CABINET

Monday 13 April 2026
10.00 a.m.
Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council	Councillor Chris Read
Deputy Leader & Children and Young People Portfolio	Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Housing Portfolio	Councillor Linda Beresford
Finance & Community Safety Portfolio	Councillor Saghir Alam
Street Scene and Green Spaces Portfolio	Councillor Lynda Marshall
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio	Councillor John Williams

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

CABINET

Venue:	**The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**
Date and Time:	**Monday 13 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.**
Agenda Contact	**Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk**

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.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answer received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 11 - 28)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 March 2026.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Extra Care Housing Model (Pages 29 - 51)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the preferred option to remodel care and support to tenants in the ECH schemes, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

2. Approve a formal, public consultation on this option for 90 days from May to July 2026.

3. Note that the findings of the consultation and proposed final model will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026 for approval.

DEPUTY LEADER & CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7. Family Hub Progress Update and Extension (Pages 53 - 91)

Report from the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the update and progress made in the delivery of the Family Hubs programme over the last year.

2. Approves a consultation on proposals to deregister the existing Children's Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Family Hubs programme and for the decision, based on the consultation, to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3. Approves, in line with government requirements and to ensure consistency for families, that Family Hubs and Children's Centre buildings are renamed as either Best Start Family Hubs or "Connect" Best Start Family Hubs, in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme expectations.

4. Notes the future of the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees that the decision to accept and allocate this funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

8. Domestic Abuse Strategy (Pages 93 - 169)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 (attached at Appendix 1.)

2. Note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and the Improving Lives Select Committee.

FINANCE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

9. Community Governance Review (Pages 171 - 239)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.

2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.

3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.

4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.

5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.

6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

10. Street Safe Team Update (Pages 241 - 257)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet note the progress to date.

11. New Applications for Business Rates Relief - The Rotherham Hospice Trust (Pages 259 - 280)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendation:

1. To consider the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust. This is in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

12. Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 (Pages 281 - 329)

Report from the Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.

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

13. Crisis and Resilience Fund (Pages 331 - 365)

Report from the Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

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

   Crisis Support

   a. £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme

   b. £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer

holidays

c. £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments

d. £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme

e. £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement

f. £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations

g. £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

Resilience Services

h. £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham

i. £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

Community Coordination

j. £50,000 to coordinate CRF elements, raise awareness, and improve data capture and referral systems

Administrative Costs

k. £81,699 for DHP administrative costs

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.

4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the fund.

STREET SCENE AND GREEN SPACES

14. Playing Pitch Strategy (Pages 367 - 672)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the headline findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2029 Part 1.

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

3. Agree to receive a further report on the Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2 which will set out the response to the recommendations contained in Part 1, including Rotherham Council's vision and implementation plan.

4. Agree that the PPS is monitored annually and reviewed every 3 years, or sooner if significant changes occur.

5. Delegate implementation oversight to the Service Director for Culture, Sport and Tourism, supported by the Sport & Physical Activity Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces.

15. Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements (Pages 673 - 687)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet note:

1. The progress delivered by the RVGC team since mobilisation.

2. The planned April–October gateway cleansing and maintenance programme and the improved data capture now in place to inform future scheduling.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

16. Climate Emergency Annual Report (Pages 689 - 765)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.

3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

17. Don Valley Corridor (Pages 767 - 785)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the establishment of a Don Valley Corridor programme and partnership with SYMCA and SCC.

2. Endorse the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone for the Don Valley Corridor with delegation to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to agree the governance principles and implement the preferred model.

3. Agree to: allocate £400,000 of Gainshare revenue to the resourcing of the programme and project feasibility for its first 3 years, this being subject to SYMCA's formal approval; and delegate to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, the allocation of this £400,000 to specific activities.

18. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (To Follow)

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 8 April 2026.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 11 May 2026 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

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THE CABINET
Monday 16 March 2026

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

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

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

127. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions:

1. Mrs Hazel Hubbard asked a question in relation to the use of the pavement by shops to display and sell goods. She stated that shops were now taking up large sections of the pavement and pedestrians could no longer walk properly along this path. Mrs Hubbard referenced shops on Effingham Street and Howard Street and explained that it was not fair on the market traders who had to pay for their stalls. It was also impacting people with disabilities who relied on walking aids as they could not fit through. Mrs Hubbard stated that it was ridiculous and they should use the shop they had, not the street. She asked how this could be stopped.

   Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy said that he understood the frustration. There were conflicting rules in place due to planning law, licensing law and highways law but Councillor Williams committed to raising the matter with those services outside of the meeting and providing Mrs Hubbard with a point of contact.

   In her supplementary question, Mrs Hubbard stated that she had been complaining for three months and nothing was improving. She had been joined by two Conservative Councillors in the Town Centre but the Labour member had refused to attend as she disagreed with Mrs Hubbard's viewpoint.

   The Leader confirmed that Councillor Williams would walk around the Town Centre with Mrs Hubbard and look into the current rules regarding this matter.

2. Mr Saghir Hussain spoke regarding Dignity and burial services. He stated that Dignity had increased their rates by approximately 16% and they had put this down to a number of reasons. This included inflation, previous rate freezes and the cost they had to pay to

Rotherham Council. Mr Hussain referenced High Wycombe where it cost £1500 less, even though it was close to central London. He asked what the Council could do to subsidise or remove the charges.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing with responsibility for Bereavement Services, explained that the Council were aware that fees were increasing and would have a big impact on Rotherham residents. The Council had already made it clear to Dignity that the rise was disproportionate, and they did not support it. The Cabinet Member stated that, whilst the Council disagreed with Dignity, they were entitled to take decisions to increase the fees. She therefore advised Mr Hussain to contact Dignity directly with his concerns.

In his supplementary, Mr Hussain stated that he had already spoken to Dignity, and they had stated that the reason they were putting up the rates was because there had been no increases for seven years and, more importantly, because of the cost they had to pay to the Council as charges. He asked the Cabinet Member to support the community by absorbing the costs and fetching the charges in line with other local authorities.

The Service Director of Legal Services stated that the information provided by Dignity to Mr Hussain did not accord with the information the Council had received from Dignity in relation to the pressures and reasons for the cost. The Council did not recognise the answer Mr Hussain had been given. The Leader confirmed that the Council would seek clarity on the facts of the matter and arrange to discuss further with Mr Hussain.

128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

129. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

130. PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS FOR 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the changes to the Public Health supplementary grant for 2026/27 and allocations to Rotherham Council. It provided a brief update on the 2025/26 spend and outlined the new process for allocations from April 2026, including investment proposals for 2026/27, and beyond where relevant.

In 2025/26 Rotherham Council received Supplementary Public Health

Grant funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery via the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Recovery and Improvement Grant (DATRIG) (which included the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)), Individual Placement and Support (IPS), the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (LSSSASG) and Supervised Toothbrushing. These grants were made separately as part of the Government strategies on drugs and alcohol, tobacco, employment support and oral health. The Grants had specific conditions including maintaining baseline Public Health Grant spend on the respective core services.

The report provided information relating to additional funding that was allocated to Public Health and was protected because of specific conditions attached. Issued via the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), from 2026 this funding was protected within the wider public health ringfenced grant. If the additional grants received were not spent in line with the associated conditions (as with the wider public health grant) future funding could be decreased. The supplementary grants would be added to the Public Health Grant as part of a three year financial settlement.

From April 2026 a funding simplification process would be implemented with the SSMTRG, IPS, LSSSASG grants being added to the Public Health Grant allocation and not awarded as separate streams. In addition, the Swap to Stop budget was being included within LSSSASG. The funding (with the exception of the Supervised Tooth Brushing) was part of a three-year Settlement (2026-27 to 2028-29) but would remain allocated on an annual basis, with indicative figures provided for the protected drug and alcohol funding.

In 2025/26 the Public Health Ringfenced grant was £19.575m. The Public Health Ringfenced grant for 2026/27 would be £22.681m. This incorporated £6.542m that would be additionally ringfenced to specific activities, leaving £16.139m for other public health activities. Although this reduced the flexibility to spend the grant, there was currently enough spend within the ringfenced areas to meet the requirements of the grant.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the changes in the Government's approach to the allocation of Public Health Grant;

2. Approve spending plans for Rotherham's Public Health Grant outlined in the report;

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to recommission the Drug and Alcohol contract with the protected Drug and Alcohol budget;

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health (within the protected stop smoking budgets in the public health grant) to commission services designed to enable the Council to make progress in achieving a smoke free generation in line with the plans from central government.

131. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission review into access to contraception. The review was identified and prioritised as part of work conducted by the Commission in the 2024-25 municipal year following reports of inconsistencies in accessibility of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) at GP surgeries. Whilst LARC was one of the areas of concern identified, members elected to consider the full breadth of contraceptive options as part of the review process.

The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 22 January 2026 meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during its 3 February 2026 meeting for progression and consideration by Cabinet, in line with the scrutiny review process.

Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, presented the report and stated that it was a detailed piece of work which involved a high proportion of engagement with both internal and external partners. The key issues and considerations of the working group were set out. A number of appendices were included which helped form the basis and justification for the recommendations.

The report reflected that evidence gathered in 2025, identified key issues such as variation in GP services, limited male contraception options, inconsistent and fragmented online information, and increasing misinformation via social media. The challenges noted restricted informed choice for Rotherham residents and could contribute to rising termination rates and health inequalities. The review recommended improving access, strengthening digital information, expanding outreach, and enhancing support for young people. It also identified longer term opportunities, including stronger Primary Care Network collaboration, wider condom provision, and improved use of data.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the report and thanked all members involved in the review. In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet committed to formally consider its response and respond to the recommendations by May 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed below along with the wider ambitions as listed in Paragraph 2.12 of the report, as approved by Health Select Commission:

a. Commissioning and Service Delivery

i. That the relevant Council Services consider and review the feasibility of mobile outreach clinics or rotating sexual health outreach services where contraception, including LARC can be accessed in rural and underserved areas.

ii. That the relevant Council Services and relevant partners consider Including sexual health services, specifically including contraceptive advice guidance and provision, in the new town centre health hub, ensuring flexible, reliable and discreet ‘drop-in’ access and reduced stigma.

b. Education, Public Awareness and Messaging

i. That the relevant Council Services work in collaboration with appropriate partners to strengthen and extend the reach of a borough-wide, sex-positive public health campaign promoting safe, consensual, and informed sexual activity that makes effective use of the contraceptive and sexual health services available in Rotherham. The Commission particularly advocates the use of modern messaging strategies that harness the power of local ‘influencers’ via social media platforms (e.g. TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) wherever possible to reach younger demographics with engaging, accurate contraception and sexual health messaging that reaches them directly in places they naturally frequent and counteracts disinformation.

ii. That the relevant Council Services encourage schools to deliver consistent, comprehensive PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), including ongoing practical contraceptive education and awareness of confidentiality rights and works with them to improve parental engagement and understanding of the benefits of making informed contraceptive and sexual health choices.

c. Digital Access and Information

i. That the relevant Council Services work to improve Council public health websites to deliver youth-friendly information on contraception and sexual health services and providing/signposting to relevant sources of information, advice and guidance aimed at assisting that demographic to make informed choices.

ii. That the relevant Council Services work to develop a centralised digital resource or landing page consolidating sexual health information, service locations, and confidentiality guidance, with links to age group/demographic specific issues and information.

d. Youth Access and Confidentiality

i. That the relevant Council Services consider how, ideally in collaboration with relevant partners such as schools and NHS services, to raise awareness of Fraser guidelines and NHS app privacy settings to reassure young people about confidentiality when accessing contraception.

ii. That the relevant Council Services work with MESMAC and other relevant youth services to expand outreach and ensure visibility and borough wide accessibility of services, particularly for LGBTQ+ and vulnerable groups.

e. Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment

i. That the relevant Council Services include the location of sexual health clinics, drop-in centres, and pharmacies providing emergency contraception on the Rotherham mapping system (where grit salt bin locations, planning applications etc. can be found), or create a standalone map resource to allow Rotherham residents to easily identify all locations in the borough where they can access contraception.

ii. That relevant Council Services review local data on terminations and teenage pregnancies to assess emerging trends, identify the root causes and facilitate the formulation and implementation of targeted interventions that address their drivers.

iii. That relevant Council Services ensure that the recommendations, observations and broad ambitions

from this review are considered in the next commissioning cycle in 2027, and in the development/revision of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.

2. Formally considers its response and responds to the above recommendations by May 2026, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. Agrees that following submission to Cabinet, those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

132. FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in respect of the progress on the Families First Partnership Programme and on the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend.

In February 2025, the Government published the grant determination for the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant for 2025-26 (RMBC allocation £2.083m). This new grant was specifically for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families implementing the Department for Education's (DfE) Family Help and Child Protection reforms. The grant was intended to fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duties. The grant was in addition to the Children and Families Grant, which was now mainstreamed funding, initially for the Supporting Families programme and intended to enable continuation of existing prevention services.

In March 2025, the Government published the Families First Partnership Programme Guide. The aim of the programme was to support safeguarding partners to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and make greater use of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). The programme guide described the vision and objectives and set out the practice change Government expected to see to improve the support provided to children and their families. The timeline for delivery of the transformation was ambitious, with significant progress anticipated within the first year.

As detailed in paragraph 2.1.1, a number of appointments had been made to the transformation team which was a positive reflection of the appetite in Rotherham for co-production and partnership working. Paragraph 2.2 detailed the regional work that had taken place which included engagement in regional Communities of Practice.

The Families First Programme Delivery Group, chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services, was ensuring progress against the delivery plan. This meeting was monthly and was well

attended with key officers from across the partnership including South Yorkshire Police, Health, and Education, along with local authority service areas. The project team had reviewed other projects managed across the council and by partners to ensure the Families First Partnership Programme was in line with other change activity.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report outlined the co-production work undertaken to review and refresh the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document. The original document was co-produced by the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership and provided guidance for all practitioners working with children and families, who might be considering a referral to Children's Social Care services via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A refresh of the Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and Descriptors document was expected to be published in June 2026.

Officers within the Public Health team had undertaken a Needs Assessment on behalf of the programme and had reviewed data provided from Children and Young People Services (CYPS) and partners for the period July 2024 to June 2025. The data that had emerged from the report, broadly reaffirmed the position already understood by the CYPS directorate, which was encouraging. Domestic abuse was a main reason for concern when professionals and members of the public contacted MASH, as was parental mental ill health and a need for parenting support. There was also a clear correlation between the areas of Rotherham which were most deprived and those where requests for support came from.

Work had started to review how Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) could be improved in Rotherham. FGDM was a voluntary, family-led process where relatives and other support networks created a plan to ensure a child's safety and wellbeing. This way of working supported families to identify their own solutions, reducing their reliance on services. Paragraphs 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 provided details on the work already been done and the next steps in relation to FGDM.

The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services stated that this programme linked together with a suite of other programmes as part of the evolution of Children's Social care.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made since the last update on 17 November 2025.

2. Note the Children's Social Care Prevention Grant spend since the last update on 17 November 2025.

133. BEST START PLAN 2026-2029

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Best Start Plan. The Department for Education (DfE) issued targets for Local Authorities (LAs) to improve Good Level of Development (GLD) as part of its "Best Start in Life" strategy, aiming for 75% of 5-year-olds nationally to reach GLD by 2028, issuing new data tools and funding to guide local planning and intervention. All LAs had to publish a Best Start Plan by 31 March 2026 in line with the guidance.

The report provided an overview of current activity across Rotherham to improve early years outcomes, tackle inequalities, and ensure that all children, especially those who were disadvantaged, got a strong foundation for school, contributing to the Council's wider ambition that children and young people achieved. The report outlined the key activity undertaken in developing the new Best Start Local Plan, including a comprehensive needs analysis, engagement, and consultation. The report also sought approval of the Best Start Local Plan and outlined the timeline for implementation to achieve the ambitions identified.

The Plan had to outline strategies to reach the agreed local contribution to the national 75% GLD target and address regional disparities. The reinforced legal and strategic framework shifted the local focus from simply providing childcare places to achieving specific developmental outcomes. Rotherham Council was required to improve the percentage of five-year-olds reaching a Good Level of Development in their Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments to 73.3% (and 56.6% of five-year olds eligible for free school meals) by 2028. Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the Rotheram Context.

Section 2.1 of the report detailed how the Best Start Local Plan was being developed. A summit led by Rotherham Council had been held in December 2025 and participants engaged in two workshops. The first focused on current practices and the second on generating ideas for doing things differently. The summit concluded by agreeing the appropriate next steps and informing the development of the Best Start Local Plan.

Section 2.2 of the report set out the guiding principles that would underpin the Best Start Local Plan. An analysis of local need was included at Section 2.3 and the priorities set out in Section 2.4 were based on this need.

The Cabinet Member advised that progress against the Best Start Local Plan would be monitored by the Best Start and Beyond Steering Group. Regular updates would be provided to the Health and Care Place Board, Children and Young People's Change Management Board and Senior Leadership Team. Overarching responsibility would sit with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people who would report into the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the data included, equalities considerations and terminology.

An additional recommendation was put to Cabinet that Children and Young People's Services work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan. This recommendation was accepted.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the high level of satisfaction with the baby packs, particularly in relation to the quality and usefulness of the items provided.

2. Approve an open procurement exercise to ensure continuity of registering and delivery of baby packs to Rotherham families.

3. Agree that Children and Young People's Services will work with the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this would then inform the development of and work on the Best Start Local Plan.

134. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to the report which asked Cabinet to approve a further 5-year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver adoption services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). In January 2021 Rotherham partnered with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield children's social care departments to create One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY) as their Regional Adoption Agency. The arrangement was agreed for 5 years and had progressed since this date. The partnership agreement was scheduled to end in December 2025; however, the four local authority Directors of Children's Services agreed to an extension through to April 2026 as a review had just been completed making recommendations relating to the operating model and the associated funding formula.

There was a continued need for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver adoption services. This was a statutory obligation and ensured that children with a care plan for adoption could secure legal permanence through an adoption process when no longer considered safe or in their best interest to remain with their parents or wider family network. The partnership arrangements to date had been a broad success. There had been development since their inception and some of the challenges experienced had been addressed more recently following a review of the

operating model by an external consultant.

The proposed revised delivery model would see an increase in flexibility within the RAA enabling more efficient service delivery. This would also address the reduction in adopter approval activity that had been seen in recent years alongside the increase in the need for post order support services. These were the services that were offered to families who had adopted a child and required support in the years that followed. This was a national trend, and the local area reflected the general downward trend in permanent homes being provided via adoption.

The continued partnership arrangement would see a move towards a thematic model of working aligning the service under three workstreams (Adoption Support, Recruitment and Assessment and Family Finding) rather than four Local Authority adoption services operating within a RAA almost independently of each other. It also built in capacity for a Keeping-in-Touch team within adoption support (a known growth area) and the potential for a recruitment and assessment front door team. Keeping in Touch (KIT) in adoption referred to agreed, often voluntary, arrangements allowing adopted children to maintain relationships with birth relatives or significant people, supporting their identity and emotional wellbeing. This model would generate the additional capacity by moving resource from the family finding team (where work had been reducing) to the other workstreams. It also generated flexibility to manage short term absence and crucially to deliver a consistently high standard of service across the South Yorkshire Region.

The associated cost reduction for RMBC was based on a revision of the funding formula of the RAA. This was based primarily on the reduction in the number of children Rotherham were placing for adoption. There were a variety of reasons for this including a comprehensive and robust Family Help offer, the enhancements in the use of Family Network Activity and an improved Kinship offer leading to more children and young people remaining at home with their parents or wider network. The reduction in costs had been absorbed in the alternative delivery model meaning a redistribution in Service Manager capacity and management of inter-agency budgets. The inter-agency budget was the fund used when the RAA purchase adoptive placements from other RAAs or may income generate from selling placements to other agencies. It was not considered that there would be an impact on service delivery and there were no risks in relation to redundancy based on these proposals. The implementation plan aimed to move to this model of delivery in April 2026.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve a further 5-year partnership arrangement with Barnsley, Doncaster, and Sheffield to deliver adoption services as part of a Regional Adoption Agency.

135. MODERN SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT - ANNUAL REFRESH

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update in relation to the activities of the Council and its partners in seeking to both address and prevent modern slavery and a refreshed draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 for consideration and approval prior to publication. (Appendix 1).

Paragraph 1.3 of the report set out the changes to the 2026/27 Statement compared to the 2025/26 Statement. These included the commitment, the polices and work that had been done. Work included:

- Working with landlords to raise awareness.
- Working with South Yorkshire Police on the enhancement of reporting pathways and intelligence sharing.
- Developing a Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Information Sharing Agreement with South Yorkshire Partners.
- Development of a “Strategic and Tactical Response to Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime in South Yorkshire, 2025-2028.”
- Delivery of four bespoke Human Trafficking Modern Slavery training courses for Council staff.

Staff within the procurement team undertook the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) ethical procurement and supply training as required in the Co-operative Party’s Charter for modern slavery in 2018 when the charter was adopted. The team had been undergoing a refresh of this training with all relevant staff having completed this. This training had now been programmed for renewal in every three-year period as part of the overall modern slavery training provision.

Between April 2022 and December 2025, a total of 161 referrals from Rotherham were made by the Council and other first responder organisations to the National Referral Mechanism. All referrals were reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board via the Performance Management Framework.

Cabinet Members and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board praised the work done on this matter and noted the progress that had been made since 2018.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress made to date.

2. Approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2026/27 and its publication on the Council’s website.

136. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 TO 2029/30

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval for the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Housing Capital Programme. Key areas of focus included improving Council homes with continued investment in external and internal refurbishments, providing aids and adaptations, and acquiring and building new Council homes. The report summarised the investment that had taken place or was planned to take place during 2025/26, provided an outline four-year Capital Programme (2026/27 to 2029/30) and a detailed programme for 2026/27.

The total planned Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment in the years 2026/27 to 2029/30 was £312.6m. This sum had been modelled and included with the 2026/27 HRA Business Plan that was approved by Council on the 14 January 2026.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report provided details on the improvements to Council homes and estates aspect of the programme. This included investment up to an average of £60k per unit, totalling £1.3bn over the 30-year plan period. The additional funding would be used to ensure that the Council, as a social landlord, continued to meet and/or exceed the regulatory requirements of ensuring tenants' lived in safe, warm and decent homes. Over the next 4 years this would result in an investment of £198.6m in existing Council homes.

The detailed 2026/27 programme was attached at Appendix 2. The programme budget for 2026/27 was £43.2m. The programme included £17.5m for continued delivery of phased refurbishment works. External refurbishment works included renewing roofs, guttering and facias, balcony structural and resurfacing works, and windows and doors. External works would take place across the borough including, in Kimberworth Park, The Lanes, East Herringthorpe and Brampton, Swinton and Fitzwilliam would benefit from replacement windows and doors to 224 properties. The programme also included internal refurbishment works for c.200 kitchens or bathrooms. The programme included £2m for larger planned repairs. This included repairs to paths, paving and boundary walls, plastering and pointing.

The programme also included £7.7m for major refurbishments to properties that became empty and were due to be re-let to a new tenant. This budget had increased significantly in recent years, driven by factors such as the need to replace outdated kitchens and bathrooms, damp-proofing works, and rewiring. An additional £5.3m was earmarked for mechanical and electrical works (including boiler replacement.) £6.3million would be invested in the Warm Homes Scheme and with an additional £2.5million for ventilation and damp and mould works.

In relation to providing aids and adaptations, £13.4 million would be provided over four years with £3.4 million in 2026/27 to delivery approximately 600 major adaptions and 500 minor adaptions.

The proposed Capital Programme included £98.5m to support the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. This included £63.7m to deliver the existing pipeline of projects to achieve 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027, alongside a further £34.8m to ensure the continuation of the Housing Delivery Programme beyond 2027. This programme of activity would continue to deliver much needed affordable housing within the borough while increasing rental income to the HRA and helping to reduce the impact of Right to Buy on Council housing stock levels.

It was forecast that in 2026/27 an estimated 150 units would be added to the Council's housing stock. 68 new build homes would be completed including 43 across 2 sites at Maltby, 15 at Warden Street Canklow and 10 at Wath across 2 sites. 82 homes would be acquired, 15 as part of the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative, 28 directly from the market and 39 S106 homes including Laughton Gate, Waverley and Poppyfields. The budget of £29.8m reflected the current approved budget.

In relation to investing in IT to support digital transformation, the Council had an established rolling programme of capital investments into its IT and digital infrastructure and certain elements of this were supported with HRA investment. In line with this, the proposed Capital Programme included £2.1m over the 4-year programme and £338k during 2026/27. Paragraph 2.23 detailed the housing digital transformation programme which was being developed.

Paragraphs 2.24, 2.25 and 6.6, along with Appendix 6, set out the funding sources and grants and contributions information.

Cabinet Members fully supported the proposals and stated that the level of investment in new and existing Council homes was exciting news for the borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the four-year outline Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30 with total planned investment of £312.6m broken down into the following areas of investment:

    - Improving homes and estates £198.6m
    - Aids and adaptations to Council homes £13.4m
    - Housing Delivery Programme £98.5m
    - IT and digital transformation £2.1m

2. Approve the detailed 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with total planned investment of £76.8m broken down into the following areas of investment:

- Improving homes and estates £43.2m
- Aids and adaptations to Council homes £3.4m
- Housing Delivery Programme £29.8m
- IT and digital transformation £0.4m

137. LOCAL GROWTH FUND 2026/27 ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to the report which set out proposals and recommendations for the use of Rotherham's £2.95 million allocation from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in 2026/27. For 2026/27, LGF would operate as a continuation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), forming part of a further transitional programme. This transitional year built upon the £10.48 million of UKSPF that the borough received over four years from April 2022 to March 2026.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), introduced by government as the successor to the European Structural Funds, had been a major source of investment for Rotherham since 2022. With the introduction of an integrated settlement for South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) from 2026/27, UKSPF had been replaced by a new Local Growth Fund. Rotherham received £7.2m of UKSPF over three years from April 2022 to March 2025, comprising £5.6m revenue and £1.6m capital (including £400,000 specifically for rural areas).

In 2025/26, the government provided a further transitional year of UKSPF, albeit at a reduced level compared to 2024/25. UKSPF investments in this year were required to align with the government's five national missions. Rotherham received £3.28 million from the SYMCA allocation for 2025/26, consisting of £2.86 million revenue and £420,000 capital. Some of the outputs from this funding were listed in paragraph 1.4 of the report. From 2026/27, the Local Growth Fund provided a three-year allocation (four years for capital) to SYMCA for activity broadly focused on economic development and regeneration. The allocation was approximately £15.1 million in 2026/27, with £15.8 million in 2027/28, £19.6 million in 2028/29 and £16.9 million capital in 2029/30.

Rotherham had been allocated £2.95 million in 2026/27, comprising £2.09 million revenue and £858,585 capital. This represented a reduction of £328,447 (around 10%) compared to the 2025/26 allocation. Funding in 2026/27 would continue to focus on the priorities of supporting local business, people and skills, and communities and place. A summary of the proposals for each theme was set out in the report, with a more detailed breakdown included at Appendix 1. The recommendations set out the allocations also detailed how the funding would be allocated.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the projects for submission to South Yorkshire Mayoral

Combined Authority for award of LGF for 2026/27 as follows:

a) Local Business Support

i) £946,845 (£464,915 revenue and £481,930 capital) for sub regional business support supporting three strands of Launchpad (start-up support), Productivity and Low Carbon.

ii) £666,655 (£110,000 revenue and £556,655 capital) for Shop Unit Grants.

iii) £60,000 to support Rotherham Town Centre Markets.

iv) £36,559 for Social Value to increase opportunities for local businesses.

b) People and Skills

i) £441,203 for a skills programme incorporating Ambition (children and young people), Core Skills (community-delivered basic skills training) and Advance (support to progress in work.)

ii) £300,781 for Young People's Skills Development.

c) Communities and Place

i) £424,219 for Events, delivering a wide-ranging programme of civic and cultural events and festivals.

2. Agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the Local Growth Fund. This is to include provision for other eligible actions within the use of the fund should it not be possible to achieve full spend of the grant through the allocations above.

138. TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which provided details on the Transport Capital Programme for the upcoming 2026-27 financial year, including its funding sources and programme areas, and explained how projects would be managed within them. The 2026-27 financial year was the final year of the current five-year funding round. Based on spend to date and current commitments, the present forecast for available funding for 2026-27 was £344,000. This was made up of the remaining City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local and Neighbourhood Transport Complementary Programme block funding of £95,000 and reallocation of the remaining funding for the delivered moving traffic offences pilot, and the crossing at Morthen Road.

An allocation of £225,000 from 26-27 funding was proposed to enable the delivery of the first prioritised crossing following the completion and approval of the prioritisation process undertaken and reported as part of the 25-26 capital programme.

Given the need for the Council to monitor against delivery on outputs and outcomes for all Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) /CRSTS funded schemes, a proposal for a £15,000 allocation was required for year 3 monitoring and evaluation assessment of the Moor Road, Manvers TCF scheme, as well as monitoring the performance of the broader programme to inform future
work.

In relation to School Crossing Patrol Improvements, an allocation of £104,000 was proposed for investigation and delivery of schemes to mitigate risks at School Crossing Patrol Sites, and a delegation was sought to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27.

There was also an allocation of £426,400 for structures for the 2026-27 financial year. It was proposed that this be allocated to the following:

- Bridge Joint Replacement Programme (£150,000)
- Grafton New Bridge concrete and parapet repairs (£200,000)
- Minor essential maintenance arising from inspections (£76,400)

A number of Capital investments were proposed as set out in paragraph 2.3.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussions had focused on the proposals regarding Treeton Lane crossroads, the five pedestrian crossings, involvement of ward members and the broad nature of the delegation.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the schemes and allocations of funding, as set out in paragraph 2.3, following approval of the Council Budget on 4 March 2026.

2. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report, including the reallocation of savings made on capital projects delivered within budget as described in paragraph 1.5.

3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 through to 2029-30 with the Minor Works

allocation, following approval of the Council Budget in March 2026.

4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 with the School Crossing Patrol Improvements allocation referred to in paragraph 2.2.6.

5. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the use of any underspends across the Transport Capital Programme to fund the delivery of other approved transport programmes, or the progression of designs for potential future projects.

139. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

140. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 13 April 2026, commencing at 10.00am.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet 13 April 2026

Report Title
Extra Care Housing Model

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

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

Report Author(s)
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Ward(s) Affected
All

Report Summary
Extra Care Housing (ECH) is nationally recognised and widely defined by offering self-contained residences for people aged 55 years and above, combining independent living with 24/7 onsite care and support and communal facilities. The model can offer an alternative to residential care for people needing support to live independently for longer.

In Rotherham, there are two ECH schemes, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, offering a total of 87 tenancies. This report is seeking approval to formally consult on how care and support is delivered to tenants in ECH, to determine a high quality and sustainable future model that meets the needs of tenants.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the preferred option to remodel care and support to tenants in the ECH schemes, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

2. Approve a formal, public consultation on this option for 90 days from May to July 2026.

3. Note that the findings of the consultation and proposed final model will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026 for approval.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Initial Equality Screening Assessment Part A
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
The Future of Oak Trees Extra Care Scheme (Stag Willow) 18 September 2023 Cabinet Report
Recommendation on the Proposed Future Model for the RMBC Enabling Service Cabinet Report

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Extra Care Housing Model

1. Background

1.1 ECH is recognised nationally for providing people over 55 with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with onsite care and support services available 24 hours a day. It is classed as specified accommodation under Housing Benefit regulations as it offers more support than traditional housing or sheltered accommodation, providing a flexible, person-centred alternative to residential care. It enables tenants to maintain their independence while having access to professional support when needed.

1.2 The intention of ECH is for tenants, aged 55 years and above, to sustain their independence, whilst benefitting from varying levels of care and support as needed. From an organisational perspective, the ECH model can support the Council to deliver its duties under the Care Act 2014 by preventing people's needs from worsening, reducing needs by offering a sense of community to both tenants and people in the surrounding area, and delaying the need for more intensive care provision.

1.3 In Rotherham, there are two schemes, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, which were commissioned and built as ECH facilities in 2008. Combined, the schemes offer 87 tenancies and currently support 92 people. The schemes offer both self-contained bungalows and apartments within a main building, owned by Together Housing as the housing provider. Properties vary in size and can accommodate 1-2 people.

1.4 Six people at the Potteries Court scheme are shared owners which means they part-own their property and pay rent to Together Housing on the remaining portion. Six people at Bakers Field Court are leaseholders who have bought the right to occupy a property for a fixed, long-term period. Restrictions on the properties mean that only people who meet the criteria for ECH are eligible to purchase the properties.

1.5 There are 25 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Council-employed staff working across the sites to provide housing and wellbeing related support. Social care and support needs are met through a mixture of commissioned providers, with individual packages of care brokered, and agencies employed via a Direct Payment. The Rothercare Community Alarm Service, which provides a response to care and support related emergencies, is available to tenants in all properties.

1.6 Tenants have exclusive use of garden areas and secure scooter stores, conservatories, laundry facilities and activity rooms. The onsite cafes are for use by tenants and the public.

1.7 The Council has established formal nomination agreements with Together Housing which means the Council can nominate people from its housing waiting list for properties. As such, access to ECH is in accordance with the Council's housing allocation rules and requires tenants to be aged 55 years or older. An individual must have an identified need for housing related support. A person

first applies to be on the Rotherham Council Housing Register and is then assessed by the Council Housing Options Team as priority for rehousing due to vulnerability to live independently.

1.8 Consistently, there have been people awaiting an ECH tenancy; as of January 2026, there were 15 people waiting. Often people wish to stay close to their community, and bungalows attached to the schemes are particularly desirable, therefore people can remain waiting for some time. Once a property becomes available Together Housing and the Council aim to allocate a new tenancy within 4 weeks. Through effective partnership working, there are currently no empty properties at either scheme.

1.9 Contractually, ECH tenants have two separate agreements, one with the housing provider, Together Housing, which covers property related stipulations only and a second with the Council for the provision of housing related and wellbeing support, in connection with the tenancy agreement. This agreement specifies that tenants receive the following:

- Housing support.
- Emotional support and advice.
- Help in gaining access to other services.
- Help in establishing social contacts and activities.
- Peer support and befriending.
- Help with shopping and good neighbour tasks.
- Signposting to other services.

1.10 The lease agreement for shared owners does not stipulate the provision of a care service, nor does the agreement for leaseholders.

1.11 Typically, ECH tenants pay rent, plus a service charge which covers the costs associated with the utilities and the maintenance and safety of communal areas within the scheme. Additionally, a charge of £36.01 per week covers housing and wellbeing support and tenants receive a financial means test to determine their contribution. This excludes leaseholders at Bakers Field who are excluded from paying this charge. The amount includes the charge for Rothercare, which is £4.50 per week. This income, estimated at £26,000 per year, contributes to the housing related support, which is provided by 3.18 full time equivalent (FTE) dedicated Council employed Housing Officers who are part of the ECH onsite staffing establishment.

1.12 The Council employs a further 21.82 FTE posts, which includes the care enabler role. This role provides face-to-face wellbeing checks, up to twice daily, to tenants which includes support to make drinks and meal preparation, Rothercare pendent checks and fire alarm testing, and support with activities and socialising, including access to the local area. Care enablers respond to triggers for wellbeing support, via the Rothercare Community Alarm service.

1.13 In addition, as determined by a Care Act needs assessment, personal care and support is delivered to some tenants through a combination of home care providers commissioned by the Council and independent agencies employed by

tenants through Direct Payment agreements. Tenants have choice and control of their care provider. Customers are financially assessed to determine their contribution. The table below provides a summary across the schemes, as of January 2026.

	Potteries Court	**Bakers Field Court**	**Cost per year £**
Commissioned care and support	3 providers supporting 10 tenants	10 providers supporting 19 tenants	0.716m
Direct Payment	3 tenants	9 tenants	0.373m
		Total cost	1.089m

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 applies to ECH, and once implemented, schemes are required to comply with a set of minimum standards for the quality of accommodation and support provided.

2.2 Whilst the current model offers tenants a multilayered approach to care and support, the delivery of this can be disjointed, and intrusive and unnecessarily overcomplicates the ECH schemes. Tenants receive support from multiple organisations, which increases the number of professionals involved in a person's life. There are opportunities to strengthen the existing care and support to ensure person-focussed and strength-based approaches are embedded within the ECH model, ensuring a consistent approach across the schemes.

2.3 The current model emerged following the implementation of a previous decision in 2016 which led to the reshaping of the Council's enablement provision and the introduction of independent care providers to the ECH schemes. The ECH staffing complement was retained, initially to ensure a safe transfer of care and support. However, during this time, it emerged that there was an ongoing need for tenant care and support between independent care provider visits and therefore a hybrid model evolved.

2.4 Over the past 10 years, the policy landscape has changed, moving away from competitive commissioning and fragmented care to a more collaborative approach and a focus on integration. However, care and support provided by independent providers is not based onsite, and therefore the current model is unable to respond flexibly to the fluctuating needs of tenants and therefore a proportionate response to prevent, reduce and delay care and support needs is difficult to achieve.

