events were arranged or supported by the team in 2022/23.

Consultation

2.28 As stated in paragraph 2.4, the production of the Delivery Plan and Full Equality Analysis was informed by a consultation exercise that took place in Spring ’23. It was led by the Neighbourhoods Team and Elected Members. It also promoted the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and helped inform the setting of the 2023/24 ward priorities.

2.29 The Neighbourhoods Team and Elected Members have led on the consultation for the Towns and Villages projects within their wards. This has provided the local community the opportunity to inform the design of the various schemes. Seven Towns and Villages schemes have been completed to date, with the remainder due to be completed by the end of March 2024.

2.30 The Neighbourhoods Team continue to advise and support council services and partners who wish to consult within wards and neighbourhoods. This is in accordance with the Council’s Consultation and Engagement Framework.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

2.31 The Council’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has further emphasised the need to promote and provide opportunities for all communities within the Borough. In 2022/23 the Neighbourhoods Team supported 200 activities, projects or initiatives that have targeted communities with protected characteristics. These include consultation exercises, support/funding for community groups and support for community events.

2.32 Over the next 12 months the Neighbourhoods Team will continue to work with Elected Members to provide more opportunities for communities with protected characteristics so that they can get involved in local consultation, activities and community action (see Appendix 4 - Equality Analysis).

Integrated Locality and Partnership Working

Ward Priorities

2.33 The priorities within ward plans form the basis of local projects, partnerships and networks which are supported by the Neighbourhoods Team and Elected Members. These priorities are shared across all Council services and partner

agencies to help inform strategies, service plans, the allocation of resources and the delivery of services.

2.34 Work continues to increase the visibility of the ward priorities to all staff across the council. This includes ward priorities being considered during service planning and strategy development, ongoing discussions with various management teams and neighbourhood tours for staff.

Neighbourhood Partnerships and Networks

2.35 A range of neighbourhood-based partnerships and networks have continued or been established in order to tackle the priorities within the ward plans. This includes the Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) which operate in all 25 wards and provide a vehicle to tackle community safety related issues.

2.36 Work is currently ongoing to improve how community safety issues are tackled within localities, including the function and effectiveness of the CAPs and their relationship with the North, Central or South Joint Tasking Groups.

2.37 In 2022/23 the Neighbourhoods Team co-ordinated 867 neighbourhood partnership and network meetings. This is a similar figure to 2021/22. These have been a mix of in-person and online Teams meetings.

Parish and Town Councils

2.38 Parish and Town Councils are key to local partnership working. Over the last year the Parish Council Liaison Officer who has supported the Parish Councils to –

- Develop a Joint Working Agreement with the Council – refreshed in July 2023
- Meet with each other, council services and partners on a regular basis.
- Link into Elected Members and key council services to address local issues.
- Develop their response to potential future flood or emergency incidents.
- Hold events and celebrations.
- Access learning and development opportunities.

2.39 The Parish Council Liaison Officer co-ordinates the Parish Council and RMBC Joint Working Group, Parish Council Network events, Clerks meetings and joint learning and development sessions. During 2022/23 24 of the 31 Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham were involved in one or more of these meetings and events.

2.40 The Parish Council Liaison Officer also engages with those that have chosen not to get involved in any of the joint meetings or events, via the Parish Councils e-bulletin, attending their meetings or individual discussions with the clerk.

Town Centre

2.41 In Summer 2022 the Neighbourhoods Team took the lead to promote a placemaking approach within the Town Centre by bringing all key stakeholders

together to achieve common goals and ensure the Town Centre becomes a desirable place to live, work and visit.

2.42 The Town Centre Community Co-ordinator started in post in October 2022 and has established himself as the link between those involved in the economic regeneration of the town centre, various council services, local businesses, the VCS, residents and visitors.

2.43 A Town Centre Operational Group was established in January 2023 which has improved the co-ordination of services and partners in the town centre. There have been particular improvements around the appearance of the town centre and making it feel a safer.

North, Central and South Locality Areas

2.44 A number of services and partners operate their services on a North, Central and South Locality Area basis. These include Neighbourhoods, Housing, Environmental Enforcement / CPU, Streetscene and SY Police.

2.45 Senior managers from these services and others meet on a regular basis to exchange information and discuss the area wide delivery of services in response to ward plan priorities and issues raise by CAPs or other neighbourhood partnerships. They are also in a position to advise and lead on translating borough-wide strategies into local action.

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report

2.46 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report includes a recommendation to '*Develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working*'. They further suggested that '*Integrated locality working through increased co-design and co-production of solutions and services alongside partner organisations can deliver enhanced outcomes for residents through improved services and solutions which are tailored to their needs*.'

2.47 Over the next 12 months the Council will develop a clear vision and work programme for integrated locality working in line with the ambitions set out in the Council Plan and Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The report presented is for information.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report presented is for information.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The report presented is for information.

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 There are no financial and procurement implications, other than those relating to the Neighbourhoods core management budget and the Elected Members' ward budgets.

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

7.1 There are no direct legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct staffing implications other than the recruitment and deployment of Neighbourhoods staff.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The outcomes within the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy supports the delivery of the Council Plan themes 'Every Child Able to Fulfil Their Potential' and 'People Are Safe, Healthy and Live Well'.

9.2 The ward priorities published in June 2023 illustrate where Elected Members are targeting resources towards Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. This includes new or additional activities, improved facilities or improved access to services. The majority of the wards also have priorities which try to mitigate against the 'Cost-of-Living' crisis.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The neighbourhood working model enables the Council to respond to the specific needs of Rotherham's increasingly diverse communities. Engagement with residents takes into account the strengths, assets and needs of different communities of interest, which differ in each neighbourhood and ward. Neighbourhood working allows the flexibility to respond to these needs.

10.2 The ward priorities and ward budget statements published on the website illustrate how Elected Members have targeted activity and resources toward communities with protected characteristics. The ward Communication & Engagement Plans along with case studies and stories on ward webpages, e-bulletins and the Ward Members' reports to Council illustrate the impact being made.

10.3 Over the next 12 months the Neighbourhoods Team will continue to work with Elected Members to provide more opportunities for communities with protected characteristics so that they can get involved in local consultation, activities and community action (see Appendix 4 - Equality Analysis).

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A number of ward priorities and plans have specific references to green initiatives, such as tree planting, wildflower meadows, recycling and active travel, that would positively contribute to tackling this agenda within these wards. The development of projects and awareness raising through e-bulletins and other engagement methods will encourage resident participation.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Multi-agency working is covered in paragraphs 2.32 to 2.46 of this report. This illustrates the importance of partners (from the public, voluntary and private sector) and Parish Councils in the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. The ward priorities and plans are informed by the experience and intelligence from these partners, which encourages the establishment of shared priorities and goals.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks relating to the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy are captured in the Assistant Chief Executive Directorate Risk Register.

13.2 Risk - failure to enhance community cohesion throughout the borough
Mitigation -

- Neighbourhoods team providing opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact by supporting community organisations and community events which bring together residents from all background.
- Ward e-bulletins and social media platforms being utilised to promote cohesion including postcode targeted promotion.
- Community Action Partnerships and other ward-based partnerships/networks in place (which involve local VCS sector) to ensure early identification of community issues and a local co-ordinated response.

13.3 Risk - Lack of development or support for Elected Members preventing them maximising their role as community leaders.
Mitigation -

- Role of Councillors as Community Leaders emphasised in the refreshed Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Ward priorities / plans informed by local data, information and intelligence
- Regular Ward Member Briefings, Community Acton Partnerships and neighbourhood partnership meetings
- Advice and guidance provided around investment of ward budgets and other resources.
- Good Practice Guide to be published in Autumn 2023
- E-Casework system supporting members to log casework direct with specific Directorates.
- Results of members survey and Mid-term reviews have informed future member development and induction.

- Member Development Annual development plan in place informed by Member Democratic Panel
- Be A Councillor sessions delivered in June 2023 to promote the opportunity to be a councillor and prepare potential candidates.

13.4 Risk - Capacity of council services and partners to respond to local priorities and issues

Mitigation –

- Ward plans in place capturing projects, initiatives and any enhanced service delivery.
- Ward priorities circulated to all services and partners and taken into account in service plans and cabinet reports.
- Front line council services have aligned staff to new wards and locality areas.
- South Yorkshire Police boundaries coterminous with ward and locality boundaries and Crime & ASB data aligned to wards.

13.5 Risk - Parish Councils not actively involved in neighbourhood working.

Mitigation -

- Joint Working Agreement refreshed and reviewed annually.
- Joint Working Group and Network events established and meeting regularly.
- Development sessions and seminars put on for Parish Councils
- Opportunity to inform and delivery on ward priorities and be involved in local ward/neighbourhood partnerships.
- Parish Council invited to ward CAP meetings.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Assistant Chief Executive	Jo Brown	12th October 2023
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)		Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	N/A	N/A
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A

Report Author:
Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods
martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Rotherham Neighbourhoods Strategy 2018 – 2025

(Updated November 2022)

www.rotherham.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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FOREWORD FROM DEPUTY LEADER/CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

I'm very proud to be writing the foreword for this updated version of Rotherham's Neighbourhood Strategy. This document identifies what we want to achieve to make all our neighbourhoods thriving and it goes on to say how we will do that.

Central to our aspirations is to strengthen the role of local Councillors as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and service deliverers to bring about the changes that communities want to see.

People within our neighbourhoods are really important to us and this is why we'll be making them the core focus of what we do; we want to make sure our neighbourhoods are places people want to live.

We've come a long way in working on a neighbourhood basis but there's an equally long way to go which is why we're so keen to hear from communities what matters to them and how we can work together to tackle local issues, to continue to grow our neighbourhoods into welcoming, safe, thriving places.

Hopefully I'll see some of you out and about in your neighbourhood and I'll look forward to hearing your views.

Councillor Sarah Allen
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working
Deputy Leader of Rotherham Council

VISION

The Rotherham Council Plan (2022/2025) sets out our vision for every neighbourhood in Rotherham to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life.

We want to work with local people to find solutions to local issues building on our heritage and assets. We will help create thriving neighbourhoods by ensuring communities are at the heart of everything we do to make people feel happy, safe and proud.

To do this, we will make it easier for people to get involved in the local community, work closely with our partners and local voluntary and community groups, enhance our town and village centres, green spaces and libraries, and effectively tackle community issues.

This Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy provides a framework for how the Council will:

- Deliver its neighbourhood working model
- Enhance the role of local Councillors as community leaders and maximise their skills, expertise and knowledge
- Ask and listen to communities by providing a range of opportunities to engage on the things that matter to them
- 'Work with' communities rather than 'doing to'
- Build on the strengths and assets within our communities and our voluntary, community and faith sector
- Be an enabling organisation that empowers communities to do things for themselves
- Support people from different backgrounds to get on well together
- Build trust and pride
- Promote early intervention and prevention thus reducing reliance on public sector services and allowing resources to be used more effectively
- Improve services that are personalised and flexible
- Find local solutions to aid Covid recovery and work to reduce the impact of the Cost of Living crisis

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Neighbourhoods that are safe and welcoming with good community spirit where…

- People get involved in their neighbourhood and help each other out
- Local councillors provide leadership and support community action
- People from different backgrounds have the chance to interact
- Communities are strong and help people to feel safe
- Vulnerable people are protected

Residents are happy, healthy and loving where they live with…

- Access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces
- Clean streets and public places
- High quality homes
- Improved town centre, local towns and villages
- People feeling less lonely and isolated
- Enjoyable things to do for people of all ages

Residents using their strengths, knowledge and skills to contribute to the outcomes that matter to them leading to…

- Every child being able to fulfil their potential
- Everyone having the ability and means to get online
- More people working together to find solutions to local problems
- A strong community and voluntary sector
- Local assets being harnessed for the benefit of the community

OUR APPROACH

The Council's Plan has four guiding principles that run through it, informing our way of working and helping us to achieve better outcomes for our communities.

- **Expanding opportunities for all**: target the most help at those who need it, so no one is left behind.
- **Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change**: making the best use of local assets, including buildings, parks and public spaces, as well as harnessing the knowledge and skills of community groups and local residents.
- **Working with our communities**: ensuring residents are at the heart of everything we do. Involving local residents in the things that matter to them and making sure we design our services based on input from those who use them.
- **Focussing on prevention**: reduce the risk of problems arising in the first place, and when they do, we will intervene early to prevent them from worsening.

These principles are embedded in the Council's Neighbourhood Working Model through the use of a 'place-based' approach:

A **'place-based'** approach

Ward Councillors are community leaders and are acting as a driving force and catalyst for bringing people together to tackle locally identified priorities.

Taking a place-based approach councillors are working collaboratively with council services and other organisations that deliver services including the Police, Parish Councils, voluntary community and faith sector organisations, residents and other stakeholders to tackle local priorities that are identified in 'Ward Plans' that are produced annually.

Ward Councillors are supported by a dedicated Neighbourhoods Team, whose role it is to facilitate community involvement and co-ordinate local networks and partnerships tackling those local priorities.

Council services such as Housing, Streetscene, Grounds Maintenance and Enforcement have been reorganised on a locality basis, working closely with multi-agency partners such as local policing teams.

This Place Based approach will allow us, amongst other things, to:

- Work alongside our partners to ensure Rotherham is a safe, inclusive and welcoming place for local people, including responding effectively to community safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Deliver improvements to the town centre and local towns and villages
- Invest in and develop library services as neighbourhood hubs, promoting access to books, computers and community events
- Bring our communities together through a range of enjoyable activities, cultural and social events, which inspire hope and pride in Rotherham
- Further expand and promote a range of volunteering opportunities

A **'strengths-based'** approach

Rotherham Council takes a strengths-based approach when working in our neighbourhoods. This recognises and builds on the skills, resources, knowledge, experience and heritage within our communities rather than focusing on the deficits.

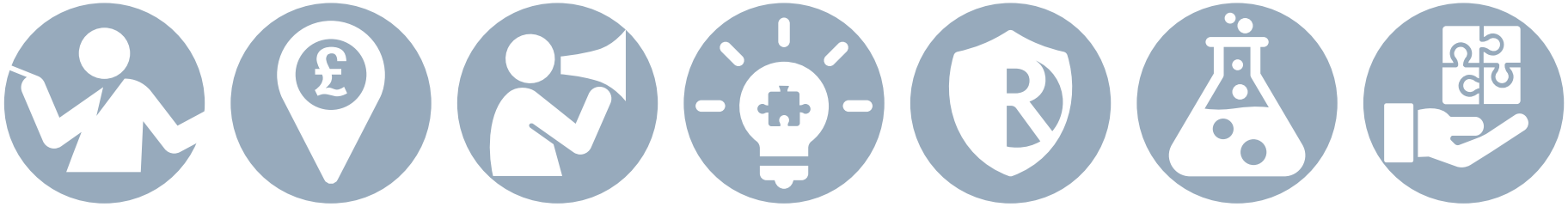
This approach empowers Councillors and residents to work together, and with partners, to find creative solutions to the local issues that matter most to them and help create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe and proud.

Therefore, Rotherham Council will:

- Place communities at the heart of everything we do
- Always ask and listen to ensure we are addressing the things that matter to residents
- Be innovative in how we involve residents so that it maximises their skills and knowledge
- Problem solve collaboratively with communities
- Be 'working with' our communities and not 'doing to' them
- Identify and support the motivation to act within communities
- Nurture relationships within neighbourhoods
- Build the capacity and resilience of the community and local community organisations

ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and our Neighbourhood Working model supports councillors to be true community leaders within their wards and neighbourhoods.



Orchestrator: bringing people together, mediating and helping to broker relationships

Steward of place: ensuring local resources are targeted appropriately in line with their ward priorities and plan, including the investment of their devolved ward budgets

Advocate: acting on behalf of all residents

Entrepreneur: problem solving by working with the community and partners to find solutions to local issues

Buffer: exploring solutions to reduce the impact of unforeseen issues, such as the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis, particularly for those who are most vulnerable

Catalyst: empowering residents and community organisations to achieve their ambitions

Sensemaker: explaining local issues, the role of services and any decisions that have been taken which impact on the neighbourhood

*Adapted from '**The 21st Century Councillor**', University of Birmingham*

Councillors devolved ward budgets

Ward Councillors have access to several different budgets which they can use to fund local projects, activities and additional services that can help tackle their ward priorities. These include:

- **Community Leadership Fund:** a small individual budget allocated to each Councillor to fund local community organisations or projects, provide additional activities or put on events
- **Ward Capital Budget:** allocated to each ward and used to purchase physical assets or equipment
- **Ward Housing Hub Budget:** allocated to each ward for environmental improvements that directly benefits council tenants
- **Community Infrastructure Levy:** money generated from new developments that is allocated to wards that do not have a Parish Council. It is primarily used to reduce the demands a development could place on the neighbourhood

MEASURING SUCCESS

The Council Plan sets out the key actions required to help us achieve the outcomes and commitments in this Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy:

- **Council Plan theme Every neighbourhood thriving**
- Annual **ward reports** will be presented to the Council by Ward councillors which will include a wide range of case studies
- **Ward budget statements** will be published annually to illustrate how Councillors have invested in their neighbourhoods to tackle their ward priorities
- Each year, Rotherham Council directorates will produce service plans which will demonstrate how they contribute to tackling the priorities within the Ward Plans

GET INVOLVED AND FIND OUT MORE

Our vision for every neighbourhood to be a thriving neighbourhood cannot be achieved without the involvement of local people. That's why this strategy sets out how we will continue to place communities to be at the heart of everything we do.

There are lots of different ways you can get involved with your local communities. You can provide views on our services via consultations, or work with local Councillors to help shape their ward plans and priorities, or volunteer with a local community group and take local action. You can keep up to date with the latest news and views from your neighbourhood by signing up for **your Neighbourhood's monthly e-bulletin.**

For further information about this strategy, your local councillors and what is happening in your neighbourhood please visit **your ward page on the Council's website**.

Appendix 2 – Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy Delivery Plan 2023-24

Ref	Council Plan Outcomes and Commitments	Activity	Lead Officer(s)	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
Council Plan Theme - Every Neighbourhood Thriving					
1.1	**Work with communities on the things that matter to them**	Produce ward plans with ward priorities informed by local communities – • Work with Elected Members to agree priorities within ward plans and publish on website (June '23) • Co-ordinate and deliver projects / activity that helps to tackle ward priorities. •	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.2		Support Elected Members in their community leadership role within their wards – • Organise monthly ward briefings to discuss progress on ward priorities and emerging issues. • Support Elected Members to invest ward budgets effectively. • Collate annual ward budget statements and publish on website (May '23) • Produce ward reports to be delivered by Elected Members to Council	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.3		Support delivery of borough wide Elected Member development programme • Provide the opportunity for Elected Members to feedback on neighbourhood working, their community leadership role and identify any areas of further Member development or support. • Work with Democratic Services to create a Member Development programme that is informed by their feedback. • Work with Democratic Services to establish a quality Induction Programme for Members after the elections (May '24)	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Emma Hill (Head of Democratic Services)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.4		Corporate Consultation & Engagement • Promote the importance of quality and innovative consultation and engagement throughout council services and support training and development opportunities for both officers and Elected Members • Tenant Engagement – work with Tenant Engagement Team and Rotherfed to ensure council tenants have opportunities to get involved in identifying and tackling neighbourhood wide issues.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Elena Cooke (Project & Programme Officer) James Smith (Tenant Engagement Manager)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.5		Promote Good News Stories • Continually look to improve the ward e-bulletins with quality content and continue increase the number subscribers. • Develop the content on the ward web pages and expand the use of social media to include more video content. • Maximise the use of traditional media – press releases, community newsletters, etc.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Emma Hollingworth (Head of Communications)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.6	**Residents, organisations and businesses use their skills and resources to help others**	Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) • Work with Rotherham's VCS to support the development and establishment of community groups within neighbourhoods. • Work with Rotherham's VCS to support and facilitate local networks and groups.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Fiona Boden (Head of Policy, Performance & Intelligence)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working. Cabinet member for Social Inclusion

1.7		<u>Supporting communities with protected characteristics</u> • Ensure communities with protected characteristics have the opportunity to be involved in their neighbourhood via consultation, events, activities, projects or initiatives. • Support the delivery of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and associated Action Plan. In particular 'Understanding, listening to and working with Rotherham's communities.	Head of Neighbourhoods Steve Eling (Policy & Equalities Manager)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working. Cabinet member for Social Inclusion
1.8		<u>Parish Councils</u> • Refresh of the RMBC and Parish Councils Joint Working Agreement which provides the framework for Parish Councils and with RMBC / other partners to work together collaboratively. (July '23) • Further embed the understanding of Parish Councils and their role across council services through attendance at service management meetings and staff events	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.9		<u>Strengths-based working</u> • Support the implementation of staff development around a strength-based working approach, with regards to how the Council and partners can work with communities and to help identify existing strengths within communities that can be enhanced and built upon (Sep '23) • Lead on a series of neighbourhood tours for council staff to help them understand strengths-based approaches, embed place-based working and help understand the dynamics within local communities (Oct '23)	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Lily Hall (Head of OD and Change)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.10	**Neighbourhoods are welcoming and safe**	<u>Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) and other neighbourhood partnerships</u> • Organise and support ward-based CAPs and other multi-agency meetings which lead on co-ordinated action that helps tackle ward priorities. • Support the CAPs to identify suitable 'hotspot' locations that would benefit from the installation of CCTV. • Provide the opportunity for CAPs to inform and contribute to the tackling of the Safer Rotherham Partnership's priorities – ➢ Protecting vulnerable children ➢ Protecting vulnerable adults ➢ Safer and stronger communities ➢ Domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women and girls ➢ Violence and organised crime	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Emma Ellis (Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services)	Assistant Chief Executives Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance
1.11		<u>Place-based working</u> • Continue to strengthen the neighbourhood working model by looking at the 'place' in a holistic way and driving improvements across multi-agency services. • Encourage the integration of service delivery by bringing together services at the appropriate level - ward, locality area and borough-wide.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.12	**Local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces**	<u>Culture & Arts</u> - assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Culture Strategy by - • Bringing communities together through a range of enjoyable activities and cultural / social events, which inspire hope and pride in Rotherham. • Ensure that communities with protected characteristics have the opportunity to be involved in local community events.	Leanne Buchan (Head of Creative Programming & Engagement)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet member for Social Inclusion
1.13		<u>Libraries</u> – assist in the delivery of Rotherham Libraries Strategy by – • Supporting local community organisations and stakeholders to get involved in the wide range of activities on offer within our libraries, such as reading, culture, arts, health & wellbeing, digital inclusion and financial advice. • Supporting local communities and stakeholders to get involved in the development on any new libraries and services.	Zoe Oxley (Head of Operations & Business Transformation)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet member for Social Inclusion
1.14		<u>Urban Green Spaces and Parks</u> • Encourage the involvement of local community organisations and schools in the roll out of any council led tree planting schemes. • Work with community organisations, Parish Councils and other stakeholders on projects that aim to improve urban green spaces and parks.	Zoe Oxley (Head of Operations & Business Transformation)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet member for Social Inclusion

1.15	**Local towns and villages are improved**	<u>Town Centre</u> • Lead on a placemaking approach within the Town Centre that will harness and build on local community assets. • Co-ordinate council services and engage with the VCS, public sector services, local businesses and other stakeholders operating in the Town Centre to ensure services and activities are integrated and of high quality. • Ensure town centre communities are involved in the ongoing regeneration and spatial development, delivery of services and the future sustainability of the town centre so that it feels welcoming and safe, and becomes an exciting place to live, work and visit.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Lorna Vertigan (RIDO)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working. Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy
1.16		<u>Towns and Villages Programme</u> • Ensure local residents, community organisations and Parish Councils have the opportunity to inform the development of the Towns and Villages project within their ward and assist with the promotion of the projects via various media once completed.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Ben Mitchell (Projects, Initiatives & Improvement Officer) Lorna Vertigan (RIDO)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working.
1.17		<u>Townships</u> • Ensure local residents and stakeholder have the opportunity to be involved in the regeneration of their town centres. • Swinton – support the delivery of the regeneration programme which includes moving the library and neighbourhood hub to the redeveloped Customer Service Centre and refurbish the Civic Hall. • Support the delivery of regeneration programmes in the Wath, Dinnington & Maltby, ensuring residents, community organisations, Parish Councils and other stakeholders are involved at the appropriate time.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Lorna Vertigan (RIDO)	Assistant Chief Executives	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working. Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

Ref	Council Plan Outcomes and Commitments	Activity	Lead officer(s)	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
Council Plan theme - People are safe, healthy and live well					
2.1	**People have good mental health and physical wellbeing**	Mental Health – • Contribute to projects / activities that help promote the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. • Support and promote community-based activities and initiatives supporting residents with dementia. • Assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan by - ➢ understanding the signs and promoting / signposting to support services. ➢ increasing awareness within local communities of the importance of having good mental health. • Support the development and implementation of the Rotherham Better Mental Health Action Plan once agreed.	Ruth Fletcher-Brown (Public Health Specialist)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2.2		Loneliness & Isolation – assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan by – • Working with local communities where loneliness & isolation has been identified as an issue and involve them in coproducing solutions. • Supporting local community groups that provide activities which could help tackle loneliness and isolation. • Supporting activity that helps increase the use of neighbourhood centres and other local community buildings. • Promoting activities and support services for loneliness, including the Rotherham Befriending Network • Sharing learning and best practice from ward activity with other areas.	Ruth Fletcher-Brown (Public Health Specialist)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2.3		Physical Activity – assist in the delivery of the Moving Rotherham Action Plan by – • Supporting community groups that provide physical activities for local people. • Supporting partnerships and networks that will provide residents with the opportunity to be active. • Promoting programmes that encourage physical activity or sport to be an everyday part of people's lives.	Gilly Brenner (Public Health Consultant)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2.4		Food – assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Food Network Action Plan by – • Engaging the public about good food via events and public engagement activity • Supporting community organisations and initiatives tackling food poverty and promoting healthy eating, such as social supermarkets and community allotments.	Gilly Brenner (Public Health Consultant)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2.5	**Inequalities are addressed and nobody is left behind**	Prevention and Health Inequalities – assist in the delivery of Rotherham's Prevention and Health Inequalities Action Plan by – • Sharing the details and understanding of health inequalities within wards with partners • Promoting connectivity, networking and collaboration between local VCS organisations, health and social care in Rotherham • Increasing local VCS capacity and enabling them to develop community led solutions, including social prescribing. • Engaging local people around self-management and holistic support for those living with both physical and mental ill health. • Promoting screening campaigns to increase prevention and early diagnosis of chronic conditions. • Promoting local drug and alcohol services / projects.	Ben Anderson (Director of Public Health)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2.6		Poverty & Cost of Living • Work alongside local community groups and promote initiatives that provide advice and support to those suffering from financial hardship, including the Open Arms Community Hubs, Warm Welcome and the Money Matters website. • Support the Rotherham Energy Efficiency network to promote advice and guidance across local communities. • Provide opportunities for council services and partners to access Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Cost of Living training. • Promote a collaborative approach between council services and the VCS, the coproduction of support services and the maximisation of resources via the Humanitarian & Communities Group.	Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods) Sally Jenks (Health Improvement Principal) Steve Eling (Policy & Equalities Manager)	Assistant Chief Executives	Cabinet Member Social Inclusion

2.7	**People can access affordable, decent housing**	Housing Regeneration & Development – assist in the delivery of Rotherham's Housing Strategy by – • providing local residents the opportunity to have their say on proposed housing developments or improvements within their community	James Clark (Assistant Director for Housing)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing

Ref	Council Plan Outcomes and Commitments	Activity	Lead officer(s)	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
Council Plan theme - Every child able to fulfil their potential					
3.1	**Children get the best start in life**	Family Hubs – contribute to the role out of Family Hubs programme, which will make support and services more easily accessible to children and families by – • Supporting and promoting the launch of the 3 main hubs in Swinton, Maltby and Central • Linking family hubs into other services / organisations to ensure local services are integrated and complimentary.	Susan Claydon (Head of Locality & Family Support Strategic Lead)	Children and Young People's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
3.2	**Young people feel empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations**	Voice & Influence • Support Early Help and other local youth providers with engagement that provides children and young people the opportunity to get involved in things that matter to them, including informing ward priorities.	Susan Claydon (Head of Locality & Family Support Strategic Lead)	Children and Young People's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
3.3	**Children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go**	Activities and Events • Support local community groups and Parish Councils to deliver activities for children and young people. • Promote initiatives and activities for children and young people organised Early Help and other providers. • Contribute to the co-ordination of activities for children and young people across neighbourhoods and wards. • Support the work with children and young people across the borough to co-design the Children's Capital of Culture (CCOC) 2025 programme and deliver a series of events.	Susan Claydon (Head of Locality & Family Support Strategic Lead) Leanne Buchan (Head of Creative Programming & Engagement)	Children and Young People's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
3.4		Facilities • Support the two-year capital investment programme to improve play areas across the borough and ensure local residents have the opportunity to be involved. • Explore opportunities with local community organisations and Parish Councils to improve facilities for children and young people.	Zoe Oxley (Head of Operations & Business Transformation) Martin Hughes (Head of Neighbourhoods)	Regeneration & Environment Assistant Chief Executives	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion

Ref	Council Plan Outcomes and Commitments	Activity	Lead officer(s)	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
Council Plan Theme - Expanding economic opportunity					
4.1	**A growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress**	Access to Employment – • Support the Employment Solutions team to deliver support and advice within neighbourhoods. • Support and promote local community organisations and providers in the delivery of activity that will improve people's employment prospects.	Glennis Leathwood (Employment Solutions Team Leader)	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy
4.2	**Delivering regeneration schemes that bring investment and opportunity, both in Rotherham town centre and in our towns and villages**	Town Centre and Towns & Villages • See Thriving Neighbourhoods (1.16)	Ben Mitchell (Projects, Initiatives & Improvement Officer) Lorna Vertigan (RIDO)	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood working
4.3		Local Businesses • Develop initiatives to engage and support local businesses. • Promote local businesses and shop local campaigns. • Ensure local businesses have the opportunity to get involved in town/village regeneration / improvements, the identification of local issues and the delivery of services.	Simeon Leach (Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy
4.4	**Strengthening digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all**	Digital Inclusion - assist in the delivery of Rotherham's Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan by – • Supporting residents to have increased access to technology including Wi-Fi, devices and sim cards. • Providing information that gives people more confidence in being safe online. • Helping residents increase their digital skills • Promoting the use of local libraries as a resource to access digital technology. • Supporting community organisations and providers in the delivery of Digital Inclusion related activity.	Paul Woodhouse (Digital Inclusion Delivery Manager)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance

Ref	Council Plan Outcomes and Commitments	Activity	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
Council Plan theme - A cleaner, greener local environment					
5.1	**Increasing satisfaction with the cleanliness of the borough**	Street scene - support effective response to fly-tipping / littering and improving street cleaning via – • Identification and reporting of hotspot locations / incidents and supporting any collective action, such as CCTV, barriers, etc. • Organisation and promotion of community clean-up days, community skips and community litter picks.	Barry Connolly (Head of Environmental Services)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.2	**Creating better transport systems for future generations**	Highways Improvements – assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Transport Strategy by - • Providing local residents with the opportunity to have their say on proposed transport and highways developments / improvements within their neighbourhood.	Matt Reynolds (Head of Transport Infrastructure Service)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.3		Active Travel and Public Transport • Assist in the delivery of the Rotherham Cycling Strategy by providing local residents with the opportunity to have their say on proposed cycle routes within their neighbourhood. • Support and promote active travel schemes, such as cycle routes, safer walking routes and school travel plans. • Promote any new bus corridors and work with the Transportation Service and bus companies to explore ways to improve access to public transport for local residents.	Matt Reynolds (Head of Transport Infrastructure Service)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.4		Road Safety • Support the roll out of the Local Neighbourhood Road Safety programme, which will design and implement new neighbourhood road safety measures. • Work with partners on speed reduction schemes and enforcement action along identified roads and around schools.	Matt Reynolds (Head of Transport Infrastructure Service)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.5	**Reducing the risk and impact of flooding and other environmental emergencies.**	Flood defence/mitigation schemes • Ensure local communities, businesses and other stakeholders can have their say on the construction of flood mitigation schemes within their neighbourhoods.	Richard Jackson (Head of Highways and Flood Risk)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.6		Emergency Planning and Flood Preparedness • Support for Parish Councils in the development of their Emergency Plans and any Flood Volunteer programmes. • Ensure that Parish Councils are in a position to work collaboratively with the Council and Emergency Services during any flood incidents.	Claire Hanson (Emergency Resilience & Safety Manager)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
5.7	**Contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the borough**	Climate Change and carbon emissions • Support local community groups, Parish Councils, council services and partners in the delivery of carbon reducing community projects such tree planting, wildflower meadows, community gardens, recycling and active travel schemes. • Signpost Parish Councils and community organisations to net zero and energy efficiency advice and support, including carbon literacy training. • Promote Nature Recovery with Parish Councils and community organisations.	Louise Preston (Climate Change Manager)	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Jobs & the Local Economy

Appendix 3 - Thriving Neighbourhoods Consultation (March-May 2023)

A consultation exercise took place between March – May 2023 to inform the setting of Elected Members ward priories, promote the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and inform the Delivery Plan and Full Equality Analysis.

The consultation involved a range of community-based meetings, presentations, and drop-ins across all 25 wards as well as an online questionnaire. 400 residents contributed either online or at a ward event. A summary of the findings is captured below.

Elected Members received a similar summary specific for their ward which also included additional comments and suggestions about how to tackle the issues identified.

Residents were asked to pick two options under each heading (note - some selected more than two).

1. An Ideal Successful & Thriving Neighbourhood

Safe and welcoming with a good community spirit	
Feeling safe	245
Good neighbours and a sense community spirit	224
Community events	94
Able to have your say on the things that matter to you	91
Activities and support for older people	69
Happy, healthy and love where you live	
Clean and well-maintained streets	198
Parks and green spaces	150
Local shops and places to eat & drink	121
Doctors and medical centres	94
Leisure/community centres and libraries	80
Good quality housing	69
Opportunities to use knowledge and skills	
Activities and support for children and young people	162
Good schools	135
Opportunities for employment	131
Community organisations and Parish Councils	109
Able to get online	71

2. Best things about your neighbourhood

Safe and welcoming with a good community spirit	
Good neighbours and a sense community spirit	181
Feeling safe	112
Community events	99
Activities and support for older people	60
Able to have your say on the things that matter to you	58
Happy, healthy and love where you live	
Parks and green spaces	143
Local shops and places to eat & drink	104
Doctors and medical centres	89
Leisure/community centres and libraries	78
Clean and well-maintained streets	70
Good quality housing	47
Opportunities to use knowledge and skills	
Good schools	113
Able to get online	96
Community organisations and Parish Councils	85
Opportunities for employment	62
Activities and support for children and young people	56

3. Neighbourhood Improvements

Safe and welcoming with a good community spirit	
Feeling safe	183
Community events	110
Able to have your say on the things that matter to you	110
Good neighbours and a sense community spirit	100
Activities and support for older people	82
Happy, healthy and love where you live	
Clean and well-maintained streets	198
Local shops and places to eat & drink	102
Doctors and medical centres	91
Parks and green spaces	91
Leisure/community centres and libraries	66
Good quality housing	61
Opportunities to use knowledge and skills	
Activities and support for children and young people	142
Opportunities for employment	105
Community organisations and Parish Councils	94
Good schools	88
Able to get online	48

Note – the following were frequently mentioned as areas for improvement under ‘other comments’ -

- public transport (mainly bus services)
- road safety
- quality of roads (repairs / potholes)
- transport infrastructure / congestion

4. Summary

It is acknowledged that the number of respondents (400) is a small sample size, and the results should be considered accordingly.

According to those that responded -

The **most important things** that make up a successful and thriving neighbourhood are –

- Feeling safe
- Good neighbours and a sense community spirit
- Clean and well-maintained streets
- Parks and green spaces
- Activities and support for children and young people

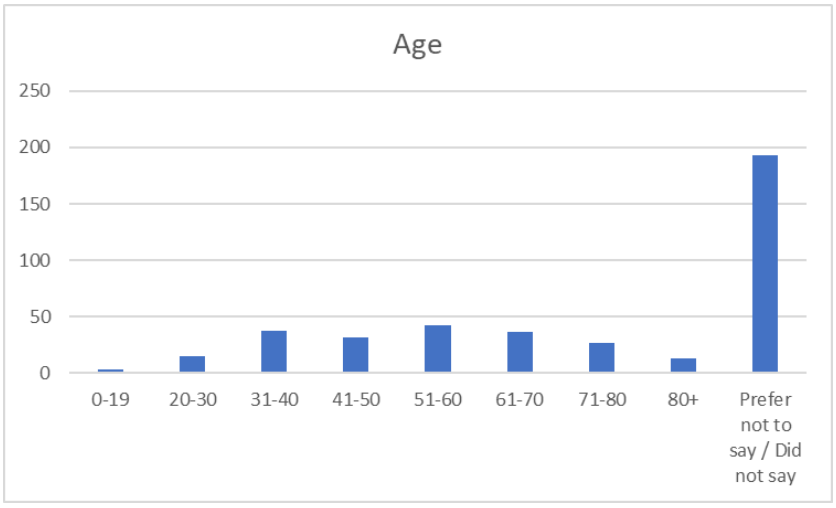
The **best things** about their neighbourhoods are –

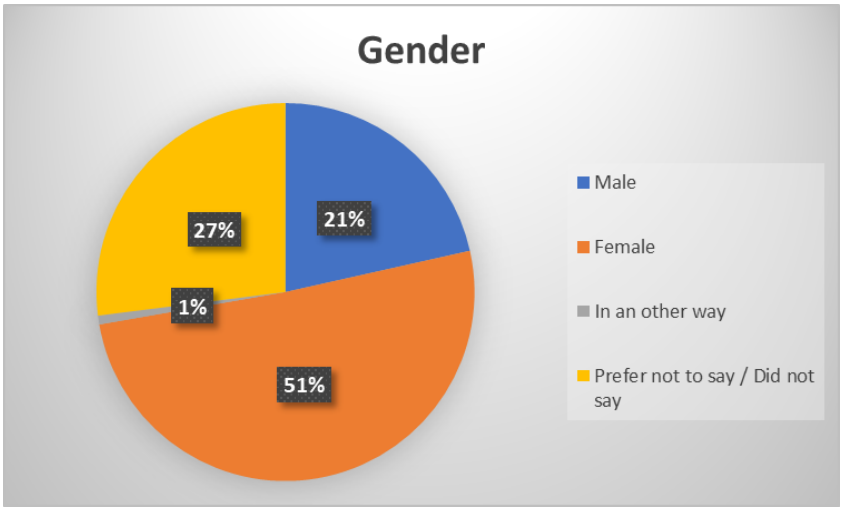
- Good neighbours and a sense community spirit
- Feeling safe
- Parks and green spaces
- Local shops and places to eat & drink
- Good schools

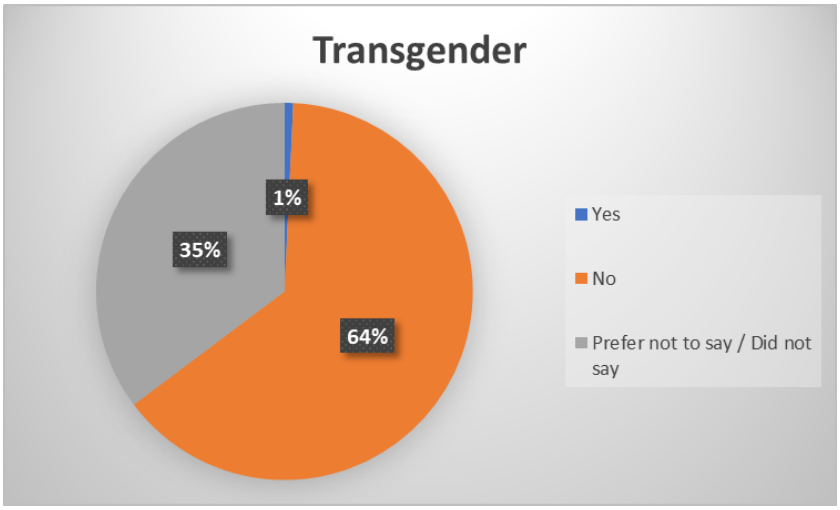
The **improvements** that needed to be made in their neighbourhoods are –

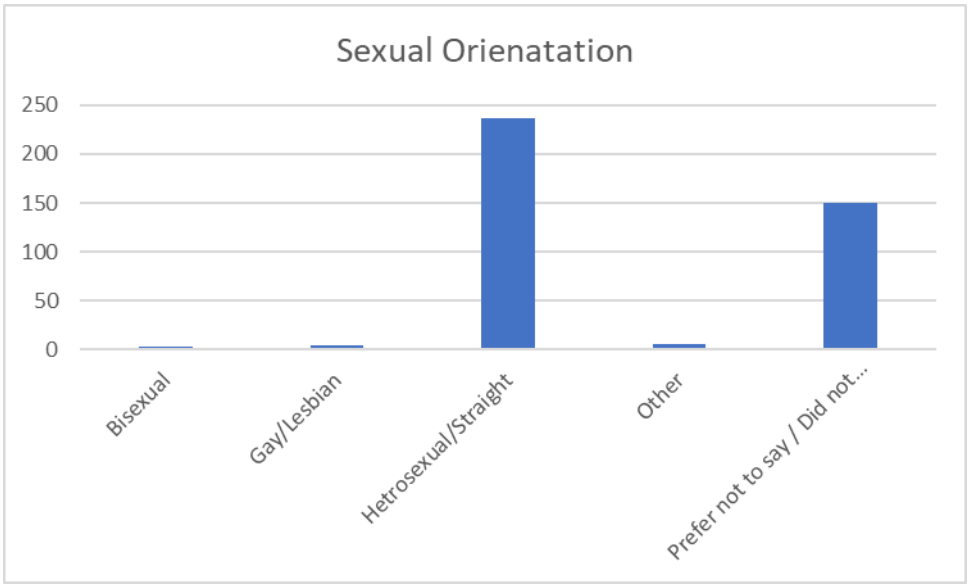
- Feeling safe
- Clean and well-maintained streets
- Activities and support for children and young people