2.5 Essentially, there are two co-dependent systems within the ECH schemes, and neither can maximise delivery. This can compromise the type and amount of support tenants receive. All Council-employed care enablers are level 2 qualified to deliver care and support. However, as the schemes are no longer registered

with CQC, staff are not permitted to deliver personal care. This change to the care enabler role has blurred the distinction between staff delivering housing related support and, over time, some duplication has emerged (for example, the provision of social contact and tenant activities, supporting emotional wellbeing and support with daily living tasks).

2.6 The current model is inconsistent across the schemes in relation to access to support and is not delivering optimum outcomes or value for money. The costs of the schemes are £1.984m per year. This can be broken down into three distinct categories:

- Commissioned care and support £0.716m.
- Direct Payments £0.373m.
- Staffing and running costs £0.895m.

2.7 ECH schemes work most effectively when tenants have varying types and levels of need. Currently, there is a high proportion of tenants with no care needs; 17.4% of the total proportion of tenants do not access formal care and support services. This is unusual compared to most other ECH schemes in the Yorkshire region where applicants are either referred by adult social care, or have eligible needs assessed under the Care Act 2014, before being allocated a tenancy. This is potentially a missed opportunity to ensure valuable resource is targeted and inclusive of people with varying types and levels of need.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Several options to potentially remodel the schemes have been explored.

3.2 **Option 1:** Continue with the current arrangement. This is not considered a viable, sustainable model as there is a lack of stability in the current connections tenants have and the sense of community. Whilst there are some opportunities within the current model to further promote the schemes as community assets and strengthen the allocations process to ensure access to the offer is more equitable, the model does not promote independence as effectively as Option 2 or 3 as it is not responsive to changing needs.

3.3 **Option 2:** Tenant care and support needs are met by an independent provider and Council employed staff are withdrawn. This option would see the displacement of Council employed staff from the ECH service and would potentially release some efficiency as the Council workforce would significantly reduce. Whilst the allocations process could be strengthened to ensure people with a broader range of need can be supported by ECH, this option would severely limit oversight of the schemes and any further development.

3.4 In summary, Option 2 would:

- Continue to deliver the housing management function to people who need help to maintain their property. Together Housing would provide all housing related support.

- Continue to provide care and support to tenants from their current commissioned provider, agency or Personal Assistant via a Direct Payment, ensuring that familiarity is maintained.
- Limit future development opportunities to grow and expand the ECH model.
- Displace all Council employed staff from the ECH service. Staff would be redeployed or supported through HR processes to find alternative roles.
- Increase demand on the Rothercare service for those people requiring a response.

3.5 **Option 3:** The schemes are registered with CQC (under one registration) so that Council employed staff can legally meet tenants' personal care and support needs. **This is the preferred option.** It is proposed that the existing commissioned arrangements, including Direct Payments, would cease as fully trained staff would be available onsite to deliver an enabling approach, encouraging and motivating tenants to retain their independence for as long as possible. Strengths-based, personalised support plans, tailored to individuals' needs will ensure that people are supported proportionately, on a needs-led basis, accessible on a 24/7 basis. The staffing model will include built-in capacity to flex and adapt to individuals' changing needs. Housing related support would continue to be provided by the Council to ensure residents successfully maintain their property. The provision would be modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services, and staff training needs would be identified to ensure high quality, well-led and safe care and support is provided in readiness for CQC registration.

3.6 In summary, Option 3 would:

- Improve overall tenant experience as the model is simplified.
- Improve the relational experience of tenants by embedding consistency of staff delivering care and support, impacting positively on tenant wellbeing.
- Provide a timely and proportionate response to care needs 24/7.
- Introduce a stronger and timely link between tenants and assessing officers, as staff delivering care and support would identify a need for a review.
- Strengthen quality assurance of the ECH provision, through registration with the CQC.
- Provide robust management and improve oversight ensuring the schemes are well-led.
- Similarly to option one, this option would provide the Council and Together Housing an opportunity to promote the schemes as community assets which invite people in and link tenants to the wider community network. This will maximise connection and wellbeing of both tenants and non-residents.
- Similarly to options one and two, the allocation process could be strengthened by involving representation from adult social care. In turn, this will provide an opportunity to balance and potentially diversify the needs of tenants across the schemes to ensure access to the offer is more equitable, supporting people with a broader range of needs to remain independent.
- Embed consistent language in relation to how the schemes are referred to and ensure compliance with future standards.
- Prevent hospital admissions and reduce readmission rates, avoiding care and support needs escalating to emergency situations.

- Reduce the demand on the Enablement service, as onsite care enablers would provide care and support.

3.7 Option 3 enables the Council to develop the ECH model and provides a solid foundation for future expansion. It focuses on providing a balanced approach, improving outcomes for people whilst ensuring value for money, and investment in the Council workforce.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report is seeking Cabinet approval to formally consult on the preferred model (Option 3).

4.2 The preferred option is designed to align with best practice for ECH, and the consultation will seek feedback on the purpose and principles of ECH as well as what respondents want from the future model with regards their care and support. The key elements of the consultation will include:

- Registration of the schemes with the CQC (under one registration) so that Council employed staff can legally meet tenants' personal care and support needs.
- 24/7 availability of fully trained staff onsite to deliver a proportionate, enabling approach, encouraging and motivating tenants to retain their independence for as long as possible.
- Built-in capacity to flex and adapt to individuals' changing needs.
- The continuation of housing related support by the Council to ensure residents successfully maintain their property.
- Tenant views on ending existing arrangements with independent providers.

4.3 A 90-day public consultation will be delivered, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to feed back on the proposal. This will involve stakeholders that would be immediately affected by the proposed changes to the model, including current tenants, families and carers, the workforce, Together Housing, commissioned providers, agencies and personal assistants.

4.4 Leaseholder and shared owners have additional rights in relation to section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985, which comes into effect when tenants are required to pay any additional or an increased cost. This, along with any potential variation to lease agreements will be considered as part of the final model.

4.5 A consultation timetable and communications plan will be developed to ensure as much reach as possible, including the promotion of an online survey, bespoke focus groups and drop-in sessions within accessible community spaces.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The formal consultation will be open for 90 days from May to July 2026.

5.2 The findings of the consultation and final model will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026. Subject to Cabinet approval, a staff consultation will be completed during winter 2026 to operationalise the model. Concurrently, a

review of tenant care and support needs will be completed prior to giving notice to commissioned providers in February 2027. It is estimated that, if approved, the new model would be in operation from 1 April 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The budget for the staffing costs of the extra-care teams is £0.895m. On top of that there are costs within homecare and direct payments that will vary based on the needs of the individual residents of the schemes at any one time. These are currently estimated at circa £1.089m. Any new model will need to be costed when the final model and structure is agreed. The cost of the consultation will need to be managed within existing budgets.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recommendations of this report are in accordance with existing decisions, the Council's constitution and the legal framework covering extra care housing.

7.2 It is anticipated that contracts covering the Council care provision would be entered into by residents electing to move to this model. The contracts team within Legal Services could assist with this.

7.3 While the Council has a wide discretion as to how to carry out a consultation, the duty to consult consists of four key elements, known as the Gunning Criteria, R v London Borough of Brent, ex parte Gunning (1985) 84 LGR 1, that are designed to make consultation a fair and worthwhile exercise –

(1) Any lawful consultation must be undertaken at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
(2) There must be sufficient reasons advanced for any particular proposal to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response.
(3) Adequate time must be given for that purpose.
(4) The results of that consultation must be conscientiously taken into account before any decision is taken.

7.4 The first Gunning principle does not preclude consultations taking place on preferred options or on a decision in principle, as long as the decision maker's mind remains open to change.

7.5 There are two further general principles to consider during any consultation exercise, following the Supreme Court decision in R (Moseley) v Haringey LBC [2014] 1 WLR 3947 –

- The degree of specificity regarding the consultation should be influenced by those who are being consulted.
- The demands of fairness are higher when the consultation relates to a decision which is likely to deprive someone of an existing benefit.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The workforce will have the opportunity to respond to the proposed model during the public consultation.

8.2 Subject to the outcome of the formal consultation and the model that is approved by Cabinet, a staffing review will be required to operationalise the model. This would consider the following:

- Any required contractual changes.
- Revisions to job profiles (including, as required, regarding undertaking personal care tasks and working patterns).
- The provision of formal care and support and housing related support.
- The impact on postholders within the existing team, including any job matching or ringfencing arrangements and identification of posts at risk.
- CQC registration and appointment of a Registered and a Deputy Manager.
- TUPE rights of care workers employed by an independent provider.

8.3 The staffing establishment would be reviewed alongside the care and support needs of tenants, to identify demand and ensure sufficient capacity to respond. As it is likely that the staffing complement will grow, potential opportunities for staff that may be redeployed from other teams within adult care will be identified.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Subject to a review of tenant care and support needs, all current tenants would retain their tenancy and remain in their current property within the ECH scheme, providing that their care needs can continue to be met by the service. To ensure ongoing legal compliance, tenants of ECH will retain choice and control of their care provider. It is anticipated that most tenants will opt for the stable, consistent and quality care of in-house provision.

9.2 The recommended proposal will have a positive impact on future tenants and vulnerable adults as there will be an opportunity to diversify the existing criteria and strengthen the allocation process. This will ensure access to the offer is equitable by supporting people with a broader range of needs to remain independent, rebalancing the needs of people who access ECH.

9.3 Additionally, if the preferred model was approved, there would be an improved care and support response for vulnerable tenants over a 24/7 period. Staff would respond in a timely way to presenting needs and be in a better position to identify a requirement for a care and support review, which in turn would reduce unplanned, emergency situations arising and ensure vulnerable tenants maintain their independence for longer.

9.4 There are no implications for children and young people.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness, dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged because of disability.
- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in wider society.

10.2 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 establishes the public sector equality duty ("PSED") – which requires that the Council, as a public body, in carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.3 The relevant protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status.

10.4 There is a duty on the Council to keep a record to demonstrate that it has genuinely and consciously had due regard to the PSED.

10.5 Further legal obligations which the report complies with include:

- Care Act (2014) six core principles guiding the provision of care and support services – empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionality, partnership, and accountability. Under the Care Act 2014, individuals in supported living have a right to choose care provider, if it is available, suitable, and within the local authority budget.

- Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 to uplift standards in supported housing for vulnerable people in England by introducing national standards, mandatory licensing for providers, and new local authority duties to oversee these services, tackling poor quality, while ensuring residents get appropriate support, maintain independence, and have choice, distinct from traditional care homes, improving oversight and accountability.

10.6 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) has been completed to support the planning of the consultation and how Equality, Diversity and Inclusion will be considered throughout. Refer to Appendix 1 to support the recommendation to consult.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed which identifies less carbon emission due to the reduced travelling of independent providers to the schemes from across the borough. The full assessment can be reviewed in Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council will continue to maintain a positive working partnership with Together Housing who have welcomed the potential remodelling. The options presented in this report do not lead to a conflict of interest as Together Housing is not a CQC registered provider of care. Therefore, Together Housing would retain the role of landlord, as current. Nomination rights would be unaffected.

12.2 The current arrangements with 13 commissioned providers and agencies and Personal Assistants (PAs) employed through Direct Payments would cease. However, the loss is not deemed significant as it is spread across multiple providers.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Several risks associated with the recommended option have been identified.

13.2 **Tenants will retain the right to choose care provision, and they may not want Council-employed staff to meet care and support needs.** The consultation will identify tenant appetite for the preferred option. Contracts covering the Council care provision would be entered into by residents electing to move to this model.

13.3 **The sustainability and effectiveness of the model will only be possible if it is staffed sufficiently to deliver safe, quality care.** A review of tenant need will inform the development of a sustainable staff structure.

13.4 **Potential budget savings are dependent on reviewing the staffing establishment**. The staffing establishment will be reviewed concurrently during the consultation to ensure a fit for purpose structure is proposed. Following the consultation, this will be considered by Cabinet, alongside the final ECH model.

13.5 **Independent providers of care and support could lose business.** As multiple providers support tenants across the two schemes, the risk is spread across organisations. Providers can express any concern they may have through a formal consultation. It should be noted that TUPE rights may apply, if any of the care workers employed by the providers does fifty percent or more of their working week at one of the schemes.

13.6 **Managing potentially conflicting views and low participation in the consultation.** A proactive and structured approach will be deployed to run an inclusive and transparent consultation, ensuring information is accessible with an online and face-to-face presence, including targeted outreach. Data will be managed systematically to demonstrate that feedback is considered.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/03/26
Executive Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/03/26

Report Author(s):
Claire Green, Programme Manager, Adult Care and Integration
Claire.Green@rotherham.gov.uk

Sally Morris-Shaw, Head of Localities, Adult Care and Integration
Sally.Morris-Shaw@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Extra Care Housing Model	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.	**Service area:** Provider Services, Adult Care.
Lead person: Claire Green, Programme Manager	**Contact:** claire.green@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [X] **Service / Function** **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This assessment is screening the potential impact of remodelling delivery of the care and support to tenants living in Extra Care Housing, subject to the outcome of a formal 90-day consultation and Cabinet approval. Extra Care Housing is recognised nationally for providing older people with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with onsite care and support services available 24 hours a day, under one roof. It is classed as specified accommodation under Housing Benefit regulations as it offers more support than traditional housing or sheltered accommodation, providing a flexible, person-centred alternative to residential

care, allowing residents to maintain independence while having access to professional support when needed.

Extra Care Housing (ECH) in Rotherham comprises of two establishments, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, with a total of 87 tenancies, supporting 92 people. The report to Cabinet is seeking approval to consult on a preferred model whereby tenant care and support needs would be met by a team of Council-employed staff, based at the schemes 24/7.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	X	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Data has been obtained, from the adult social care case management system, of all current ECH tenants. This has been reviewed to identify whether the proposal would affect one group more than another.

There has been no formal engagement with tenants on the proposal at this stage. If approved, the consultation will provide an opportunity for tenants to provide feedback on the proposed model.

However, early engagement will take place prior to ensure tenants and their family and carers, and other key stakeholders, are aware of the intentions of the Council and the proposal.

Tenants, their families and carers will be supported to participate in the consultation by ensuring regular presence at the schemes throughout, including formal meetings where family and carers can join and informal 'drop-ins'.

The consultation will be promoted to tenants and their families through flyers, posters and at regular tenant meetings and coffee mornings at the schemes, within a broader communications plan to encourage wider participation.

Following the consultation and the consideration of the feedback received, a further report will recommend a final model for Cabinet approval. At this point, a full Equality Analysis (Part B) will be completed. The analysis will include the impact on the workforce, as the required staffing establishment to operationalise the model will be proposed, and subject to approval, a bespoke consultation will be prepared.
This will include consideration of the wider workforce and any TUPE rights that care workers within the independent providers have, based on their current working arrangements.

- **Key findings**

If implemented, the proposal would directly impact existing ECH tenants at Bakers Field Court and Potteries Court. Individuals may have one or more protected characteristics. However, the proposals do not specifically target individuals or groups that fall into these characteristics.

The proposal will potentially have positive impact on vulnerable people with regards access to ECH, both those in the surrounding community and prospective tenants by –

- Providing the Council and Together Housing an opportunity to promote the schemes as community assets which invite people in and link tenants to the wider community network, maximising connection and wellbeing of both tenants and non-residents.
- Diversifying the existing criteria for ECH, ensuring access to the offer is more equitable across a broader range of needs.

The appetite of existing tenants to receive care and support from trained, Council-employed staff will be explored during the formal consultation. Tenants will retain choice and control, however it is envisaged that most will opt to receive care and support from a consistent team of staff based onsite, that can respond timely and flexibly to their need.

The proposed model will have an impact on the social care market. The table below shows the number of agencies that provide care and support to tenants currently (as of January 2026), including the number of commissioned providers and agencies and/or Personal Assistants employed through a Direct Payment.

Commissioned care and support	**Potteries Court**	**Bakers Field Court**
	3 providers	10 providers
Direct Payment	3 tenants	9 tenants

Whilst the market would potentially lose business, the risk is spread across multiple agencies and therefore the impact is deemed low.

The model is expected to impact positively on the Council workforce as the staffing establishment will be remodelled to provide care and support. Staff will be consulted on a proposed staffing establishment to deliver the model, once approved by Cabinet.

- **Actions**

A proposed model will be presented to stakeholders during a formal 90-day consultation, providing an opportunity for those impacted to give feedback and inform the final model.

A consultation will be prepared which will consider who is being consulted and will tailor the content and format to the audience, keeping technical detail and complexity to a minimum whilst ensuring the consultation is meaningful. The process will be accessible and inclusive, for example involving advocacy service, easy read documents and targeted engagement opportunities. This will be achieved through collaboration with colleagues within expert roles such as equalities, digital, and communications.

Full screening (Part B) will ensure that the final model considers equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	August 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	25 August 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis: (Include name and job title):	Claire Green, Adult Social Care Programme Manager.

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sally Morris-Shaw	Head of Localities and Interim Head of Extra Care Housing	04/02/26
Kirsty-Louise Littlewood	Assistant Director, Adult Care and Integration	04/02/26
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	17/01/26

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	13 February 2026
Report title and date	Extra Care Housing Model
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet 14 April 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/02/26

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	If the preferred option for consultation leads to 24/7, onsite care and support provision at both extra care housing schemes, there may be an increase in energy use, outside core office hours. It is not known how this compares to alternative options considered *e.g.*, how an increase of 87 tenancies would affect energy use by the Rothercare service.			Energy use at the 'Bakersfield' [*sic*] Warden Centre is reported in the Council's carbon accounting; energy use may be compared with the date of commencement of a new service model, to monitor its carbon impact.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	Under the preferred option, staff who are based on site will deliver care and support to tenants of the Council's extra care housing schemes, rather than multiple independent providers travelling across the borough, under the present model of care. As these existing care packages are			Scope 3 emissions under contract are estimated from spend under contract, opposed to *e.g.*, mileage data shared by independent care providers. From these data is not possible to determine a reasonable baseline, against which to measure the expected emissions saving, under the preferred option.

		brokered by the Council, they fall under emissions from its contractors.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? Actions recommended in the report positively affect the ability of Council services to continue during, or recover after extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate-related hazards, as Council-employed staff would be based on site 24/7 to support tenants. The preferred option supports a strengths-based approach which allows residents to maintain their independence and prevents their needs from worsening, which might otherwise increase their vulnerability to climate change.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: The most significant overall climate impacts the proposal would have are positive in relation to the reduction of CO_2 emissions from transport.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Claire Green Programme Manager Adult Care Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 596 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Family Hubs progress update and extension

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service Family Help
Kirsty.woodhead@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme has now been in place for three and a half years and this report provides an update on the successful delivery of the programme and the future of the programme confirmed by Government. It also recommends a consultation to formally deregister and rebrand the Children's Centre buildings to enable them to move into the Family Hubs system, bringing all delivery in line with the Department for Education's new Best Start Family Hubs programme and current guidance.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the update and progress made in the delivery of the Family Hubs programme over the last year.

2. Approves a consultation on proposals to deregister the existing Children's Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Family Hubs programme and for the decision, based on the consultation, to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3. Approves, in line with government requirements and to ensure consistency for families, that Family Hubs and Children's Centre buildings are renamed as

either Best Start Family Hubs or “Connect” Best Start Family Hubs, in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme expectations.

4. Notes the future of the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees that the decision to accept and allocate this funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People’s Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Current Family Hubs Buildings and Services
Appendix 2 Family Hub Offer
Appendix 3 Family Hubs Programme Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 4 Family Hubs Programme Part B Equality Assessment
Appendix 5 Family Hubs Programme Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Family Hubs Start for Life 2025-2026
Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK
Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies – Preparing for implementation April 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Health & Wellbeing Board – 28 January 2026

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Family Hubs progress update and extension

1. Background

1.1 In 2022 Rotherham was one of 75 pre-selected Local Authorities (based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Average Rank) who were invited to sign up to the Family Hubs and Start for Life three-year programme (ending in March 2025), without the need to complete a competitive bid, for grant funding of £3.4m.

1.2 The aim was to have an improved 'whole family' approach to service delivery, with broader co-location of partners and services, utilising existing premises. It involved a highly transformative way of working, rather than simply investing in unsustainable front-line capacity. Cabinet accepted the proposed approach and the proposed spend of grant funding in February 2023.

1.3 As a transformation project, the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme builds on existing services and ways of working and relates strongly to the themes of the Council plan, most directly to '*Children and young people achieve'*, but also to '*Places are thriving, safe, and clean'* and to '*Residents live well'*. It also has a noticeably clear link to Aim 1 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that *'All Children Get the Best Start in Life and Go on to Achieve their Potential'.* The programme continues to present an opportunity for additional resources which can enhance the offer, and to build on partnership working in line with the Early Help Strategy: Family Help in Rotherham.

1.4 Prior to the scheduled end of the programme, in January 2025, the Government announced a 12-month extension from 31 March 2025 – 1 April 2026. To support this work, grant funding of £1.1m was made available to Rotherham. The purpose of the extension was to support continued delivery of integrated services for families with children up to age 19 (and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and further develop and embed the Family Hub model, providing a one-stop-shop for families needing advice and support, particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation.

1.5 In July 2025, in a policy paper entitled 'Giving every child the best start in life', the Government set out its intention to strengthen support services for families, and to build on the Family Hubs and Start for Life approach (as well as their previous Sure Start approach), to create 'Best Start Family Hubs' across all areas of the country.

1.6 On 6 November 2025 Rotherham received a provisional allocation of £5,052,800 for financial years 2026-29. There is now a clear and strong commitment from Government to retaining the Family Hubs identity, supported by the continued roll out of Family Hubs across the Country and ongoing funding for Rotherham through the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme.

1.7 The Council committed a further £370,000 in March 2024 to support Early Help services including an additional 300 universal sessions for under 5s annually. These were divided equally across the Borough, providing universal activities

such as new birth celebration sessions; baby massage; baby first aid; treasure basket sessions; reach, roll and play sessions; talking tots; toddler yoga; stay and play groups; and baby weigh sessions.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme Update:

2.1.1 Family Hubs Buildings and Services:

The Government's clear and strong commitment to Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme is confirmed in their commitment to funding for 2026-29. This supports ongoing service delivery across the Borough, from a variety of buildings designated as Family Hubs, as well as through outreach services in alternative community venues.

2.1.2 Rotherham has adopted what can be described as a blended approach to its Family Hubs buildings.

2.1.3 Family Hubs

Rotherham has three main Family Hubs across the Borough:

- Brookfield Family Hub
- The Place Family Hub
- Maltby Stepping Stones Family Hub

2.1.4 These buildings are currently designated (within the historic DfE definition) Children's Centres (0- 5); however, delivery has been expanded through the Family Hubs Programme to offer services to families with children aged 0-19 (25 with SEND). The DfE guidance for Children's Centres has not been updated since 2013 and was superseded by the Family Hubs programme. For completeness and to move forward with the Family Hubs programme, there is an opportunity to formally deregister the Children's Centre status for Brookfield, The Place and Maltby Stepping Stones, as recorded with the DfE. This will allow them to be known as Best Start Family Hubs and aligns with current DfE guidance. This will not impact on service delivery.

2.1.5 These buildings provide co-location of services such as Early Help, Children's Social Care, 0-19 Public Health Nursing, Midwifery and other agencies delivering Family Hub Services. A range of Family Hub services are typically delivered from these buildings, including but not limited to:

- Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups.
- Peep learning together groups (see 2.2.5 for explanation of the programme).
- Midwife appointments.
- Health visitor and nursery nurse appointments.
- Infant feeding support.
- Breast pump loan scheme.

- Antenatal classes and sessions for expectant parents.
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play, baby massage, sensory sessions.
- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups.
- Groups for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Employment support from DWP Family Community Work Coaches.
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health.

2.1.6 Attendees to these buildings are greeted by someone on reception who has undertaken a Family Hubs induction and can support and advise families to access services they might need.

2.1.7 **Connect Family Hubs**

Rotherham has four further buildings which form part of the Family Hubs programme as 'Connect Family Hubs' across the Borough, three of which are currently designated Children's Centres;

- Dalton Family and Children's Centre
- Dinnington Early Help Centre
- Dinnington Family and Children's Centre
- Ferham Family and Children's Centre

2.1.8 As stated in 2.1.4, DfE guidance relating to Children's Centres is no longer updated by the DfE. Dalton Family and Children's Centre, Dinnington Family and Children's Centre and Ferham Family and Children's Centre remain registered with the DfE as Children's Centres. In line with the Family Hubs guidance, it is proposed that the Council deregisters these three as Children's Centres and rebrands them in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme guidance.

2.1.9 These buildings have some co-located services such as Early Help, Midwifery and other agencies delivering Family Hub services, however due to the building size, this is on a lesser basis than the main Family Hub sites detailed previously. The range of Family Hub services typically delivered from these buildings, include but are not limited to:

- Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups.
- Peep learning together groups.
- Midwife appointments.
- Infant feeding support.
- Connectivity to the breast pump loan scheme.
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play, baby massage, sensory sessions.
- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups.
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health.

Should further funding become available, the Council will consider options for other Connect Family Hub provision in other locations in the future.

2.1.10 **Community Network Family Hubs:**

To support families to access Family Hubs services within their communities, in line with Grant requirements, Rotherham commissions organisations from the Voluntary and Community Sector to be part of the Family Hub network. The network is commissioned annually and therefore is subject to change and DfE guidance.

2.1.11 These buildings do not typically have co-location of services but are places where families can access or be connected to some of the Family Hubs services and activities. The services delivered in these buildings will vary, however most typically include:

- Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups.
- Peep learning together groups.
- Infant feeding support.
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play sessions.
- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups.
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health.

2.1.12 The Family Hubs programme recognises that some families face barriers to accessing services, so must deliver flexible, community-led support that responds to local needs. Some of the Family Hubs services are delivered on an outreach basis and through other community venues across the Borough, taking activities to the heart of local communities. These buildings include, but are not exclusive to local community centres, libraries, faith organisations, and schools.

2.1.13 This tiered approach to delivering Family Hubs services ensures that children and families have easy access to locality-based support and has significantly improved the connectivity and cohesiveness between the council, health, voluntary, community, faith, and charity sector organisations.

2.2 **Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme:**

2.2.1 The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme has seven dedicated workstreams under which programme delivery takes place:

- Transformation (including digital connectivity).
- Parenting Support.
- Infant Feeding.
- Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships.
- Home Learning Environment.
- Start for Life Offer.
- Parent Carer Panels.

2.2.2 **Transformation:**

The first four years of the programme were intended to be a largely transformational project and have led to improved digital connectivity by using online tools and platforms to link families with services, resources, and information in a more accessible and efficient way. The network has been developed to support families' access to services and the partners involved in the programme have worked together to develop integrated support for children and families.

2.2.3 The programme has a strong infrastructure with the project managed within Children and Young People's Services and supported by a strong partnership of agencies involved in delivery. The Family Hubs Operational Group and Family Help Partnership Group provide effective multi-agency oversight to the programme.

2.2.4 Key achievements include the launch of the Family Hubs website and Start for Life offer, investment in workforce training to ensure a skilled and empowered workforce, strengthened multi-agency collaboration and training, and embedding family-centred practice.

2.2.5 **Parenting Support:**

The programme has significantly strengthened parenting support across Rotherham by delivering flexible, evidence-based interventions for parents and carers.

2.2.6 This improved universal and targeted parenting support offer provides face-to-face programmes delivered across the Borough, alongside access to online programmes for those who prefer this approach. Access to online programmes that can be completed at an individual's pace, and convenience offers greater flexibility for parents and carers who may not usually complete programmes.

2.2.7 The programme aims to normalise parenting support and reducing stigma in accessing services, and increase engagement from seldom-heard groups, empowering parents, and carers to feel confident and supported in their parenthood journey.

2.2.8 **Infant Feeding:**

The programme has significantly expanded the infant feeding offer through a structured recruitment and training pathway for peer support volunteers. Community-led initiatives such as the Big Latch event, World Breastfeeding Day, and other informal activities have successfully promoted breastfeeding.

2.2.9 All parents receive personalised support on feeding choices, including breastfeeding initiation, expressing, and formula feeding, with access to out-of-hours help, drop-in sessions, and 24/7 support via the National Breastfeeding Helpline and virtual assistant 'Ask Olive'.

2.2.10 Additional measures include a breast pump loan scheme across Family Hubs, improved digital and in-person support options, and accredited training for staff and volunteers to deliver consistent, evidence-based advice. Rotherham has achieved UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Stage One accreditation across six buildings (all part of the Family Hubs network), reinforcing its commitment to creating baby-friendly environments.

2.2.11 **Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships:**

At the outset of the Family Hub programme, perinatal mental health was identified as an area of focus, prompting substantial investment in workforce training and support. Over 300 practitioners across the multi-agency network have completed specialist training to improve early identification and intervention.

2.2.12 The programme also works jointly with local charity Light Peer Support to provide support to families affected by perinatal mental health, with groups delivered from the Family Hubs.

2.2.13 Workforce training now enables sensitive, inclusive conversations with parents and carers, normalising discussions around mental health and reducing stigma. A clear pathway ensures universal and targeted support is available, while antenatal classes incorporate advice on perinatal mental health and the importance of early relationships.

2.2.14 These developments have improved awareness, early intervention, and access to support for mothers, fathers, and caregivers, creating more responsive and integrated support.

2.2.15 **Home Learning Environment:**

As part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, investment was made in the Peep Learning Together Programme, which supports parents, carers, and practitioners to create rich home learning environments through everyday activities such as talking, singing, play, and reading. Peep sessions also provide opportunities for families to connect and gain peer support, covering key areas of child development including communication, language, literacy, maths, health, and emotional wellbeing.

2.2.16 To ensure sustainability, library colleagues and the Family Hub network have also been trained, creating borough-wide coverage and reinforcing the commitment to improving home learning environments for all families.

2.2.17 **Start for Life Offer:**

As part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, a comprehensive Start for Life offer has been developed and published to ensure families across Rotherham have clear, accessible information about the services available during the first 1,001 days. The Parent Carer Panel played a vital role in shaping the offer to ensure it is family-friendly, relevant, and easy to use.

2.2.18 The offer is available both digitally and in print and has been widely promoted in Family Hubs, GP surgeries, pharmacies, libraries, and other community spaces. It is also included in Rotherham Baby Packs and the Red Book (Personal Child Health Record).

2.2.19 The universal offer provides essential support for new families, including midwifery, health visiting, mental health services, infant feeding and safe sleep advice, specialist breastfeeding support, safeguarding, and SEND services.

2.2.20 By ensuring parents and carers are aware of the support available, the Start for Life offer empowers families to give their babies the best start in life, improving health and education outcomes and enabling children to thrive.

2.2.21 **Parent Carer Panels:**

A key aim of the programme is to have a Parent and Carer Panel with representation from pregnant women and parents of children under two. The panel has become an integral part of service design and delivery for Family Hubs, playing a central role in shaping the programme, including the development of the Family Hub website and the Start for Life offer.

2.2.22 Engagement with the panel ensures that the voices of parents and carers are at the heart of decision-making and continuous improvement. Representatives attend the Family Hubs Operational Group, providing feedback on key topics and challenge questions to influence meaningful change.

2.2.23 The Parent Carer Panel has strengthened co-production across the programme, ensuring services are responsive, inclusive, and reflective of the needs of local families.

2.3 **Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme 2026-2029:**

2.3.1 In July 2025, in the policy paper ‘Giving every child the best start in life’, the Government set out its intention to strengthen support services for families, and to create ‘Best Start Family Hubs’ across all areas of the country.

2.3.2 Jointly funded by the Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care, the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme will bring together the strongest elements of Sure Start and the Family Hubs and Start for Life approaches to create a more integrated, accessible system of support for families across the country.

2.3.3 To implement this there will be a further three years of funding (2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29), extending to every local authority in England. The extended funding will transform and scale up early-years and whole-family support by embedding the Best Start Family Hubs delivery model, building a network of up to 1,000 hubs nationwide, and continuing to invest in Start for Life services (now known as ‘Healthy Babies Programme’), tackling inequalities, and aligning with the government’s broader early-intervention and child development goals.

2.3.4 On 6th November 2025, Rotherham received a provisional allocation of £5,052,800 for financial years 2026-29 with further guidance due to be released before April 2026 setting out programme expectations for service delivery and principles for effective delivery moving forwards.

2.3.5 This allows the Council to build on the success of the current Family Hubs programme and further expand delivery in 2026 onwards. Learning from the current programme will be used to ensure that future service delivery is meeting the needs of children and families and providing easy to access, integrated, community-based support. A further report will be brought to Cabinet in the summer to confirm proposals for this ongoing programme.

2.4 **Children's Centres:**

2.4.1 As previously stated, Rotherham maintained some of the Children's Centres introduced during the Sure Start programme. These included the six centres which have been absorbed into the Family Hubs programme (Dalton Family and Children's Centre; Dinnington Family and Children's Centre; Ferham Family and Children's Centre; Brookfield Family and Children's Centre; The Place Family and Children's Centre; and Maltby Stepping Stones Family and Children's Centre). In addition, three centres were contracted to deliver Children's Centre Services (Aughton Early Years Centre; the Arnold Centre: and Rawmarsh Children's Centre); in September 2025, these contracts ended and delivery moved from these three buildings and continued in other community venues within the localities.

2.4.2 The Children's Centre model was an initiative under a previous Government, which has been superseded by the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme and model of 0-19 (25 with SEND) Family Hubs. Now that the current Government have confirmed their commitment to this programme, it is timely to reconsider Children's Centre registration alongside the newly named Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme.

2.4.3 Families have told the Council that the dual terminology of both Children's Centres and Family Hubs is confusing. Furthermore, DfE guidance relating to Children's Centres has not been updated since April 2013, making it obsolete. It is therefore recommended that currently registered Children's Centres be deregistered and services be formally rebranded in line with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme.

2.4.4 Rebranding will not impact on service delivery as the function of the buildings will continue under the new name. Support for children 0-5 and their families continues to be an integral part of the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme and rebranding Children's Centres will not reduce provision.

2.4.5 Consistent branding will ensure stable delivery of the programme, aligning Rotherham's approach with that of the Government's Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme, whilst providing clarity for children and their families.

2.4.6 Further guidance from the DfE is expected before April 2026 which will inform the naming convention of buildings. However, based on current guidance, it is anticipated that from April 2026;

- Brookfield Family and Children's Centre will be rebranded Best Start Family Hub – Swinton
- The Place Family and Children's Centre will be rebranded Best Start Family Hub – Clifton
- Maltby Stepping Stones Family and Children's Centre will be rebranded Best Start Family Hub - Maltby

2.4.7 In terms of Family Hubs Network sites (Appendix 1), it is anticipated that from April 2026, Dalton Family and Children's Centre; Dinnington Early Help Centre; Dinnington Family and Children's Centre; Ferham Family and Children's Centre will be rebranded Connect Best Start Family Hubs.

2.4.8 The Family Hubs offer delivered via the voluntary and community sector will retain their organisation name with an identifier that they are part of the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme.

2.4.9 To undertake this work, and ensure children and families are actively involved, a consultation process is required to gather views and inform decision making.

2.4.10 If agreed, notification will be made to the DfE formally confirming this approach. There will not be any implications for the Council given that Children's Centre guidance is no longer up to date. Existing Children's Centre buildings will continue to be used to deliver services to children and families through the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme.

2.4.11 The centres to be deregistered are Dalton Family and Children's Centre; Dinnington Family and Children's Centre; Ferham Family and Children's Centre; Brookfield Family and Children's Centre; The Place Family and Children's Centre; Maltby Stepping Stones Family and Children's Centre; Aughton Early Years Centre; the Arnold Centre; and Rawmarsh Children's Centre.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 In relation to Children's Centres, the report presents an option to consult with children and their families on proposals to deregister the existing Children's Centres, rebranding as Best Start Family Hubs or "Connect" Best Start Family Hubs in line with the DfE guidance to enable the Council to move forward with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme. This will provide clarity and consistency for those accessing services, in line with grant funding and DfE guidance.

3.2 A second option for consideration is to continue with the current arrangement of both Children's Centres and Family Hubs. This approach may result in ongoing confusion for families about where to access services and what support is available. It would not support consistent branding and messaging when working with both families and partners.

3.3 This approach would not align with current DfE guidance for the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme, potentially affecting future funding and partnership opportunities.

3.4 It is recommended that a consultation be undertaken on proposals to deregister the existing Children's Centres, to enable the Council to move forward with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme. The report further recommends that the authority to make decisions on this matter following consultation be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3.5 The report recommends that Cabinet notes the progress made in delivering the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

3.6 It is also recommended that Cabinet notes the future development of the programme, which includes additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees the recommendation for the decision to accept and allocate this funding to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation is embedded into the programme guidance through the requirement for a Parent and Carer Panel, to determine feedback from families accessing services, plus the Infant Feeding survey and other digital surveys.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A management information data report and delivery plan progress update were submitted to the DfE in September 2025, and these are required on a quarterly basis. Follow-up progress interviews take place monthly with the Project lead and DfE.

5.2 To date all Maturity Self-Assessments, delivery plans and management information that have been submitted throughout the life of the programme have been accepted and received positively by DfE.

5.3 The Best Start local plan is expected to be published in April 2026.

5.4 From April 2026 onwards, the implementation of the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme will commence in line with Government guidance.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The table below sets out the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme spending plan for 2025-26 and demonstrates how the funding will have been used to achieve the programme objectives in Rotherham in Year 4 of the programme (2025-26).