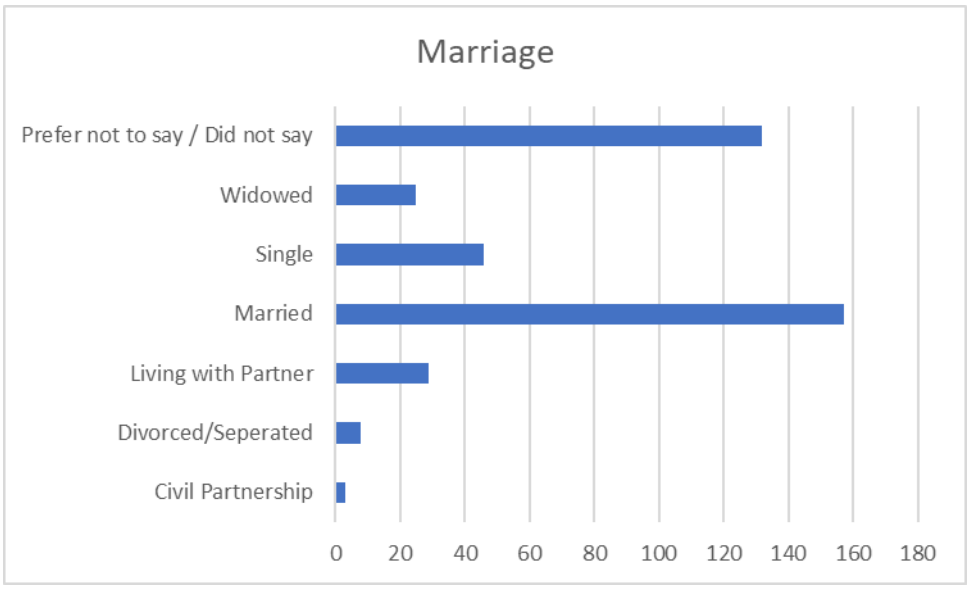
5. Equality Monitoring

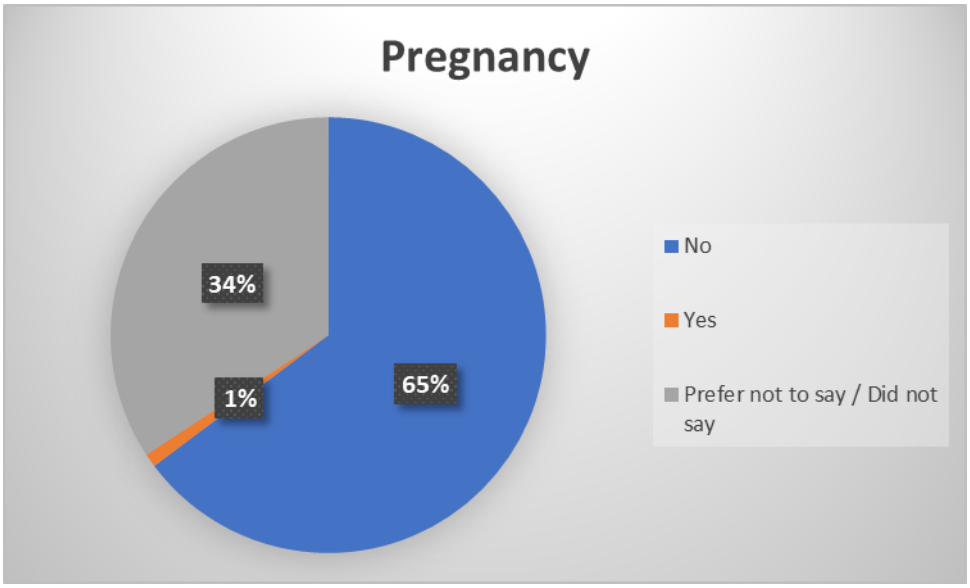


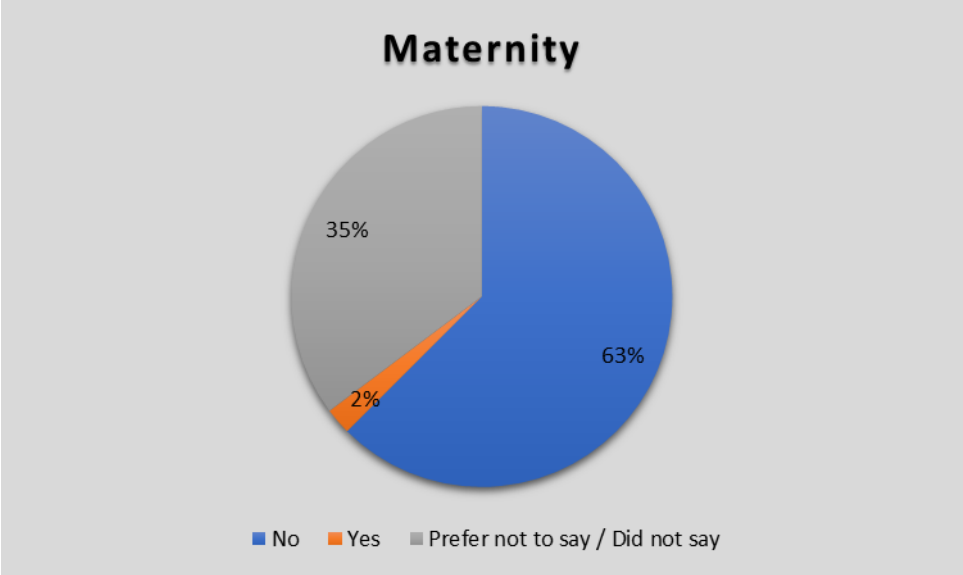


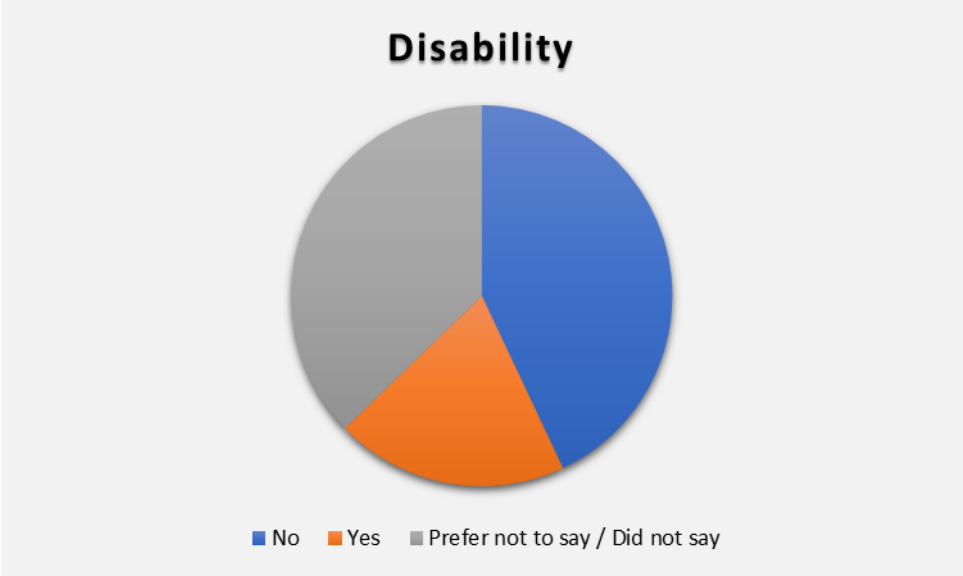


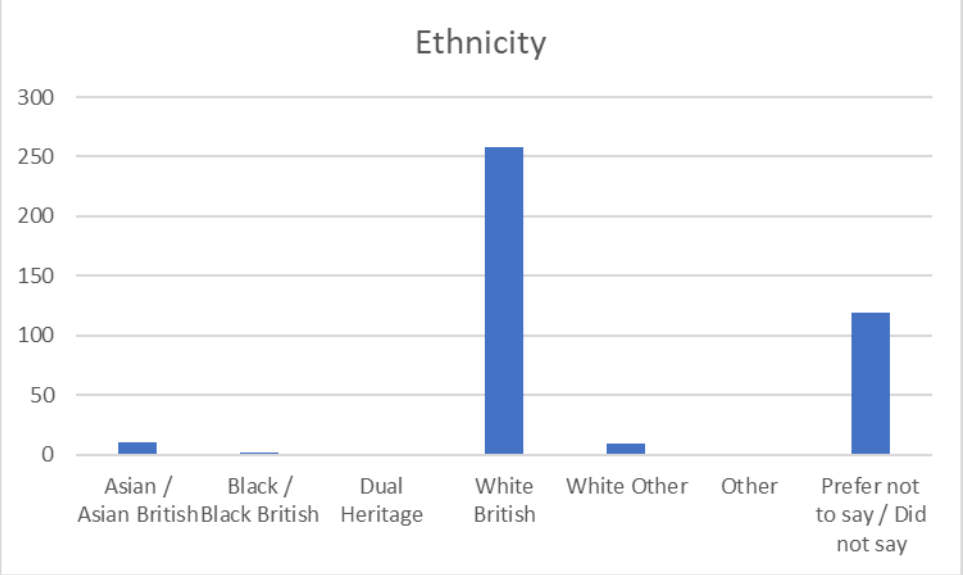

Sexual Orienatation
250
200
150
100
50
0
Bisexual
Gay/Lesbian
Hetrosexual/Straight
Other
Prefer not to say / Did not...

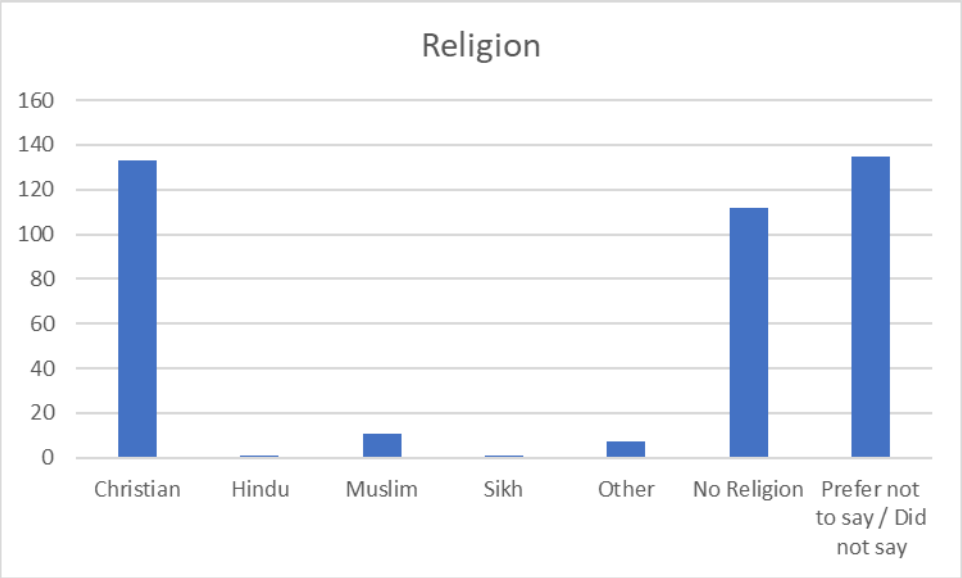

Marriage
Prefer not to say / Did not say
Widowed
Single
Married
Living with Partner
Divorced/Seperated
Civil Partnership
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
140
160
180

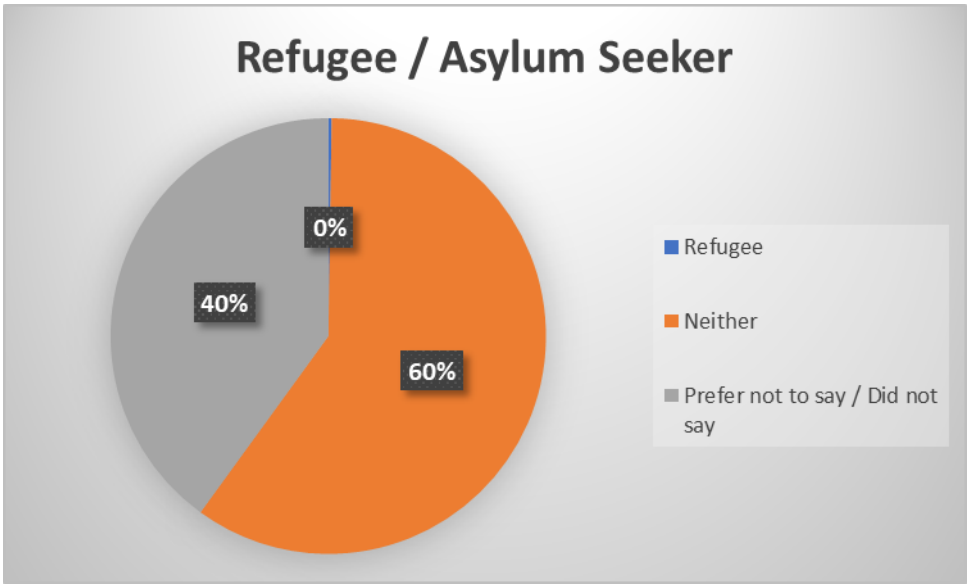

Pregnancy
34%
1%
65%
No
Yes
Prefer not to say / Did not say

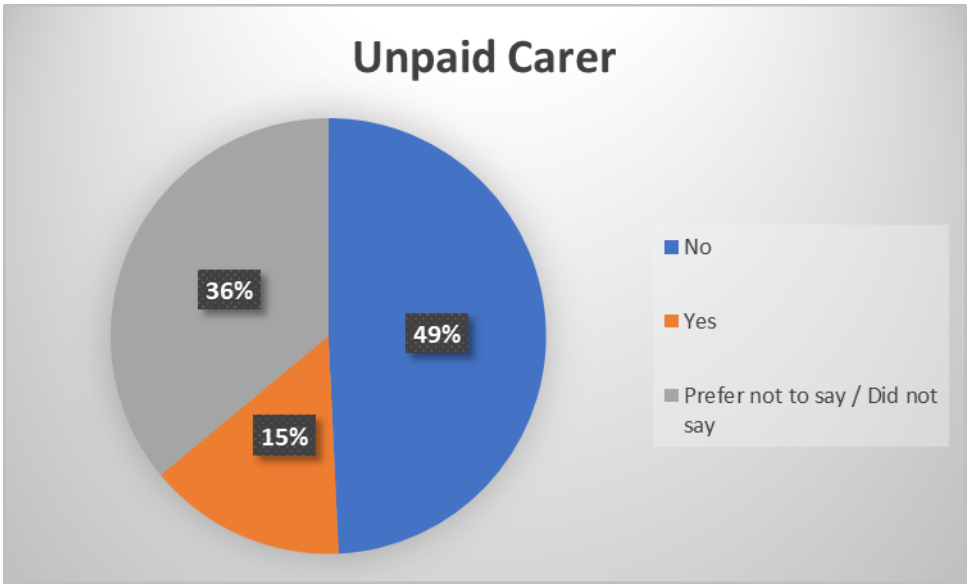

Maternity
35%
63%
2%
No
Yes
Prefer not to say / Did not say


Disability
No
Yes
Prefer not to say / Did not say


Ethnicity
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Asian / Asian British
Black / Black British
Dual Heritage
White British
White Other
Other
Prefer not to say / Did not say


Religion
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Christian
Hindu
Muslim
Sikh
Other
No Religion
Prefer not to say / Did not say


Refugee / Asylum Seeker
0%
40%
60%
Refugee
Neither
Prefer not to say / Did not say


Unpaid Carer
36%
49%
15%
No
Yes
Prefer not to say / Did not say

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PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Refresh of Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy – 2018-2025	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 13th October 2023	
Directorate: ACEX	**Service area: Neighbourhoods**
Lead Manager: Martin Hughes	**Contact number: 07766442269**
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Martin Hughes	RMBC	Head of Neighbourhoods
Andrea Peers	RMBC	Senior Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Shaun Mirfield	RMBC	Senior Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Nicola Hacking	RMBC	Senior Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope

The Council Plan (2022-25) 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving' theme states -

'*Our vision for Rotherham is for every neighbourhood to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life. We want to work with local people to find solutions to local issues and to build on our heritage and assets. We will help create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe and proud. To do this, we will make it easier to get involved in the local community, work closely with our partners and local voluntary and community groups, enhance our town and village centres, green spaces and libraries, and effectively tackle community issues'*

The refreshed Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-25) (Appendix 1) provides the framework for our Neighbourhood Working model which supports Elected Members in their community leadership role in order to achieve -

- Neighbourhoods that are **safe and welcoming** with good community spirit
- Residents are **happy, healthy** and loving where they live with
- Residents have the opportunity to use their **strengths, knowledge and skills** to achieve what is important to them

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

<u>Ward Data</u>
Each year Elected Members are provided data for their ward which contributes to the setting of their ward priorities and plans. The data provided includes –

- Population
- Ethnicity
- Housing and Households
- Employment, Benefits and Pension
- General Health and Disability
- Lifestyles and Specific Health Issues
- Education
- Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and 2019

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

Thriving Neighbourhoods Delivery Plan and Neighbourhoods Service Plan

In the past there were some processes in place to involve and engage with communities with protected characteristics (through ward planning, specific issue-based conversations and support local community organisations) it was neither consistent, recorded or measured. How this is being addressed is captured in the Thriving Neighbourhoods Delivery Plan (Appendix 2) and Neighbourhoods Service Plan. This includes -

Development of Ward Priorities and Plans –

- Ward profiles using census and other available data helping to identify local demographics and inform ward priorities
- Supporting organisations that work with communities with protected characteristics to get involved in the identification of local priorities and the delivery of any agreed action
- Ward Communication and Engagement Plans have been developed in line with ward priorities. These include a specific equalities section which will capture how we engage with communities with protected characteristics

Community groups / events

- Continue to provide consistent support for a range of groups/organisations that work with and support groups with protected characteristics to achieve their aims and objectives, e.g. facilities for youth people, activities and trips for older people, engagement events for BAME communities
- Organise and support community events that, amongst other things, aim to bring communities of place together to build good community relations

Targeted engagement and conversations –

- Continue working with VCS to ensure there are ongoing mechanisms for communities with protected characteristics to have conversations with councillors and service providers to inform the delivery of accessible and responsive services that meet diverse needs.
- Support conversations on specific issues, programmes, projects, etc. e.g. engagement with BAME residents around autumn vaccinations programme
- Promoting good news stories and events that inspire communities with protected characteristics

Thriving Neighbourhoods Consultation

The Delivery Plan has been informed by consultation that also promoted the Strategy and helped inform the setting of the 2023/24 ward priorities. This took place between March and May 2023 and involved a range of community-based meetings, presentations and drop-ins across all 25 wards as well as an online questionnaire. 400 residents contributed either online or at a ward event. A summary of the findings (including equalities data) is captured in Appendix 3.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

Service performance indicators include supporting those with protected characteristics. This will identify any gaps and allow the service to take corrective action.

Case studies and stories are included in Elected Members reports to council and the monthly ward e-bulletins. This not only celebrates activity and events but helps to identify areas of good practice and also areas for improvement.

Where possible, ward budget spending will indicate investment into groups, activities and services that target different communities and protected characteristic groups.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Consultation with local communities took place between March and May 2023 and involved a range of community-based meetings, presentations and drop-ins across all 25 wards as well as an online questionnaire. These events were not targeted at those with protected characteristics 400 residents contributed either online or at a ward event. A summary of the findings is captured in Appendix 3.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	None

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?

The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and Delivery Plan helps to deliver all the themes in the council plan, particularly 'Every Neighbourhood Thriving'. The Strategy aims to ensure –

- Neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming with good community spirit
- Residents are happy, healthy and loving where they live with
- Residents have the opportunity to use their strengths, knowledge and skills to achieve what is important to them

A **strengths-based approach** underpins the Strategy, Delivery Plan and the Neighbourhood Working model. This recognises and builds on the skills, resources, knowledge, experience and heritage within our communities and empowers residents to find creative solutions to the local issues that matter most to them.
It commits the council to:

- Placing communities at the heart of everything we do

- Always ask and listen to ensure we are addressing the things that matter to residents
- Be innovative in how we involve residents so that it maximises their skills and knowledge
- Problem solve collaboratively with communities
- 'Work with' communities and not 'doing to' them
- Identify and support the motivation to act within communities
- Nurture relationships within neighbourhoods
- Build the capacity and resilience of the community and local community organisations

Championing this approach Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Team will work with other council services and partners to ensure that the needs of different communities and groups are met via -

Development of Ward Priorities and Plans –

- Ward profiles using census and other available data helping to identify local demographics and inform ward priorities
- Supporting organisations that work with communities with protected characteristics to get involved in the identification of local priorities and the delivery of any agreed action
- Ward Communication and Engagement Plans have been developed in line with ward priorities. These include a specific equalities section which will capture how we engage with communities with protected characteristics

Community groups / events

- Continue to provide consistent support for a range of groups/organisations that work with and support groups with protected characteristics to achieve their aims and objectives, e.g. facilities for youth people, activities and trips for older people, engagement events for BAME communities
- Organise and support community events that, amongst other things, aim to bring communities of place together to build good community relations

Targeted engagement and conversations –

- Continue working with VCS to ensure there are ongoing mechanisms for communities with protected characteristics to have conversations with councillors and service providers to inform the delivery of accessible and responsive services that meet diverse needs.
- Support conversations on specific issues, programmes, projects, etc. e.g. engagement with BAME residents around autumn vaccinations programme
- Promoting good news stories and events that inspire communities with protected characteristics

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No problems or barriers have been identified

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Yes. Detailed above.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) No negative impacts expected

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Refresh of Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy – 2018-2025
Directorate and service area: ACEX, Neighbourhoods
Lead Manager: Martin Hughes
Summary of findings:
The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and Delivery Plan addresses issues of equality by illustrating how the Council will engage and work with those with protected characteristics on issues that are important to them and supporting them to maximise their strengths, skills and knowledge.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor Service Performance Indicators	**All**	**Quarterly**
Annual Report to be presented to Improving Places Select Commission	**All**	**June 2024**

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Jo Brown	Assistant Chief Exec	13th October 2023
Cllr. Sarah Allen	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	13th October 2023

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis 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 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 Equality Analysis completed	13th October 2023
Report title and date	Refresh of Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy – 2018-2025
Date report sent for publication	13th October 2023
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	13th October 2023

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Places Select Commission – 24 October 2023

Report Title
Progress on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023- 2026

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)
Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options
Sandra.Tolley@rotherham.gov.uk

Kim Firth, Homelessness Manager
Kim.Firth @rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

A report detailing progress of the previous Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022 was noted by Improving Places Select Commission on 20 September 2022.

The new Homelessness Strategy for 2023-2026 was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This report provides an update of progress and will give an overview of the local homelessness picture.

Progress in delivering the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendations

1. That Improving Places Select Commission note the local picture and progress made to date in delivering the Action Plan within Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Action Plan - Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

Background Papers
Minutes - Improving Places Select Commission, 20 September 2022.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Progress on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 - 2026
Progress on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023- 2026

1. Background

1.1 The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-26 was approved by Cabinet in March 2023 and published in April 2023. The vision is to:

- To work in partnership to end homelessness in Rotherham.
- Everyone has a secure affordable place to call home.
- The right support at the right time is in place at times to prevent homelessness and enable recovery.

1.2 The Strategy sets out six key aims:

1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.
2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.
3. Increase access to affordable housing options.
4. Improve access to housing support, employment, and health services.
5. Support people with complex needs.
6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.

1.3 A report detailing progress of the previous Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022 was noted by Improving Places Select Commission on 20 September 2022. Feedback from Members included that early intervention activity to prevent homelessness be prioritised.

2 Key Issues

2.1 **The Local Picture**

2.1 Homelessness is worsening across the country, driven by cost-of-living pressures, unstable and expensive housing, and support needs. New government figures show 79,840 households faced homelessness in England between January and March 2023, the highest number on record, while during the same period 104,510 households were living in temporary accommodation, up 10% from last year. All South Yorkshire authorities are experiencing acute homelessness pressures.

2.2 In Rotherham, there has been a decrease year on year for the last three years. However, in line with national trends, applications have started to increase during 2022/2023. The number of new homelessness cases rose from 987 in 2021-2022 to 1,409 in 2022/2023. In a typical month around 130 homelessness cases are accepted.

2.3 This year, between April and September 2023, there have been 699 new homelessness presentations(see below), 396 of those have been placed into temporary accommodation. There are currently 470 open homelessness cases.

2.4

2019/20	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**April/Sep/23**
1814	1458	987	1409	699

2.5 The table below shows the stages of the 470 live homelessness cases as at 30 September 2023:

Triage and Prevention	**Prevention**	**Relief**	**Relief**	**Main**	**Main**
176	37%	211	45%	83	18%

2.6

Homelessness Prevention Strategy – progress in year 1

The focus of the strategy is to continue strengthening our homelessness prevention approach so that we can help people to remain in their homes, or to find a new home without experiencing homelessness.

2.7 The best way to tackle homelessness is to stop it happening in the first place. The Council and partners are committed to homeless prevention and have been proactive in a range of prevention initiatives, some of which are detailed in the Action Plan update – Appendix 1. Prevention activity in year 1 has included:

- The refresh of the Council's homeless webpage, providing a dedicated page on homeless prevention, which encourages people to seek help early.
- Homelessness outreach advice services continue to be delivered at Shiloh, a local homelessness charity, and work is also taking place to increase awareness and improve information to support those at risk of homelessness.

- A booklet called Helping Others Made Easy H.O.M.E has been produced in partnership with Shiloh and is currently being updated. The booklet provides a range of support and advice services to people who are either experiencing homelessness or worried about becoming homeless.
- The Council's Financial Inclusion team provides financial support to council tenants who may be struggling financially to maximise their income and prioritise their expenditure which includes rent and rent arrear payments.
- The Council has helped grant fund the development of a tenancy ready learning portal, led by Rush House, a local homelessness charity. The aim of this portal is to support people to greater independence to enable them to understand their rights and responsibilities to help them sustainment their long-term future housing.
- The Homelessness Team negotiates with landlords, aiming to find solutions to avoid tenancies ending. Where this is not possible a housing plan is developed to support a planned move. The emerging trends are being analysed and monitored through the Homelessness Strategic Board.
- A light touch review of the Housing Allocation Policy has been completed. A full review will commence in November 2023
- The Housing Related Support services have been reviewed to create one single pathway for homeless households.

2.8 Homelessness prevention is a KPI in the Council Plan. **The target is 85% for 2023/2024 and the outturn for Quarter 1 is showing an improving picture of 80.3%.**

KPI	Year 2021-22	2022/23	April to September 2023
The proportion of households prevented or relieved from homelessness	76%	78%	81%

2.9 Cases not prevented are due to various reasons, including loss of contact, case withdrawn at customers' request, refusal of suitable accommodation offer, customer making own arrangements or being placed in temporary accommodation.

2.10 Since the last update to Improving Places Select Commission, the homelessness service has experienced acute staffing shortages and has been operating a minimal service focused on meeting our statutory duties. The team is now fully staffed, and work is taking place to improve performance. New members of the team have received training on homelessness legislation and the Allocation Policy. The aim is to also strengthen case management processes and the roles within the homelessness service have been refocused on a strength-based approach, focussing on early intervention and prevention.

2.11 **Reasons for Homelessness**

For the Borough of Rotherham, the most prevalent reason that people become homelessness is that that their families or friends are 'no longer willing/able to accommodate'. This represents 27% of all cases received in 2021/22 and is a 5% increase on the previous year. Between April 2023 and September 2023, the position was 32% (221) cases with this reason.

2.12 As part of the ongoing work to support households where relations breakdown, housing options and advice is given at the earliest opportunity. For young people the Council's commissioned services support young people to build on family relationships where it is appropriate and helps them to address issues which may have contributed towards the family breakdown. Some young people return home where it is safe to do so.

2.13 Between April 2023 and September 2023, the second highest reason for homelessness is due to the end of a private tenancy at 13.1% of cases. 58 of these cases (equivalent to 8% of all cases) are due to the landlord selling their property. The Council encourages households to seek help and advice early. The Homelessness Team is proactive in negotiating with landlords, aiming to find solutions to avoid tenancies ending. Where this is not possible a housing plan is developed to support a planned move.