	2025/26 Plan (£)
Transformation*	265,671
Parenting Support	223,357
Home Learning Environment	133,796
Perinatal Mental Health & PIR	446,317
Infant Feeding	228,867
Start for Life Offer & Parent Carer Panels	24,092
TOTAL ALLOCATION	**1,322,100**

* Transformation spend includes £81,971 capital expenditure for premises refurbishment and works to facilitate co-location of family hub services.

6.2 The funding is broken down across funded workstreams, with a clear directive to spend in line with the strand allocations by March 2026. The allocations across the strands are dictated by DfE. Spend within each strand includes an allocation for transformation delivery.

6.3 Provisional funding allocations have now been confirmed by the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care for the delivery of Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies from 2026-27 to 2028-29.

6.4 The table below sets out Rotherham's funding allocation across the relevant programme strands for financial years 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29. Further guidance and grant conditions are due to be released before April 2026 setting out programme expectations for service delivery and principles for effective delivery moving forwards. In the meantime, work has commenced to review the existing programme in readiness for the delivery of the new programme from April 2026.

Strand	**%**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	23%	£435,800	£356,300	£365,900
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - capital	5%	£87,200	£88,900	£90,600
Parenting support	17%	£285,900	£289,400	£302,100
Home learning environment support	13%	£215,500	£218,200	£227,800
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	26%	£441,200	£441,200	£441,200
Infant feeding support	14%	£229,100	£229,100	£229,100
Healthy babies offers and parent carer panels	2%	£26,100	£26,100	£26,100
Total Allocation		**£1,720,700**	**£1,649,200**	**£1,682,900**

6.5 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The programme adheres to The Children Act 2004 which strengthens child protection measures and introduced the “Every Child Matters” framework. It is noted that the programme builds on partnership working which adheres to the Working together to safeguard children, statutory guidance 2023 that focuses on strengthening multi-agency work to protect and safeguard children.

7.2 The programme also includes the provision of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities for which, under section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014, the Local Authority must have regard to the views of the child and their parents to enable their participation in decisions and facilitate the development of the child to help him or her achieve the best possible outcomes. In view of the legislation and statutory guidance pertaining to Local Authorities’ duties towards young children and government expectations highlighted in this paper, there are no legal implications in following recommendations at 3.6 set out above endorsing the approach and noting progress around delivery.

7.3 The recommendation at 3.4 is that a consultation be undertaken (in line with the Statutory Guidance) on proposals to deregister the existing Children’s Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme.

7.4 Section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 imposes a statutory duty upon Local Authorities to secure such consultation as they think appropriate before making any significant change to the services provided through a designated Children’s Centre and before anything is done that would result in a designated Children’s Centre ceasing to be a Children’s Centre.

7.5 The DfE will need to be notified of any decision to deregister a Children’s Centre.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Appointments to posts for Family Hubs were made as fixed-term contracts given the grant funding for the 3 years (2022-25). The Government confirmed funding for a further year (2025-26) at short notice and contracts were extended to reflect this.

8.2 Employers from across the partnership will ensure compliance with employment legislation, should roles change or be discontinued.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The current Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme and the new Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme add value to existing provision for children, young people, and families across the Borough.

9.2 To date the programme has created new integrated approaches between the public, voluntary and community sectors and new evidence-based interventions and support for children and families. This will be further developed in the next

phase of the programme.

9.3 All services delivered through Family Hubs must comply with safeguarding legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is designed to be inclusive and accessible, engaging families from diverse communities and socio-economic backgrounds in support.

10.2 Support is delivered on a continuum from universal to targeted, reducing stigma and enabling access to early help, with digital self-serve options available to all and more intensive support for families who need it.

10.3 The programme enhances cross-agency collaboration and promotes co-location of services, making it easier for children and families to access support in a non-stigmatising way. It is focused on narrowing gaps in deprivation and tackling inequalities in health, education, and family outcomes through evidence-based, collaborative interventions that prioritise underrepresented groups.

10.4 While the programme highlights the first 1001 days of a child's life, it also supports children and young people of all ages, including adolescents, through outreach, engagement, and digital resources available in multiple languages, further strengthening its commitment to equality and inclusion.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The extension in 2025-26 and the continued funding through the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies programme sees the continuation of partners benefitting from access to enhanced training, expanded and cohesive pathways, joint approaches, and a better understanding of the shared impact on children and families.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unable to meet the expectations of the programme.	Reputational risk to the Local Authority. Reduced funding, or potential claw back. Reduced opportunities for children and families.	Rotherham has met all expectations of the programme to date. Family Help partners have been developing a strong family help system since 2016, enabling a strong foundation to deliver the programme and meet

		expectations. The Family Help Partnership Group and Family Hubs Operational Group enable rigorous oversight of the key deliverables.
Financial risk of building a financial commitment beyond the life of the programme.	Budget pressures.	Strict financial principles are in place. Decisions are made considering the long term sustainability of the programme and ensuring changes are embedded as business as usual without ongoing costs. Spend is planned across the funding period to maximise benefits.

14. Accountable Officer(s):

Kelly White, Service Director, Family Help
Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service, Family Help

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/03/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/2026
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/03/2026

Report Author: *Kirsty Woodhead – Head of Service, Family Help*
Kirsty.woodhead@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1: Current Family Hubs Buildings and Services

Rotherham Family Hubs

Rotherham has three main Family Hubs across the Borough. These buildings are currently designated Children's Centres; however, delivery has been expanded through the Family Hubs Programme to offer services to families with children aged 0-19 (25 with SEND).

These buildings provide co-location of services such as Early Help, Children's Social Care, 0-19 Public Health Nursing, Midwifery and other agencies delivering Family Hub Services.

The Place Family Hub

Brookfield Family Hub

Maltby Stepping Stones Family Hub

A range of Family Hub services are typically delivered from these buildings, including but not limited to:

- Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups.
- Peep learning together groups.
- Midwife appointments.
- Health visitor and nursery nurse appointments.
- Infant feeding support.
- Breast pump loan scheme.
- Antenatal classes and sessions for expectant parents.
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play, baby massage, sensory sessions.
- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups.
- Groups for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Employment support from DWP Family Community Work Coaches.
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health.

These buildings have someone on reception who has undertaken a Family Hubs induction and can support families coming into the building to access services they might need.

Further guidance from the DfE is expected before April 2026 which will inform the naming convention of buildings. However, it is anticipated that from April 2026 these buildings will be rebranded as Best Start Family Hubs:

- Best Start Family Hub – Clifton
- Best Start Family Hub – Swinton
- Best Start Family Hub - Maltby

Appendix 1: Current Family Hubs Buildings and Services

Family Hub Network – RMBC sites
Rotherham has four buildings, three of which are currently designated Children's Centres, which form part of the Family Hubs Network across the Borough. These buildings may have some co-location of services such as Early Help, Midwifery and other agencies delivering Family Hub Services, however due to their size, this is on a lesser basis than a Family Hub site.
Dalton Family and Children's Centre
Dinnington Early Help Centre
Dinnington Family and Children's Centre
Ferham Family and Children's Centre
A range of Family Hub services are typically delivered from these buildings, including but not limited to: • Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups. • Peep learning together groups. • Midwife appointments. • Infant feeding support. • Connectivity to the breast pump loan scheme. • Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play, baby massage, sensory sessions. • Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups. • Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health. Further guidance from the DfE is expected before April 2026 which will inform the naming convention of buildings. However, it is anticipated that from April 2026 these buildings will be rebranded as Connect Best Start Family Hubs.

Appendix 1: Current Family Hubs Buildings and Services

Family Hub Network – Voluntary Community Sector

To support families to access Family Hubs services within their communities, Rotherham commissions organisations from the VCS to be part of the Family Hub network.

The network is commissioned annually and therefore is subject to change. Currently the following organisations are part of the Family Hub network.

Activate	**Bright Stars Play Space**
CLP (Clifton Learning Partnership)	**Empathy Lab**
Grimm & Co	**JADE**
Kiveton Park and Wales Community Trust Development	**LIGHT Peer Support**
REMA (Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance)	**Rotherham Parent and Carer Forum (RPCF)**
Swinton Lock	**YWCA Yorkshire**

These buildings do not typically have co-location of services but are places where families can access or be connected to some of the Family Hubs services and activities.

The services delivered in these buildings will vary, however services which are typically delivered from these buildings, might include:

- Parenting support, such as parenting groups and discussion groups.
- Peep learning together groups.
- Infant feeding support.
- Groups and activities for children under 5 and their families, for example stay and play sessions.
- Groups for young people such as targeted youth groups.
- Peer support for families affected by perinatal mental health.

Further guidance from the DfE is expected before April 2026 which will inform the naming convention of buildings. However, it is anticipated that from April 2026 these buildings will retain the name of their organisation with an identifier that they are part of the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Programme.

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Appendix 2

Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme

Services for children, young people, and their families

The table below shows the range of services delivered through the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme across the Borough. These services are delivered in Family Hub buildings, within the wider Family Hub network, and through community outreach.

* Services delivered at a RMBC Family Hub building.

** Services delivered in a Family Hub network building.

*** Services delivered in both.

Services delivered via community outreach in other buildings across the borough.

FAMILY HUBS Rotherham	NORTH	SOUTH	CENTRAL
Parenting			
Triple P Teen *	✓	✓	✓
Triple P Stepping Stones *	✓	✓	✓
Triple P Baby ***	✓	✓	✓
Triple P Fear-Less *#	✓	✓	✓
Triple P 0-12 *	✓	✓	✓
Family Links *	✓	✓	✓
Caring Dads Programme *#	✓	✓	✓
Sleep Tight *	✓	✓	✓
Discussion Groups – Developing a Good Bedtime Routine *#	✓	✓	✓
Discussion Group – Developing Teen Survival Skills *#	✓	✓	✓
Discussion Group – Coping with Teen Emotions *#	✓	✓	✓
Discussion Group – Managing Fighting & Aggression *#	✓	✓	✓
Discussion Group – Reducing Family Conflict *#	✓	✓	✓
Mothers Groups **	✓		✓
Teen Life Course *#	✓	✓	✓
First Aid for parents and carers *	✓	✓	✓
Online programmes for parents and carers	✓	✓	✓
Targeted Interventions for Young People			
Healthy Relationships *	✓	✓	✓
Behind the Blade *	✓	✓	✓
Community Cohesion *#	✓	✓	✓
Crime & Consequence *#	✓	✓	✓
Be Share Aware *#	✓	✓	✓
Keep Safe (street-based delivery)	✓	✓	✓
Online programmes for young people	✓	✓	✓
Activities for Young People			
Commissioned Universal Youthwork **	✓	✓	✓
Targeted Youth Groups *#	✓	✓	✓
Detached Street Based Youthwork *	✓	✓	✓

Improving School Readiness			
Stay & Play Sessions (0-5 years) *#	✓	✓	✓
Toddler Groups ***#	✓	✓	✓
Speech & Language Therapy *	✓	✓	✓
Peep (Learning Together Programme) ***#	✓	✓	✓
Sensory Groups ***#	✓	✓	✓
Baby Groups ***#	✓	✓	✓
Infant Feeding			
Introduction to Solid Foods & Weaning *	✓	✓	✓
Breastfeeding Drop-in Sessions Support Group ***#	✓	✓	✓
Breastfeeding and Tongue Tie Assessment *	✓	✓	✓
Infant Feeding Workshop *	✓	✓	✓
Perinatal & Parent Infant Relationships Support			
Light Peer Support Groups ***#	✓	✓	✓
Baby Massage *#	✓	✓	✓
Baby Yoga *	✓	✓	✓
Healthy Child			
Health Assessments *	✓	✓	✓
Well Baby Clinic *	✓	✓	✓
3–4-month visits *	✓	✓	✓
Baby Clinic *	✓	✓	✓
Sensory Parenting Workshops *	✓	✓	✓
Midwifery Appointments *	✓	✓	✓
CAMHS ADHD Medication Clinic (Universal Offer) *			✓
SEND Groups ***#	✓	✓	✓
Immunisations *	✓	✓	✓
Developing Better Oral Health Sessions *	✓	✓	✓
Debt/Employment			
Employment Advice Drop In Sessions *	✓	✓	✓
Family Activities			
Family Fun Days ***#	✓	✓	✓
Community Fairs ***#	✓	✓	✓
Summer/Easter/Spring/Winter Events ***#	✓	✓	✓
School Holiday Activities ***#	✓	✓	✓
Family Photoshoots *	✓	✓	✓
Family Support			
Family Support ***	✓	✓	✓

Appendix 3

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Family Hubs progress update and extension	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	**Service area:** Family Help
Lead person: Kirsty Woodhead	**Contact number:** 01709 822531
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme aims to provide families with the integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years, and into the start of adulthood. All families need support at times and our ambition is for every family to receive the right support, at the right time, in an easy way. The cabinet report recommends that Cabinet notes the update and progress made in the delivery of the Family Hubs programme over the last year; approves a consultation on proposals to deregister the existing Children's Centres to enable the Council to move forward with the Family Hubs programme and for the decision, based on the consultation, to be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People; approves, in line with government requirements and ensuring consistency for families, that the current Family Hubs

buildings including Children's Centres be renamed Best Start Family Hubs; and notes the future of the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model and agrees that the decision to accept and allocate this funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

The Family Hubs Programme is highly relevant to equality and diversity and is expected to have significant positive impacts, especially for families experiencing disadvantage or barriers to accessing support. Implementation must remain attentive to accessibility, representation, and cultural competence to ensure equitable outcomes for all communities.

Considering equality and diversity, the programme is particularly relevant to supporting certain protected characteristics groups:

Age: Family Hubs directly benefit children, young people, parents, and carers. Services are designed to support early childhood development and improve outcomes for teenagers and young adults.

Disability: Family Hubs will offer accessible environments, including physical accessibility, communication support, and neurodiversity-aware practices. Digital access routes will incorporate accessibility features.

Gender / Sex: Female carers, who statistically shoulder most primary caregiving responsibilities, may benefit from improved support pathways. Services for fathers and male carers will be intentionally promoted to avoid exclusion.

Pregnancy and Maternity: Maternity and perinatal support pathways within the programme are a core feature of delivery.

Race / Ethnicity: The programme seeks to address racial disparities in early childhood outcomes. Engagement approaches will include culturally responsive practice, interpretation support, and tailored outreach.

Religion or Belief: Services will respect and accommodate faith-based needs, including dietary, cultural, and scheduling considerations.

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity: Support services will be inclusive of LGBTQ+ families and young people. Staff will be trained to provide non-judgemental, identity-affirming support.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	

Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	x	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**
If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

How have you considered equality and diversity?
Equality and diversity have been central to the development and delivery of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, which is in its fourth delivery year. The programme is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all families, with particular attention given to those who may face barriers to engagement, such as families from minority ethnic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Through parental engagement opportunities and forums, services are co-produced with parents and carers to ensure they reflect the diverse needs of the community, and staff are trained in cultural competence and inclusive practice. Targeted outreach, translation services, and flexible delivery models help ensure that no family is left behind, and ongoing monitoring ensures that the programme continues to promote equity in outcomes for children and families.

The following considerations will be made when planning the recommended consultation:

- Representation and inclusive engagement to ensure we reach parents and carers from a range of backgrounds and with protected characteristics.
- Accessibility.
- Cultural competence and sensitivity.
- Understanding and addressing barriers to participation.
- Confidentiality, safety, and trauma-informed practice.
- Flexible consultation methods to support engagement.

Key findings

Rotherham's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme provides support to children and families across Rotherham, including some of the most vulnerable children and families.

Key findings from the assessment indicate that the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme is well-positioned to promote equity and inclusion across a diverse range of families. The programme has identified specific groups—such as families from ethnic minority backgrounds, those with disabilities, and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage—as potentially facing barriers to accessing services.

Targeted strategies, including culturally competent service delivery, accessible communication formats, and co-production with parents and carers, have been embedded to address these challenges. The assessment also highlighted the importance of engaging fathers and non-birthing partners, ensuring services are inclusive of all family structures.

Ongoing monitoring and feedback mechanisms are in place to evaluate the programme's impact and ensure continuous improvement in reaching and supporting all communities equitably.

Actions

Further Equality Impact Analysis will be completed as required as part of the delivery of the programme.

Continued work will take place across the Family Hubs Partnership to ensure that services delivered to children and families are inclusive and meet their individual needs.

Service design and delivery will be informed by robust data and engagement with children, young people, parents, carers and families.

VCS organisations will continue to play a vital part of the Family Hubs network, ensuring children and families receive community based services in places, and by people with whom they have trusted relationships.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	19th January 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	19th January 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service Family Help

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	19th January 2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	19th January 2026
Report title and date	Family Hubs progress update and extension
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	16/03/2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16/01/2026

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Appendix 4

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Family Hubs progress update and extension	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): January 2026	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area: Early Help**
Lead Manager: **Kelly White: Interim Assistant Director, Early Help**	**Contact number:** 01709 822531
Is this a: ☐ **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)**
Kelly White	RMBC	Assistant Director, Family Help
Kirsty Woodhead	RMBC	Head of Service, Family Help
Amanda Needham	RMBC	Service Manager, Family Help

3. What is already known?

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme aims to provide families with the integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years, and into the start of adulthood. All families need support at times and our ambition is for every family to receive the right support, at the right time, in an easy way. The programme will ensure that families can access services which are local to them, helping to identify and respond to issues before they develop into more complex problems. The report has been written to update Cabinet on the progress made in the delivery of the original three-year Family Hubs programme and to note the extension to the programme with additional grant funding to embed the model.

Equality and diversity have been central to the development and delivery of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, which is in its fourth delivery year. The programme is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all families, with particular attention given to those who may face barriers to engagement, such as families from minority ethnic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Through parental engagement opportunities and forums, services are co-produced with parents and carers to ensure they reflect the diverse needs of the community, and staff are trained in cultural competence and inclusive practice. Targeted outreach, translation services, and flexible delivery models help ensure that no family is left behind, and ongoing monitoring ensures that the programme continues to promote equity in outcomes for children and families.

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

Quality information is already captured and used to shape priorities and deliver existing services across the Local Authority, and partners.

Equality information is available through the following sources:

- Performance Practice and Learning
- CYPS performance reporting – Scorecards and Dashboards (Insight)
- Audit and QA activity
- DfE reporting
- Department for Health & Social Care
- Ofsted

Rotherham is a large minster town in South Yorkshire, England which along with its nearby settlements form the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, with a population of 265,800 (ONS, 2021).

There are 61,600 0-19 year old children living in the Borough (23.1% of the local population – ONS, 2021). 122 Schools provide education to 45676 Pupils on Roll.

26% of children living in Rotherham are in low-income families (England 19% - 2021). Our Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement rate is above national average, 21.8% compared to 20.2% at Primary phase and 20.7% compared to 18.2% at Secondary phase (DfE 2020/21).

Rotherham is a relatively deprived local authority, ranking 44th of 317 local authorities according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation score (a slight relative increase from 52nd in 2017). Deprivation is linked to a wide variety of poor health and educational outcomes for children. As such, Rotherham often fares significantly worse than the national average when considering markers of ‘good health’ throughout this document. Comparisons have also been made with statistical ‘nearest neighbours’ to compare how well Rotherham is doing relatively to similar local authorities.

20.1% of our school age population is from BME background (England 36.1%) (DfE 2021/22).

- The population of Rotherham is 265,800 (Census data, 2021)
- There are 125 schools in Rotherham
- The percentage of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals is 11,621 — or 68% (Data as of July 2022)

- Rotherham ranks as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 upper-tier local authorities (Index of multiple deprivation 2019 by LSOA)
- The prevalence of children in reception class who were at a healthy weight was 73.6% (2,275 children in total), in comparison to the national figure of 76.5% (National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data from 2021 to 2022)
- At the end of March 2023, 89% of children aged 0-5-years-old were registered with a Children's Centre and of those living in the 30% most deprived areas of Rotherham, 92% were registered. During the same period, the proportion of children aged 0-5-years-old who had accessed Children's centre activities was 73% overall and 78% for those children living in the 30% most deprived communities.
- In Rotherham there are 21.9% of children aged 0-15 years in absolute low-income families and 25.7% of children in relative low-income families, for comparison, the percentage rate for England is 15.1% and 18.7% respectively. The number of Children aged under 16, living in relative low-income families, financial year ending 2021 was 13,193 (Index of multiple deprivation 2019 by LSOA)
- 20.4% of pupils in Rotherham (9,325) have identified SEND needs compared to 17.1% nationally (Spring School Census 2023)
- 3,192 Children and young people aged 0-25 yrs have a EHCP (44% increase in EHCP over last 3 years) (EHCP data July 2023)
- As of 31 December 2023, we had 505 children in care, 382 were in family-based placements.
- There are currently 323 care leavers in Rotherham (As of November 2023)

Recruitment to staff roles considers the need for the workforce to reflect the communities in which they work.

Information regarding protected characteristics is captured in the Family Assessment of Need and informs the Plan that is coproduced with the family members.

Translation services are utilised as a range of bespoke provision is in place including specific targeted support groups for LGBT young people, BAME young people, Girls and young women, faith-based groups and provision, support for Ukraine and Afghanistan families and young people with autism.

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

Not that we're aware of, we have rich cross organisational data available however we will continue to develop our reporting mechanisms as part of the Family Hubs delivery plan to ensure diversity and equality remains a key consideration.

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

A range of approaches will be used to ensure that children, young people and families play a key part in design and implementation of family hubs delivery and that their individual needs and protected characteristics are considered.

Existing data and established methodology across the children's workforce will continue to be used to monitor impact on those groups with protected characteristics.

The Family Hub and Start for Life Programme has established a Parent Carer Panel who are engaged on a regular basis to support the design and implementation of the programme.

- Continue engagement with the Early Help Partnership Group.
- Continue engagement with the Family Hubs Operational Group.
- Continue to ensure that consultation and engagement with service users is embedded in service design and implementation.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Monthly engagement with Family Hubs Parent and Carer Panel. Six weekly engagement with Family Feedback Forum. Family Hubs surveys to parents and carers registered.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	The Early Help Partnership Group and Family Hubs Operational Groups are multi-agency forums informing the delivery of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.

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 Family Hubs Programme covers a wide range of need and includes working directly with different communities and groups. However, some need is universal and not unique to protected characteristics (e.g., parenting). Design and delivery of the Family Hubs Programme will support services to take account of cultural differences and strengths, and the unique circumstances of some young people and families in Rotherham.

The Family Assessment of Need process and Signs of Safety (SoS) model ensure an assessment and case planning format that integrates professional knowledge with local family and cultural knowledge, to identify and implement interventions that will benefit children, young people and families avoiding the need for further costly interventions. Early indications of its use with Early Help families are positive.

The impact of changes across the protected characteristics groups that Early Help works with is detailed below and is most likely to be initially experienced in the form of less frequent interventions or different models of engagement.

As the service moves towards more evidenced based, outcome focussed, and targeted forms of delivery, those individuals from protected groups are likely to experience a more enhanced service. It is of particular importance that the service is agile enough and has tools that are flexible to respond to future need and changing demographics such as the population becoming more culturally diverse. As well as responding to need as illustrated in the snapshot, the Strategy also takes account of the fact that those most likely to require help and support are located in areas of multiple deprivation.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? Locality and community based services support the engagement of children, families and communities and particular focus has been given to expanding delivery of the Family Hubs network with colleagues from within the voluntary and community sector who has long standing and established relationships of trust within communities, including some of our most diverse communities across Rotherham.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Early Help services are not delivered in isolation and the Early Help Strategy 2024-2029 emphasises the importance of developing the Early Help System, the Early Help Offer and the Early Help Workforce. The strategy and the Family Hubs delivery plan supports the commitment to continue to deliver early / family help services it is not envisaged that the service will present any barriers to communities and groups.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? The Family Hubs Programme will ensure that the service continues to work with the specific specified groups identified through the Protected Characteristics and does not differentiate between different groups, offering services which are accessible to all.

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: Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme
Directorate and service area: CYPS, Early Help
Lead Manager: Kirsty Woodhead, Head of Service, Family Help
Summary of findings:
The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme will ensure that services continue to work with the specific specified groups identified through the Protected Characteristics. Anticipated Impact will be low.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)

***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**
Nicola Curley Kelly White Cllr Cusworth	Executive Director Children's Services Service Director, Family Help Cabinet Member	16/01/26 16/01/26 16/01/26

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	16th January 2026
Report title and date	Family Hubs progress update and extension
Date report sent for publication	02/03/2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16th January 2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	Higher levels of co-location and delivery in Family Hubs buildings across the network will mean a greater usage of utilities and IT and will result in increased emissions from non-domestic buildings.		Co-location of partners across the network will result consolidation of services into fewer, more energy-efficient hubs, reducing overall emissions.	Greenhouse gas emission from non-domestic buildings in the Council's energy procurement portfolio are monitored and reported in NZ30 carbon accounts.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Extension of the health visitor scheme to include an additional 3-4 month visit is likely to increase emissions. Similarly the inclusion of events programme around breastfeeding etc is likely to increase this further.	Delivering locality-based services means that children and families access support within their communities. This reduces travel (by children and families and locality based staff) and may result in lower emissions than centrally based services. Delivery of online and digital interventions included in the programme will result in reduced travel-related emissions.	Sites are located within communities and accessible of public transport to support access for families and mitigate emission impacts.	

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Expansion of services and continued staffing provision is likely to slightly increase the amount of waste produced.			The Council's waste emissions are monitored annually.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

It is not possible to properly assess the carbon implications of this scheme with the information available as there are several elements which could have positive impacts on carbon emissions, for example the localisation of services reducing need for resident transport and a number which may increase. It's likely that any overall impacts are therefore negligible.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

A better start in life is likely to improve the resilience of future communities by improving overall levels of physical and mental health. More resilient communities are likely to be less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and as such this scheme is likely to improve the adaptive capacity of the communities throughout Rotherham.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme aims to provide families with the integrated support they need to care for their children from conception, throughout the early years, and into the start of adulthood. All families need support at times and our ambition is for every family to receive the right support, at the right time, in an easy way. The programme will ensure that families can access services which are local to them, helping to identify and respond to issues before they develop into more complex problems. The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme involves the development and enhancement of physical spaces, service delivery models, and workforce practices. This assessment considers the potential carbon impacts associated with the implementation of the programme in Rotherham.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Kirsty Woodhead Head of Service, Family Help Family Help Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 553 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Domestic Abuse Strategy

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Kayley Charlton – Community Safety Officer
Kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

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

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

In line with statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Council must ensure a Domestic Abuse Strategy is in place. The refreshed Strategy has been developed through consultation with the local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) which reports to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP).

Importantly, the refreshed Strategy will also incorporate the partnership's vision and commitment to addressing Sexual Offences and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**.**

In addition, future commissioning activity, including the Domestic Abuse Support Outreach Service, will be aligned with the revised strategic aims to ensure continuity and effectiveness in service provision. The current commissioned services have worked to align with the aims of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 – 2027, with provider organisations playing an active role in the DSAPG.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 (attached at Appendix 1.)

2. Note that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and the Improving Lives Select Committee.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy Refresh
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment Part A
Appendix 3 Equality Analysis Part B
Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Previous Cabinet Report January 2021
Report Template For Cabinet & Commissioner
Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Violence Against Women and Girls - Statement of Intent

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Improving Lives Select Commission – 29 January 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Domestic Abuse Strategy

1. Background

1.1 The Current Strategy

1.1.1 The current Domestic Abuse Strategy for Rotherham (2022–2027) was designed following a robust consultation process. The Strategy is the primary driver of partnership and service delivery, setting the overarching direction and priorities across all key partners. All services, whether commissioned or non-commissioned, are delivered in alignment with the Strategy and agreed priorities and this is monitored and progressed through the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group.

1.1.2 The Strategy outlined six key priority areas, each accompanied by targeted activities that formed the basis of an action plan. These priorities guided the Safer Rotherham Partnership's coordinated efforts and ensured a focused approach to tackling domestic abuse across the Borough.

1.2 Current Strategic Achievements

1.2.1 A comprehensive and robust action plan was developed to drive the delivery of the Strategy's aims and objectives. This plan served as a critical mechanism for translating strategic intent into tangible outcomes, ensuring accountability and maintaining momentum across the partnership.

1.2.2 The domestic abuse action plan set out 35 actions and targeted activities against each key priority, with 81% of these now complete and / or embedded into service practice and 9% scheduled for inclusion in the refreshed Strategy. Outcomes have been measured through performance data from statutory and commissioned services, showing increased victim / survivor engagement and reporting, alongside qualitative evidence gathered from survivor feedback and case studies.

1.3 Drive Change Together

1.3.1 This priority focuses on providing seamless services for victims, strengthening governance processes and improving the way that the partnership works together.

1.3.2 Improved Risk Assessment Tools

The South Yorkshire-wide Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment – Honour Based Abuse (DASH-HBA) Risk Assessment form was revised to enhance clarity, usability, and effectiveness, taking on board user feedback to capture a better understanding of risk.

1.3.3 Specialist Training

The “8 Steps to Homicide” programme was commissioned to strengthen practitioners’ understanding of domestic abuse risk. Additionally, over 500 healthcare professionals received targeted training on non-fatal strangulation and domestic abuse awareness.

1.3.4 Data-Driven Campaigns

Enhanced data collection has informed more targeted and strategic initiatives such as the domestic abuse summer campaign and the older people’s domestic abuse campaign, which was aimed at challenging stereotypes and improving service reach. Resources from Adult Social Care and Public Health were pooled together to ensure the right messages were clear, appropriate and reachable for the older generation. The campaign messages were developed with local communities such as the Rotherham Older People’s Forum. As a result, there has been a 3% increase in older victims accessing support.

1.3.5 Further to this, grass roots work has been completed within the nighttime economy and South Yorkshire Police’s ‘GRIP’ team with security staff receiving domestic abuse awareness presentations on spotting the signs of domestic abuse and ensuing all staff are aware of specific campaigns and protocols such as ‘Ask for Angela’.

1.3.6 Improved Multi Agency working

A full review of all frontline domestic abuse safeguarding meetings such as multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC), multiagency daily domestic abuse meeting (MADA) and multi-agency task and coordination meeting (MATAC) has been completed. These meetings are critical in safeguarding individuals and children while holding perpetrators accountable. As a direct outcome of the review, MARAC meetings have increased from two per month to three per month. This change has significantly reduced the waiting time for case discussions from seven weeks to two weeks, meeting the national domestic abuse charity Safe Lives recommendation and ensuring timely risk management and victim support.

1.4 **Prevention and Early Intervention**

1.4.1 This priority aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, which is not only about stopping domestic abuse but also preventing the escalation of abuse.

1.4.2 Public Engagement Campaigns

Work to support the government’s ambition to halve violence against women and girls (VAWG) within the next decade has included the “No More and Do More” campaign, which encourages local men and boys to challenge abusive behaviours and promote respectful attitudes. This focus is vital given the

scale of the issue locally, with 3,087 repeat VAWG perpetrators recorded on police systems between 2022 and 2025.

1.4.3 Digital Safety Innovation

The Safer Spaces Improvement Group, involving key partners including Rotherham Women's Network and local policing teams, is exploring digital solutions to enhance community safety and prevent abuse.

1.4.4 Workforce Development

A structured Domestic Abuse Training Plan was launched, featuring modules such as "Asking the Question" and "Risk Assessing," to support consistent, informed practice.

1.4.5 Cultural Narrative Workshop

In partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, a workshop for front line professionals was delivered to challenge traditional victim narratives, reframing vulnerability as resilience and promoting inclusive approaches to early intervention.

1.5 **Justice and Ongoing Protection**

1.5.1 This priority focusses on the provision of effective, engaged, supportive, responsive, and timely protection and justice.

1.5.2 Probation Programme – Building Choices

A cognitive behavioural programme has been established for men convicted of intimate partner violence, focusing on accountability and long-term behaviour change to reduce reoffending and improve victim outcomes.

1.5.3 Cranstoun: Inspire to Change

Commissioned in Rotherham, the Cranstoun 'Inspire to Change' programme is a nationally established intervention for non-convicted individuals who acknowledge abusive behaviour and seek change. 87 participants were able to be tracked after the completion of the programme and, of those, 73% showed reduced incidents of further abuse, with Rotherham demonstrating strong engagement and low repeat incident rates.

1.5.4 Strengthening Multi-Agency Response

Increased MARAC meeting frequency has reduced case backlogs from nine to three weeks, improving safeguarding outcomes. A review of the Police led MATAC has led to the development of a police RAPID response model to be embedded in the next Strategy.

1.6 **Responding to Changing Need and Demand**

1.6.1 This priority focuses on working together to plan, deliver and commission appropriate services to meet needs. The SRP is committed to co-production methods for reform and innovation.

1.6.2 Domestic Abuse Pathway

A single victim / survivor domestic abuse pathway was developed and commissioned which has ensured early identification of support needs and throughput directly to required intervention and support. This has involved the inclusion of the Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Team to tackle complexities and specialist housing officers to prioritise support for those who are homeless.

1.6.3 Hopian –– Victim Needs Assessment Tool

A self-assessment tool has been developed by Hopian, the Council's commissioned Domestic Abuse support service, to support victims in identifying and prioritising their own support needs. This approach facilitates more personalised, trauma-informed interventions that are responsive to individual circumstances. By enabling victims to articulate what matters most to them, the tool ensures timely access to appropriate services, enhancing both engagement and outcomes.

1.6.4 Enhanced Access to Support

The commissioned Domestic Abuse Outreach Service provides a multi-channel support offer, including an online helpline and real-time webchat service, delivering confidential and accessible support to victims. These digital platforms complement face-to-face and telephone-based interventions, ensuring individuals can engage with services in a way that suits their circumstances and preferences. This flexible approach enhances reach, reduces barriers to disclosure, and enables timely, trauma-informed responses tailored to individual needs.

1.6.5 Assertive Outreach Team

A dedicated Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Team has been embedded within local service provision, offering tailored, trauma-informed support to individuals experiencing multiple and complex needs, including mental health challenges, substance misuse, and housing instability. This proactive model of engagement ensures consistent contact with victims / survivors who may struggle to access traditional services, fostering trust and improving long-term outcomes through sustained, personalised interventions.

1.6.6 Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Officers

Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Officers provide targeted support to victims / survivors of domestic abuse who have become homeless as a result of their experiences. While victims / survivors are in temporary

accommodation, these officers provide advocacy, emotional support, and coordinated access to wider services including housing, health, mental wellbeing, and financial assistance. This holistic approach not only promotes recovery and stability but also plays a critical role in preventing repeat homelessness and supporting long-term safety and independence.

1.7 Minimising Harm through Early Help for Children and Families

1.7.1 This priority seeks to minimise harm, providing positive outcomes, and promoting equality of access for all victims / survivors of domestic abuse, recognising and reducing barriers to reporting.

1.7.2 Support for Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Rotherham has developed a responsive support offer for children. This includes statutory Early Help services and the commissioned domestic abuse support service Hopian, with their therapeutic interventions and Children's-specific Independent Domestic Violence and Abuse Advocates (IDVAs), which are funded from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

1.7.3 Refuge provision includes support for children with specific play facilities for all ages. These aim to build resilience, promote recovery, and ensure children feel safe and supported. This is evidenced by case studies and victim / survivor feedback.

1.7.4 Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass provides schools with a next-day notification when a domestic abuse incident has occurred in a child's home. This enables school staff to offer timely, discreet monitoring and support, ensuring that children have a safe space and appropriate emotional assistance during the school day.

Rotherham leads the implementation of Operation Encompass across South Yorkshire**,** with 100% of schools and 53 nurseries enrolled. This comprehensive coverage ensures that children affected by domestic abuse consistently receive early intervention rather than waiting until concerns escalate to formal child protection processes.

As a result, schools are now able to identify needs earlier, provide immediate pastoral support, and help stabilise the child's wellbeing and learning environment following an incident.

1.7.5 Cranstoun: Level Up Programme

Level Up programme is a commissioned 12-week school-based intervention for young people aged 11–15 displaying abusive behaviours. Of 109 referrals, 35 completed the programme, supporting early behaviour change and healthier relationships.

1.8 **Providing Safe Accommodation and Appropriate Support**

1.8.1 This priority aims to ensure that every victim of domestic abuse that presents as homeless to RMBC is provided with safe, supported secure accommodation.

1.8.2 All data referenced throughout the Strategy is drawn from the period April 2022 to March 2025, ensuring that the analysis, performance measures, and outcomes presented are based on a consistent and comprehensive three-year dataset.

1.8.3 Refuge and Safer Options Housing

Rotherham's Domestic Abuse Refuge has been re-commissioned. This offers ten Refuge units and ten additional off-site Safer Options Properties available for all family types and sizes, including male victims and survivors. This service has supported 474 individuals, offering secure accommodation and tailored support to aid recovery and long-term wellbeing.

1.8.4 Specialist Accommodation

The Council offers 13 fully furnished domestic abuse temporary accommodation properties with enhanced security, supporting over 200 adults and children made homeless due to Domestic Abuse. These spaces are environmentally designed to make people who have experienced trauma feel safe, respected, and in control, providing safety and stability for those fleeing abuse with targeted support offered by the Domestic Abuse Housing Officers.

1.8.5 Homelessness Prevention Fund

Financial support has been provided to 489 individuals, covering essential costs such as rent arrears, moving expenses, and household items helping prevent homelessness, remove barriers to moving on and promote housing stability.