2.14 **The table below shows the number of households in hotels.**

Date	Hotels single	Hotel families	Total households in hotels
Baseline on 31 March 2022	80	16	96
End of 1st quarter 2022	53	13	66
End of 1st Quarter 2023	36	10	46
30 September 2023	51	10	61

2.15 As of 30 September 2023, the number of days of family placements in hotels was as follows:

Stay Up to 7 days	Up to 14 days	Up to 21 days	Up to 28 days	Up to 35 days	Up to 42 days	Total Families

5	2	3				10

2.16 The table above shows that the Council prioritises the movement of family households from hotels to permanent settled or self-contained temporary accommodation. The length of stay of families within hotels is being monitored regularly by the Homelessness Service to ensure that legislation is complied with, and hotel stays for families are kept to a minimum.

2.17 **The table below shows the number of households in temporary accommodation:**

Date	RMBC Temp	Non RMBC Temp	Total households in temporary accommodation
Baseline on 31 March 23	10	90	100
End of 1st Quarter 2023	11	95	106
30 September 2023	5	95	100

2.18 **Rough Sleeping**

The Council's Housing Options Service saw an increase in the complexity of demand for homelessness support during the pandemic, with families as well as couples and single people seeking support.

2.19 Annual Counts have seen a reduction of actual people sleeping rough from 10 rough sleepers in 2019/20 to 3 in 2021/23 to 0 rough sleepers in 2022/23. There are currently 21 former rough sleepers in hotels and 7 in the rough sleeper hostel.

The Outreach Team continues to be proactive and respond to new intelligence and carry out frequent checks. As at end September 2023 there are 5 people rough sleeping who are refusing to engage. The higher number is seasonal and is consistent with numbers in previous years.

2.20 **Move-On Options**

Between April 2023 and September 2023, 369 households were assisted to alternative accommodation.

Date	Council	Supported housing	RSLs	Private Rented	Total
April to 30 September 2023	**179**	**24**	**44**	**122**	**369**

2.21 The Housing Options Team continues to source private rented properties individually and is reliant upon the Council's relationship with agents and landlords to source these properties. However, due to a continuing increase of demand in the sector, the number of available properties is reducing. Homeless people often struggle to get access to homes let by private landlords as the upfront costs of private renting can be high because tenants are asked to pay a deposit and rent in advance and rents are unaffordable. Some landlords also think, wrongly, that it is too risky to let their property to people claiming housing benefit. This makes it even harder to find a property to rent privately.

2.22 **Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme**

In September 2022, the Government announced over £200 million to be allocated to the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP), to provide up to 2,400 units of accommodation with support, to address existing rough sleeping needs in local area's and help to prevent future rough sleeping.

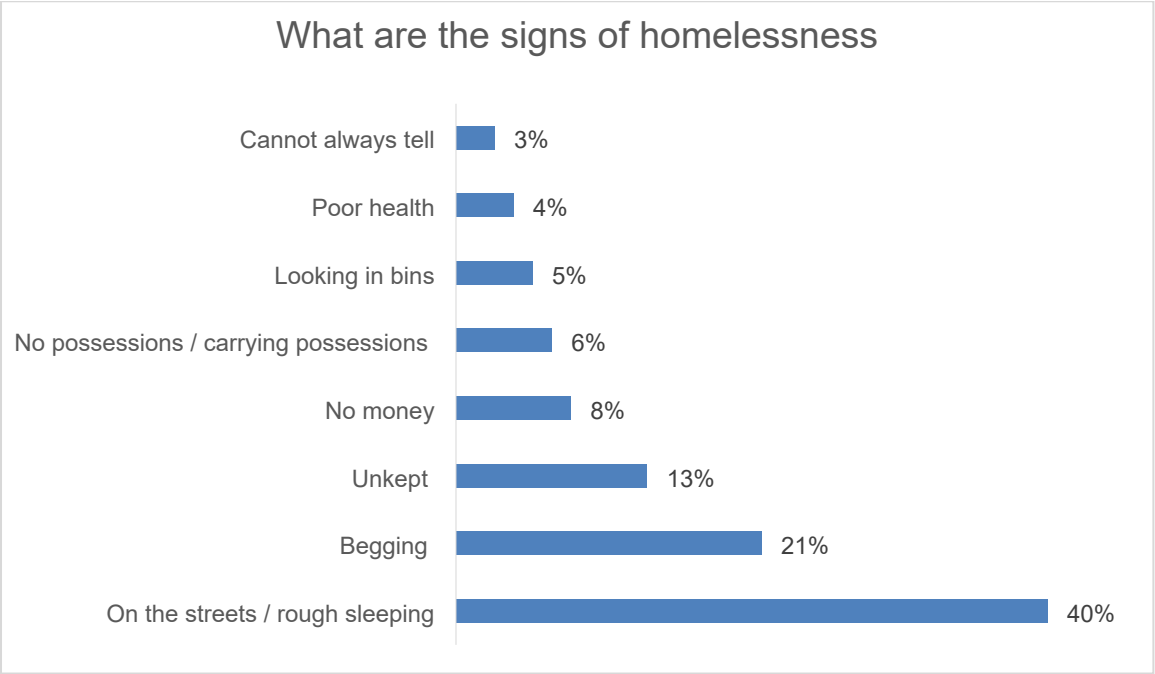
2.23 Rotherham was identified, through the data submissions the Council makes to central Government on homelessness applications, as a Local Authority having a need for further accommodation for vulnerable young people (aged 18-25) at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

2.24 Roundabout was successful. The funding will provide revenue funding direct to Roundabout for the financial year 2024/25, plus three years. The revenue funding will pay for the provision of support services for 4 assessment bedspaces, and 10 dispersed properties for tenants aged 18- to 25-year-old with high needs.

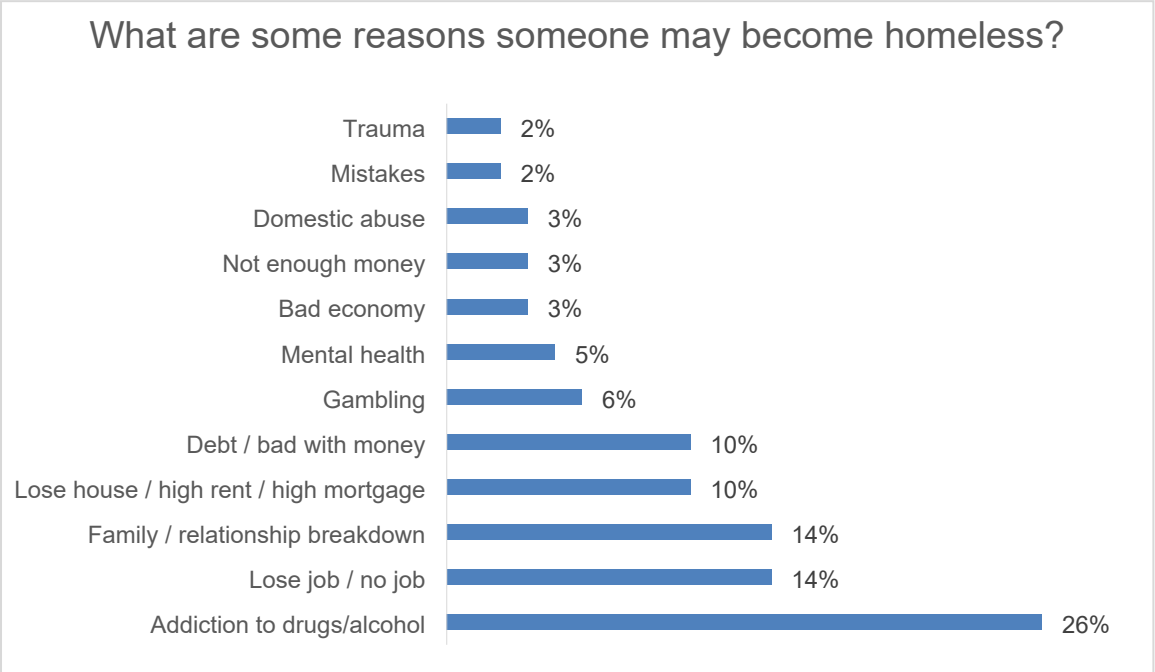
2.25 **Raising awareness of homelessness**

2.26 The Rotherham Show provided a great opportunity to raise awareness of homelessness prevention and to find out resident's views about homelessness and determine if they are aware of where to get help. Over the two show days we consulted with 73 people. The survey results are detailed in the charts below:

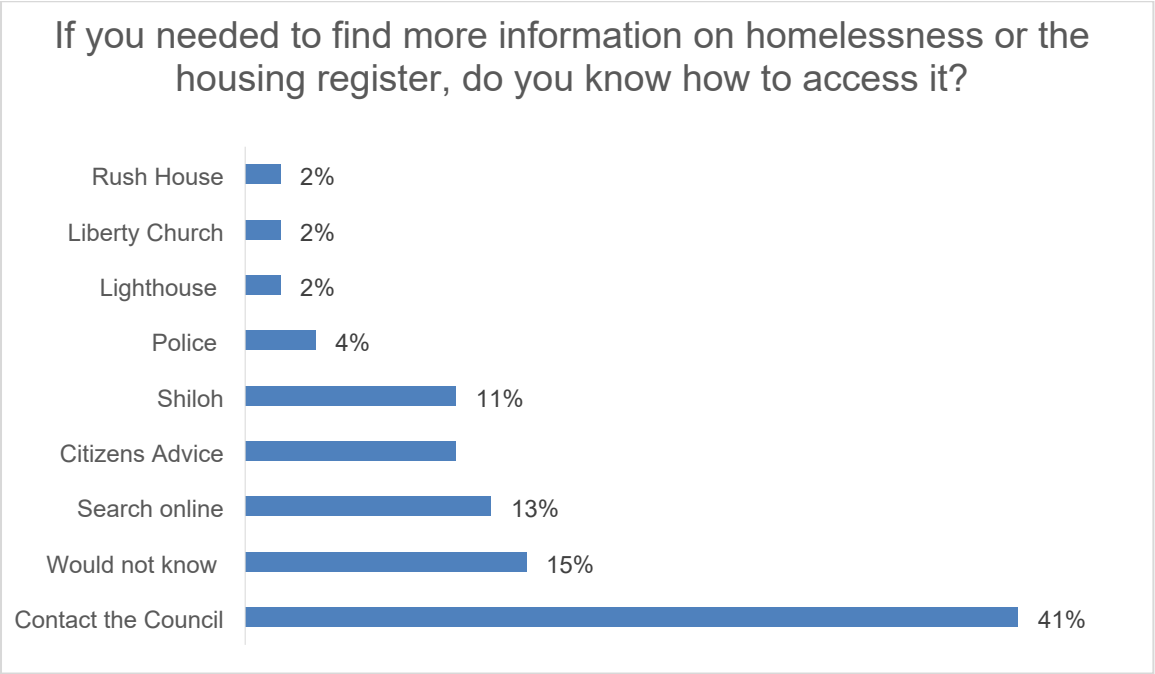
2.27


What are the signs of homelessness
Cannot always tell
3%
Poor health
4%
Looking in bins
5%
No possessions / carrying possessions
6%
No money
8%
Unkept
13%
Begging
21%
On the streets / rough sleeping
40%

2.28


What are some reasons someone may become homeless?
Trauma
2%
Mistakes
2%
Domestic abuse
3%
Not enough money
3%
Bad economy
3%
Mental health
5%
Gambling
6%
Debt / bad with money
10%
Lose house / high rent / high mortgage
10%
Family / relationship breakdown
14%
Lose job / no job
14%
Addiction to drugs/alcohol
26%

2.29



2.30 **The Homelessness Strategy Impact Measures**

2.31 Effective performance monitoring regimes are in place which gives a much clearer picture about the demand and effectiveness of the Homelessness Service. The impact measures are aligned with the overall Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-26 vision.

2.33 The impact measures provide an understanding of emerging changes to local trends, enabling the homelessness service to respond effectively.

Measure	March 2022/ April 2023	April 2023 to September 2023	Direction of travel
Increase the proportion of homelessness cases open and resolved within 56 days	78%	81% update	▲ Improved Overall preventions has increased
Increase the number of households rehoused into settled accommodation	791	369 update	= comparable with previous year
Increased proportion of homeless households successfully	17 starts on the project, with 12 into employment/training = 70%	As at 30 September - 4 homelessness starts on the project with 2 into	= comparable with previous year

connected to employment of training.		employment/training = 50%	
Reduce the number of evictions for rent arrears	18	13	▼ Increase in evictions compared to previous year.
There are no rough sleepers in Rotherham	4	3	▲ Improved Slightly lower than the previous year
All rough sleepers are accommodated of the streets	9	29	▲ Improved All rough sleepers offered accommodation

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Progress in delivering the actions from the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 – 2026 are detailed within the action plan at Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 The strategy was developed in consultation with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. To help shape the strategy the Council held forums, worked with members, staff and volunteers from a range of local organisations, as well as seeking the input from officers across all Council directorates. One of the main themes arising from the consultation was for the Council to end rough sleeping and begging.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision.

5.1 Delivery against the recommendations in the action plan is being monitored by the Strategic Homelessness Board and the Strategic Housing Forum

5.2 The overall accountable officer is James Clark, Assistant Director for Housing.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the progress report.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this progress report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 None arising from this report

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 None arising from progress report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 None arising from progress report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Ensuring that the customer voice is heard is instrumental in how the Council develops and delivers its services and is of paramount importance. The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 was developed in consultation with people who had lived experience of homelessness. The progress of the strategy's action plan supports the continued journey of improvement for customers. The service aims to offer a high quality and accessible service to all customers, ensuring that our residents are safe, healthy and live well with dignity and independence.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are digital service improvement actions that are being implemented and these will contribute to the Council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. The improvements include virtual viewings and electronic signing of occupancy agreements. The website is also being updated to improve customer access and self-service opportunities. This will reduce the potential number of physical visits Council officers will make to complete all paperwork and assessments, by offering this digital solution. The creation of this digital service will reduce paper and printing requirements of the service as well as reducing multiple visits to customers where possible, reducing the services carbon emissions through reduced car usage.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Homelessness Service will continue to work with partners towards delivering the recommendations in the action plan. Delivery of these recommendations will involve collaboration across relevant Council services and with key delivery partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

None arising from this report.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options
Kim Firth, Homelessness Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	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)	Claire Cox	10/10/23
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Click here to enter a date.
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing - Councillor Sheppard	10/10/23

Report Author:

Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options
Sandra.Tolley@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Objective	Action	Target Year	Lead Officer	Status	Update
Priority 1: Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention					
We will increase targeted early prevention activities, including to low-income households who need advice with debt and budget management who may be struggling through the cost-of-living crisis	Improve the Council's online homeless advice and information through a communication plan	Oct-23	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	In progress	•The refresh of the Council's homeless webpage, providing a dedicated page on homeless prevention, which encourages people to seek help early is currently being finalised by the Digital Team. •A video has been developed and is on YouTube: https://youtu.be/-Cxk5dyOg7c •A homelessness prevention leaflet has been created and will be added as a downloadable option on the new webpage •Attendance at Rotherham Show raised the profile of homeless prevention. 50 residents completed the survey, and only 41% were aware that the Council can help .
	Introduce digital Personal Housing Plan (PHP) on Housing Online so they can be accessible for all	Dec-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	•Provides customers with a digital version of their PHP . The team are currently configuring the PHP in NEC
	In addition to performance analysis and reporting by Homelessness Service Undertake an annual analysis on reasons for homelessness, individual needs and emerging trends to help identify new prevention activities	Dec-23	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	in progress	•Ar end September 2023, the top 2 reasons for homelessness presentations are family and friends unwilling to accommodate (32%) and the second reason is due to the end of a private tenancy at 72 (13.1%) of these 58 (8%) of these are due to the landlord selling their property. An Investment Case has been drafted to procure a mediation service. The Homelessness Team are proactive in negotiating with landlords, aiming to find solutions to avoid tenancies ending. Where this is not possible a housing plan is developed to support a planned move. The emerging trends are being analysed and monitored through the Homeless Strategic Board.
	Agree a SYHP approach to preventing homelessness and tackling rough sleeping through the South Yorkshire Partnership Group (SYHP) and Combined Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) Regular participation in meetings and review progress	Dec-24	Head of Housing Options (ST)	In progress	• Progress is being achieved through the agreed SYHP pledges by collaboratively working on any identified common grounds and learning from best practice. A recent activity determined that the problem is the homelessness is rising and getting worse. The next activity is considering the root causes of homelessness
	Review the effectiveness of the new Prevention and Early Intervention service in 12 months time	Aug-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	The proportion of households prevented or relieved from homelessness is showing an improving picture. Year end 2022/2023 78 % of households were prevented from becoming homeless and between April andseptember 2023 this has increased to 81.%. The target is 85%
We will continue to carry out Council tenancy health checks with welcome visits to identify any support needs for intervention	Tenancy Health Checks and Welcome Visits are completed within the agreed KPI's and any identified needs are refereed to specialised services	Dec-23	Housing and Estate Services Operations Manager (LS)	In progress	• Between April to September 2023 Tenancy Health Checks have been completed on 1,863 of properties • Between April to September 2023 – 85.8% of Welcome Visits have been carried out within 8 weeks of signing for tenancy
We will improve communications and engagement with private landlords so that we can intervene sooner where there is a risk of eviction	Feasibility assessment for the development of a new service "Call Before you Serve" offering free and impartial advice for private landlords and identify any additional resources	Jun-24	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	Not started	• Feasibility assessment completed with recommendations (and actioned)
	Attend Landlord Forum and raise awareness of homelessness prevention	Apr-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Not started	Attendance at Landlord Forum 2X p.a. A new Accommodation Officer is in post to source private rented homes
	Review and publish new contents on the Homelessness webpage for landlord advice and information	Dec-23	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	No started	Content published to improve access to information for landlords
We will strengthen the Adult Social Care Pathway by improving the coordination and integration of support services around individuals and families to recognise the impacts of recurring instances of homelessness (including trauma) and act to prevent these where possible, adapting multi-disciplinary approaches which are focused on the best interest of the person	A housing officer is to be recruited as part of a wider prevention team which is being established as part of our enhanced adult social care front door offer	Dec-24	Head of Front Facing Services (JM)	In progress	• Job profile developed. Currently under recruitment
	Complex Lives Teams are recruiting a dual diagnosis social worker. This worker will work with and support adults experiencing mental ill health and difficulties relating to substance misuse, which is known to also impact adversely on people's ability to sustain tenancies	Dec-24	Head of Safeguarding and Mental Health (AW)	Not started	• This is an adult care led review, however housing are involved in the consultation
	Trauma informed training is being offered and will be fully delivered to all customer facing staff as part of Adult Care and Integration's Training programme	Dec-24	Principle Social Worker (RW)	Not started	• Measure Impact of Trauma Informed training delivered in terms of staff's individual skills / knowledge to ensure their practice is trauma informed
Victims of Domestic Abuse presenting as homeless will continue to be provided with a specialist Domestic Abuse and Housing Support Officer at the first point of contact	To review the process as part of quality assurance	Dec-24	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	In progress	The homelessness manager and the complex lives team are currently reviewing the process map
We will review the 16/17-year-old joint protocol with Children's and Young People's service to prevent homelessness amongst young people	Review the 16/17-year-old joint protocol with Children's and Young People's service to address the needs of young people	Dec-23	Head of Looked After Children (SS) and Children in Need Team Manager (CMc)	In progress	A draft revised 16/17-year-old joint protocols being finalised with the Homelessness service and Children's and Young People's service to address the needs of young people.2 specialist young people advisors have been consulted and feedback captured in the revised version.
We will review what resources are linked to the First Response service to support families in crisis	Action and implementation plan is developed	Jun-23	Assistant Director of First Response (KW) and Head of First Response (LS)	In progress	An implementation plan is completed to enable the "Family in Crisis Team" to be operational and have a clear focus on Homelessness Prevention. Monthly joint meetings held with CYPS and Housing
We will continue to improve pathways into sustainable housing for Care Leavers	Continue with regular meetings between Housing and CYPS to find solutions, one being the SHAP bid for additional funding for 18-25 year olds, to annually review progress	Dec-23	Head of Housing Options (ST) and Head of Looked After Children (SS)	In progress	• Increase of 14 units accommodation options available for young people / care leavers with the successful SHAP bid
Priority 2: Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation, and end the use of hotels					
We will seek to end the use of expensive nightly paid hotels	Review of different models of temporary and supported accommodation and available funding	Dec-25	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	•A deep dive into the management of temporary accommodation has been arranged. - This will determine if there is there enough focus on resolving homelessness / too much focus on property mgt. and find out if the occupancy agreement striking right balance. This will inform the development of a temporary accommodation policy.
To support this goal, as an interim measure we will increase temporary accommodation available to the Council from 114 to 130 by March 2025	To identify suitable housing stock to be used for TA (to link with stock and demand assessment work)	Mar-25	Strategic Housing Manager (SW)	In progress	• The routine use of hotels is being monitored daily. There has been a reduction from 96 hotel rooms booked in March 2022, to 61 rooms in September 2023. Alternatives are being considered to prevent the use of out of Borough placements A review of the portfolio of temporary accommodation properties in operation, breaking down eeh property types, size and location
Over the longer term we want to reduce the use of temporary accommodation through a stronger focus on prevention	Develop a process to monitor effective throughput of temporary accommodation and void turnaround.	Sep-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• A new model to track performance of the reletting of temporary accommodation and occupancy rates has been developed. Weekly updates are provided to the AD

	Develop and introduce a Temporary Accommodation policy	Apr-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• Benchmarking for examples of a Temporary Accommodation policy is being undertaken. We have commissioned a specialist homelessness consultant to advise us on operational processes and procedures with a view to strengthening the prevention approach and use of temporary accommodation
	Implement a quality standard and a quality assurance check for temporary accommodation	Dec-23	Furnished Homes and Emergency Accommodation Manager (PH)	Completed	Inventory and property and health and safety checklist developed and implemented. 100% of properties checked when they become empty before it is made ready to let.
	Review the TA occupancy licence agreement and embed expectations of the customers responsibilities, including non-cooperation	Apr-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• Review of the TA occupancy licence agreement has started. Legal are being consulted. As part of the process we will listen to feedback regarding pets and implement changes accordingly
Priority 3: Increase access to affordable housing options					
We will increase the number of households rehoused into private rented accommodation	The Homeless Service Accommodation Officer to increase private rented accommodation housing options. Year 1 to establish baseline, and year 1-2 to agree KPI's	Dec-25	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	Between April 2023 and Sepember 2023, 369 households were assisted to alternative accommodation, of these 122 were to private rented tenancies. The aim of the accommodation officer is also to prevent evictions from the private rented sector.at 13.1%, of these 58 (8%) of these are due to the landlord selling their property. As part of the verification process we are carrying out checks to determine if the sales will or have materialised.
We will explore landlord incentives to help increase access to affordable private rented housing	Develop options analysis of private sector landlord incentives, to include exploring the feasibility of a Landlord Rent Guarantee Insurance Scheme	Jun-24	Private Sector Housing Coordinator (PB)	Not started	• The outcome of the analysis will determine how success will be measured, with an aim to increase the number of affordable private rented properties available and the number of households rehoused into private rented housing
We will continue to help secure private rented housing by supporting financial assistance for tenancy deposits and rent in advance	Work with the Financial Inclusion Team to ensure income and expenditures are completed for all homeless households	Jun-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Completed	• The process has been changed so that all homeless households are referred to the Financial Inclusion team and receive an Income & Expenditure
	Undertake an analysis on how DHP's are contributing towards homeless prevention	Dec-24	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	Not started	• Complete analysis on how many DHP's are directly contributing towards homeless prevention and actions recommended
	Review the tenancy deposit and rent in advance process to ensure homeless households can secure private rented accommodation swiftly	Sep-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• Increase housing options in the private rented sector between April and September 2023, 122 properties secures compalred to 76 in 2021/22 . An additional admin post is being recruited to and they will process the invoices so that landlords receive the payment quicklyr. This will give reassurance to landlords
We will increase the number of social housing, by building more Council housing and work in partnership with registered social housing providers	The Council will continue to direct build, acquire properties and work with providers and developers to assist to build new homes	Dec-25	Head of Strategic Housing and Development	Started	PE06 Number of new homes delivered with Council support, including affordable homes", so whilst the creation of more affordable homes has potential to free up more Council homes to let, it isn't specifically part of the target description. In terms of outturn, currently at 129 versus a year-end target of 200.
We will review the Housing Allocations Policy	Complete a light review of the Housing Allocation Policy	Dec-23	Advice and Assessment Manager (CW)	completed	• A light touch review of the Housing Allocation has been completed.
	Complete a full review of the Housing Allocations Policy including consultation and co-design work and the below actions	Dec-24	Advice and Assessment Manager (CW)	Not started	• A full review will commence in December 2023
	To assess the banding priority of homeless households who are owed a Statutory Homeless Duty	Dec-23	Advice and Assessment Manager (CW)	Not started	• A full Housing Allocation Review will commence in December 2023
	Review of Housing Assessment Panel (HAP)	Dec-23	Advice and Assessment Manager (CW)	In progress	• A review of the Housing Assessment Panel completed, The terms of reference will be updated and monthly updates regarding lettings will be provided to Cabinet Member.
Work jointly with commissioning colleagues and partners to review housing related support and accommodation needs in Rotherham	To be a part of the Housing Related Support (HRS) project board to implement a new HRS pathway and to review service specifications of Commissioned Services	Oct-23	Strategic Commissioning Manager (LE)	Completed	• Remodelling of the HRS services to create one single pathway is complete • An agreed five year Flexible Servicing System is in operation.
Priority 4: Improve access to housing support, employment and health services					
We will ensure Council tenants are supported through the cost of living crisis, including through our financial inclusion offer	Aim to increase the capacity of tenancy support officers within the Council Financial Inclusion team - additional 3 X 3 FTE TSO's, so that vulnerable people in need are seen sooner	Dec-23	Financial Inclusion Team Leader (JC)	In progress	All new tenants have a meeting with the Financial inclusion team. The meeting gives the opportunity to maximise income and reduce expenditure . •The Council have helped grant fund the development of a tenancy ready learning portal, led by Rush House, a local homeless charity. The aim of this portal is to support people to greater independence to enable them to understand their rights and responsibilities to help them sustainment their long-term future housing.
We will continue delivery opportunities to support with employment, training, volunteering, and education opportunities to all households	The Councils offer for supporting employment, training, volunteering, and education opportunities to all households is currently under review to ensure funding provides the most effective service.	Dec-24	To be confirmed	In progress	During 2022/2023 17 starts on the project, with 12 into employment/training = 70% between april and september 2023, 4 starts and 2 into employment/training
We will work with health partners and help to reduce health inequalities for all homeless households	Increase number of rough sleepers connected to health support services, including drug and alcohol support	Dec-25	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• Relations with the newly awarded drug and alcohol support provider have been established. The provider joins the monthly rough sleeper outreach walk and attends the weekly drop in at Shiloh, along with the homelessness team and other agencies • All rough sleepers are signposted to specialist services where required
	Attend weekly Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC) meeting to be reviewed annually	Dec-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• The homelessness Manager attends the DTOC meetings. A homelessness officer is also based at the hospital so that discharges have a planned move home
We will promote the use of translation services for applicants where English is not their first language, providing a range of ways to access and understand what support is available.	Information on the website can be translated	Oct-23	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	In progress	• The Homeless webpage has been refreshed and highlighted the translation options
	All staff are fully trained on how to use the translator services for phone calls and face-to-face appointments	Dec-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	ongoing	• Training is complete for all staff, and introduced as part of the induction plan for new starters • Translation services are being well utilised when needed
Priority 5: Support people with complex needs					
We will work with partners to review the pathway into mental health services, to maximise the benefits of collaborative working and improve homeless households' experience and access to services across a 24/7 support model	Support Adult Care to review joint pathways to mental health support services and develop a mental health support model which provides 24/7 support	Apr-24	Head of Safeguarding and Mental Health (AW)	In progress	• New model approved by Cabinet - Dec 2023 • Implementation of new model - March 2024 • New model goes live - April 2024
We will continue to improve pathways for people leaving institutions and long-term accommodation, such as hospitals and prison	Review process to ensure its effectiveness and any actions for improvement	Dec-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	•A specialist officer supports prison leavers and hospital discharges. The current case load is 26 prison leavers with a planned move on and 17 hospital/institution leavers with a planned move on
We will seek opportunities to develop different housing models for people with complex needs. This includes increasing Housing First for	Attend bi-monthly working group which feeds into the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) priorities to explore opportunities which may help to develop a regional approach to Housing First.	Dec-23	Head of Housing Options (ST)	In progress	• Developed partnership which brings new regional shared practice. The partnership are analysis the route causes of homelessness