1.8.6 Security strengthening and Sanctuary Scheme

Security measures have been implemented in 433 homes, enabling survivors to remain safely in their own properties. These interventions support empowerment, reduce displacement, and maintain access to local networks.

1.9 **Commissioning Background**

1.9.1 In October 2022 the Council implemented a new single pathway for domestic abuse support. The charity Hopian (formerly Rotherham Rise) provides the main domestic abuse outreach offer for Rotherham victims and survivors, following a competitive procurement process. This includes the one front door to domestic abuse support, a helpline and web-based help as well as one to

one and therapeutic support. This service has been key to the delivery of responding to changing need and demand. The current contract ends 30 September 2026 with the option to extend up to one year.

1.9.2 Other commissioned services supporting the domestic abuse pathway include the Cranstoun Inspire to Change Perpetrator Programme, a jointly commissioned initiative involving all South Yorkshire local authorities and SYMCA. This programme plays a critical role in addressing perpetrator behaviour and promoting long-term safety for victims. The current contract is due to end on 31st March 2026, and Cranstoun have secured the new contract to continue delivery from 1st April 2026**.**

1.9.3 Additionally, the security strengthening (sanctuary) scheme, delivered by SheffLOCK, provides essential security equipment such as ring doorbells, upgraded locks, and window alarms to help victims feel safe and remain in their own homes. This contract is also scheduled to conclude on 31st March 2026 and is currently progressing through the procurement process to ensure continuity of service.

2. Key Issues

2.1 <u>Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy (2026/27 – 2028/29)</u>

2.1.1 One of the Council's priorities is for every neighbourhood to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people can work together to achieve a good quality of life. This revised Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy builds on the successes of the previous domestic abuse strategy. The Strategy will now incorporate sexual offences and violence against women and girls (VAWG), ensuring these cross-cutting issues remain a strategic priority. Importantly the Strategy also continues to recognise the intersectional nature of domestic abuse, which extends beyond intimate relationships and includes child-to-parent abuse, honour-based abuse, and abuse of adults.

2.1.2 Adding sexual offences and violence against women and girls (VAWG) into this Strategy brings several important benefits, both in terms of service delivery and strategic impact such as:

- **Holistic understanding of abuse** - domestic abuse often overlaps with sexual abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. Including these elements ensures the Strategy reflects the full spectrum of harm experienced by victims.

- **Improved victim support** - Victims of sexual abuse and VAWG may have different needs (e.g. trauma-informed care, forensic services, specialist advocacy). However, a joined-up strategy ensures better coordination between services like police, health, housing, and specialist support providers.

- **Enhanced prevention and early intervention** - It allows for targeted education and awareness campaigns that challenge societal norms and

promote healthy relationships across all 3 priority areas with a shared focus on young people and marginalised communities.

- **Better data and intelligence** - Integrating sexual abuse and VAWG improves data collection and analysis, helping identify trends, gaps, and high-risk groups.

- **Stronger Multi-Agency Collaboration** - Encourages joined-up working across police, health, education, social care, and third-sector organisations driving all priorities thorough the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority group (DSAPG)

- **VAWG Statement of Intent** – The Council has signed up to the violence against women and girls statement of intent; embedding this into the revised Strategy will help to bring structure and monitoring arrangements around this.

- **Duty to Collaborate** - The duty to collaborate under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 will require local policing bodies, local authorities and Integrated Care Boards to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. Duty holders must also develop a joint needs assessment and local strategy which demonstrates how they will collaborate to deliver and improve relevant victim support services. The timelines for consultation pursuant to the statutory guidance underpinning the Duty to Collaborate will be updated subject to decisions on departmental spending allocations. We expect to consult in accordance with the statutory guidance in due course. Expanding the Domestic Abuse Strategy to include sexual abuse and VAWG will put the partnership in a strong position with regards the duty to collaborate.

2.1.3 Informed by national and local data, needs analysis, partnership consultation, and the voices and experiences of victims / survivors (as detailed in Section 4), the revised Strategy aims to address service gaps and embed new learning. Following feedback from the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group, the Strategy now aims to avoid overlap and focuses on four streamlined key priority areas as outlined below.

2.2 **Proposed Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2029**

2.2.1 Being responsive to feedback from partners and stakeholders, the strategic priorities have been streamlined from six to four by combining some overlapping areas, reducing duplication within the underpinning aims and enhancing clarity and focus.

2.2.2 Fewer priorities also reflect evolving practice as many actions from the 2022–2027 Strategy are now routine practice. This aims to enhance monitoring and accountability with fewer, broader priorities which allow for more cohesive action planning and clearer performance indicators. This holistic approach also combines related areas (e.g. support and accommodation) to reflect how some services are delivering in practice.

2.2.3

1. Prevention, Early Intervention, and Minimising Harm
This priority focuses on preventing domestic abuse before it starts and intervening early to stop escalation. It includes providing early help and support for children and families, promoting equality of access, and reducing barriers to reporting. The aim is to minimise harm and deliver positive outcomes for all survivors.
2. Seamless Support and Safe Accommodation
This priority ensures victims receive timely, coordinated, and effective support. It includes the provision of safe, secure accommodation for those presenting as homeless due to domestic abuse and embedding support services into everyday practice. The goal is to make support accessible, responsive, and part of routine service delivery.
3. Justice, Protection, and Accountability
This priority focuses on delivering justice and ongoing protection through responsive, and timely interventions. It also strengthens governance and accountability across the partnership, ensuring that partnerships work effectively together to safeguard victims and hold perpetrators to account.
4. Adapting to Changing Needs and Demands
This priority ensures services remain relevant and responsive to evolving needs and demands. It promotes coproduction in service planning and commissioning, enabling the partnership to adapt quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. Adaptation is measured through continuous review of performance data, feedback from service users and practitioners, and regular needs assessments, allowing the partnership to monitor shifts in demand, identify gaps, and make evidence-based improvements to service delivery.

2.2.4 Underpinning these four priorities is a set of aims which will continue to support a focused robust action plan. The priorities and aims have also been informed by wider cross-cutting work where domestic abuse is prevalent, including the Homelessness Prevention Strategy, Housing Strategy, and both Adult and Children's Safeguarding Strategies.

2.2.5 Sexual abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) actions will also be embedded within the Strategy's priority area actions. This ensures that emerging issues, survivor insights, and evolving evidence related to sexual abuse and VAWG are continuously reviewed, prioritised, and addressed through a coordinated and responsive partnership approach.

2.3 **The Delivery**

2.3.1 The delivery of the Strategy will continue to follow the established approach from previous years. Oversight will be provided by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group through scheduled quarterly meetings, with clear governance and escalation pathways to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

2.4 **Strategy**

2.4.1 This Strategy has been developed by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group, on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership**.**

2.4.2 In its preparation, the Council engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including professionals from community safety, domestic abuse services, voluntary and community sector organisations, South Yorkshire Police, and NHS Trusts. These partners contributed to revising strategic priorities, highlighting service gaps, and proposing solutions to strengthen the local response. Crucially, the voices of victims and survivors were central to this process through the completion of surveys and consultation groups, helping to shape the Strategy around the issues that matter most to them. The purpose of this Strategy is to clearly identify areas for improvement and guide collective action. Effective partnership working remains key to success, and this Strategy will serve as a driving force for enhancing services related to domestic and sexual abuse**,** as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG)**.**

2.5 **Performance**

2.5.1 Periodic progress updates will be provided to both the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group, ensuring that delivery of the Strategy is consistently monitored and scrutinised. The partnership will continue to identify and review suitable performance indicators for each strategic aim, with regular reporting enabling partners to track progress, respond to emerging issues, and ensure accountability. Alongside this performance monitoring, the partnership will actively identify and manage any risks that may impact delivery, ensuring the Strategy remains on track and responsive to local need.

2.6 **Action plan**

2.6.1 A robust action plan will be developed to support this Strategy. The action plan will be driven by the aims and objectives contained within this Strategy and will identify specific actions needed in order to support each aim and deliver success.

2.7 **Promotion**

2.7.1 The promotion and implementation of the Strategy will include, awareness raising through events, promotional materials, social media and training.

2.8 **Domestic Abuse Commissioned Services**

2.8.1 Overall, there is a variety of provision supporting victims / survivors of domestic abuse across Rotherham and whilst the Council has implemented a one front door approach, the landscape of both commissioned and non-commissioned support and practical services available remains complex.

2.8.2 Across Rotherham, and within the national picture, there are varying arrangements for the delivery and commissioning of domestic abuse services including services delivered in-house by local authorities, services commissioned out by local authorities, services commissioned by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority or specialist domestic abuse charities, that may rely on different funding streams.

2.8.3 The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) brings together key partners across all service provision to ensure cohesive working, underpinned by the Domestic and Sexual Offences Strategy and delivered through the partnership action plan.

2.8.4 Contract management data has shown a continued high demand for services. Both the commissioned and the Council's in-house services have achieved positive outcomes for people accessing them. Many people exiting the services have either a reduced or maintained level of risk. The revised Strategy will underpin any future commissioned provision or shaping of future services.

2.8.5 The local and national picture has shown an increase in demand for services. The Council has developed provision to meet relevant legislative requirements; however, demand will continue to be closely monitored through the DSAPG.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option one – recommended

3.1.1 That Cabinet endorses the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29, noting that regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and Improving Lives Select Committee.

3.1.2 The refreshed Strategy will now include sexual offences and violence against women and girls. This allows a streamlined approach to cross cutting issues and allows the Council and the Safer Rotherham Partnership to drive change in a joined-up way, as well as meeting statutory requirements.

3.1.3 The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group will produce a robust action plan to ensure the aims within the Strategy are achieved, with oversight from the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

3.2 Option two – not recommended

3.2.1 The current Strategy runs until 2027 and therefore the Council will continue to be compliant with its statutory duty until 2027. The Council could choose to retain the existing Strategy until then. This option was discounted for the following reasons:

3.2.2 The refresh of this Strategy is a statutory requirement. The identified priority areas have been co-produced through consultation and learning from service users, members of the public, and stakeholders across the partnership.

3.2.3 Many of the action plan aims of the current Strategy have been implemented and therefore a delay to strategy review does not allow for the development of new aims or actions and therefore delaying development and innovation.

3.2.4 The feedback from stakeholders, service users and the wider public has shown that whilst the priority areas are largely unchanged, the aims within each priority have shifted.

3.2.5 A strategy review in 2027 may not allow for the early inclusion of sexual abuse or violence against women and girls and could result in a missed opportunity to develop the offer in these areas.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Needs assessment

4.1.1 A comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several areas requiring a more targeted approach.
These include:

- Establishing a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

- Embedding the voices of those with lived experience and survivors throughout the Strategy's development and implementation.

- Ensuring appropriate support is available for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including active engagement with 'by and for' organisations.

- Maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for those affected.

4.2 Service User Consultation

4.2.1 Hopian (formerly Rotherham Rise) domestic abuse support service users participated in a face-to-face forum where key thematic questions were explored through open and honest dialogue; this was followed up with a questionnaire for those unable to attend.

4.2.2 In addition, service users from the Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service (DAAOS) and the Domestic Abuse Housing Officer service were invited to respond to the same set of questions via a structured survey. Given the complexity of their circumstances, professionals determined that a survey format would be the most effective method for capturing meaningful feedback.

4.2.3 Snapshot of questions and some of the responses:

How was the accessibility of support?	*"Rotherham rise is known to quite a few people but not all. I think it needs to get out there a lot more than it is. I found Rotherham rise By Via Google Search. A lot of people out there probably know nothing about the help and support available to themselves."* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"Accommodation issues, I am still living with the alleged perpetrator and cannot bid for properties due to my rent areas. It's affecting my mental health. I feel lonely. I cannot invite people"* ***(DAAOS service user)***
What support do you require most when in crisis / leaving the abusive relationship?	*"Crisis helpline or online chat you could reach out to especially if you find it hard to talk to family/friends or don't want to leave the house. This would be really helpful."* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"I would want somewhere to ring to help me get out, no matter what time it was"* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"Someone who could listen to me without being judgemental"* ***(DAAOS service user)***
What support do you require most when remaining in the relationship?	*"Courses to recognise abuse behaviours, Support for perpetrator- anger management"* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"Regular contact to check on my safety" (**DAAOS service user)***
What support do you require most after leaving?	*"Support worker to call home visits and work with family- reassurance of safety"* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"Programme and courses about healthy relationship and emotional coping will be helpful" (**DAAOS service user)***
What's been the most beneficial support you?	*"I have found it really helpful to learn about warning signs of abuse, how to keep myself safe. It has been really good to be able to talk to Rotherham Rise and not be judged"* ***(Hopian service user)*** *"DA housing officers. Knowing I had someone to call, someone to support me to appointments. Someone who made sure I had things like food and clothes. And just felt like DA housing officers were there and understood me. It's the first time I have experienced support like this"* ***(DA Housing officer support service)***
What support do you require	*"First of all, making sure the child is safe at all times. Early help/social services. Child counselling Someone to talk to Refuge Rotherham rise do children groups"* ***(Hopian service user)***

for your children?	*"I think you are often blamed for what happened to your children…it's not fair" (**DAAOS service user)***
What do you need in relation to Housing support?	*"For me I would need somewhere safe to live and some financial support for bills" **(Hopian Service user)*** *"The process seems too long. I've been in a hotel for ages and I'm with people who smoke drugs and stuff, it's not me. I'm desperate for my own space but the flat they offered was at the other side of Rotherham to where I work. I'm still waiting and it's really hard. I can't see my kids or have them overnight because I'm still in the hotel. I'll be honest, I've felt very low at times' **(DA Housing officer support service)***
Preferred supportive methods / venues?	*"I like to get away from home so any private room either at Rotherham Rise or local to where I live, so long as it is private" **(Hopian service user)*** *"At home where I feel safe / comfortable, or community venues, events (drop in info)" (**Hopian service user)*** *"Face to face is useful, and I don't mind phone calls, although I work a lot and can't always answer, I've missed a few. Face to face is good because you can get to know someone and trust them" **(DAAOS service user)***
Other feedback?	*"I feel you need people with expert training in domestic abuse who understand what you are going through need to deliver this service. For example, a GP may not have the correct understanding or skills to properly guide you. This is why Rise is irreplaceable as they offer non-judgemental, expert advice on how to best support victims. The environment and staff there are so calm and caring. It is a special place, and I will always be grateful for their help and encouragement" **(Hopian Service user)*** *"Mental health support-Long term" (**DAAOS service user)***

4.2.4 The themes identified within the service user responses will be addressed through the strategic priority aims outlined in the Strategy itself, which will be driven with a partnership co-produced action plan. Key performance indicators will be used alongside the survivor voice and case studies which we will capture consistently throughout the implementation of this Strategy.

4.3 **Public Consultation**

4.3.1 Community Safety Officers representing the Safer Rotherham Partnership hosted an engagement stall at the 2025 Rotherham Show, which attracted an estimated footfall of approximately 95,000 attendees.

4.3.2 This provided a valuable opportunity to gather public perceptions, identify perceived barriers to accessing support services, and explore community views on key priorities for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG).

4.3.3 *Key themes identified from survey responses -*

Barriers to accessing support:

- Fear of the perpetrator
- Financial dependency
- Lack of trust in statutory services

4.3.4 Priority areas for tackling domestic abuse:

- Alleviating financial pressures to enable victims to leave abusive environments
- Ensuring timely and accessible support for all victims
- Providing dedicated support for children affected by domestic abuse

4.3.5 The themes emerging from the public consultation have identified key areas of focus for the Strategy. Notably, barriers such as a lack of trust in statutory services have been recognised as critical issues and are therefore embedded within the Strategy's core aims.

4.3.6 Additionally, the consultation highlights the need for increased promotional efforts to reassure victims that support is available. This aligns with the strategy's objectives under prevention, early intervention, minimising harm.

4.4 **Stakeholder Strategy Consultation**

4.4.1 In November 2024, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) convened a face-to-face consultation session at Riverside House. This session provided a valuable opportunity for key stakeholders to critically review the existing Domestic Abuse Strategy, highlighting examples of good practice and identifying areas for improvement.

4.4.2 The consultation was attended by representatives from South Yorkshire Police, the NHS, Adult and Children's Social Care, domestic abuse support services, 'by and for' organisations, as well as mental health and substance misuse services.

4.4.3 To facilitate focused discussion, the current Strategy was segmented into its priority areas. Partners were invited to assess which elements remained relevant and impactful, which had become embedded into routine practice. In addition to identify where gaps existed, that should be addressed in the next strategy.

4.4.4 Key Findings -

The group concluded that most of the existing priority areas remain relevant. However, it was noted that there is significant overlap across several aims and there were opportunities to build on previous aims that have now been achieved and embedded. A more streamlined and focused approach was recommended within the next strategy to enhance clarity and improve the monitoring of outcomes.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Strategy will be published in accordance with governance guidance. Delivery will be monitored through a quarterly dashboard showing key performance indicators and an annually refreshed delivery plan. This will be overseen by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

5.2

Implementation	**Target date**	**Lead**
Strategy refresh scrutiny - ILSC	January 2026	Emma Ellis Kayley Charlton
Strategy Approval - Safer Rotherham Partnership Board	February 2026	Emma Ellis Kayley Charlton
Strategy Cabinet Endorsement	April 2026	Cabinet
Establish and create a Partnership Action Plan	April 2026	DSAPG
Strategy Partnership Launch	April / May 2026	Emma Ellis Kayley Charlton
Continuous delivery and KPI monitoring through DSAPG	Quarterly meetings	Emma Ellis Kayley Charlton
Strategy Progress report – Safer Rotherham Partnership	April 2027	Emma Ellis Kayley Charlton

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The cost of creating the draft Strategy has been funded through approved revenue budgets. Any spend to achieve the aims within this Strategy will also be contained within these budgets.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. As detailed through the report, services commissioning and procuring future domestic and sexual abuse services will need to take account of the Strategy once implemented and all procurement activity must be undertaken in compliance with relevant legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Pursuant to Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, local authorities are under a duty, following an appropriate needs assessment, to prepare, publish and implement a Strategy for delivering accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse. It is also a requirement under the legislation for the Council to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Strategy.

7.2 Further, under the Act the authority is required to establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to advise on and provide oversight of the provision of that support. The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the Board which fulfils these duties. The body of the report sets out how the Council is complying with these duties.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Domestic abuse can have a profound and lasting impact on victims and their families, with children and young people particularly vulnerable to significant emotional and physical harm.

9.2 The Strategy places a strong emphasis on these concerns, especially within its priority area: Prevention, Early Intervention, and Minimising Harm.

9.3 It aims to ensure that services across partner agencies are robust, coordinated, and effective in identifying and supporting all individuals affected by domestic abuse.

9.4 In alignment with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021**,** the Strategy also recognises the importance of extending support beyond the direct victim. It reinforces the legal and moral imperative to acknowledge and respond to the needs of children as victims in their own right.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment and full Equality Analysis have been undertaken to support the refreshment of the Strategy and can be found at Appendices 2 and 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken which can be found in Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of the Strategy. Partners are also required to sit as part of the local Domestic Abuse Partnership which is now a statutory requirement. Partnership engagement, activity and outcomes will continue to be monitored through the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The primary risk relates to the capacity to deliver on strategic objectives, particularly due to the uncertainty surrounding future Government funding linked to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Although funding has been consistently provided over the past five years, there has been no confirmation of continued support beyond the current period. To mitigate this risk, proactive measures will be taken, including regular partnership meetings, robust tracking of actions and performance, and, where necessary, adaptations to delivery models to ensure continued effectiveness.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Ellis – Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

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This report is published on the Council's website.



SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy

2026/27 - 2028/29

THE SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP



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Foreword:

Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Domestic Abuse Strategy

Councillor Saghir Alam

Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety and the Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership

Domestic and Sexual Abuse can affect anyone, and we know the impact it has on children and young people children – this can last a lifetime. Behind every statistic is a child, an adult, or a family living with fear and control we must never lose sight of that. This strategy sets out our commitment to making Rotherham a safer place for everyone. It has been shaped by survivors' voices, by the expertise of frontline professionals, and by the strength and resilience of our communities.

Ending abuse requires more than services alone. It means preventing harm early, offering timely support, and challenging the wider issues that increase vulnerability such as housing insecurity, mental health challenges, and financial hardship. These are not background factors; they are often the barriers that keep people trapped in harmful situations. By working together across services, sectors, and communities, we will protect victims and children, hold perpetrators to account, and support recovery. Our shared ambition is a safer, stronger Rotherham where children, adults, and families can rebuild their lives free from fear and full of opportunity.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse does not discriminate. It can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, background, or circumstance. We must ensure that everyone has equal access to safety, support, and justice.
Strong governance will underpin this strategy. Clear accountability, robust oversight, and transparent decision-making will drive progress and ensure that we challenge ourselves to continually improve.

Together, we can deliver real and lasting change, creating a Rotherham where everyone can live safely and thrive.

Foreword:

Emma Ellis

Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services & Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse lead.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse remains a core priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership. This strategy builds on previous achievements to further strengthen support for victim / survivors and bring justice to those who perpetrate abusive behaviours.

In November 2024, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Group conducted a review of the strategy and reaffirmed the strategy's vision, however felt that by streamlining the previous priorities, it would enable a more focus driven, coordinated and effective response to key areas of need, as such is reflected in this strategy.

Underpinned by key aims and a partnership action plan that will be co-developed by all partners, this strategy focuses on embedding best practice, enhancing service delivery, and ensuring a consistent, survivor and family centred approach to tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse. Including tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

THE SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

Overview - Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines Domestic Abuse as:
“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”.

This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

Psychological **Physical** **Sexual** **Financial** **Emotional**

Controlling Behaviour is: “a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour”.

Coercive Behaviour is: “an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim”.

This definition includes so-called ‘honour’ based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and Forced Marriage.

Victim / survivors are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. This intersectional abuse weaves a web through many social issues, child abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, sex work, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and modern slavery. It is a cyclical pattern of power which victims experience as escalating control over themselves and their lives. Crimes committed in the name of ‘honour’, such as Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), are also clearly Domestic Abuse.

Overview - Sexual Offences/Abuse

Sexual Offences/Abuse centre on any unwanted sexual activity or behaviour that occurs without consent or understanding, or by using a position of power or trust to exploit someone.

This includes a wide range of acts, from physical actions like rape and indecent touching to non-contact activities such as indecent exposure, image-based sexual abuse, and sexual grooming. The key elements are:

Lack of consent	**Presence of coercion**	**A situation where a person lacks the capacity to give valid consent**	**Abuse of power/trust**

This can be:

Physical:
Rape, assault by penetration, indecent touching, and other forms of non-consensual physical contact.

Non-Physical:

- Image-Based Sexual Abuse: The non-consensual creation or distribution of private sexual images and videos.
- Sexual Exploitation: Exploiting another person for sexual purposes, often by offering something of value (money, accommodation, alcohol) in exchange for sexual activity.
- Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature, including comments, gestures, or displays that are offensive or humiliating.
- Grooming: The process of manipulating or coercing a person into sexual activity.
- Forced Exposure: Being forced to watch sexual acts or produce sexually abusive material.

Overview - Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, so called 'honour' based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and 'honour' killings), 'revenge porn' and 'up skirting', as well as many others.

These crimes disproportionately affect women and girls. However, men and boys can also be victims of violence and abuse and the approaches within Rotherham will benefit all victims and survivors of these crime types.

In Rotherham we have signed up to the South Yorkshire Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) statement of intent:

1. We will build the trust and confidence of women and girls (within all communities) as we tackle violence against them and provide comprehensive support for victims.
2. We will develop effective strategies to prevent and reduce Violence Against Women and Girls, bringing about long term change through education and challenging perpetrator behaviour.
3. We will improve the confidence of victims to report incidents.
4. We will ensure that our criminal justice system and support services work effectively, so perpetrators are brought to justice and victims and survivors receive appropriate support, reflecting the different needs and experiences of each individual.
5. We will take into account factors which can make some women and girls more vulnerable, and the way these interact with each other. This includes, but is not limited to, disability, culture, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity and imigation status.
6. We will challenge and condemn sexism and misogyny and racism in all its forms.
7. We will be self-reflective, improving our organisational cultures by addressing inappropriate attitudes, behaviours and activities.
8. We will listen to victims and survivors, as well as supportive services to ensure their views are included in our decision making, and give a voice to the most marginalised women and girls.
9. We will maintain regular communication and share relevant information with each other, to avoid duplication of work, maximise external funding opportunities, make effective use of resources, and share good practice

Introduction

Rotherham Council aims to create a thriving, safe place to live, helping residents live well and be free from abuse.

The Borough spans 110 square miles, encompassing a diverse mix of rural and urban communities. Centrally located within South Yorkshire, its population is evolving, with notable growth among residents aged 60 and over, now representing one in four, and those from minority ethnic backgrounds, accounting for one in ten. These demographic changes as well as economic pressures require services to remain flexible and responsive to emerging needs.

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, local authorities have a statutory duty to develop and publish a Domestic Abuse Strategy. This strategy ensures a coordinated, evidence-based approach to tackling domestic abuse, setting out how safe accommodation and support will continue to be provided for victim / survivors and their children, inclusive to all intersectionality's, while detailing measures to prevent abuse and hold perpetrators accountable.

Domestic abuse and sexual offences have been brought together under one strategy to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to tackling these forms of harm that often intersect. Survivors of domestic abuse may also experience sexual abuse within intimate relationships, and perpetrators can use sexual violence as a form of control. Combining these areas within a single strategy allows for shared learning and improved outcomes for victims and survivors.

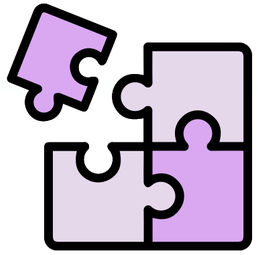
At the same time, the strategy recognises the need for tailored responses where intersectionality's and other types of abuse differ, such as adult family violence, child to parent abuse, stalking and harassment and economic / financial abuse which are distinct issues, each with unique dynamics, risk factors, and needs that require tailored methods of support.

In addition to the production of the Domestic Abuse strategy, the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, is designed to ensure key organisations such as the Council, Police, Health Services, and specialist providers work together with a duty to collaborate, to deliver coordinated support for victims of domestic abuse, sexual offences, and violence against women and girls.

Although this duty is currently on hold, and implementation timelines yet to be confirmed, it remains an important future consideration. Its aim is to strengthen multi-agency working, improve prevention, and provide comprehensive support for victims and survivors.

To achieve outcomes for victim survivors, we remain informed by feedback, consultation findings, and inspection recommendations, while also responding to national developments.
By making the best use of available interventions, tools, and powers, we can provide effective support, drive behaviour change, and meet the needs of our changing communities.

Our Vision: 2026 – 2029



To reduce the prevalence of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse, we are committed to a coordinated, and proactive approach that prioritises early identification, effective partnership intervention, and support for all victim/survivors including children, who are too often the hidden victims of abuse.

We will continue to reach out to underrepresented groups and communities, finding new and innovative ways to address critical issues and ensure that no adult or child is left without support due to barriers of access.

Where abuse occurs, we will ensure that all those affected receive the right support, at the right time. This includes enabling families to remain safely in their own homes where appropriate, with robust safeguards in place or support with the tools to keep their families safe.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse are cross-cutting issues that impact individuals, families, children and young people as well as workplaces, schools, and local communities. The effects can be profound and long-lasting, influencing mental health, development, education, future relationships and life choices.

No adult or child should live in a home where violence, fear, or coercive control is normalised. No one should live in fear of abuse or harassment in their homes, on the streets, or in public spaces. No one should believe that violence is acceptable.

This vision is for all victims, however it also aligns with the Violence Against Women and Girls statement of intent and reinforces our commitment to protecting and empowering all victim / survivors and children through evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches.

We will continue to use the latest research and lived experience to shape our responses, recognising the complex and multifaceted nature of each person’s context and experience.

National Prevalence and Statistics

Domestic Abuse is often a hidden crime that is not reported to the police. Therefore, data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced.

The national domestic abuse charity Safelives are completing a continuous survey with professionals. Results below are between 01/07/2021 and 22/09/2024. There were 2,086 responses from 21 areas across England and Wales.

The top three areas of need for victims and their families identified by professionals were:



96%
Mental health



84%
Children's wellbeing

82%
Housing needs

The top three areas of need for those that harm identified by professionals were:



88%
Mental health



82%
Drugs or alcohol



82%
Children's wellbeing

1 in 5

Whilst nationally there has been a steady decrease of Domestic abuse during the past 10 years, data still shows approximately one in five people had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years and rates of abuse still remains higher for young adults and single parents.

4.8%

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2024 estimated that 4.8% of people aged 16 years and over (2.3 million) experienced domestic abuse in that year.

3x

Global minority and migrant women experience higher rates of domestic abuse related homicide and are 3 times more likely to commit suicide than other women in the UK.

National Prevalence and Statistics

Sexual Offences/Abuse can have an immediate impact on a victim-survivor or emerge much later, with some impacts lasting a lifetime. We recognise It is crucial to approach survivors with patience and without judgment.

The Crime survey for England and Wales provides the best measure of victimisation and estimated that:



The Crime survey for England and Wales provides the measure of victimisation and estimated that 2.3% of adults aged 16 years and over were victims of sexual assault (including attempts) in the year ending March 2022, this equates to an estimated 1.1 million adults

The volume of sexual offences recorded by the police has been increasing over the last decade although the numbers remain well below the number of victims estimated by the survey; the latest figures for the year ending March 2022 show an increase of 31%, to 193,566 police recorded offences, compared with the previous year





Approximately 16.6% of adults aged 16 years and over (7.9 million) had experienced sexual assault (including attempts) since the age of 16 years;

1.9 million were a victim of rape (7.7% women and 0.2% men).

Local Prevalence and Statistics

Collecting and analysing local data is a critical component in shaping an effective and responsive strategy. In Rotherham, data is gathered from a range of key stakeholders on a monthly and quarterly basis which is consolidated into a Data Dashboard. The insights gained from this data has informed the strategic priorities, it will guide commissioning decisions, and support targeted interventions, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed.

(Rotherham data collected during a 3-year period: April 2022 – March 2025)

From the families who approached RMBC Housing due to homelessness with Domestic Abuse as a primary reason and were owed statutory duty to be accommodated **240** households were placed in local authority temporary accommodation or Domestic Abuse specialist properties

474 adults and children also presented as homeless via Hopian refuge and Safer Options Properties.

9,665 - referrals were made into Domestic Abuse Support Services



507 - Referrals sent to the Inspire to change alleged perpetrator behaviour change programme



21,687 - Domestic Abuse Crime and Non-Crime Incidents reported to South Yorkshire police (note approx. 30% of these will be repeated incidents)

Local Prevalence and Statistics

(Rotherham data collected during a 3-year period: April 2022 – March 2025)



448 - Domestic Violence Protection Orders and **521** Notices delivered to alleged perpetrators of abuse



3,087 people recorded on police data base as repeat VAWG Perpetrators having this flag supports the police assess risk of individuals to others



1,939 adults experienced Sexual Crime and Non-Crime Incidents

19,421 adults experienced Non-Sexual Incidents



1106 - People received a Domestic Violence / Abuse Disclosure (Clare's Law) Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application | South Yorkshire Police



1,061 Referrals made to a Independent Sexual Violence Adviser for support

Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Drive Change Together

Non-Fatal Strangulation and Targeted Health Professional Training
This year, over 500 GPs and healthcare practitioners across South Yorkshire received Domestic Abuse awareness training, aimed at strengthening their ability to identify and respond to abuse. In alignment with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which recognises Non-Fatal Strangulation (NFS) as a standalone offence, specialised NFS training was delivered to frontline professionals. This training equips practitioners with the knowledge and tools to recognise the signs of NFS and make appropriate referrals for support and intervention.



We have revised the South Yorkshire-wide Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment, and Honour-Based Abuse Risk Assessment Form to enhance its clarity, usability, and effectiveness.
The updated form provides clearer guidance for completion, is more user-friendly, and includes improved instructions to support practitioners in assessing and managing risk to victims more effectively.

Enhanced Data Collection and Insight-Driven Campaigns
Strengthened data collection processes have enabled us to identify gaps in service provision and inform the development of targeted campaigns and projects. Notable initiatives include the Domestic Abuse Summer Campaign and the Older People's Domestic Abuse Campaign, both designed to challenge unconscious bias and broaden understanding of victim profiles beyond common stereotypes.

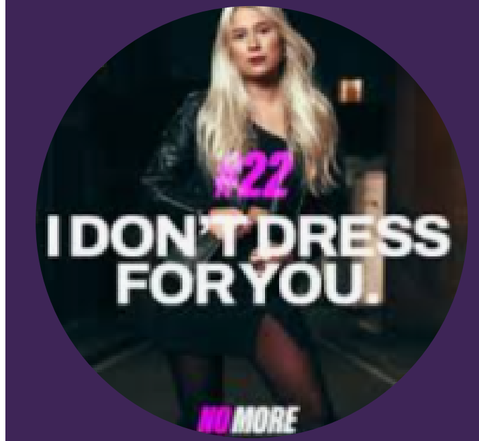
"8 Steps to Homicide" we commissioned this training programme designed to strengthen practitioners' understanding of risk assessment in cases involving victims of domestic abuse.
The training also provides valuable insight into perpetrator behaviours, focusing on key triggers and indicators of escalation, to support more informed and proactive risk management.

Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Prevention and Early Intervention

“No more and Do More” Campaign”

Both initiatives serve as a proactive call to action, specifically targeting male bystanders. The campaigns challenged abusive and misogynistic behaviours towards women and girls by encouraging men to speak out, intervene safely, and promote respectful attitudes and behaviours.



Exploring Digital Options

The partnership is currently exploring digital solutions to address abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through the development of the Safer Spaces Improvement Group. This group has key influences, such as representatives from the Rotherham’s Women’s Network, Police and Safer Neighbourhood teams whose contributions are instrumental in identifying and promoting preventative measures aimed at enhancing safety and wellbeing across the community.

Domestic Abuse Training Plan 2024/25

A comprehensive training plan has been developed, to ensure Domestic Abuse awareness training is delivered at the appropriate level to all relevant professionals. The programme includes modules such as “Asking the Question” and “Risk Assessing,” and will be delivered at various intervals throughout the year to support consistent and informed practice across services.

Unpicking Cultural Narratives Workshop

In collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University, a workshop was delivered focusing on prevention and early intervention in domestic abuse. The session explored societal perceptions of victims, with particular emphasis on the term “vulnerable.” It aimed to challenge traditional narratives by reframing vulnerability as a sign of courage and resilience, rather than weakness, thereby promoting a more inclusive and empowering understanding of victimhood.

Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Justice and ongoing protection

DA Operational meeting Review – Strengthening Response to High-Risk Cases

The number of high-risk domestic abuse incidents referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has increased within the last 3 years, reflecting an improved reporting and enhanced professional understanding of risk indicators. In response, the MARAC meeting frequency has been increased from twice to three times per month. This proactive adjustment has significantly reduced the backlog of cases waiting for multi-agency action review from nine weeks to just three to four weeks, ensuring a timelier response and improved safeguarding outcomes.



Inspire to Change – Countywide Perpetrator Intervention Programme

Inspire to Change is a countywide intervention programme commissioned for individuals who have not been convicted but acknowledge their abusive behaviours and are motivated to change. Delivered by Cranstoun, the programme uses a behaviour change model to address the root causes of abuse and promote safer relationships. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) has tracked 87 participants who completed the programme to see if there have been any further incidents after attendance of the programme. Of these, 73% showed a reduction in domestic abuse reoffending with either no incidents or lower risk incidents, demonstrating the programme's positive impact.

While 27% continued to perpetrate abuse, only 3 of the 87 individuals (13%) from Rotherham were identified as reoffenders, indicating a strong local success rate and effective engagement with the intervention.

Probation Programme – Building Choices

The Probation Service has introduced the Building Choices programme. This cognitive behavioural programme is specifically designed for adult men convicted of intimate partner violence. It focuses on addressing harmful behaviours, promoting accountability, and supporting long-term behavioural change to reduce the risk of reoffending and improve outcomes for victims.

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Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Providing Safe Accommodation and Appropriate Support

(April 2022 to March 2025)



Domestic Abuse Housing Support – Refuge and Safer Options

Rotherham commissioned 10 Refuge units and 10 Safer Options properties to provide secure and supportive accommodation for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse including dedicated support for children. Through this provision, **474 adults and children** received dedicated housing and therapeutic support, enabling them to access safety, stability, and tailored interventions that promote recovery and long-term wellbeing for themselves and their children.

Specialist Domestic Abuse Accommodation – Rotherham's Dedicated Provision

Rotherham currently offers 13 specialist domestic abuse properties, all fully furnished and equipped with target hardening measures to ensure safety and comfort for residents. These properties have supported **203 adults and children.** This provision plays a vital role in offering secure, trauma-informed accommodation for victims fleeing abuse, enabling them to begin their recovery in a safe and supportive environment.