people with complex needs. This includes increasing Housing First for adults and for young people aged between 18 to 25 years, focusing on young people who are in care and preparing for adulthood	Work in partnership with Commissioning as part of the Housing First (HF) review to include review of short term funding due to end in March 2024 for existing 10 HF units	Mar-24	Strategic Commissioning Manager (LE) Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	In Progress	• Review of Housing First is complete • Funding has been secured to maintain existing numbers of HF units • Funding secured for a Youth Housing First Model in Rotherham
We will work with colleagues in Children's Services to understand service need for homeless young people with complex needs	Gap analysis for 18-25 year olds who are experiencing homelessness by looking at accommodation and support	May-23	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	Completed	• Completed gap analysis to help inform SHAP bid
	Co-design Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) bid	Jun-23	Head of Housing Options (ST) and Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	In progress	• SHAP bid submitted by Roudabout with successful outcome to fund additional 14 supported housing units specialised for 18-25 year olds
We will increase awareness and knowledge of trauma informed practices across homeless service provisions.	Budget identified and scope of training programme agreed to implement trauma informed practice and motivational interviewing training for officers	Dec-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Not started	• Identified budget leading to a trauma informed training programme for homeless staff
	Introduce reflective learning sessions to the Homelessness Team and embed best practice	Dec-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Not started	• Staff feedback and confidence in trauma informed approaches
We will increase staff awareness of all vulnerable groups, for example people with Learning Disability and Autism, generally to inform service processes and best practice	Management explores options on how to use skillset within Adult Social Care to assist with the development of staff	May-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Not started	• Staff feedback and confidence in engagement with those who have learning disability vulnerabilities
Priority 6: End rough sleeping in Rotherham					
We will continue to deliver effective services with our partners and continue to develop community drop ins	Increase community drop-in surgeries for households who are worried about homelessness issues, increasing face to face support and advice opportunities and report year end progress	Mar-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Ongoing	• Baseline 150 outreach clinics p.a delivered • Increase the number of outreach drop-ins by 10% by each year end. This year we have increased drop ins at Shiloh to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at Action Housing ever fortnight. Outreach drop ins are carried out at hotels twice per week, and at the Unity Centre once per month. There is also drops for Ukrainians twice per month at Riverside House.
We will continue to work closely with the Community Protection and South Yorkshire Police, responding to emerging issues of street begging	Attend the weekly town centre walk with the town centre coordinator and follow up on all reports received outside of the weekly walk	Dec-25	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• All identified street beggars are visited by the Outreach team at known location and provided with advice and information • Number of street beggars who are verified as rough sleepers would be offered a safe place to stay off the streets
We will improve our understanding of the nature and causes of rough sleeping in Rotherham	Carry out an root cause analysis of rough sleeping in Rotherham to help identify any common trends and look to consider any new preventative measures	Dec-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF) and Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	Not started	• Reduced number of people rough sleeping
We will ensure there is a clear SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocols) protocol and provision to respond to need	Review of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocols) to ensure there is sufficient capacity and support available to run it	Apr-24	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	not started	• Consistent approach to SWEP • No one is left outside during SWEP
	Produce a written local protocol for SWEP	Apr-24	Housing Options Operations Manager (HCB)	Not started	• No one is left outside during SWEP
We will provide rapid rehousing solutions to households experiencing rough sleeping	Continue to jointly deliver the service with the commissioned provider and support move on options	Dec-25	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	Not started	• Number of rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping in Rotherham accommodated and moved on
	Continue to work with partners and commissioners to increase Rough Sleeper Accommodation Provision (RSAP)	Dec-23	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Placement Manager (KF)	In progress	• As at 30 September 2023, 29 rough sleepers accommodated into hotels and 4 into Rough Sleeper hostel. The RSI team have started to undertake weekly 6am outreach walkabouts as opposed to 1 per month.
We will work with commissioning colleagues and providers to strengthen the pathway into commissioned supported housing	To be a part of the Housing Related Support (HRS) project board to implement a new HRS pathway and to review service specifications of Commissioned Services	Dec-23	Head of Housing Options (ST)	In progress	• Remodelled the HRS services to create one single pathway • An agreed five year Flexible Servicing System fit for purpose

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Improving Places Select Commission

24 October 2023

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 -2026

The Problem

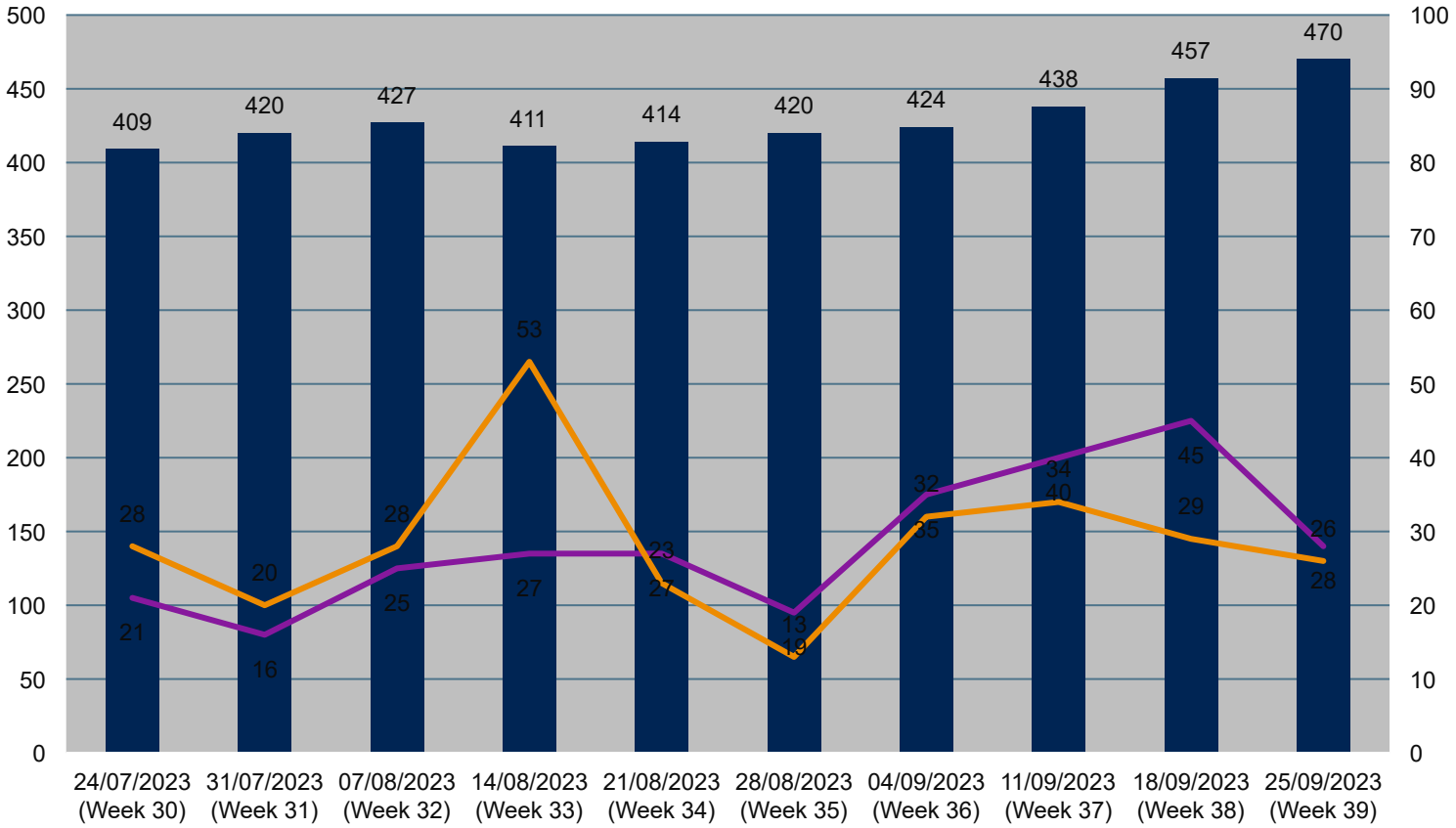
- Homelessness is worsening across the country - 79,840 households faced homelessness in England between January and March 2023, the highest number on record, households living in temporary accommodation, up by 10% from last year.
- Homelessness is rising in the South Yorkshire region and is getting worse

The Challenges

- Lack of understanding of the signs of homelessness and where to get help.
- Continuing the shift to a prevention focused service.
- Growing complexity of need.
- Wider housing market pressures – causing more presentations and less move on.
- National staffing retention and recruitment challenges.

New cases	Closed	Open cases
699	737	470

Homelessness cases



Highest reasons for presentations

Family and friends no longer able to accommodate

221

(32% of cases)

Loss of private rented accommodation

92

(13.1% cases)

58 of these are due to the landlord selling their property

Temporary Accommodation

Date	Hotels single	Hotel families	Total households in hotels	RMBC Temporary	Non RMBC Temporary	Total Temporary accommodation	Overall total (hotels + temp)
31 March 2022	80	16	96	92	14	106	202
31 March 2023 New baseline	45	5	50	80	10	90	140 (-62)
30 September	51	10	61	75	5	95	161 (+-21)

Families in hotels 28/4/2023 = length of stay						
Up to 7 days	Up to 14 days	Up to 21 days	Up to 28 days	Up to 35 days	Up to 42 days	Total
5	**2**	**3**				**10**

Placements in September
96 (396 cumulative)

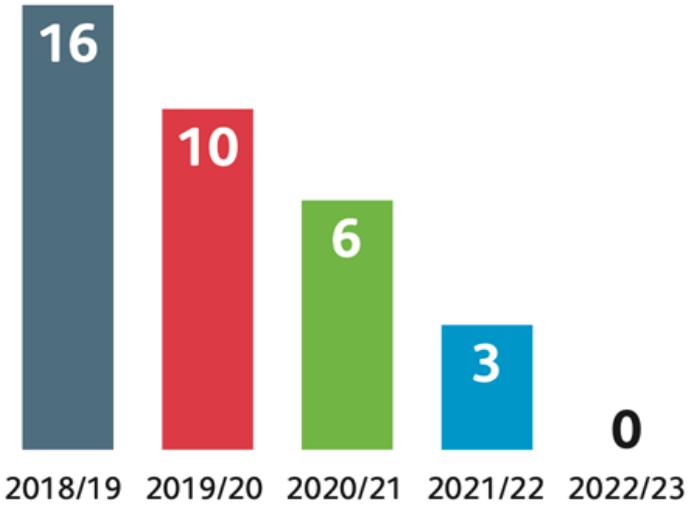
Lettings and Move On for Homeless Households

April to September 2023	Total number of Lettings	Of these the number of Direct Lettings
Percentage of Direct lettings = 12.04%	**722**	**87**

April to Sept	Council	Supported	RSLs	Private Rented	TOTAL
	179	24	44	122	369

Ending Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping counts



Current numbers

3 (Sept)

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy

1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.	2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.
So that that homelessness is prevented	So that everyone has a quality safe and suitable place to live
3. Increase access to affordable housing options	4. Improve access to housing support, employment, and health services
So that we increase access into settled accommodation	To create financial resilience, more options to access work and training
5. Support people with complex needs.	6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.
So that we increase access for households with complex needs into settled accommodation	So that no one sleeps rough

Progress against actions (Year 1)

- The Council's homeless webpage refreshed, providing a dedicated page on homeless prevention, which encourages people to seek help early is currently being finalised by the Digital Team.

- A video has been developed and is on YouTube: https://youtu.be/-Cxk5dyOg7c

- A homelessness prevention leaflet has been created and will be added as a downloadable option on the new webpage

- All new tenants have a meeting with the Financial inclusion team and undertake a tenancy ready course provided by Rush House.

Progress against actions (Year 1)

- A light touch review of the Housing Allocation Policy has been completed. A full review will commence in November 2023
- The Housing Related Support services has been reviewed to create one single pathway for homelessness Households
- The RSI team and partners have started to undertake weekly 6am outreach walks as opposed to 1 per month

ANY QUESTIONS?

Agenda Item 8

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Improving Places Select Commission – 24 October 2023

Report Title
Work Programme

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 updated outline schedule of scrutiny work.

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 2022/23

Background Papers
Minutes of Improving Places Select Commission meetings 2022/23
Minutes of Improving Lives Select Commission meetings 2022/23
Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings 2022/23
Minutes of Council meetings 2022/23

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

IPSC – Work Programme 2023/24

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 2023/24, representing a maximum of 16 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming 2 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 2023/24 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 An updated draft 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 directly arising from this report. Members will have regard to the Climate Emergency when selecting potential items for scrutiny and in developing recommendations.

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 directly arising from this report.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1: Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2023-24

Chair: Cllr Ken Wyatt **Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley**
Governance Advisor: Katherine Harclerode **Link Officer: Paul Woodcock**

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the desired outcome?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is this being looked at elsewhere?
- Is this a priority for the council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

T: Time: is it the tight time, enough resources?
O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
I: Interest: what is the interest to the public?
C: Contribution to the corporate plan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
06 June 2023	Cost-of-Living and Rent Arrears (deferred) Environment Act 2021 Update
11 July 2023	Draft Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy Cost-of-Living and Rent Arrears Playground Equipment: Procurement and Installation
19 September 2023	Site Visit to Ickes Lock Flooding Alleviation Update Combined Storm Overflows
24 October 2023	Neighbourhood Working Annual Report Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Update
Winter 2023/24	Review: Household Waste Recycling - Reusable Items

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
12 December 2023	Bereavement Services Annual Report Road Safety and Cumwell Lane Update Nature Recovery Review Outcomes
6 February 2024	Markets Redevelopment Update Social Housing Regulation Act: update on Housing Services preparedness
19 March 2024	Tenant Scrutiny Review and Action Plan - Voids Tenant Communications Update Allotments Annual Update

Items to be scheduled:

Planning White Paper
Anti-social behaviour workshop