Homelessness Prevention Fund – Supporting Families at Risk of homelessness

The Homelessness Prevention Fund has provided vital financial assistance to **489 adults and children** across Rotherham. This support has enabled the purchase of essential household items, covered moving costs, and contributed to the payment of rent arrears, helping to prevent repeat homelessness and addresses barriers to moving on, promoting housing stability. The fund plays a key role in safeguarding vulnerable households and supporting long-term recovery from domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Homeless pathway

A structured pathway has been developed to support frontline professionals by providing clear guidance on the support requirements at each stage when a victim/survivor of abuse becomes homeless. This pathway outlines the roles and responsibilities of each service involved, ensuring timely access to appropriate support and accommodation for those affected.

Target Hardening and Sanctuary Scheme / Supporting Safe Home Retention

Target hardening and sanctuary measures have been implemented in **433** properties across Rotherham, enabling survivors of domestic abuse to remain safely in their own home. These interventions include enhanced security features and tailored safety adaptations, helping to reduce the need for relocation while promoting stability, empowerment, and continued access to local support networks.

Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Minimising Harm through the Provision of Early Help Support for Children and Families

Level Up – Early Intervention for Young People

Level Up is a targeted intervention programme for children and young people aged 11–15 who are exhibiting abusive behaviours. The programme consists of a structured 12-week series of in-person sessions facilitated within the school environment, focusing on behaviour change, emotional regulation, and healthy relationships.

During the reporting period April 2022 - March 2025, 109 children across Rotherham were referred to the programme, with 35 successfully completing the course. This early intervention model is a vital component in preventing the escalation of harmful behaviours and fostering long-term positive outcomes for both young people and their families.

Despite its potential impact, engagement with the service has presented challenges, particularly in sustaining participation with young people. Given the low attrition rate and following a comprehensive review of available resources and strategic priorities, we will explore alternative commissioning options to better meet the needs of this cohort and improve overall service accessibility and effectiveness.



Ongoing review of Support Offered for Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which recognises children as victims in their own right, Rotherham has developed a comprehensive and responsive support offer for children affected by domestic abuse.

The current offer encompasses Children and Young Peoples Services, Early Help family support as well as Hopian therapeutic programmes such as, first steps to support, trauma stabilisation, Domestic Abuse awareness, confidence building, family practice and emotional coping skills, all of which aims to build resilience, promote recovery, and ensure both victim and children feel safe, heard, and supported.

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) also fund 2 Childrens Domestic Abuse case workers.

Some recent feedback states:

“Since starting to come to groups I have found myself as a person and a parent. I find the courses and first steps coffee group very welcoming and helpful. The staff provide lots of support and friendly advice”

“Thank you. It’s been amazing, really helped me. First time I’ve used this service, and it been helpfully and it let me know that it’s not my fault”

Operation Encompass – Leading the Way in Rotherham

Rotherham is proud to be the only area in South Yorkshire where 100% of schools and 53 nurseries are signed up to Operation Encompass. This initiative ensures that schools are promptly informed when a child has been exposed to domestic abuse, enabling timely and appropriate support.

Current Achievements 2022 – 2025

Responding to Changing Need and Demand

Hopian – Outreach Service & Innovative Victim Needs Assessment Tool

During the last 3 years Hopian has continued to offer support to over 9,500 victims at risk of abuse. They have provided vital one to one support, group facilitated support and threptic options to victims and their children of all risk levels. They have also introduced a new self-assessment tool designed to enhance the way victim/survivor needs are identified and prioritised. This approach empowers individuals to reflect on their own experiences and articulate the areas where they require the most support.

By placing the victim/survivor at the centre of the assessment process, the tool enables services to tailor interventions more effectively, ensuring that resources are directed to where they are needed most. This innovation supports a more personalised and trauma-informed response, improving outcomes and strengthening engagement with support services.

The effectiveness of using this tool has reduced the waiting list for support and ensured victims are accessing timely support.



Enhanced Access to Support – Helpline and Webchat Services

The expansion of the helpline and online webchat services has improved access to information, advice, and support for individuals affected by domestic abuse. These platforms offer confidential, real-time assistance, helping victims and survivors navigate available services and make informed decisions about their safety and wellbeing during core and non-core hours.

Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Team – Supporting Victims with Complex Needs

The Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Team in Rotherham is responding to increasing demand by providing tailored support to victims and survivors with complex needs, including those experiencing mental health challenges and substance misuse.

This specialist team adopts a proactive and trauma-informed approach, ensuring that individuals who may face barriers to accessing traditional services receive consistent, personalised support. By addressing intersecting vulnerabilities, the team plays a critical role in improving safety, engagement, and long-term outcomes for some of the most at-risk individuals in the community.

Domestic Abuse Specialist Housing Officers – Supporting the Most Vulnerable

Rotherham's Domestic Abuse Specialist Housing Officers play a critical role in safeguarding and supporting victims and survivors who have been made homeless because of domestic abuse. These officers provide tailored, trauma-informed assistance to those facing the significant vulnerability of homelessness, ensuring access to safe accommodation, advocacy, and direction into wider support services.

Their work is vital in preventing repeat homelessness, promoting recovery, and enabling individuals to rebuild their lives in secure and stable environments

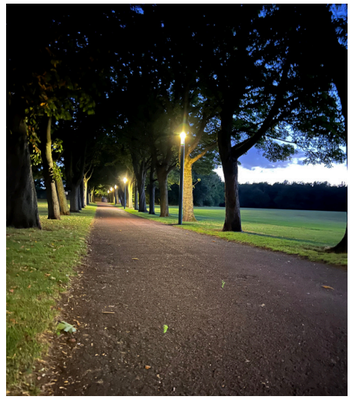
Cuurent Achievements 2022 – 2025

These achievements are based on the previous Domestic Abuse Strategy prior to the inclusion of Sexual Offences/Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls however work has been ongoing in these areas and some of the achievements include:

We have supported the delivery of the annual Reclaim the Night march in Rotherham, celebrating Rotherham's women and campaigning to make our streets safer for all. In 2024 we held our 10th anniversary walk and were joined by over 100 people parading through the Town Centre.



We have installed innovative lighting and CCTV along a popular route in Clifton Park to help improve feelings of safety, funded by the Government's Safer Streets Fund.



A South Yorkshire sex work steering group has been established to improve understanding of sex work in South Yorkshire and increase awareness of support services.

We have supported the delivery of sessions to college students around the dangers of drink spiking and worked with South Yorkshire Police and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust to implement a pathway for drink spike cases who attend Urgent Care.

We have delivered a number of events aimed at improving safety in the Night Time Economy including training for staff, managers and door security staff covering safeguarding children, responding to serious violence and domestic abuse.



We also continue to support licensed premises in implementing Ask for Angela through Pub Watch meetings, social media promotion and training including venue staff and taxi drivers and support checks on licensed premises to ensure the scheme is working.

Consultation & Strategic Alignment



A comprehensive needs assessment and a series of targeted consultation events have been undertaken throughout 2024 - 2025 to inform the 2026 - 2029 Domestic Abuse Strategy refresh. These engagement activities have ensured the previous strategic vision is still relevant but also builds on previous achievements while addressing identified gaps and emerging needs.

As a result of this collaborative approach, a refined framework has been developed to guide the strategic response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse over the next three years . This model streamlines priorities and strengthens focus across key areas of prevention, support, accountability, and partnership working ensuring a coordinated, evidence-led approach that reflects the voices of victims, survivors, professionals, and communities.

Consultation & Strategic Alignment

Individuals accessing support through the Domestic Abuse pathway were invited to participate in structured feedback exercises aimed at identifying areas of effective practice and highlighting any gaps requiring attention. Below is a snapshot of the responses received:

How was the accessibility of support?

“Rotherham Rise (now Hopian) is known to quite a few people but not all. I think it needs to get out there a lot more than it is. I found Rotherham rise By Via Google Search. A lot of people out there probably know nothing about the help and support available to themselves.” (Hopian service user)

“Accommodation issues, I am still living with the alleged perpetrator and cannot bid for properties due to my rent areas. It’s affecting my mental health. I feel lonely. I cannot invite people” (DAAOS service user)

What support do you require most when in crisis / leaving the abusive relationship?

“Crisis helpline or online chat you could reach out to especially if you find it hard to talk to family/friends or don't want to leave the house. This would be really helpful.” (Hopian service user)

“I would want somewhere to ring to help me get out, no matter what time it was” (Hopian service user)

“Someone who could listen to me without being judgemental” (DAAOS service user)

What support do you require for your children?

“First of all, making sure the child is safe at all times. Early help/social services. Child counselling Someone to talk to Refuge Rotherham rise do children groups” (Hopian service user)

“I think you are often blamed for what happened to your children…it’s not fair” (DAAOS service user)

What do you need in relation to Housing support?

“For me I would need somewhere safe to live and some financial support for bills” (Hopian Service user)

“The process seems too long. I’ve been in a hotel for ages and I’m with people who smoke drugs and stuff, it’s not me. I’m desperate for my own space but the flat they offered was at the other side of Rotherham to where I work. I’m still waiting and it’s really hard. I can’t see my kids or have them overnight because I’m still in the hotel. I’ll be honest, I’ve flet very low at times’ (DA Housing officer support service)

Consulation & Strategic Allignment

Individuals accessing support through the Domestic Abuse pathway were invited to participate in structured feedback exercises aimed at identifying areas of effective practice and highlighting any gaps requiring attention. Below is a snapshot of the responses received:

Preferred supportive methods /venues?

“I like to get away from home so any private room either at Rotherham Rise or local to where I live, so long as it is private” (Hopian service user)

“At home where I feel safe / comfortable, or community venues, events (drop in info)” (Hopian service user)

“Face to face is useful, and I don’t mind phone calls, although I work a lot and can’t always answer, I’ve missed a few. Face to face is good because you can get to know someone and trust them” (DAAOS service user)

What support do you require most after leaving?

“Support worker to call home visits and work with family- reassurance of safety” (Hopian service user)

“Programme and courses about healthy relationship and emotional coping will be helpful” (DAAOS service user)

What support do you require most when remaining in the relationship?

“Courses to recognise abuse behaviours, Support for perpetrator- anger management” (Hopian service user)

“Regular contact to check on my safety” (DAAOS service user)

What’s been the most beneficial support you?

“I have found it really helpful to learn about warning signs of abuse, how to keep myself safe. It has been really good to be able to talk to Rotherham Rise and not be judged” (Hopian service user)

“DA housing officers. Knowing I had someone to call, someone to support me to appointments. Someone who made sure I had things like food and clothes. And just felt like DA housing officers were there and understood me. It’s the first time I have experienced support like this” (DA Housing Officer support)

Other feedback?

“I feel you need people with expert training in domestic abuse who understand what you are going through need to deliver this service. For example, a GP may not have the correct understanding or skills to properly guide you. This is why Rise is irreplaceable as they offer non-judgemental, expert advice on how to best support victims. The environment and staff there are so calm and caring. It is a special place, and I will always be grateful for their help and encouragement” (Hopian Service user)

“Mental health support-Long term” (DAAOS service user)

Consultation & Strategic Alignment

Public Consultation

The Safer Rotherham Partnership hosted an outreach stall at the 2025 Rotherham Show, which welcomed an estimated 95,000 attendees. This high-profile event provided a valuable platform to engage with residents, gather insights into public perceptions of domestic abuse, and identify perceived barriers to accessing support services. It also enabled the Partnership to explore community priorities in relation to domestic abuse and sexual offences/abuse, and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Barriers to Accessing Support:

- Fear of the perpetrator
- Financial dependency
- Lack of trust in statutory services



Priority Areas for Tackling Domestic Abuse:

- Alleviating financial pressures to enable victims to leave abusive environments
- Ensuring timely and accessible support for all victims
- Providing dedicated support for children affected by domestic abuse

Consultation & Strategic Alignment

Stakeholder Consultation



In November 2024, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) members were invited to a face-to-face consultation . This session provided a valuable opportunity for key stakeholders to critically review the existing Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan, highlighting examples of good practice and identifying areas for improvement.

The consultation was attended by representatives of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority group, such as South Yorkshire Police, the NHS, Adult and Children's Social Care, Domestic Abuse support services, 'by and for' organisations, as well as mental health and substance misuse services.

To facilitate focused discussion, the current strategy was segmented into its priority areas. Partners were invited to assess which elements remained relevant and impactful, which had become embedded into routine practice. In addition to identify where gaps existed, that should be addressed in the next strategy.

Consulation & Strategic Alignment

Needs Assessment

A comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several areas requiring a more targeted approach.

These include:

- **Establishing a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.**
- **Embedding the voices of those with lived experience and survivors throughout the strategy's development and implementation.**
- **Ensuring appropriate support is available for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including active engagement with 'by and for' organisations.**
- **Maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for those affected.**

Strategic Alignment

As Domestic Abuse intersects with multiple thematic areas of service delivery, underscoring the importance of a whole-system approach to prevention and response. Recognising that tackling Domestic and Sexual abuse is a shared responsibility across sectors, strategic alignment has been considered with the various key local frameworks, some of which are:

- **Homelessness Prevention Strategy**
- **Housing Strategy**
- **Adult and Children's Safeguarding Strategies**
- **Health and Well being Strategy**

This integrated approach ensures that domestic abuse is considered within broader policy and service contexts, promoting coordinated action and improved outcomes for individuals and families affected.

Domestic Abuse Priorities 2026 – 2029

Rotherham is adopting a four-pillar approach to tackling Domestic Abuse. This framework consolidates previous priorities by grouping overlapping themes, enabling a more focused and coherent action plan.

These strategic priorities will be supported by robust governance arrangements and an already strengthened multi-agency partnership structure, including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) and the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. These bodies will oversee the implementation of a comprehensive, shared multi-agency action plan, with specific actions aligned to each strategic aim.

Prevention, Early Intervention, and Minimising Harm

This priority focuses on preventing Domestic and Sexual Abuse as well as Violence before it starts and intervening early to stop escalation or repeat incidents for all victim / survivors.

It includes the provision of early help and support for children and families and ensures we promote equality of access to services.

It will reduce barriers to anyone reporting and getting support for abuse and aim to minimis further harm to those who have already experienced abuse.

Support and Safety for all victims and children - including the provision of safe accommodation

This priority ensures victims receive timely, coordinated, and effective seamless support.

It includes ensuring the provision of accommodation is made available for those presenting as homeless due to Domestic Abuse, including those with no recourse to public funds.

We will ensure support is accessible, responsive, and routine service delivery to anyone who experiences abuse including their children.

Justice, Protection, and Accountability

This priority focuses on delivering justice and ongoing protection through responsive, and timely partnership interventions.

It also strengthens governance and accountability across the partnership, ensuring that partnerships work together to effectively safeguard victims and ensure perpetrators are held accountable.

Adapting to Changing Needs and Demands

This priority ensures services remain relevant and responsive to evolving needs and demands. It promotes co-production in service planning and commissioning, enabling the partnership to adapt quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Adaptation is measured through continuous review of performance data, feedback from service users and practitioners. The partnership will monitor shifts in demand, identify gaps, and make evidence-based improvements to service delivery.

Prevention, Early Intervention, and Minimising Harm - Aims:

- Deliver proactive training across all services to enable staff to identify and respond to early signs of Domestic Abuse, preventing escalation and repeat victimisation. Specialist modules will include Forced Marriage, Honour-Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), cultural competence, and other priority themes.
- Strengthen professional confidence and capability to address perpetrator behaviour by providing clear pathways and practical toolkits. This will support constructive engagement, promote accountability, and reduce harm.
- Provide timely, trauma-informed and therapeutic support for victim / survivors, children, and families, including access to commissioned services such as mental health, substance misuse, housing, and parenting support to reduce risk and promote resilience.
- Ensure equitable access to support for all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance, by removing barriers and delivering inclusive, non-discriminatory services. Ensuring people who are neurodiverse or who have disabilities can understand campaigns and access support.
- Commission and deliver targeted awareness and prevention programmes in schools, youth services, and community settings, working with Youth Justice to challenge harmful behaviours and promote healthy relationships.
- Seek opportunities to build on initiatives such as Operation Encompass with South Yorkshire Police and explore ways to enhance collaboration with health services to support early identification and intervention
- Expand data collection and sharing within the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group to identify gaps and evaluate interventions. Include programme-level data from services such as Caring Dads and Probation's Building Better Choices.
- Continuously engage survivors and frontline practitioners to inform and shape the development of policies and procedures, ensuring their experiences and insights are reflected where possible.
- Partner with local businesses to deliver Domestic Abuse awareness and training, widening reach beyond statutory and voluntary sectors.
- Align with wider strategies to create campaigns addressing key issues such as suicide prevention and homelessness, encouraging access to support services.

Support and Safety for all victims and children, including the provision of safe accommodation - Aims:

- Provide victims and their children with access to specialist Domestic Abuse support, whether that be one-to-one or group therapeutic recovery sessions, ensuring a trauma-informed and person-centred approach.
- Ensure timely access to safe accommodation at any stage of abuse, including crisis situations, to enable timely intervention and continuity of care (including those who have no recourse to public funds NRPF)
- Actively monitor communication between Children and Young Peoples services and Domestic Abuse services through action trackers and contract management, ensuring timely referrals, coordinated multi-agency responses, and a whole-family approach.
- Maintain robust governance and contract management to review and commission refuge and other accommodation types, ensuring availability meets the diverse needs of service users.
- Deliver a coordinated support journey for victim-survivors through a Single Point of Access model, providing consistent advocacy and linking individuals to specialist services such as mental health, substance misuse, housing, and financial/legal assistance.
- Offer evidence-based, trauma-informed programmes for service users with children, incorporating therapeutic and psychoeducational components to promote emotional recovery, resilience, and healthy relationships while addressing the impact of abuse on children.
- Ensure victims on Leave-to-Remain visas receive support regardless of immigration status, applying priority status in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Provide Domestic Abuse and housing support for individuals presenting as homeless under statutory prevention duties, ensuring timely access to safe accommodation and specialist intervention.
- Deliver tailored, needs-led support through comprehensive assessments for victim-survivors with multiple vulnerabilities, enabling coordinated responses and access to additional services.
- Continue offering target-hardening measures to allow victim-survivors to remain safely in their own homes where appropriate.
- Ensure services are widely accessible via trusted individuals and organisations such as schools, GPs, housing officers, and voluntary sector partners, promoting awareness of support pathways across all sectors.

Justice, Protection and Accountability - Aims:

- We are committed to reducing harm and preventing repeat victimisation by addressing the behaviour of those who perpetrate domestic abuse. Individuals identified as alleged perpetrators within all intersectionalities, who have not been charged with a criminal offence, will be offered opportunities to take accountability and engage in meaningful behaviour change through the commissioning and delivery of evidence-based Perpetrator Behaviour Change Programmes. These programmes will challenge harmful behaviours while providing support to help participants understand the impact of their actions particularly on children and develop healthier, respectful relationships. Robust monitoring and evaluation will ensure these interventions are effective in reducing risk, improving safety, and supporting long-term wellbeing for victims and families

- Ensure to maintain oversight of wider behavioural programmes, including Building Better Choices (probation-led for people convicted of abuse) and Caring Dads (Children and Young People/Early Help service led). Building Better Choices is an accredited cognitive-behavioural programme designed to reduce reoffending by addressing criminogenic needs and promoting personal growth through a strengths-based, inclusive approach. Caring Dads is an intervention supporting fathers to end controlling or abusive behaviours, improve parenting, and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children.

- Continue to strengthen Multi-Agency Partnerships and work collaboratively across policing, social care, health, and the voluntary sector to enhance intelligence sharing and deliver coordinated safeguarding responses. This includes ongoing evaluation of key multi-agency forums such as MARAC, MADA, MATAC, and MAPPA, ensuring effective risk management and improved outcomes for victims.

- Support Police-Led Interventions such as South Yorkshire Police's RAPID response model, which focuses on disrupting domestic abuse perpetration and safeguarding victims. This includes oversight of interventions such as Clare's Law disclosures, Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme applications, Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders, and the appropriate use of conditional cautions to hold perpetrators accountable.

- Ensuring victim / survivors receive support throughout their journey, including at court, pre- and post-trial.

Adapting to Changing Needs and Demands - Aims:

- Partners will share accurate, timely, and consistent data to inform commissioning decisions, service delivery, and gap analysis, ensuring resources are targeted where they are needed most.
- We will conduct comprehensive and regular needs assessments and reviews in line with national guidance and statutory requirements with both commissioned and non-commissioned services to ensure services remain responsive to changing patterns of domestic abuse.
- Agencies will actively participate in Domestic Homicide Reviews and Domestic Abuse-related Death Reviews, integrating lessons from Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews to drive continuous improvement in policy and practice.
- We will monitor annual trends and fluctuations in demand, adapting service delivery, commissioning, and operational processes to respond proactively to periods of increased need.
- Continuously track and respond to all forms of domestic abuse, including coercive control, digital/online abuse, and post-separation abuse. Survivor feedback will inform service design, resource allocation, and policy development.
- Develop and sustain adaptable support pathways that can be rapidly adjusted to meet changing needs and emerging risks.
- Ensure domestic abuse is embedded as a cross-cutting priority within local and countywide strategies. This approach will integrate safeguarding and prevention across all relevant council departments and partner agencies, reinforcing the principle that tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse is everyone's responsibility.
- Ensure learning and best practice from other South Yorkshire areas is shared through the Domestic and Sexual Priority Group , this will aim to pre-empt changing needs and demands to enable us to adapt quickly to specific areas of need and training.
- Monitor trauma informed practice by conducting regular case review and audits.

Rotherham Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway

Person age 16+ disclosed Domestic Abuse

Is the person in immediate danger?

Yes

Call 999 in an emergency or 101 non emergency

No

Complete DASH Risk Assessment

Person aged 16 - 18
Refer to MASH
Multi Agency Support Hub
01709 336080

Further support options

Victims of sexual abuse
With consent refer to:
Hackenthorpe Lodge Sexual Assault Referral Centre www.hackenthorpelodge.org
SRASAC www.sheffieldrapecrisis.org.uk

ISVA's
Independent Sexual Violence Advocate referrals to:
https://www.syisva.org.uk/
Telephone: 01226 320140

Counselling
Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (ROTHacs)
01709 835482

Self-referral

Professional needing advice around DA

Victim Support
First response advice line:
03302020571
Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm
Email referrals:
Help@hopian.org.uk

- One-to-One support
- Group Work
- Peer Support

Children, Young People and Family Support

- One-to-one support
- Group Work
- Peer Support
- Activities

Emergency Contact Details

South Yorkshire Police: 999 (In emergency only)

For 24/7 Domestic Abuse Support National Domestic Violence Helpline Freephone 0808 200 0247

National Domestic Violence Helpline Freephone 0808 200 0247

RMBC Emergency Out of Hours Telephone number 07748143170

High Risk
Refer to Hopian
Help@hopian.org.uk
& MARAC

Medium & Standard Risk
Refer to Hopian
Help@hopian.org.uk

MARAC
marac.referrals@rotherham.gov.uk
01709 823196

Hopian
First response advice line:
03302020571
Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm
Email referrals:
Help@hopian.org.uk

Consider

Consider safeguarding of children
Any children in household need to be referred to MASH
Contact the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH)
01709 336080

Adults
If an adult who has care & support needs, is unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs
Contact RMBC Adult Services First Contact
01709 822330

DA Disclosure Scheme / Claire's Law
For advice contact South Yorkshire Police on 101

Perpetrator Support
www.inspiretochange.co.uk

Reporting any crimes to South Yorkshire police as a third party professional

Sexual Offences/Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Priorities 2022 – 2025

Sexual Offences/Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls are also supported by robust governance arrangements and a multi-agency partnership structure through the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) and the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. These bodies will oversee the implementation of a comprehensive, shared multi-agency action plan, with specific actions aligned to each strategic aim.

Sexual Offences/Abuse

- Continue to improve victim engagement and reporting of sexual offences through awareness raising, projects and training
- Work with partners to understand work with perpetrators of sexual abuse to reduce reoffending and identify any gaps

Violence Against Women and Girls

- Reduce violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators and use of digital tools to identify online risks and hot spot locations for non-crime incidents
- Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety including online safety

Sexual Offences/Abuse: Aims

- Support South Yorkshire Police to implement a National Operating Model to improve investigations of serious sexual assaults by using a suspect-focused approach, targeting repeat offenders and using data and digital forensics more effectively
- Produce and promote communications and campaigns aimed at raising awareness of sexual abuse and violence with the public including how to report incidents and where to access support
- Provide and promote training and awareness for professionals to increase understanding and response to sexual abuse and violence
- Work with South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partners to understand and monitor victim engagement rates, age groups and types of crimes in Rotherham and identify gaps.
- Ensure there is a clear pathway in place for sexual abuse support.
- Work with South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partners to explore the support available to sex workers in Rotherham and identify gaps
- Map current interventions provision for adult and young offenders to understand the current offer and identify gaps

Violence Against Women and Girls: Aims

- Improve feelings of safety particularly within Rotherham Town Centre and after dark
- Identify hot spot locations using digital tools
- Continue to improve awareness and response to drink spike incidents including encouraging reporting and pathways for gathering forensic evidence
- Work in partnership with other organisations such as Violence Reduction Unit and South Yorkshire Police to share campaigns and training opportunities aimed at improving the safety of women and girls including online safety
- Produce and promote communications and campaigns aimed at raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls with the public including how to report incidents and where to access support
- Continue to support events such as Reclaim the Night to promote the safety of public spaces

RAPID Response South Yorkshire Police

Domestic abuse remains one of the most pervasive and underreported crimes within all communities in the UK. According to national crime statistics, police receive a domestic abuse related call every 30 seconds, yet only 24% of offences are formally reported. The human cost is devastating:, on average, one woman is killed every five days by a former partner in England and Wales, and three women per week die by suicide as a direct result of domestic abuse. Furthermore, approximately 20% of children live in households where domestic abuse is perpetrated by an adult.

South Yorkshire Police recognises the profound and lasting impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families, and communities. In response, the force is committed to continually improving its approach to tackling domestic abuse, enhancing investigative standards, strengthening safeguarding measures, and ensuring a trauma-informed, victim-centred response.

From October 2025, Rotherham will adopt a focused and strategic framework under the banner of ‘RAPID’, which will guide operational and partnership efforts across all key areas of domestic abuse work. This framework is designed to ensure a coordinated, consistent, and proactive approach that prioritises victim safety, offender accountability, and long-term prevention.

RAPID Response South Yorkshire Police

R - Responding to incidents without delay.

A - Arrest always where there is a power to do so

P - Prevent further offences through problem solving and partnership working

I - Investigation Quality, victim focused investigations from the outset to conclusion

D - Detention clock, use all the time available to build the case and secure charges.

The Delivery

Strategy	This strategy has been completed by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG), on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. In the preparation of this, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council consulted with various stakeholders, professionals from a wide range of disciplines (including community safety, domestic abuse service providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, South Yorkshire Police and NHS Trust, came together to discuss the proposed priority areas of the strategy, identify potential gaps, and suggest how these could be addressed in the strategy. Their thoughts and ideas have been incorporated into this document. Service users, members of the public, and statutory and voluntary stakeholders were also invited to complete surveys to identify the priorities that were most important to them. By and for organisations have also been invited to review the strategy ensuring cultural competency. The purpose of having this strategy is to clearly identify our gaps and areas for improvement and allow us to focus on them together. As highlighted within the aims of this document, partnership work is key to our success, and this strategy will therefore become the driving force in respect of improvements to Domestic Abuse services.
Performance monitoring	Periodic updates in relation to progress will be expected by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority group (DSAPG). Suitable performance indicators will be identified in order to support each aim and again, periodic updates will be provided. Alongside managing performance, the partnership will seek to manage any risks that exist in respect of delivery against the strategy.
Partnership joint Action Plans	A robust action plan will be developed to support this strategy. The action plan will be driven by the aims contained within this strategy and will identify specific actions needed in order to support each aim and deliver success.
Promotion	The promotion and implementation of the strategy will include, training, awareness raising through events, promotional materials, media and specialist training



For further information visit the Safer Rotherham Partnership website

www.saferrotherham.org.uk

Follow us on social media for our latest news and updates at:

www.facebook.com/Rotherhamcommunitysafety

www.instagram.com/rmbccommunitysafety

Contact us via email at: **community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk**

If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us. You can contact us through our website or by emailing community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk

Domestic and Sexual Abuse is a priority under the Safer Rotherham Partnership which includes:

THE SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

South Yorkshire FIRE & RESCUE

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

National Probation Service

Voluntary Action Rotherham

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

NHS The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

SOUTH YORKSHIRE SYMCA MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Refresh	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area: Community Safety**
Lead person: Kayley Charlton	**Contact: kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk**
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy (2022–2027) is concluding earlier than planned due to successful delivery of its action plan, with key outcomes achieved and embedded into routine practice. A refreshed three-year strategy (2026 – 2029) has been developed in consultation with the Local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board to ensure responsiveness to evolving needs. It incorporates commitments to address Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and aligns with the commissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service to maintain continuity and effectiveness. As such requires an Equality Impact assessment to assess its effects.

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3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

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

Appendix 2

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

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

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

The strategy is designed to support all individuals affected by Domestic Abuse, regardless of their protected characteristics. The strategy aims to ensure equitable access to support and interventions, with a focus on enhancing outcomes for all victim-survivors. Consideration has been given to inclusivity and the diverse needs of different communities through consultation and partnership working. With this, the strategy will be available online with access to translatable tools and an 'easy read' version of the strategy will be developed to ensure accessibility to anyone who is neurodiverse.

How equality and diversity have been considered:

Protected Characteristic	Consideration
Age	Any age can be affected by abuse; However, National Crime statistics show that abuse in younger people and single parents is disproportionately affected. Local data also shows a lack of reporting from older people (over 60). To consider these, Early Help involvement, a specific children and young people pathway for support, Operation Encompass and targeted campaigns are within the strategy. Specific targeting campaigns for older people along side work with Rotheram older people's forum are in place to ensure the right messages are delivered.
Disability	Victims with mental health needs or learning disabilities may face barriers to accessing support. to consider this Trauma-informed services, assertive outreach teams and specialist training for staff will be in place within the strategy
Gender	Women are disproportionately affected by domestic and sexual abuse. VAWG is now embedded in strategy; however, male victims are also supported through inclusive housing and outreach.
Gender Reassignment	Trans individuals may face discrimination or lack of tailored support. Inclusive service design and a range of training will be embedded in the strategy
Marriage/Civil Partnership	Abuse can occur within all relationship types. Strategy applies universally, with tailored support based on need.

Appendix 2

Pregnancy/Maternity	Pregnant individuals may be at increased risk. Priority access to safe accommodation and health services will be given.
Race	BAME communities may face cultural and systemic barriers. Cultural narrative workshops delivered by “by and for” services will be delivered within the strategy
Religion/Belief	Faith-based stigma may prevent disclosure. Inclusive engagement and training for frontline staff will be delivered.
Sexual Orientation	LGBTQ+ individuals may face unique risks and underreporting. Inclusive campaigns, inclusive support pathways, staff training will be delivered.

- **Key findings**

The strategy and consultation process actively considered the needs of individuals across all protected characteristic groups, ensuring that services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse experiences of those affected by domestic abuse.

This collaborative approach ensured that priority areas and actions reflect the real-world needs of those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

During the consultation process key findings and areas of development came to light which has led the strategy to ensure focus is given to:

- Children as victims in their own right. The strategy aims to strengthen support for children and families, with a focus on preventing intergenerational cycles of abuse.

- Homelessness Prevention. Thirteen dedicated properties and additional refuge units are established to support victim-survivors experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse. Security enhancements are being installed to improve safety within the home, and families are receiving essential goods through the Homeless Prevention Fund to support stability and recovery.
- Workforce Development and Cultural Competency. Plans are in place to deliver cultural competency training specifically to frontline caseworkers, ensuring services are sensitive to the needs of diverse communities.

- **Actions**

In addition to actions taken within the strategy as shown in the above table, a comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several priority areas requiring a more targeted and inclusive approach. Key findings include:

- The need to establish a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- The importance of embedding the voices of survivors and individuals with lived experience throughout the strategy’s development and implementation.

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- The requirement to ensure appropriate support for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including proactive engagement with 'by and for' organisations that represent marginalised communities.
- The necessity of maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for all individuals affected by domestic abuse

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with service users, key stakeholders, and members of the public. These sessions provided valuable insights into public perceptions of domestic abuse, identified barriers to accessing support, and captured community views on priorities for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Performance Monitoring

Ongoing performance monitoring and data analysis continue to inform service delivery, highlight gaps, and support continuous improvement. Insights from this process are used to shape training, enhance service responsiveness, and ensure equitable access across all communities.

Strategic Action Plan

The strategy will be underpinned by a stakeholder-developed action plan, which will set out clear partnership responsibilities and accountability measures. This ensures that strategic aims are translated into tangible actions and outcomes.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	09.10.2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	09.10.2025
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kayley Charlton Community Safety Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Lisa Elliott	Strategic Commissioning Manager	22/10/2025
Emma Ellis	Head Of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services	22/10/2025

Appendix 2

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	09.10.2025
Report title and date	The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 04.02.2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Report date 04.02.2026 Cabinet date – 16.04.2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/10/2025

Appendix 3

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: The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy Refresh	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 09/10/2025	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area: Community Safety**
Lead Manager: Emma Ellis	**Contact number:** **emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk**
Is this a:	
[x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other**	
If other, please specify	

Appendix 3

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)**
Emma Ellis	RMBC	Head of Service – Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Lisa Elliott	RMBC	Strategic Commissioning Manager
Kayley Charlton	RMBC	Community Safety Officer

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The aim of the strategy is designed to support all individuals affected by Domestic Abuse, regardless of their protected characteristics. The strategy aims to ensure equitable access to support and interventions, with a focus on enhancing outcomes for all victim-survivors.

Consideration has been given to inclusivity and the diverse needs of different communities through consultation and partnership / stakeholder working. With this, the strategy will be available online with access to translatable tools and an 'easy read' version of the strategy will be developed to ensure accessibility to anyone who is neurodiverse.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure a Domestic Abuser strategy was in place, regularly reviewed and refreshed to comply with change and demand.

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

<u>Needs assessment</u>
A comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several areas requiring a more targeted approach.

These include:

- Establishing a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

- Embedding the voices of those with lived experience and survivors throughout the strategy's development and implementation.

- Ensuring appropriate support is available for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including active engagement with 'by and for' organisations.

- Maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for those affected.

Service user consultation

Hopian (formerly Rotherham Rise) service users participated in a face-to-face forum alongside RMBC commissioners, where key thematic questions were explored through open and honest dialogue.

In addition, service users from the Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service (DAAOS) and the Domestic Abuse Housing Officer service were invited to respond to the same set of questions via a structured survey. Given the complexity of their circumstances, professionals determined that a survey format would be the most effective method for capturing meaningful feedback.

Public consultation

Community Safety Officers from the Safer Rotherham Partnership hosted an engagement stall at the 2025 Rotherham Show, which attracted an estimated footfall of approximately 95,000 attendees.

This provided a valuable opportunity to gather public perceptions on domestic abuse, identify perceived barriers to accessing support services, and explore community views on key priorities for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Key themes identified from survey responses

Barriers to Accessing Support:

- Fear of the perpetrator
- Financial dependency
- Lack of trust in statutory services

Priority Areas for Tackling Domestic Abuse:

- Alleviating financial pressures to enable victims to leave abusive environments
- Ensuring timely and accessible support for all victims
- Providing dedicated support for children affected by domestic abuse

Stakeholder strategy consultation

In November 2024, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) convened a face-to-face consultation session at Riverside House. This session provided a valuable opportunity for key stakeholders to critically review the existing Domestic Abuse Strategy, highlighting examples of good practice and identifying areas for improvement.

The consultation was attended by representatives from South Yorkshire Police, the NHS, Adult and Children's Social Care, Domestic Abuse support services, 'by and for' organisations, as well as mental health and substance misuse services.

To facilitate focused discussion, the current strategy was segmented into its priority areas. Partners were invited to assess which elements remained relevant and impactful, which

had become embedded into routine practice. In addition to identify where gaps existed, that should be addressed in the next strategy.

Key Findings:

The group concluded that most of the existing priority areas and associated aims remain relevant. However, it was noted that there is significant overlap across several aims. A more streamlined and focused approach was recommended within the next strategy to enhance clarity and improve the monitoring of outcomes.

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

No – quarterly performance management information is reported to the domestic abuse partnership group. This enables any gaps in information to be identified and addressed on an ongoing basis.

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

Stakeholder data is submitted on a monthly or quarterly basis, as appropriate, and consolidated into the partnership's Domestic Abuse Dashboard. This data is analysed and reviewed by the RMBC Domestic Abuse Performance Analyst to identify trends, monitor progress, and inform strategic decision-making.

Performance monitoring includes tracking against key performance indicators and the collection of equality data. This information is routinely reported to the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group and the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Contract monitoring is conducted collaboratively with Commissioning Officers and Community Safety Officers. This process includes the review of service delivery data, with a specific focus on outcomes for individuals from protected characteristic groups, to ensure services remain equitable and inclusive.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Service user engagement (Hopian and DAAOS) key findings as referenced above - **October / November 2024** Public Engagement (Rotherham Show) Key findings as referenced above **September 2025**
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (strategy consultation) Key findings as referenced above – **November 2024** **Continuous quarterly monitoring** of projects/services includes the voice of service users, including customer satisfaction

Appendix 3

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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Rotherham Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy (2026–2029) has been developed with a strong focus on inclusivity, equity, and accessibility, ensuring that the needs of individuals from all protected characteristic groups are considered and addressed. The strategy is aligned with the principles of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and shaped through consultation with service users, stakeholders, and community representatives.

The strategy meets the needs of users from different communities / groups as follows:

Protected Characteristic	Consideration
Age	Any age can be affected by abuse; However, National Crime statistics show that abuse in younger people and single parents is disproportionately affected. Local data also shows a lack of reporting from older people (over 60). To consider these, the Strategy pulls on Early Help involvement, a specific children and young people pathway for support will be implemented, Operation Encompass and targeted campaigns are within the strategy. Specific targeting campaigns for older people alongside work with Rotheram older people's forum are in place to ensure the right messages are delivered. The Strategy sets out how services will prevent abuse, protect victims, and pursue perpetrators**,** but it must also ensure that responses are equitable, accessible, and effective for people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. This means understanding that some groups experience additional barriers, higher risks, or different forms of harm, and adapting the approach accordingly.
Disability	Victims with mental health needs or learning disabilities may face barriers to accessing support.

		to consider this Trauma-informed services, assertive outreach teams and specialist training for staff will be in place within the strategy
	Gender	Women are disproportionately affected by domestic and sexual abuse. VAWG is now embedded in strategy; however, male victims are also supported through inclusive housing and outreach.
	Gender Reassignment	Trans individuals may face discrimination or lack of tailored support. Inclusive service design and a range of training will be embedded in the strategy
	Marriage/Civil Partnership	Abuse can occur within all relationship types. Strategy applies universally, with tailored support based on need.
	Pregnancy/Maternity	Pregnant individuals may be at increased risk. Priority access to safe accommodation and health services will be given.
	Race	BAME communities may face cultural and systemic barriers. Cultural narrative workshops delivered by “by and for” services will be delivered within the strategy
	Religion/Belief	Faith-based stigma may prevent disclosure. Inclusive engagement and training for frontline staff will be delivered.
	Sexual Orientation	LGBTQ+ individuals may face unique risks and underreporting. Inclusive campaigns, inclusive support pathways, staff training will be delivered.

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

No, the Rotherham Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy does not present any intentional problems or barriers to communities or groups. It has been developed with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, equity, and accessibility, ensuring that the needs of individuals from all protected characteristic groups are recognised and addressed.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Yes, the refreshed Rotherham Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy (2026–2029) delivers significant positive impacts and actively works to remove barriers to accessing support for individuals and communities affected by domestic abuse.

improvements across key areas include:

- Improved Access to Support Services
- Support for Children recognised as victims in their own right.
- Safe Accommodation and Housing Stability
- Targeted Campaigns to Address Underreporting
- Workforce Development and training

Appendix 3

The Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy demonstrates a clear commitment to improving outcomes for all individuals affected by domestic abuse. Through targeted interventions, continuous performance monitoring, the strategy not only delivers positive impacts but also actively works to remove barriers for those from protected characteristic groups and vulnerable communities.
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) The Rotherham Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy (2026–2029) is expected to have a positive impact on community relations. It has been developed through extensive multi-agency collaboration and public consultation, ensuring that the voices of diverse communities are embedded throughout its design and delivery.

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.

Appendix 3

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: The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy Refresh
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment / Community Safety
Lead Manager: Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Summary of findings:
Rotherham Council's overarching ambition is to create a safe and thriving community. This revised strategy encompasses those wider Rotherham values and builds on the successes of the previous Domestic Abuse Strategy which now incorporates Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), ensuring these cross-cutting issues remain a strategic priority. Informed by national and local data, needs assessments, partnership consultation, and most importantly the voices of victim / survivors, the strategy and Equality Impact Assessment aim to address service gaps and embed new learning.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Needs assessment / Delivery of Strategic Action Plan A comprehensive needs assessment was completed in March 2024, identifying several priority areas requiring a more targeted and inclusive approach. Key findings of the needs assessment include:	**All**	**2026 - 2029**

- The need to establish a clear and accessible support pathway for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. - The importance of embedding the voices of survivors and individuals with lived experience throughout the strategy's development and implementation. - The requirement to ensure appropriate support for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including proactive engagement with 'by and for' organisations that represent marginalised communities. - The necessity of maintaining timely access to support services and safe accommodation for all individuals affected by domestic abuse The strategy will be underpinned by a stakeholder-developed action plan, which will set out clear partnership responsibilities and accountability measures. This ensures that strategic aims are translated into tangible actions and outcomes		
<u>Consultation</u> Consultation was undertaken with service users, key stakeholders, and members of the public. These sessions provided valuable insights into public perceptions of domestic abuse, identified barriers to accessing support, and captured community views on priorities for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The victim survivors voice will be captured all the wat through the progress of the strategy	**All**	**2026-2029**
<u>Performance Monitoring</u> Ongoing performance monitoring and data analysis continue to inform service delivery, highlight gaps, and support continuous improvement. Insights from this process are used to shape training, enhance service responsiveness, and ensure equitable access across all communities.	**All**	**2026-2029**

***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**
Andrew Bramidge	Strategic Director	
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

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	09.10.2025
Report title and date	The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy – 09.10.2025
Date report sent for publication	Cabinet – 13.04.2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22.10.2025

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? One of four priorities identified in the Safer Rotherham Partnership's proposed Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-2029 is support and safety for all victims of abuse and their children, including the provision of safe and secure accommodation for victims of domestic violence who present to the Council as homeless. In a 2018 spotlight on homelessness and domestic abuse in the UK, the SafeLives charity found that 32% of homeless women interviewed said that domestic abuse had contributed to their homelessness. People experiencing homelessness are recognised as an at-risk group in Government guidance on hot weather and health: by working to prevent domestic abuse and to protect victims of domestic abuse from homelessness, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2026-2029 could mitigate some vulnerability to climate change impacts in Rotherham.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: A robust action plan to be developed in support of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Domestic and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-2029 may have some identifiable carbon impacts e.g., if there is an increase in the provision of accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. However, this should be balanced against the potential to mitigate people's vulnerability to climate change, by protecting survivors of domestic abuse from homelessness.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Kayley Charlton Community Safety Officer Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) 502 – Domestic Abuse Duty Funding Allocation Report 2025-2026 – references links between domestic abuse and homelessness, homelessness and exposure to climate change impacts. • SafeLives. 2018. *Homelessness and Domestic Abuse Spotlight*. [Online]. [Accessed 27 October 2025]. Available from:

	https://safelives.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/spotlights/spotlight-homelessness-and-domestic-abuse/
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 551 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Community Governance Review

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager
01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Boroughwide

Report Summary
The Council has a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes, including town and community councils. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to commence a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.

Following initial consultation, a draft recommendations report will be brought to Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2026, to be followed by a further consultation. Following this consultation on the draft recommendations, a final recommendations report will be brought to Cabinet. It is a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.

2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.

3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.

4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.

5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.

6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 Community Governance Review Timetable
Appendix 3 Part A – Initial equality screening assessment form
Appendix 4 Carbon impact assessment CIA 609

Background Papers
Guidance on community governance reviews [Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, March 2010]

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Community Governance Review

1. Background

1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils.

1.2 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is the legal process that a principal council must follow to consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission have produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

1.3 A CGR can consider one or more of the following:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolishment of a parish
- the naming of a parish and the style of a new parish
- the electoral arrangements for a parish (i.e. the ordinary year of election; council size; number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding)
- the grouping or de-grouping of parishes; and
- other types of arrangements including parish meetings.

1.4 The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to conduct a review every 10-15 years.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The last Boroughwide review in Rotherham took place in 2008. Since then, there has been significant new development and population movement across the Borough. The Borough has also been in dialogue with Ravenfield Parish Council who have expressed a desire to have a reconsideration of their Parish Boundaries.

2.2 Following the good practice arrangement set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, conducting a Boroughwide review would allow any approved recommendations to come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1:** That the Council undertakes a Boroughwide CGR as outlined in the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.

3.2 The review would cover the whole of the Borough, whether currently parished or not. The review would consider fundamental issues such as whether

parishes should be created in parts of the Borough which do not presently have them, whether current parish boundaries should be altered other than merely to address anomalies, whether existing parishes might be amalgamated, or whether new parishes might be created from within existing parishes.

3.3 Carrying out a review would help ensure that parish boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities they serve, are meaningful, and facilitate the delivery of effective and convenient services.

3.4 **Option 2**: The Council does not undertake a Boroughwide CGR. This option could be considered as not meeting the Council's duty to keep its parish arrangements under review.

3.5 Not commencing a review would mean the Council would not be following the good practice timeframe for conducting a review, given the last one took place in 2008. It is also possible that an area wishing for a review could require this through the processes available to them in the legislation.

3.6 It is recommended that Option 1 is followed.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Section 93 (3) of the Act requires that the principal council must consult the following:

(a) the local government electors for the area under review.
(b) any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the principal council to have an interest in the review.

4.2 The review would be Boroughwide and involve consultation with electors in parished and unparished areas, parish councils, elected members, local MPs, and other interested parties.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The CGR will be conducted in four stages.

- **Commencement: 1 May 2026**
  - Publication of Terms of Reference

- **Stage 1: 1 May to 26 June 2026**
  - Public consultation on the current arrangements

- **Stage 2: July to September 2026**
  - Consultation submissions considered and draft initial recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet

- **Stage 3: October 2026 to November 2026**
  - Publication of draft recommendations
  - Public consultation on draft recommendations

- **Stage 4: December 2026 to April 2027**
  - Consultation submissions considered and draft final recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet
  - Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council
  - Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order for any approved recommendations

- **Implementation** of approved recommendations at the scheduled elections: 4 May 2028

The full CGR timetable is set out in Appendix 2.

5.2 **Commencement:** The CGR would commence with the Council publishing the Terms of Reference for the review (Appendix 1) on 1 May 2026. If any modifications to the Terms of Reference are required during the review, these must also be published.

5.3 **Stage 1:** An eight-week public consultation will commence on 1 May 2026, to allow any interested parties to comment on the current arrangements and make proposals for change. The consultation will be available on the Council website, as well as paper copies in libraries across the Borough and parish council buildings. Responses can be submitted online, paper response form, email, or letter.

5.4 Interested persons, including Borough and Parish Councillors, Parish Councils and MPs will be notified of the commencement of a CGR.

5.5 An Officer Working Group will review the consultation responses. If necessary, clarification will be sought from respondents about their proposals and where appropriate, discussions will take place with any parishes and community groups that could be impacted by them.

5.6 **Stage 2:** The Officer Working Group will prepare a set of initial draft recommendations for approval by Cabinet in Autumn 2026.

5.7 **Stage 3**: Following approval by Cabinet, the draft recommendations will be published, interested persons informed and a second eight-week consultation period will commence in October 2026. The aim of the consultation is to gather any opinions for or against the draft recommendations.

5.8 Consideration will be given to targeted consultation where significant changes may be proposed in the draft recommendations, such as the abolishment or significant change to an existing parish, or the creation of a new parish.

5.9 **Stage 4:** Following the consultation on the draft recommendations, the Officer Working Group will review the responses and produce final recommendations for Cabinet to approve and recommend to Council in early 2027.

5.10 The final recommendations which could be made to Cabinet and Council following the review are:

a) The constitution of new parishes. This might include the establishment as a parish of any area which is presently not a parish or part of one. It could also include the aggregation of such an area with one or more existing parishes or parts of parishes, the amalgamation of two or more parishes or the separation of part of any parish;

b) The abolition of a parish, with or without the distribution of its area among other parishes; or

c) The alteration of the area of a parish.

5.11 If the Council makes any recommendation for the constitution of a new parish, they must include recommendations for the establishment of a new parish council. However, if the population of the new parish recommended would include fewer than two hundred local government electors, the Council is not obliged to recommend the creation of a new parish council for that area, although it may do so.

5.12 Council to consider the final recommendations and resolve to make an Order to implement the approved recommendations, which would come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

5.13 Consideration will be given to conducting a Polling District and Polling Places review during 2027, following the completion of the CGR.

5.14 The aim of a Polling District and Polling Places review is to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that every polling place is accessible to all electors who are disabled. It will also provide the opportunity to review the existing polling district boundaries to support the implementation of the approved recommendations from the CGR review.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

6.2 It is anticipated that the cost of staffing any CGR or consultation process will be absorbed within the existing Electoral Services budget.

6.3 As far as possible consultation documents will be made available online, however some printing and posting will be required and the costs associated with this will depend on the scope of the consultation and representations received during the review. Any costs relating to the consultation will be absorbed within the Electoral Services budget.

6.4 The cost of parish elections is incurred by the Council but is recharged to the parishes where a contested election is held. As it is envisaged that any changes to electoral arrangements would be implemented at the scheduled

elections in 2028, there should be no additional election costs arising from any agreed recommendations.

6.5 Any changes to the boundaries may affect the parish precept that residents affected by a boundary change will pay; any changes to precepts and council tax bills would be applied from the date the adopted recommendations from the review become effective. In line with Para. 14.5 of the Terms of Reference (appendix 1) for this review, changes will be implemented on 1st April 2028.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The process which the Council must follow when undertaking a CGR is set out in Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and this is followed in the body of the report in respect of the proposed CGR.

7.2 As referred to above, Government guidance states that a CGR covering the whole of a Local authority's area should be undertaken every 10 to 15 years and as such it is appropriate for this CGR to be commenced. Further the Terms of Reference as drafted are consistent with the legislation above and the relevant Government guidance.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no implications for Human Resources.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no implications for equalities and human rights arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The implications for CO2 emissions and Climate Change are low. A Carbon Impact Assessment is set out in Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The 2007 Act requires that local people are consulted during a CGR, that representations received in connection with the review are considered and that steps are taken to notify respondents of the outcomes of such reviews

including any decisions. When undertaking the review, the Council must have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and it is effective and convenient.

13.2 Following consultation, there may be representations from individuals or parish councils where the proposals are in conflict or contradictory. This may present a risk that a local amicable solution will not be possible, and the Council will have to adjudicate.

13.3 There is potential for requests for new parishes, and it will be necessary for the Council to ensure they would be sustainable and there would be enough interest from local people to serve as councillors. To mitigate and manage these risks, support and guidance is available from Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the Council, and the local Parish Network.

13.4 Without effective consultation there is the risk that recommendations arising from the review would not reflect the identities and interests of local communities or effective and convenient community governance. That risk is sought to be mitigated by the proposed consultation.

14. Accountable Officers

Phillip Horsfield, Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

Report Author: *Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager*
01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Community Governance Review

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rotherham Council is undertaking a Boroughwide Community Governance Review (CGR) which covers all parished and unparished areas of the Borough.

1.2 In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 and Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008.

1.3 Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review.

1.4 These terms of reference set out how the review will be conducted and the matters on which the review is to focus.

2. Why is the Council carrying out this Community Governance Review?

2.1 Guidance on CGRs from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England states that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years. The last Boroughwide CGR in Rotherham took place in 2008.

2.2 It is therefore considered to be an appropriate time to review arrangements for community governance in Rotherham.

3. What is a Community Governance Review?

3.1 A CGR is the process that is used to consider parish arrangements. A CGR is carried out by the principal council and is used to look at the whole or part of the district.

4. Scope of the Review

4.1 The review will cover both parished and unparished areas of Rotherham, to enable us to consider if any changes are needed to the existing parish arrangements.

4.2 The Review will consider whether community governance arrangements across the Borough are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Effective and convenient to the community in that area.

4.3 It will make recommendations with regard to:

- Creating, abolishing, merging, or altering parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of election, the number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding; and
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping existing parishes

4.4 The review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

5. What is meant by the term Community Governance?

5.1 The term 'community governance' is used to describe the variety of ways in which local communities are able to take more responsibilities for local issues affecting their area. A key aspect of community governance is community empowerment, and the ability of local people and organisations to see through specific projects to tackle local issues.

5.2 In parished areas, both the principal council and the parish council have a formal democratic role in terms of community governance. However, a variety of different structures and organisations can also contribute to community governance at a local level - including, for example, local residents' associations and community or neighbourhood forums, all of which make a distinct contribution to the community.

5.3 The review needs to consider all current and any future plans for community governance in making recommendations about parish arrangements.

6. What do Parish Councils do?

6.1 Parish Councils represent the most local form of government and can own land and assets, employ staff, and provide services at a local level. They can raise funds to meet the costs of administration and provision of services through setting a precept which forms part of council tax bills levied on council taxpayers in the parish.

6.2 Parish councils can take different forms but usually are made up of local people who stand for election as parish councillors to represent their area, with elections taking place every four years. They can be the voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to co-ordinate and deliver services and work to improve the quality of life in the area.

7. Parish governance in our area

7.1 At present, there are twenty-eight parish and town councils and three parish meetings in Rotherham.

7.2 Eleven of the parish and town councils are divided into parish wards.

7.3 Appendix A sets out the details of each parish and town council, with maps in Appendix B.

7.4 The Council believes parish councils play a key role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure parish governance in our district continues to be robust and representative. Furthermore, the Council wants to ensure there is clarity and transparency to the area's parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

8. Issues considered in the Boroughwide Community Governance Review

8.1 Parish Boundaries

8.1.1 Parish boundaries should be easily identifiable and reflect the separation of settlements recognised locally as having their own identity. These boundaries should generally reflect the areas between communities with low populations or physical barriers such as water courses or man-made features such as railways or motorways.

8.1.2 A review of parish boundaries is an opportunity to put in place strong boundaries, tied to firm ground detail, and remove anomalous parish boundaries.

8.2 Council size

8.2.1 Council size is the term used to describe the number of parish councillors to be elected to the whole parish council. The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) specifies each parish council must have at least five parish councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards, but each parish ward must have at least one parish councillor.

8.2.2 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population being represented. NALC recommended a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers the practical minimum should be seven. It considered local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, and business convenience makes it appropriate to suggest the practical maximum should be twenty-five.

8.2.3 Within those minimum and maximum limits, the following allocations were recommended by NALC:

Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
1,400	8
2,000	9
2,700	10
3,500	11
4,400	12
5,400	13
6,500	14
7,700	15
9,000	16
10,400	17
11,900	18
13,500	19
15,200	20
17,000	21
18,900	22
20,900	23
23,000	24
Over 23,000	25

8.2.4 In considering the issue of parish council size, each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to its historical picture, population, geography, and the pattern of communities.

8.3 Parish warding

8.3.1 Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing parish councillors, including the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards.

8.3.2 In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the legislation requires that consideration be given to whether:

a) The number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of parish councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and

b) It is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.

8.3.3 There is a need to consider not only the size of the electorate in the area but also the distribution of communities within in it.

8.3.4 When contemplating parish ward boundaries there is a need to ensure that consideration is given as to the desirability of fixing of boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

8.4 Names of Parish wards

8.4.1 In considering the names of parish wards, thought should be given to existing local or historic places so that, where appropriate, these are reflected.

8.5 The number of parish councillors to be elected for parish wards.

8.5.1 If it is proposed that a parish should be warded, consideration should be given to the levels of representation between each ward i.e. the number of parish councillors to be elected for each ward and the number of electors they represent.

8.5.2 It is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or parish councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

8.6 Ordinary year of election

8.6.1 Ordinary parish elections are held once every four years with all parish councillors being elected at the same time.

8.6.2 The first elections under any new electoral arrangements will take place in the regular cycle of Parish Council elections after the conclusion of the Review, currently scheduled to be held on 4 May 2028, alongside Borough and South Yorkshire Mayoral elections.

8.7 Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

8.7.1 Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under the Local Government Act 1972. “Town” status continues to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act offers a further choice of alternative styles for a parish: community, neighbourhood, and village. However, for as long as the parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.

8.7.2 The ‘name’ of a parish refers to the geographical name of the area concerned, whereas its status or ‘style’ allows for that area to be known as a town, community, neighbourhood, or village, rather than as a parish. The status or style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish, the parish meeting, and the chair or vice-chair of the parish meeting or of any parish council. For example, the council of a parish which uses the style ‘village’ will be known as the ‘village council’ and its councillors as the ‘village councillors’.

8.7.3 As far as existing parishes under review are concerned, the review must make recommendations as to whether the geographical name of the parish should be changed, but it may not make any recommendations for the parish about alternative style. It will be for the parish council or parish meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles.

8.8 Grouping of parishes

8.8.1 Under Section 91 of the 2007 Act a CGR can recommend the grouping or de-grouping of parishes. In some instances, it may be appropriate to group parishes to allow a common parish council to be formed.

8.8.2 De-grouping may also offer the reverse possibility where local communities have expanded. Any grouping or de-grouping needs to be compatible with the retention of community interests, and it would be inappropriate to use it to build artificially large units under single parish councils. However, it could offer a possibility for parishes with less than 150 electors to be grouped with other parishes under an elected parish council despite being unable to form a parish council in their own right.

9. Who will undertake the review?

9.1 As the relevant principal authority, Rotherham Council is responsible for conducting any CGR within its electoral area.

9.2 On 14 April 2026, Cabinet agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance.

9.3 While there is a delegation in place to the Chief Executive it is proposed that both the initiation and the outcomes will be considered by Cabinet, and recommendations made to Council who will determine the outcome.

9.4 A comprehensive consultation process will form part of the Review to take account of the views of those living and working within the borough.

9.5 Formal decisions on the final recommendations arising from the review will be made by Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

10.The Consultation process

10.1 In coming to its recommendations in the Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Council must:

- Consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review; and
- Take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

10.2 This will consist of two phases of consultation. The first will seek the initial views and desires of local residents, groups, and stakeholders, and will form the basis of the draft recommendations. The second phase will seek views upon those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.

10.3 The Council will:

- Publish a notice and these Terms of Reference on the Council's website and arrange for copies to be made available for public inspection at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

    - Aston Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Worksop Road, Sheffield S26 4WD

    - Brinsworth Community Library, Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG

    - Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington S25 2PP

- Greasbrough Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
- Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
- Kiveton Park Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Wales Road, Kiveton, Sheffield, S26 6RB
- Maltby Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Braithwell Road, Maltby S66 8JE
- Mowbray Gardens Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Mowbray Gardens, East Dene, Rotherham, S65 2UH
- Rawmarsh Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Barbers Avenue, Rotherham S62 6AE
- Riverside Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE
- Swinton Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
- Thorpe Hesley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley S61 2QJ
- Thurcroft Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD
- Wath Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 4 Sandygate, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7LW
- Wickersley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

- Send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all town and parish clerks.
- Seek to arrange for the notice to be published on parish council websites and notice boards.
- Send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to all local Members of Parliament.
- Promote the consultation among electors using social media and press releases.

10.4 Before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure

that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

10.5 The Council will notify any persons or bodies who have made written representations of the outcome of the Review.

10.6 The Council will treat any petitions received during this review as a consultation response and the lead petitioner will be recorded as the point of contact. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, a Council debate shall not be listed in relation to matters upon which the Council is currently undertaking a consultation process.

10.7 Representations will be welcomed by the following methods:

- By completing an electronic survey on the Council's website: www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections
- By email to electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk
- By letter or consultation form to Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

11.Timetable for the Community Governance Review

11.1 The Council should complete a Community Governance Review within twelve months from the day on which the Council publishes the Terms of Reference. A Community Governance Review is concluded on the day on which the Council publishes the recommendations made by the Community Governance Review. The indicative timetable is shown below.

Stage	Event	Date
Commencement	Publication of Terms of Reference	1 May 2026
1	Public consultation period	1 May 2026 to 26 June 2026
2	Submissions received are considered, and draft initial recommendations are prepared and considered by Cabinet.	July 2026 to September 2026
3	Draft recommendations are published. Public consultation period on draft recommendations.	October 2026 to November 2026
4	Submissions are received and considered and final recommendations are prepared	December 2026 to February 2027
	Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council	March 2027
	Final recommendations are considered by Council and a decision taken on the outcome of the review. Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order (if required).	April 2027
Implementation	Scheduled parish elections	4 May 2028

12. The present structure of Parish Councils and their electoral arrangements

12.1 Appendix A sets out the present structure of the parishes and their electoral arrangements, including polling district(s), councillors, electorate, and wards where applicable.

13. Electorate forecasts

13.1 When considering the electoral arrangements of the parishes in the area the Council must consider any likely future change in the number or distribution of electors within five years from the day the review starts.

13.2 Appendix A includes an electorate forecast for the next 5 years for each parish and town council of 1.25%. This is based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population projections for local authorities by single year of age and sex, England data for all ages for Rotherham.

13.3 Appendix A also accounts for an increase in electorates where housing is under construction or planned for construction in the next 5 years. This information has been taken from the Rotherham Housing Lane Supply Monitoring Report published in October 2025.

14. Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and commencement

14.1 When all the required consultation has been undertaken and the review completed the Council may make an Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. If the Council decides to take no action, then it will not be necessary to make an Order.

14.2 If an order is made, copies of the order, supporting maps and documents setting out the reasons for the decisions taken will be placed at the following locations and on the council's website. They will be publicised in accordance with the requirements of the 2017 Act:

- On the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections

Copies will be available at the following libraries during their normal opening hours:

- Aston Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Worksop Road, Sheffield S26 4WD
- Brinsworth Community Library, Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG
- Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington S25 2PP
- Greasbrough Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
- Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
- Kiveton Park Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Wales Road, Kiveton, Sheffield, S26 6RB

- Maltby Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Braithwell Road, Maltby S66 8JE
- Mowbray Gardens Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Mowbray Gardens, East Dene, Rotherham, S65 2UH
- Rawmarsh Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Barbers Avenue, Rotherham S62 6AE
- Riverside Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S601AE
- Swinton Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
- Thorpe Hesley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley S61 2QJ
- Thurcroft Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD
- Wath Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 4 Sandygate, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7LW
- Wickersley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

14.3 All parishes will be informed of the outcomes of the review.

14.4 Copies of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order will also be sent to:

- The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- The Office of National Statistics
- The Director General of Ordnance Survey

14.5 The financial and administrative provisions of the reorganisation order will be come into force on 1 April 2028.

14.6 The electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force on 7 May 2028.

15. Consequential matters

15.1 If an Order is made it may be necessary to cover certain consequential matters in that Order. These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property.
- The setting of precepts for new parishes.
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights, and liabilities.
- provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions, and other staffing matters.

15.2 In these matters, the Council will be guided by the relevant legislation.

16. Date of Publication

16.1 These terms of reference will be published on 1 May 2026.

Appendix A: Details of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

Current electorate figure based on the electoral register published 2 March 2026.

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Anston Parish Council			**7,281**	**16**	**1:485**	**7,372**
	Anston North	ANA, ANB & ANC	5,297	11	1:482	5,363
	Anston South	AND	1,984	4	1:496	2,009
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council			**11,602**	**15**	**1:773**	**12,187**
	Aston-cum-Aughton North	AUA, AUF & AUG	3,729	5	1:746	3,776
	Aston-cum-Aughton South	ASA, ASB & ASC	5,673	7	1:810	6,180
	Aston-cum-Aughton West	AUC & AUD	2,200	3	1:733	2,228
		Aston-cum-Aughton South includes an estimated 436 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.				
Bramley Parish Council			**5,965**	**13**	**1:469**	**6,528**
	Bramley North	BRB & BRC	2,634	6	1:439	3,155
	Bramley South	BRA	2,136	4	1:534	2,163
	Bramley West	WYF	1,195	3	1:398	1,210
		Bramley North includes an estimated 488 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.				
Brampton Bierlow Parish Council		HOA & HOJ	3,609	11	1:328	3,716
		Includes 62 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.				
Brinsworth Parish Council		BWB, BWC, BWD & BWE	6,605	11	1:600	6,688
Catcliffe Parish Council		RVA	1,727	9	1:192	1,749
Dalton Parish Council			**7,711**	**16**	**1:482**	**7,888**
	Dalton East	WYA, WYB, WYD & WYE	4,299	9	1:478	4,353
	Dalton North	DAD, DAE & DAF	2,577	5	1:515	2,609
	Dalton South	WYC	835	2	1:418	926
		Dalton South includes an estimated 81 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.				
Dinnington St. John's Town Council			**7,313**	**15**	**1:488**	**8,613**
	Dinnington Park Avenue	ANF	359	1	1:359	363
	Dinnington Town	DIC, DID, DIE & DII	6,924	14	1:497	8,250
		Dinnington Town includes an estimated 846 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.				

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Firbeck Parish Council		DIH	288	5	1:58	292
Gildingwells Parish (Parish Meeting)		DIF	73	0	n/a	74
Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council		WAA & WAE	1,657	9	1:184	1,678
Hellaby Parish Council		HEA	650	5	1:130	672
			Includes an estimated 14 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Hooton Levitt Parish (Parish Meeting)		HEE	98	0	n/a	99
Hooton Roberts Parish (Parish Meeting)		BRE	149	0	n/a	151
Laughton-En-Le-Morthen Parish Council		DIA	1,002	7	1:143	1,015
Letwell Parish Council		DIG	104	5	1:21	105
Maltby Town Council			**12,142**	**18**	**1:675**	**13,038**
	Maltby East	MAA, MAB, MAC, MAD & MAE	6,631	10	1:663	7,458
	Maltby West	HEB, HEC. HED & HEF	5,511	8	1:689	5,580
			Maltby East includes an estimated 744 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Orgreave Parish Council		AUB	560	7	1:80	567
Ravenfield Parish Council		BRD	2,321	7	1:332	2,500
			Includes an estimated 150 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council		ANG	379	5	1:76	384

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Thrybergh Parish Council			**2,964**	**15**	**1:198**	**3,001**
	Thrybergh North	DAA & DAB	1,625	8	1:203	1,645
	Thrybergh South	DAC	1,339	7	1:191	1,356
Thurcroft Parish Council			**5,894**	**18**	**1:327**	**6,016**
	Thurcroft North	THB & THC	4,416	15	1:294	4,520
	Thurcroft South	DIB	1,478	3	1:493	1,496
			Thurcroft North includes an estimated 49 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Todwick Parish Council		ASD	1,412	9	1:157	1,430
Treeton Parish Council		RVC	2,611	9	1:290	2,644
Ulley Parish Council		AUE	143	5	1:29	145
Wales Parish Council			**5,682**	**15**	**1:379**	**6,170**
	Kiveton Park	WAC & WAF	2,220	7	1:317	2,364
	Wales	WAB & WAD	3,462	8	1:433	3,806
			Kiveton Park includes an estimated 116 additional electors from current and potential housing construction. Wales includes an estimated 301 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Waverley Community Council		RVB & RVD	3,391	7	1:484	5,284
			Includes an estimated 1,851 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Wentworth Parish Council			**1,148**	**9**	**1:128**	**1,177**
	Harley	HOF & HOG	593	4	1:148	600
	Wentworth	HOB, HOE & HOH	555	5	1:111	562
Whiston Parish Council		SIE, SIF & SIG	3,798	9	1:422	4,423
			Includes an estimated 578 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.			
Wickersley Parish Council			**6,331**	**16**	**1:396**	**6,410**
	Wickersley North	WYG	3,075	9	1:342	3,113
	Wickersley South	THA	3,256	7	1:465	3,297

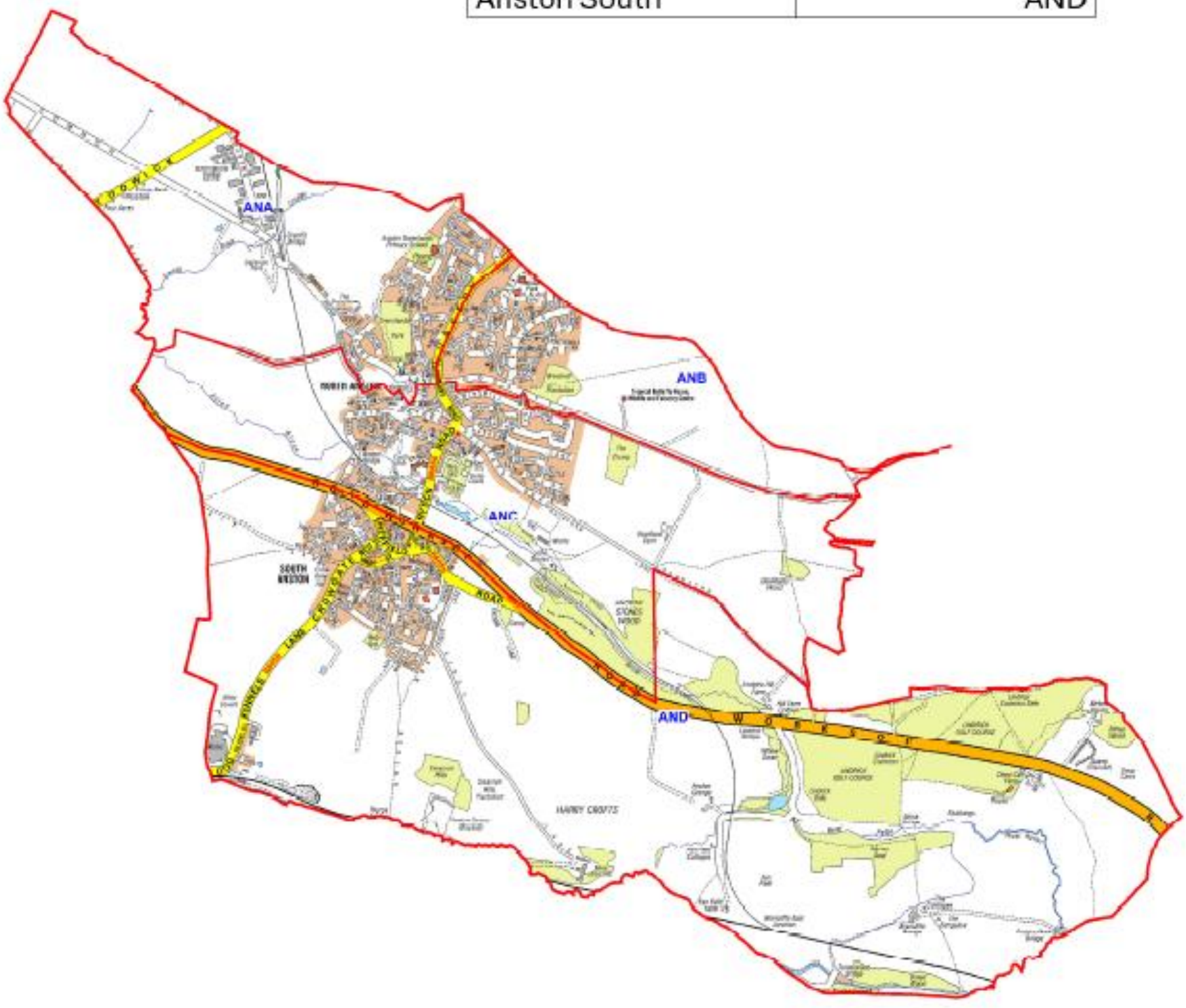
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Woodsetts Parish Council		ANE	1,395	9	1:155	1,412

Appendix B

Maps of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

Anston Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Anston North	ANA, ANB & ANC
Anston South	AND



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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

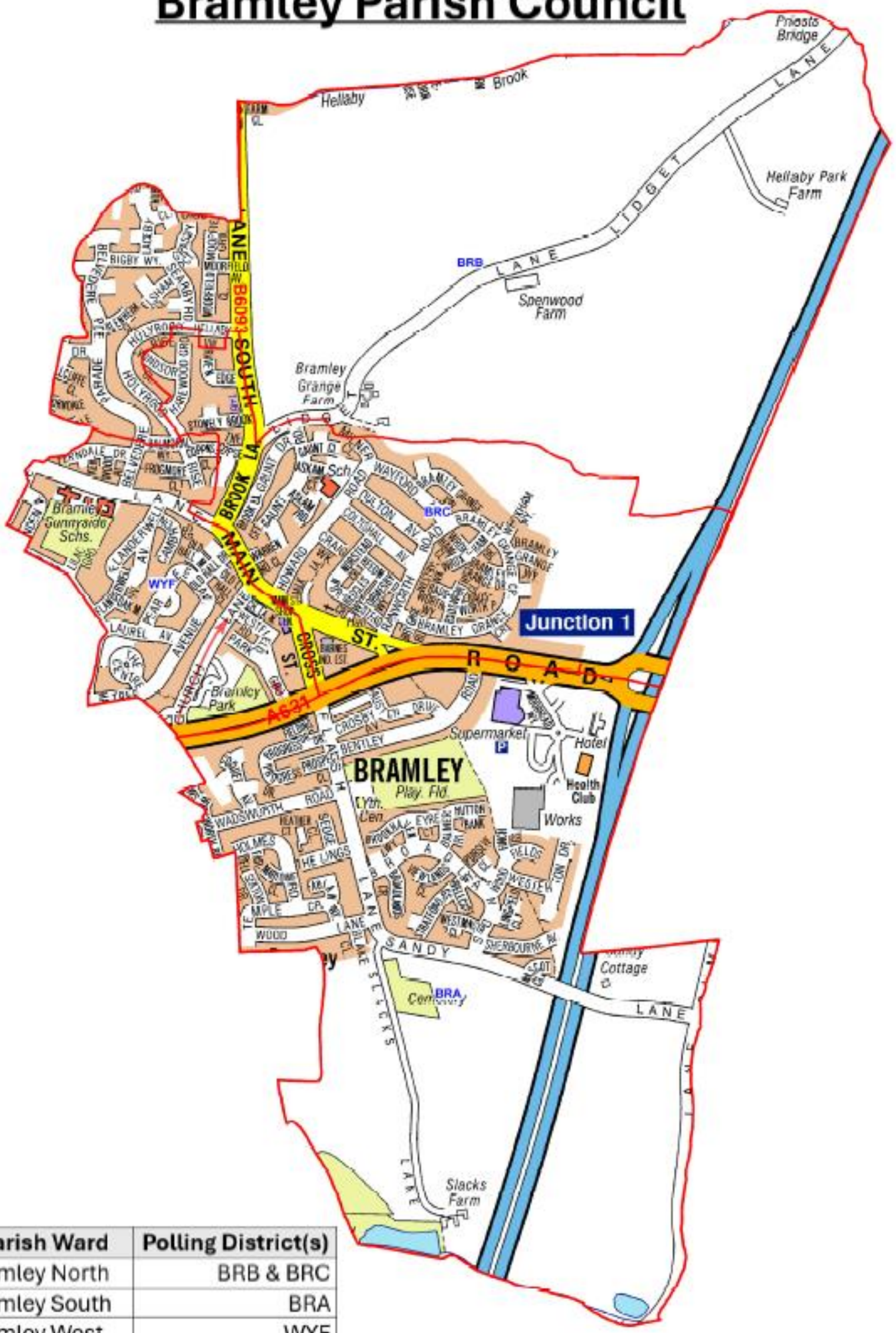
Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Aston-cum-Aughton North	AUA, AUF & AUG
Aston-cum-Aughton South	ASA, ASB & ASC
Aston-cum-Aughton West	AUC & AUD



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Bramley Parish Council



Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Bramley North	BRB & BRC
Bramley South	BRA
Bramley West	WYF

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Brampton Bierlow Parish Council



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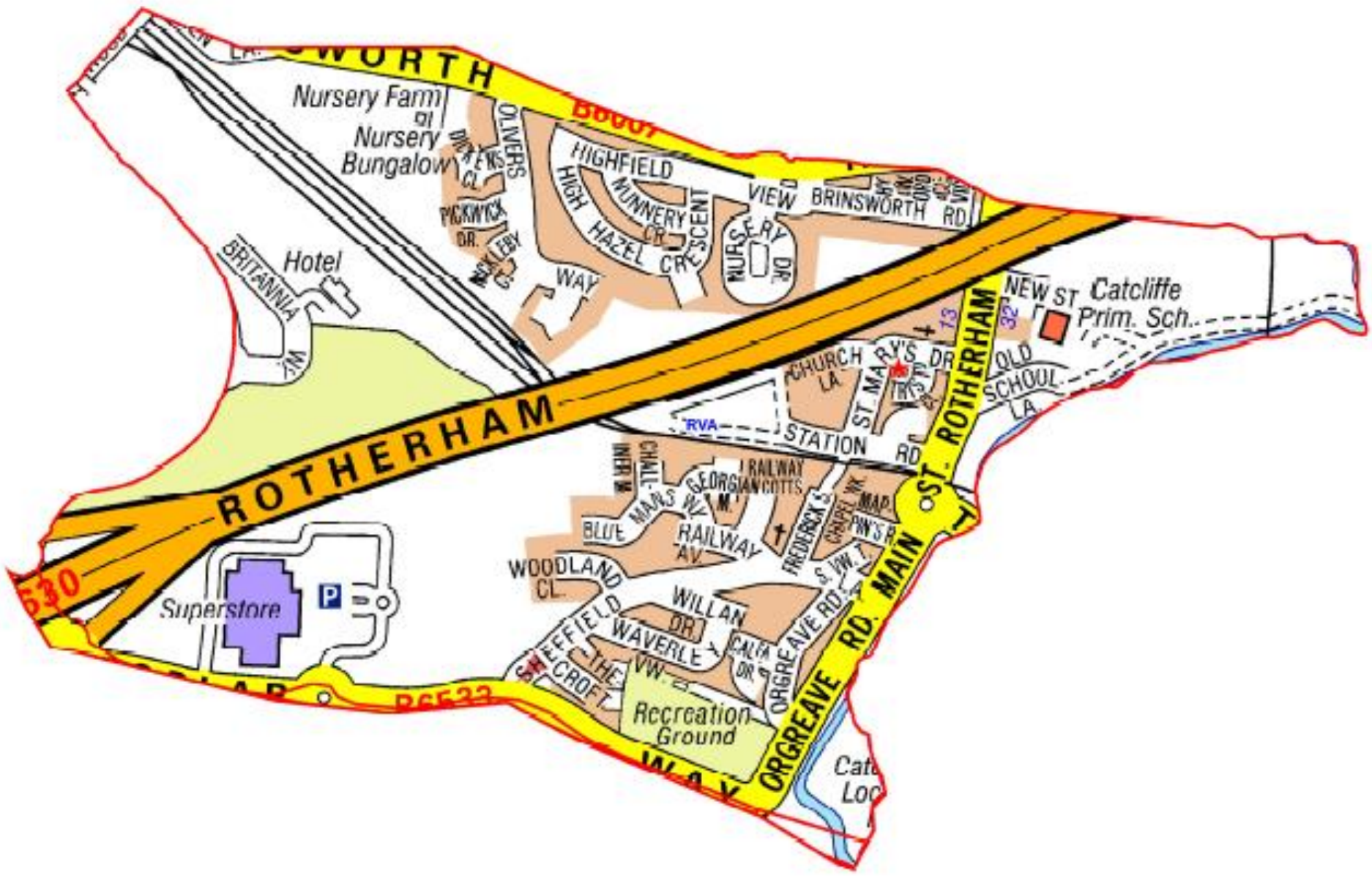
Brinsworth Parish Council



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Catcliffe Parish Council



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Dalton Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Dalton East	WYA, WYB, WYD & WYE
Dalton North	DAD, DAE & DAF
Dalton South	WYC



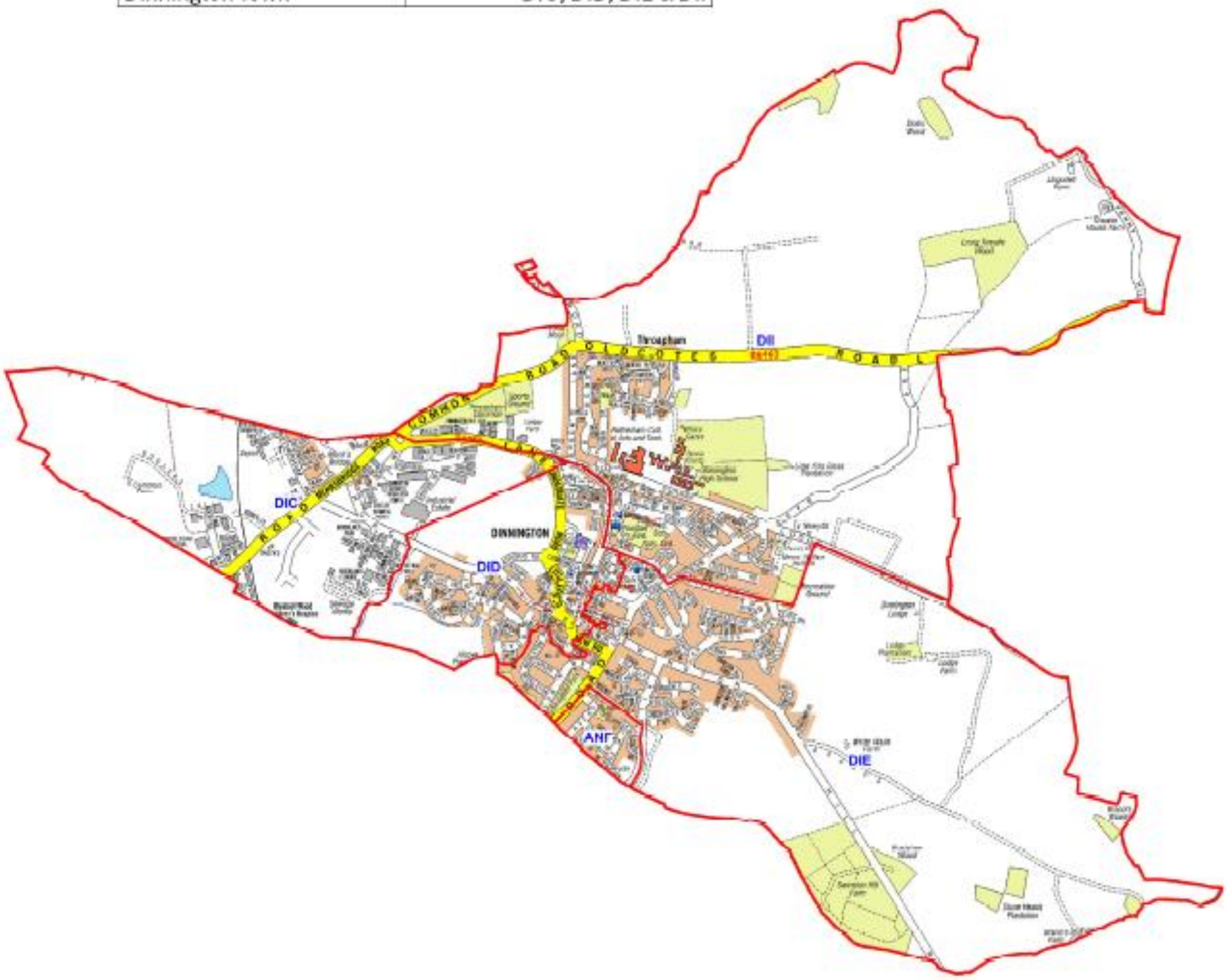
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Dinnington St John's Town Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Dinnington Park Avenue	ANF
Dinnington Town	DIC, DID, DIE & DII

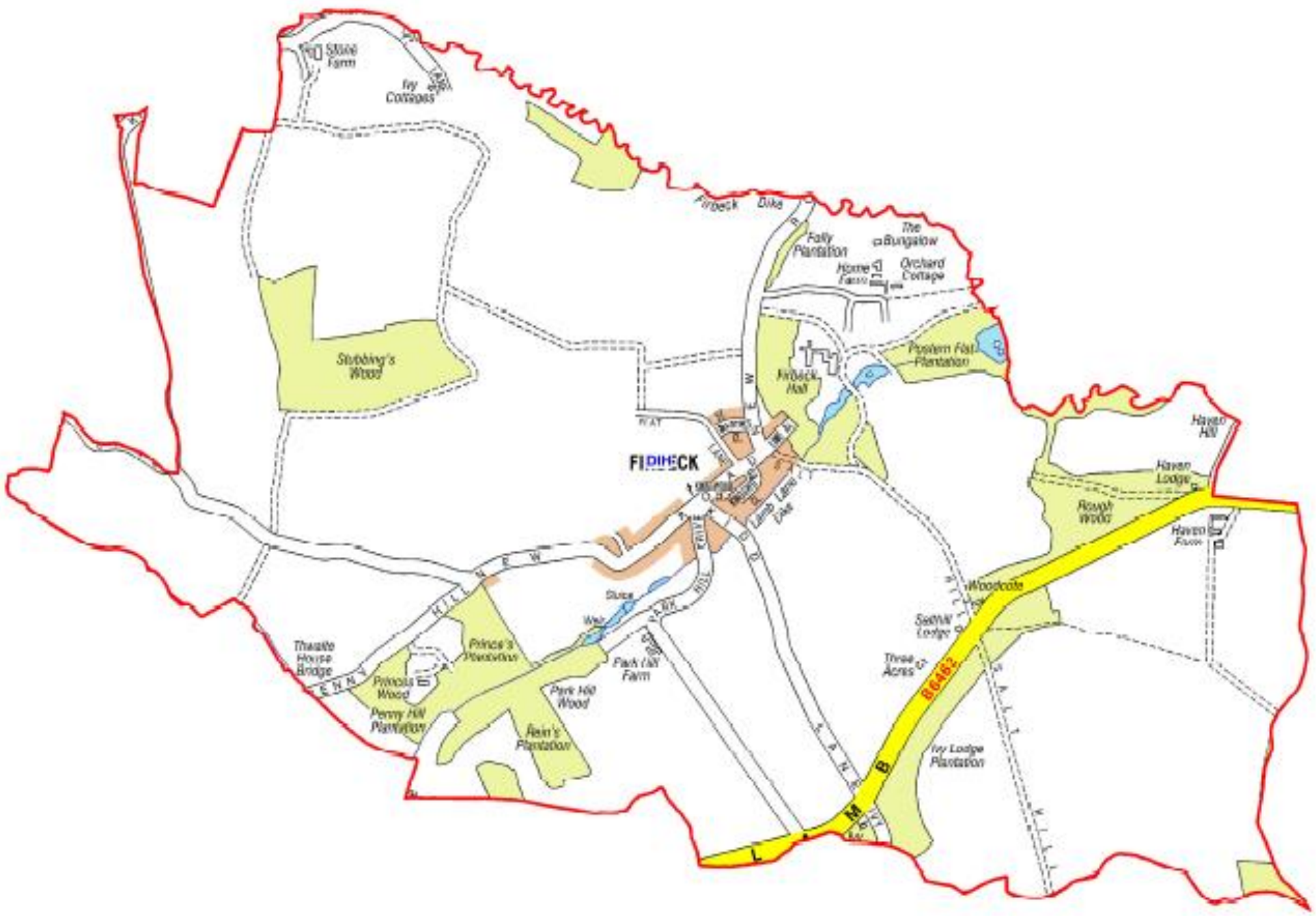


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Firbeck Parish Council

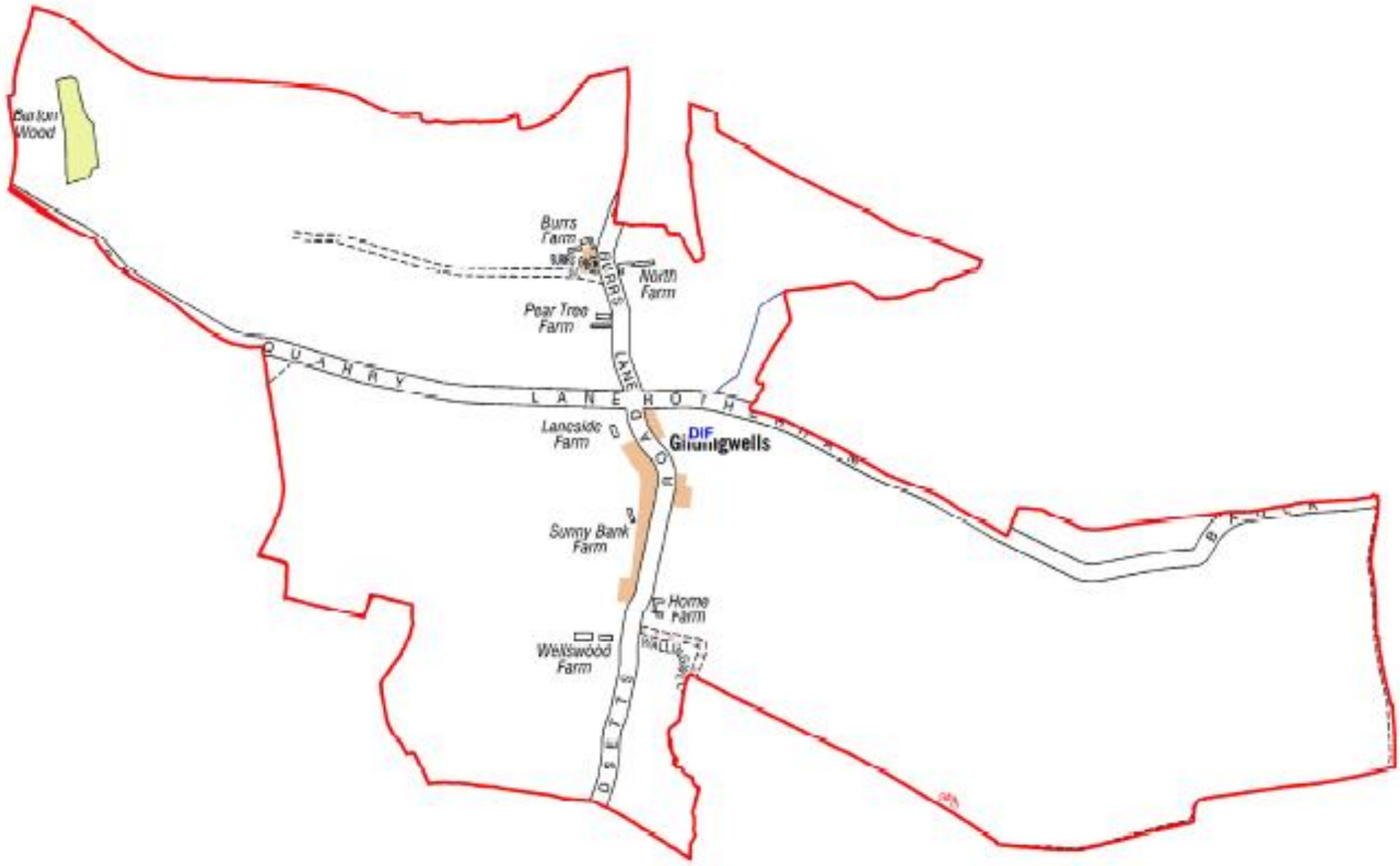


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Gildingwells Parish

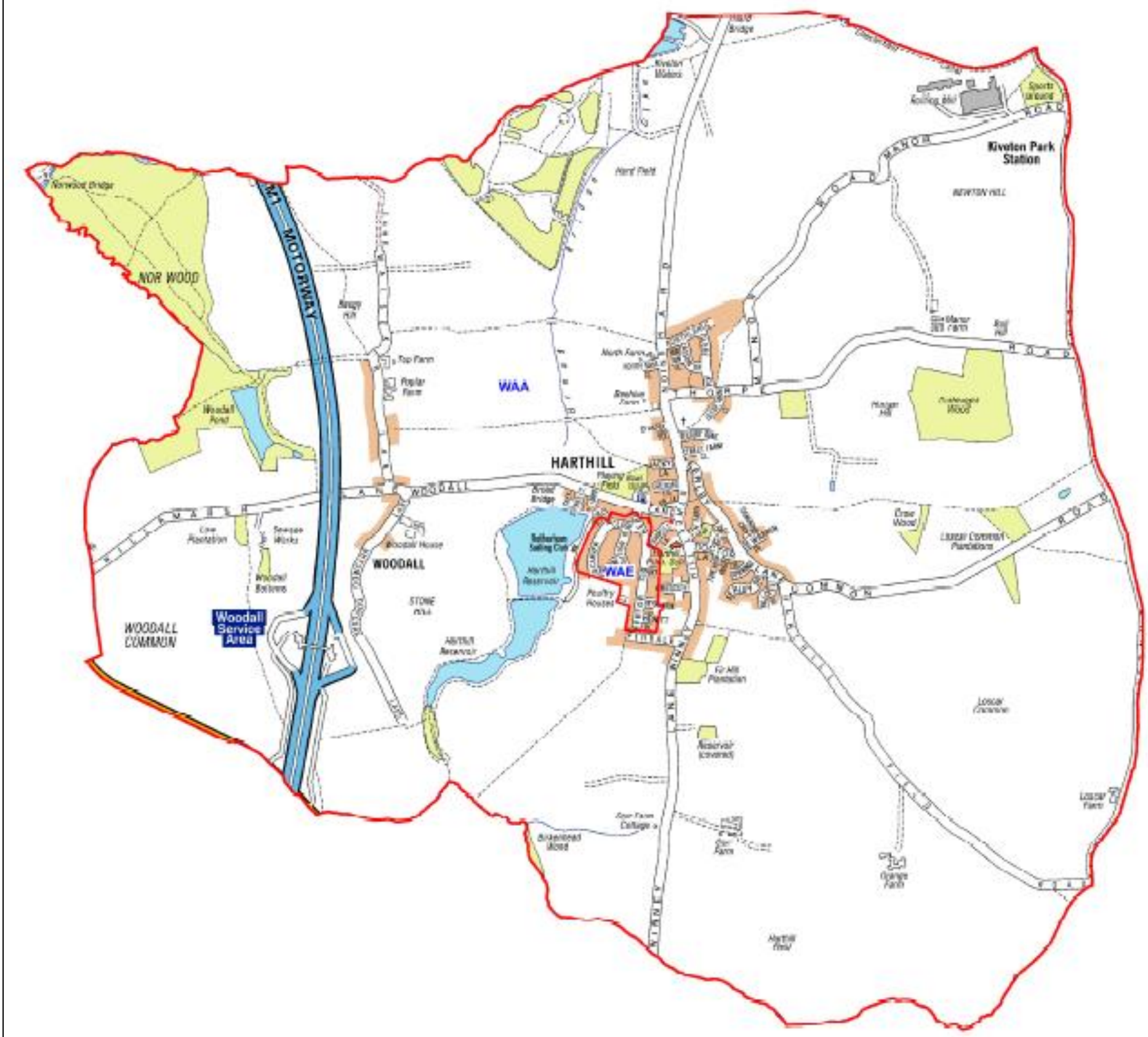


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Harthill with Woodall Parish Council

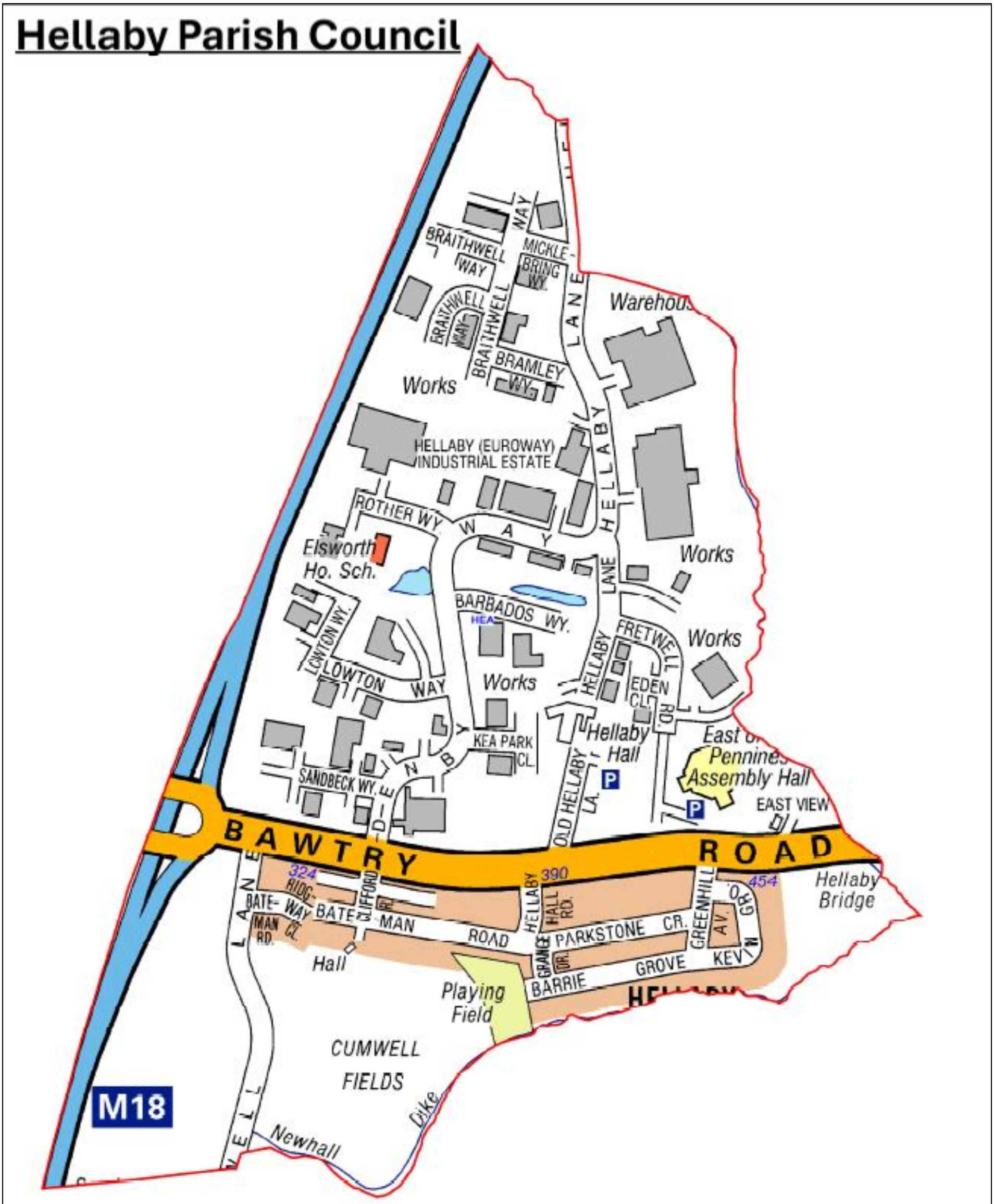


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Hellaby Parish Council

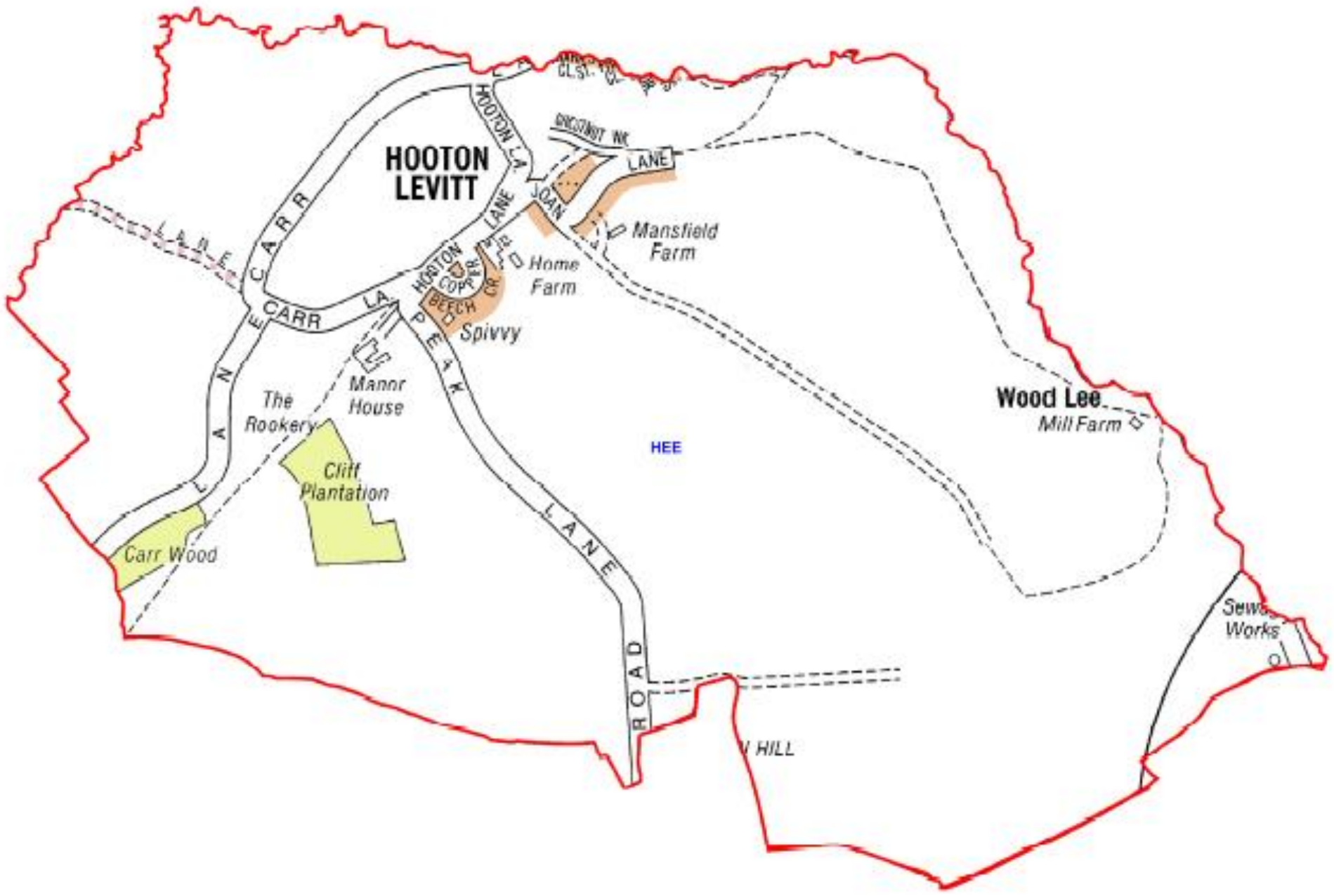


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17/03/2026

Hooten Levitt Parish

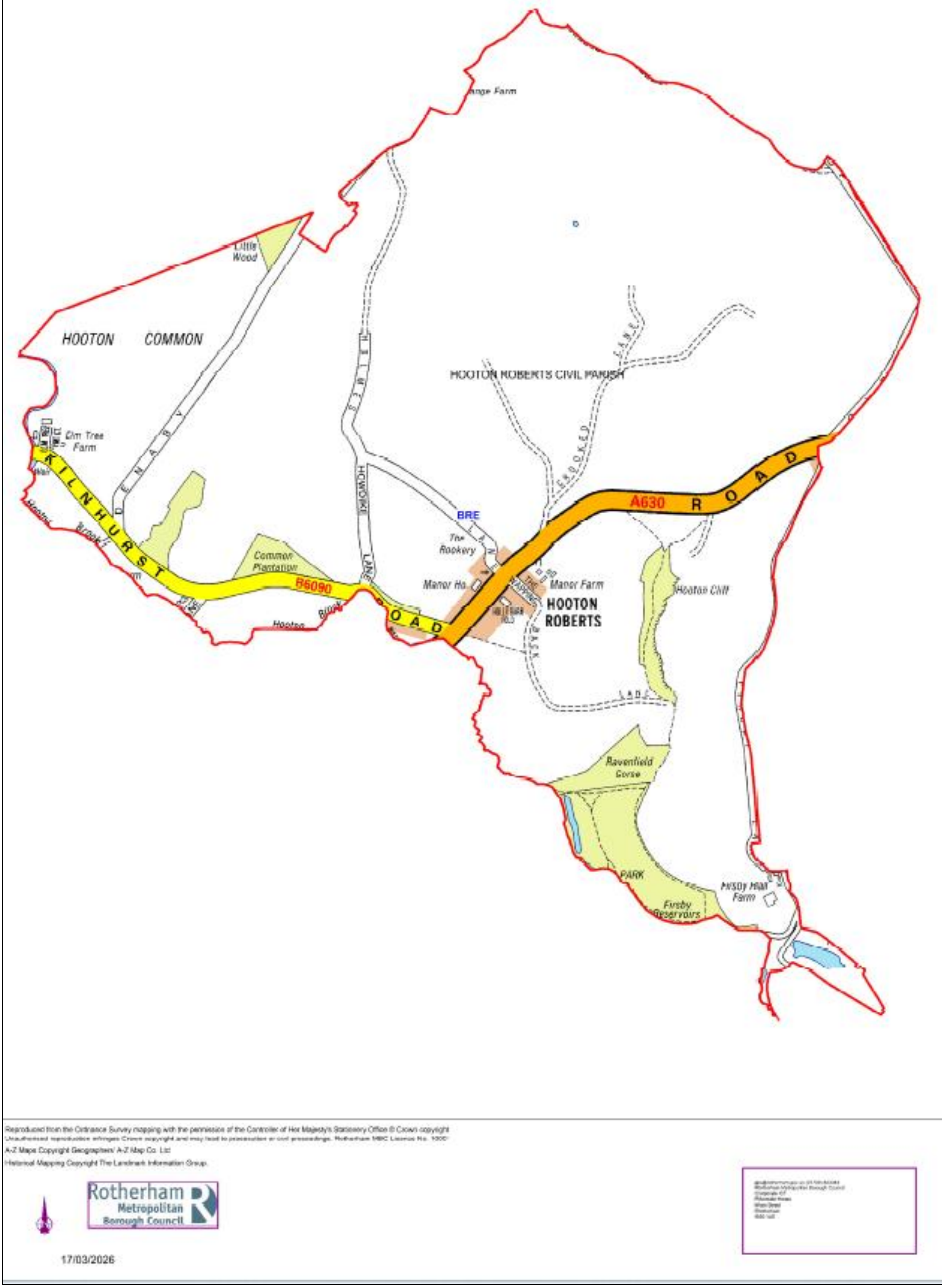


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17/03/2026

Hooten Roberts Parish

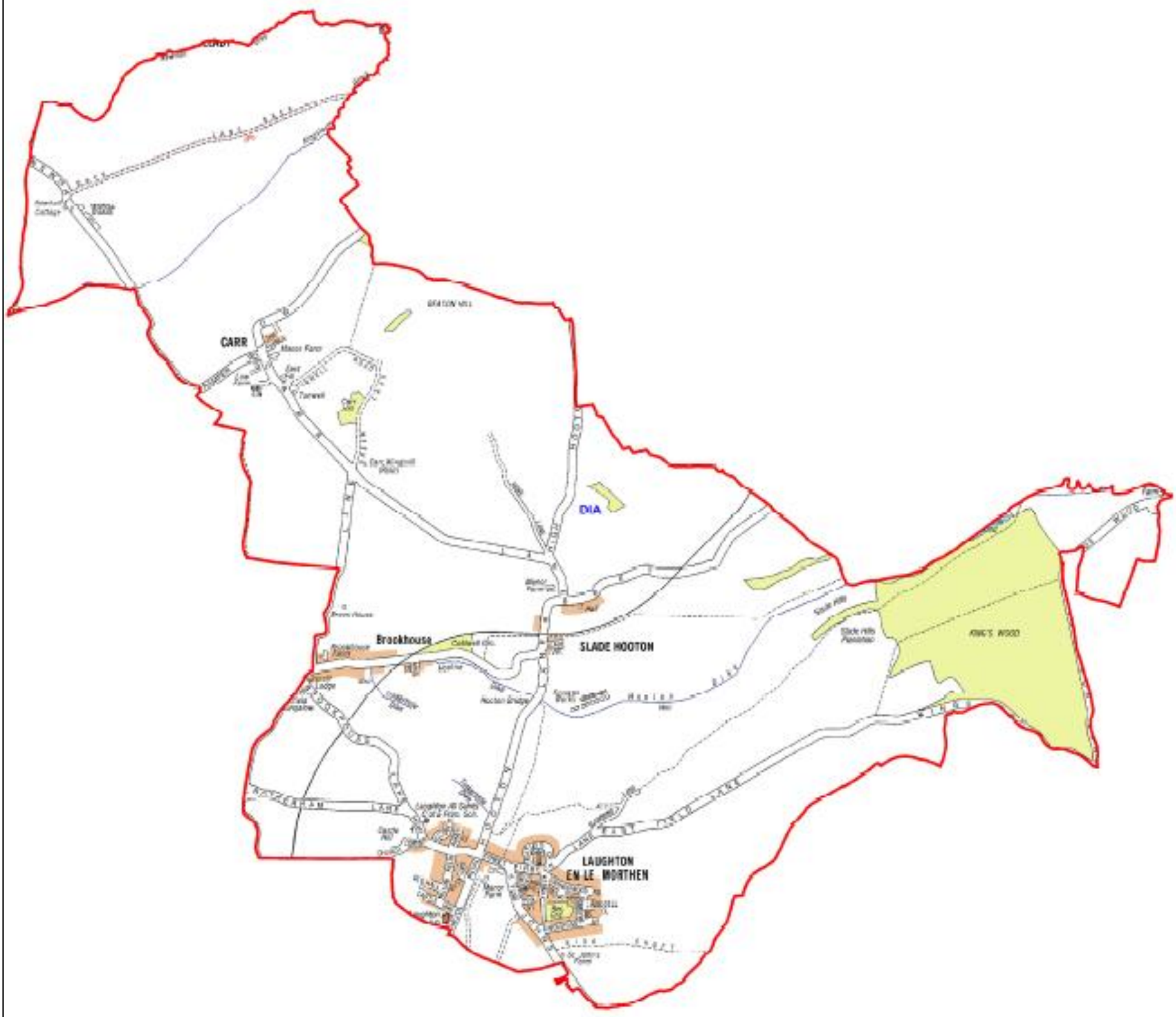


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Laughton-en-Le-Morthen Parish Council



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17/03/2020

Maltby Town Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Maltby East	MAA, MAB, MAC, MAD & MAE
Maltby West	HEB, HEC, HED & HEF

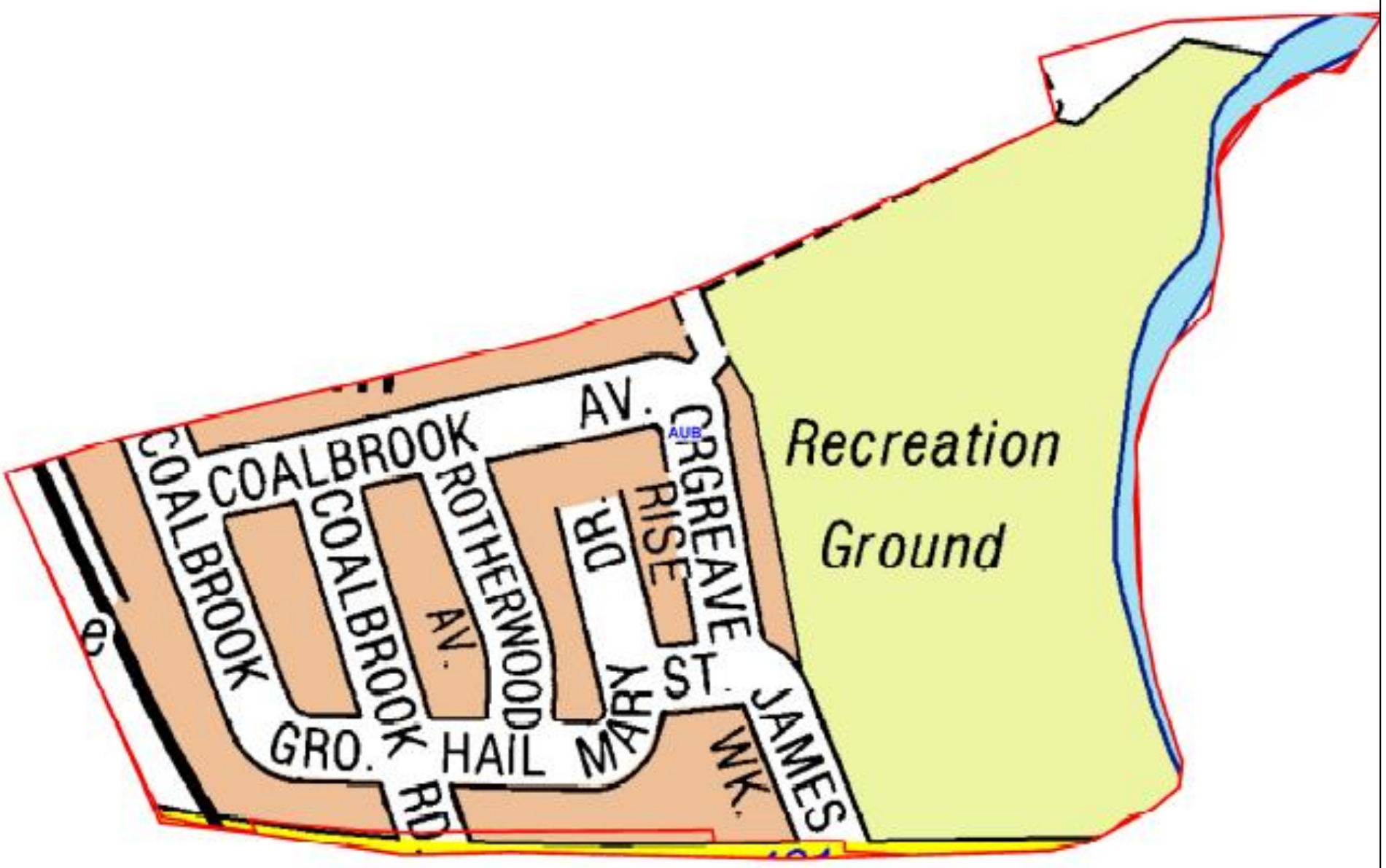


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17/03/2026

Orgreave Parish Council

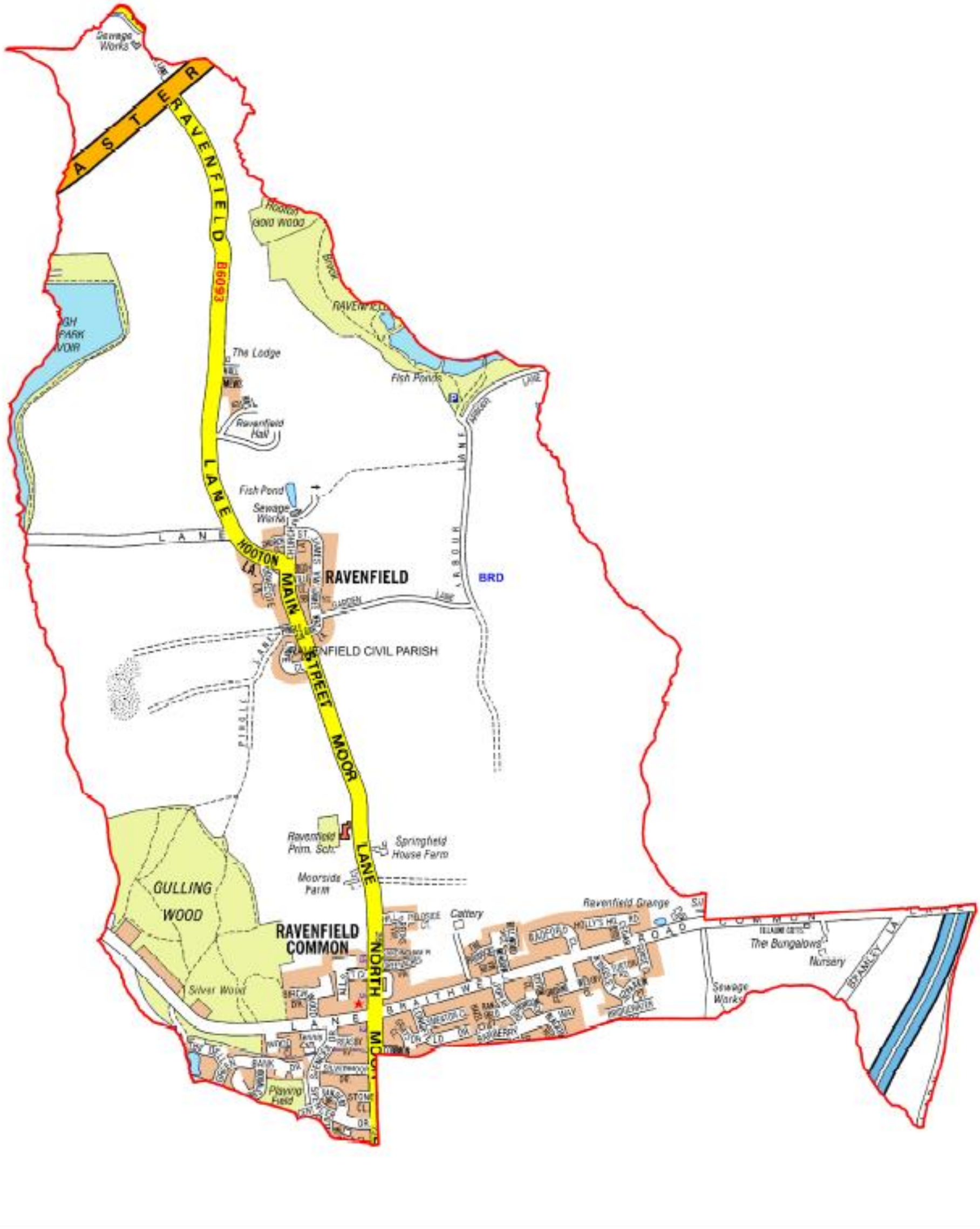


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17/03/2026

Ravenfield Parish Council

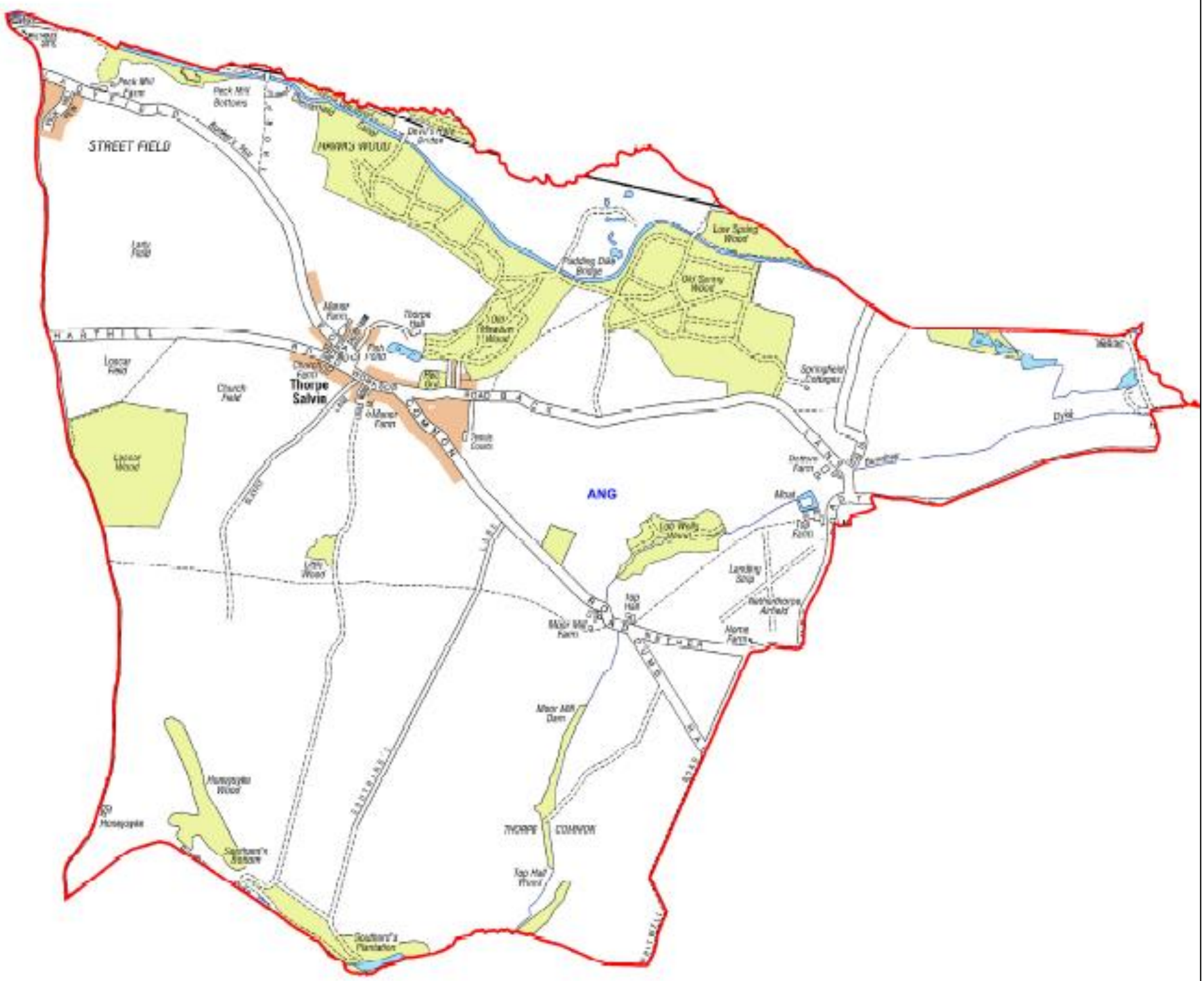


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17/03/2026

Thorpe Salvin Parish Council



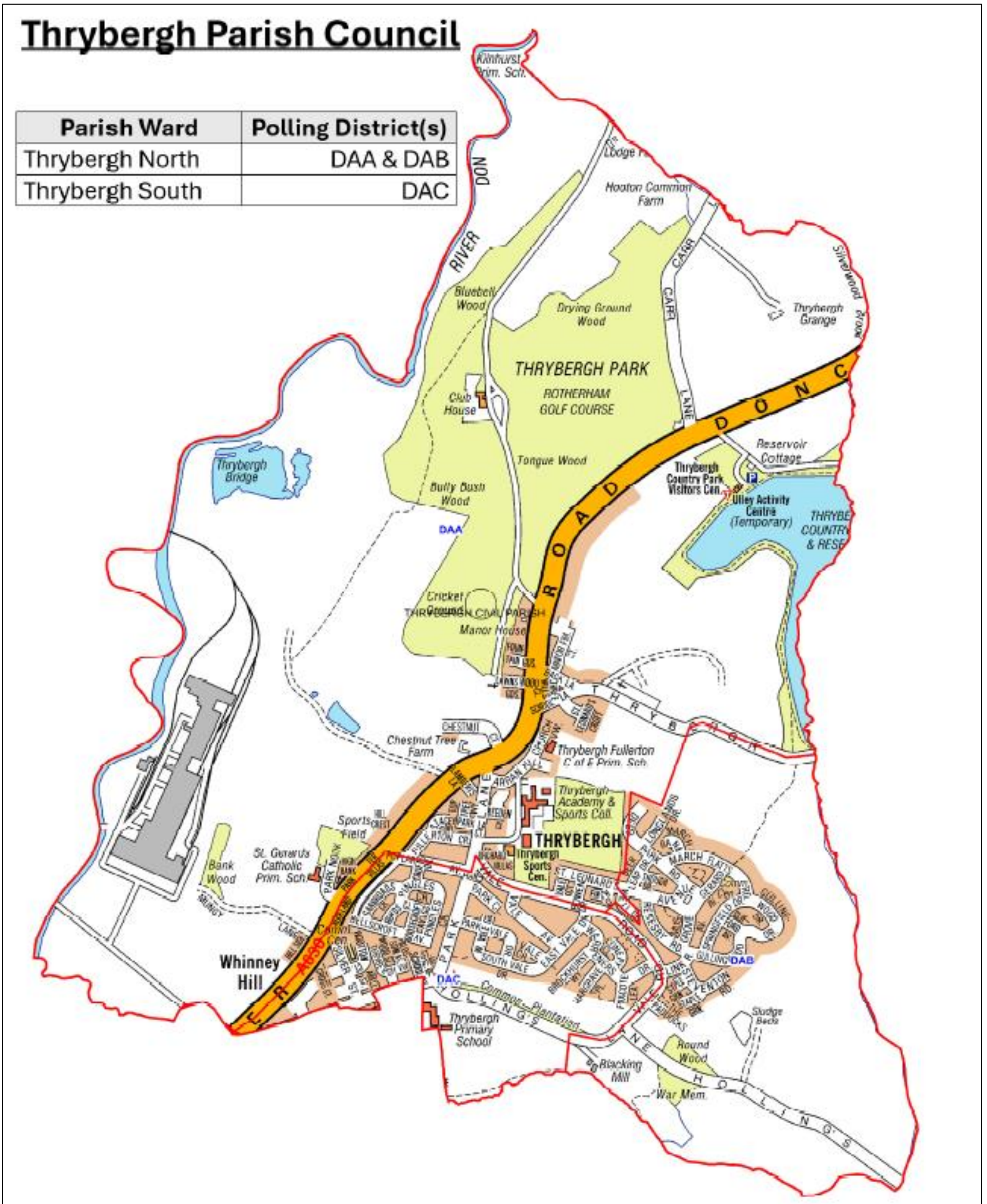
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17/03/2026

Thrybergh Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Thrybergh North	DAA & DAB
Thrybergh South	DAC



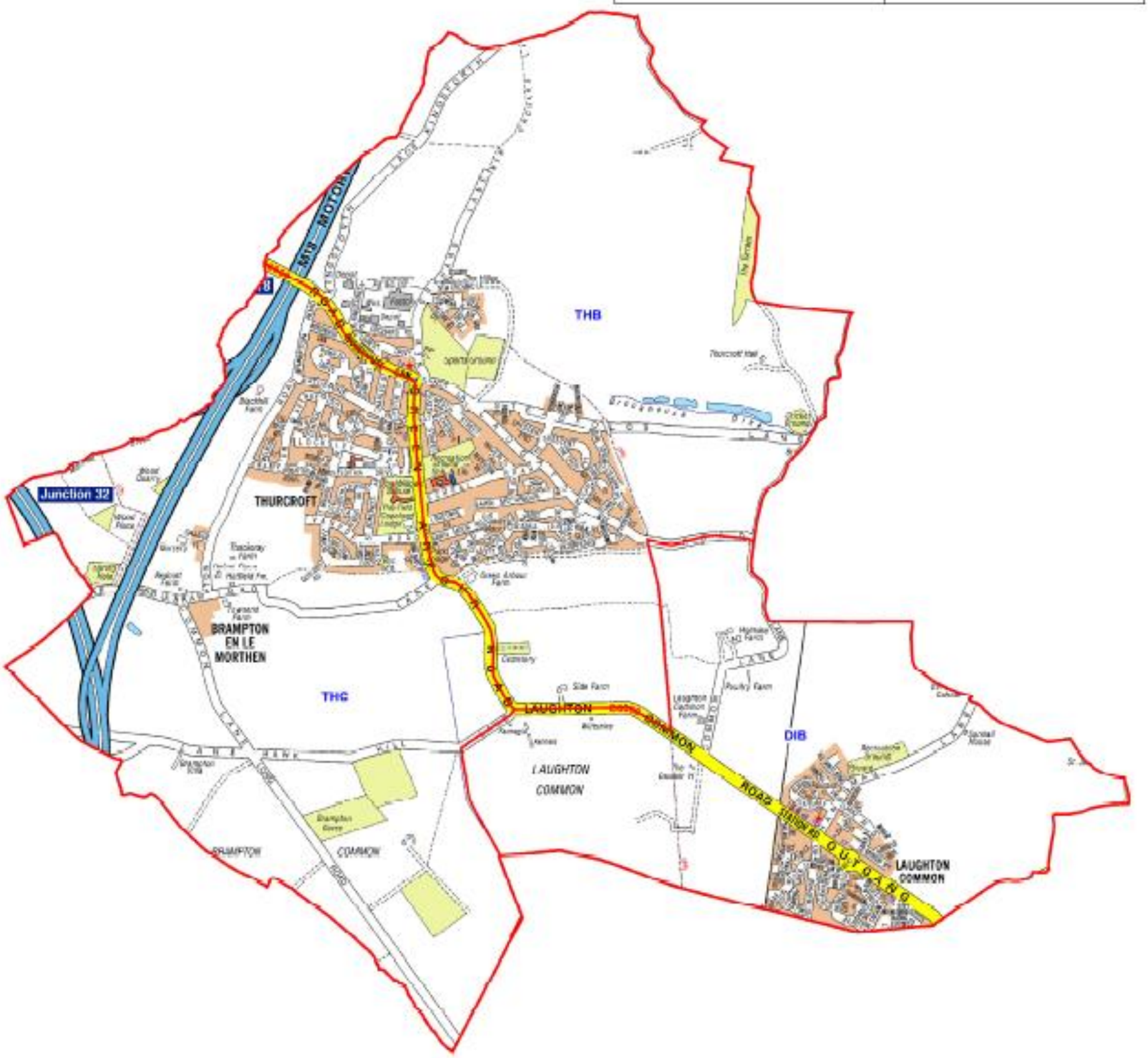
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17/03/2026

Thurcroft Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Thurcroft North	THB & THC
Thurcroft South	DIB

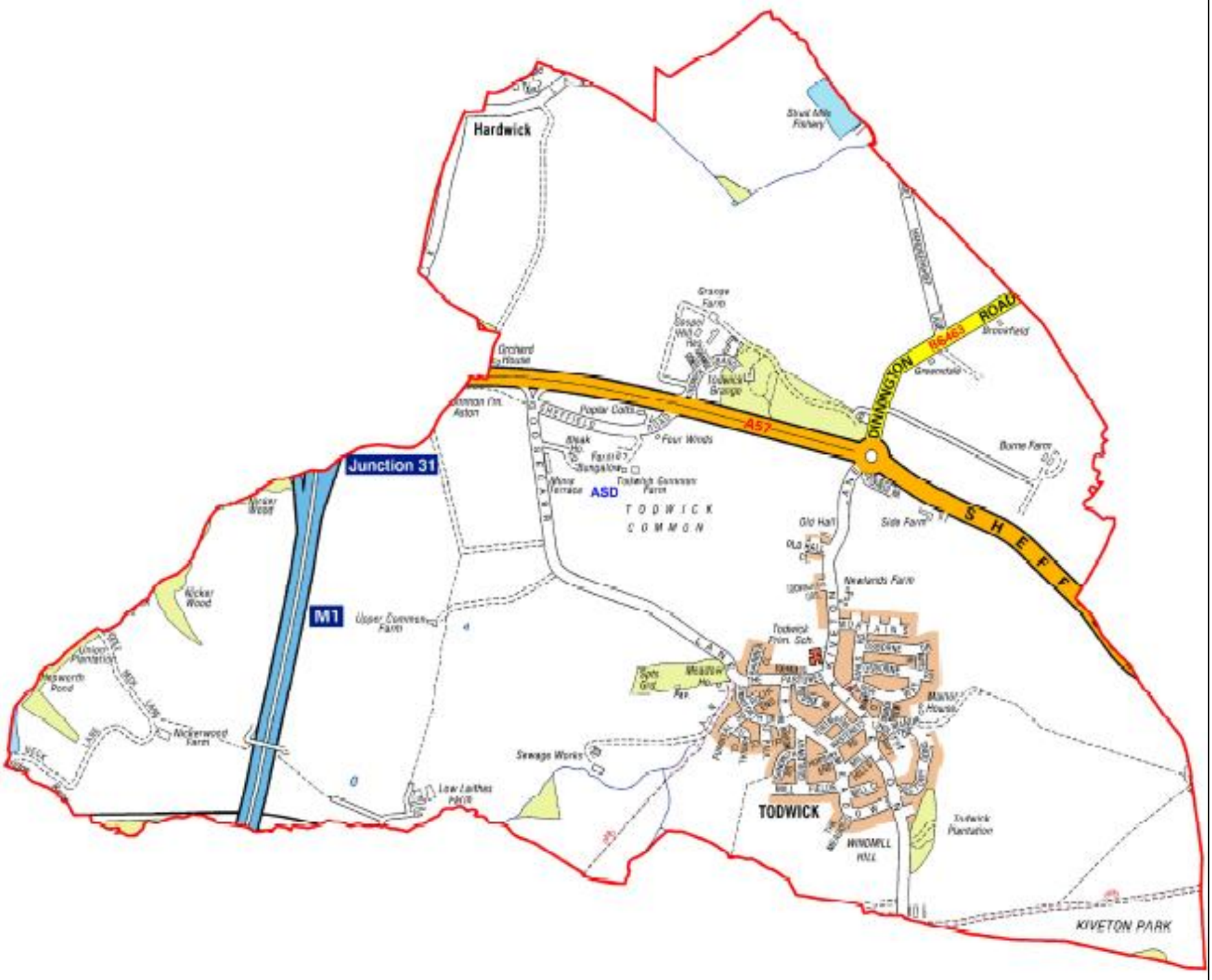


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17/03/2026

Todwick Parish Council

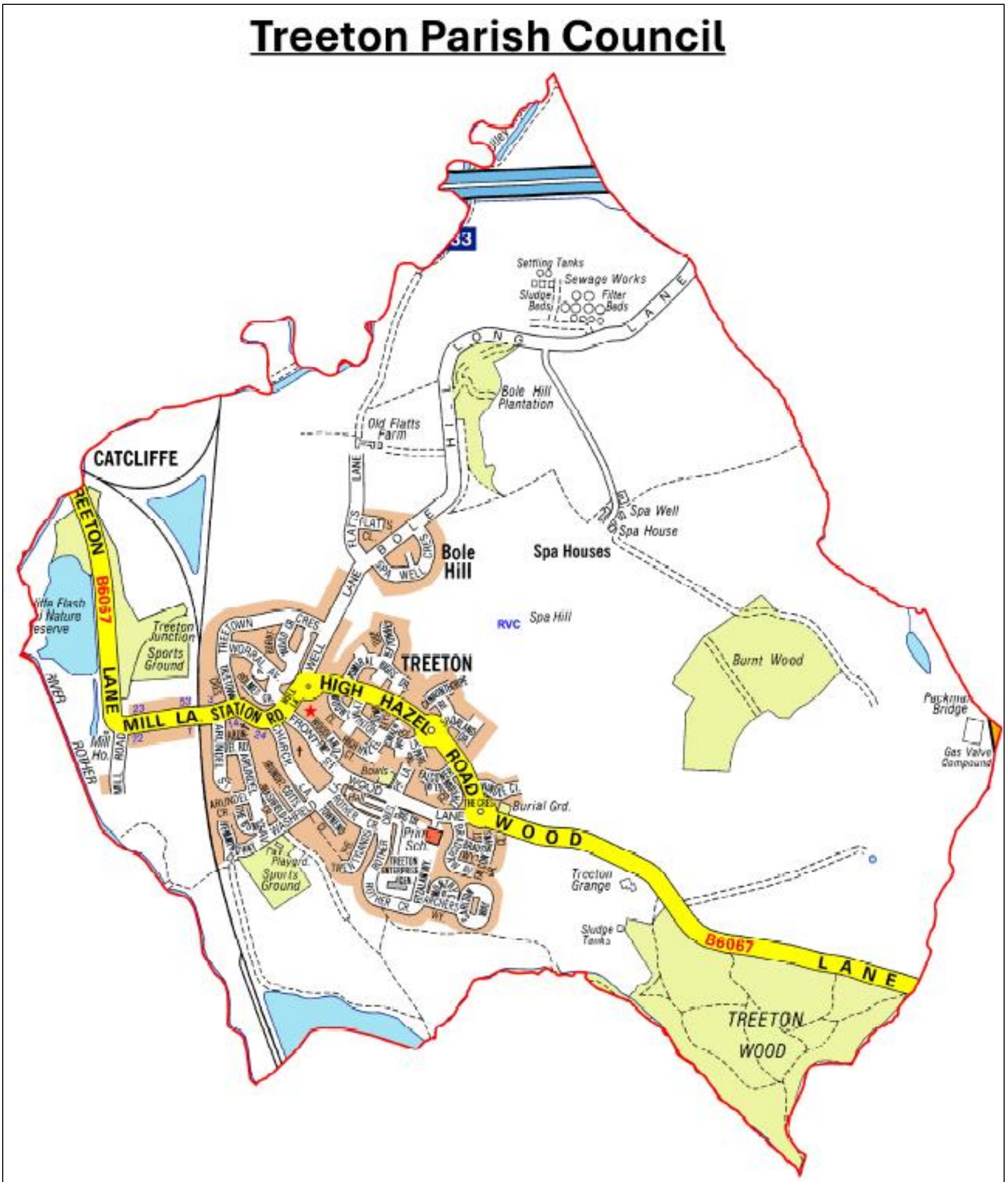


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17/03/2026

Treeton Parish Council

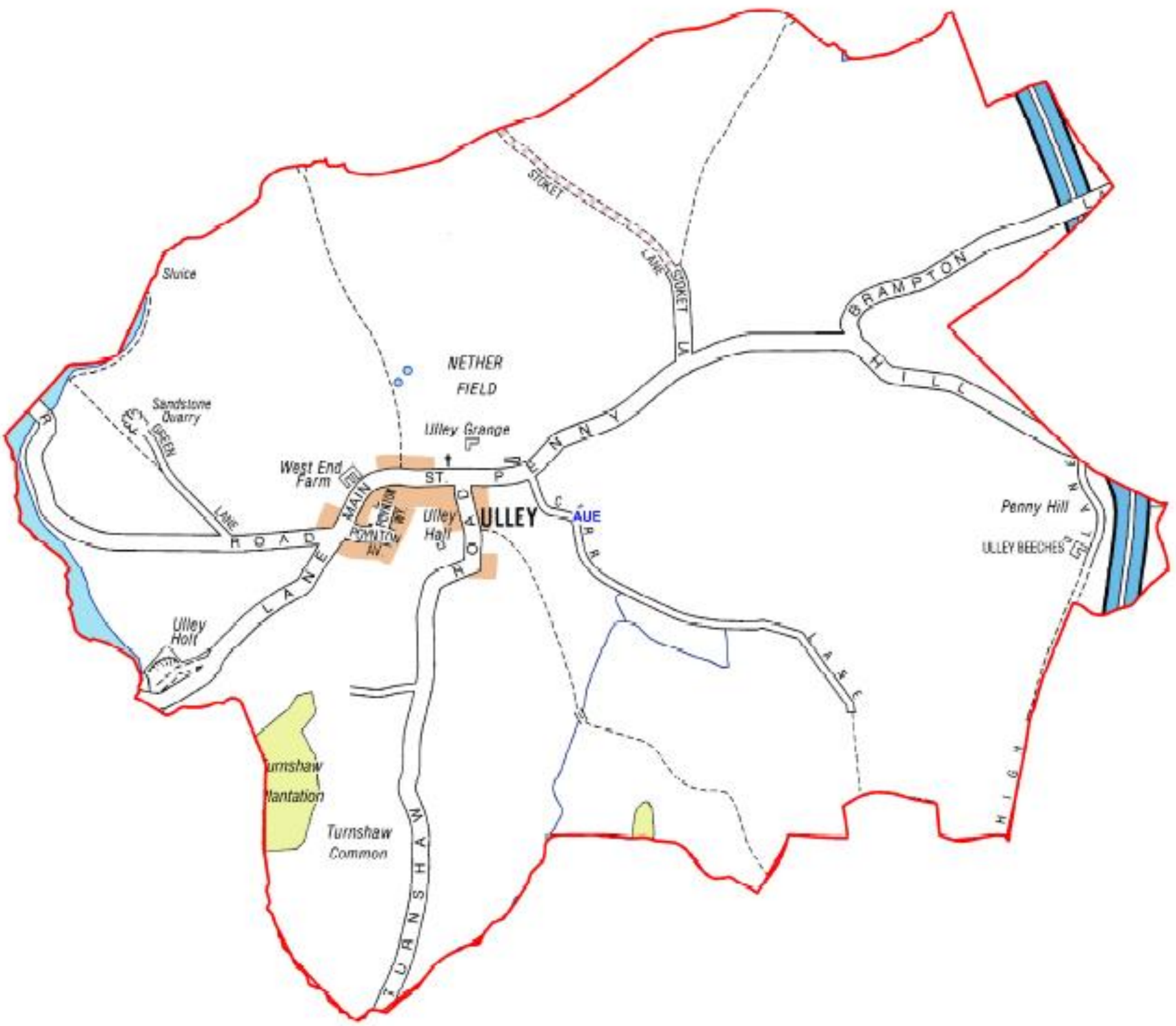


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17/03/2026

Ulley Parish Council



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Wales Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Kiveton Park	WAC & WAF
Wales	WAB & WAD



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Waverley Community Council



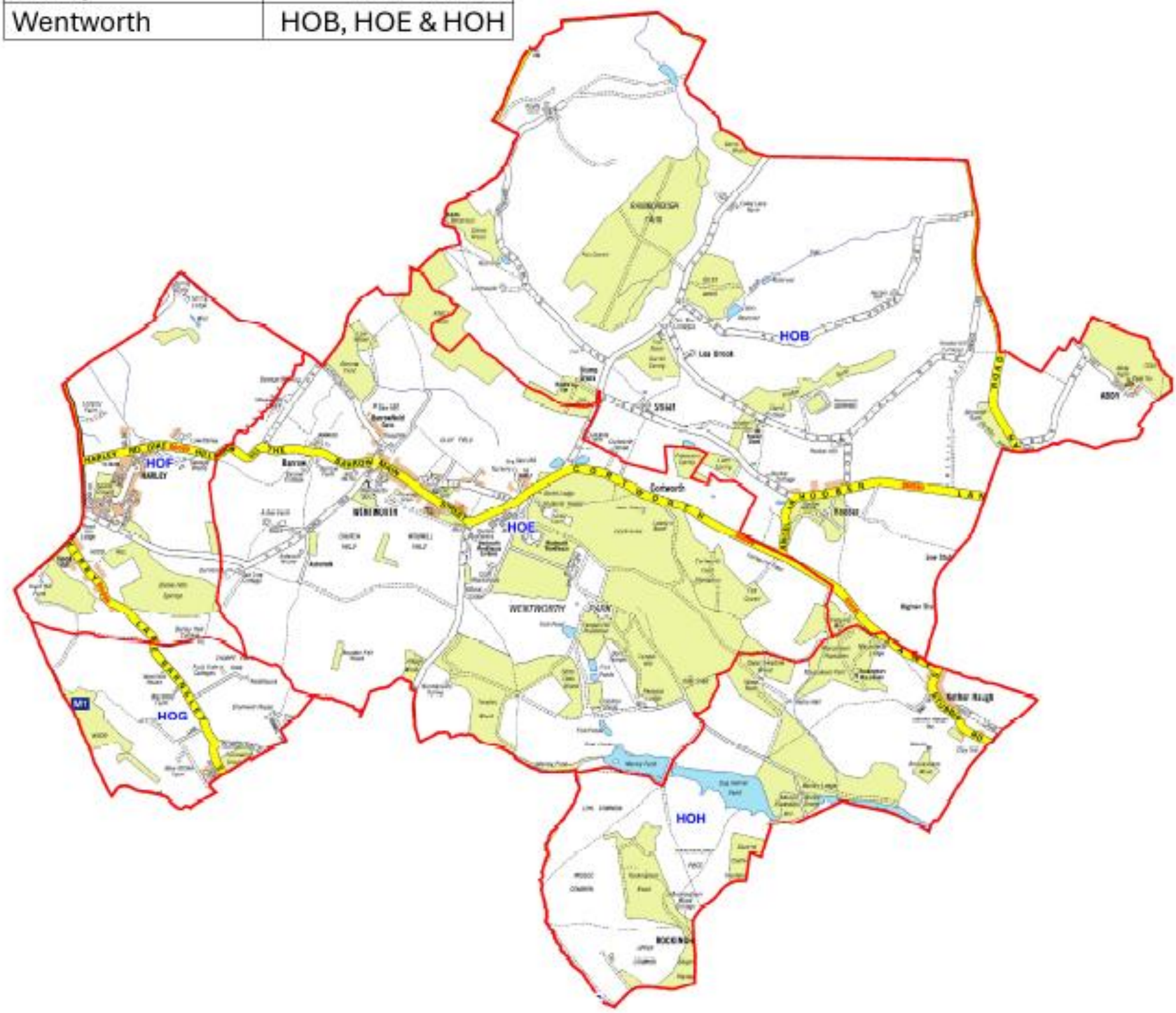
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Wentworth Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Harley	HOF & HOG
Wentworth	HOB, HOE & HOH

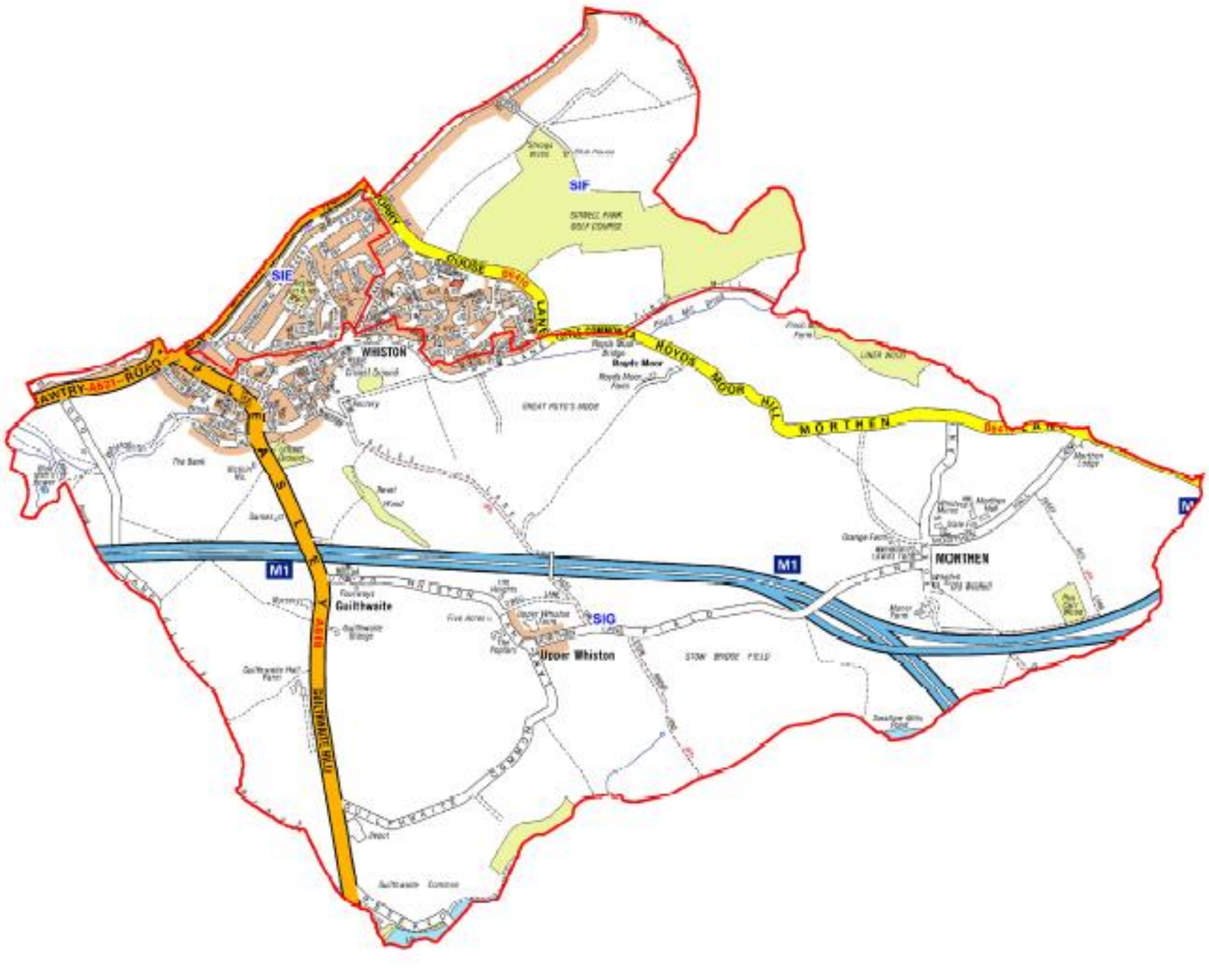


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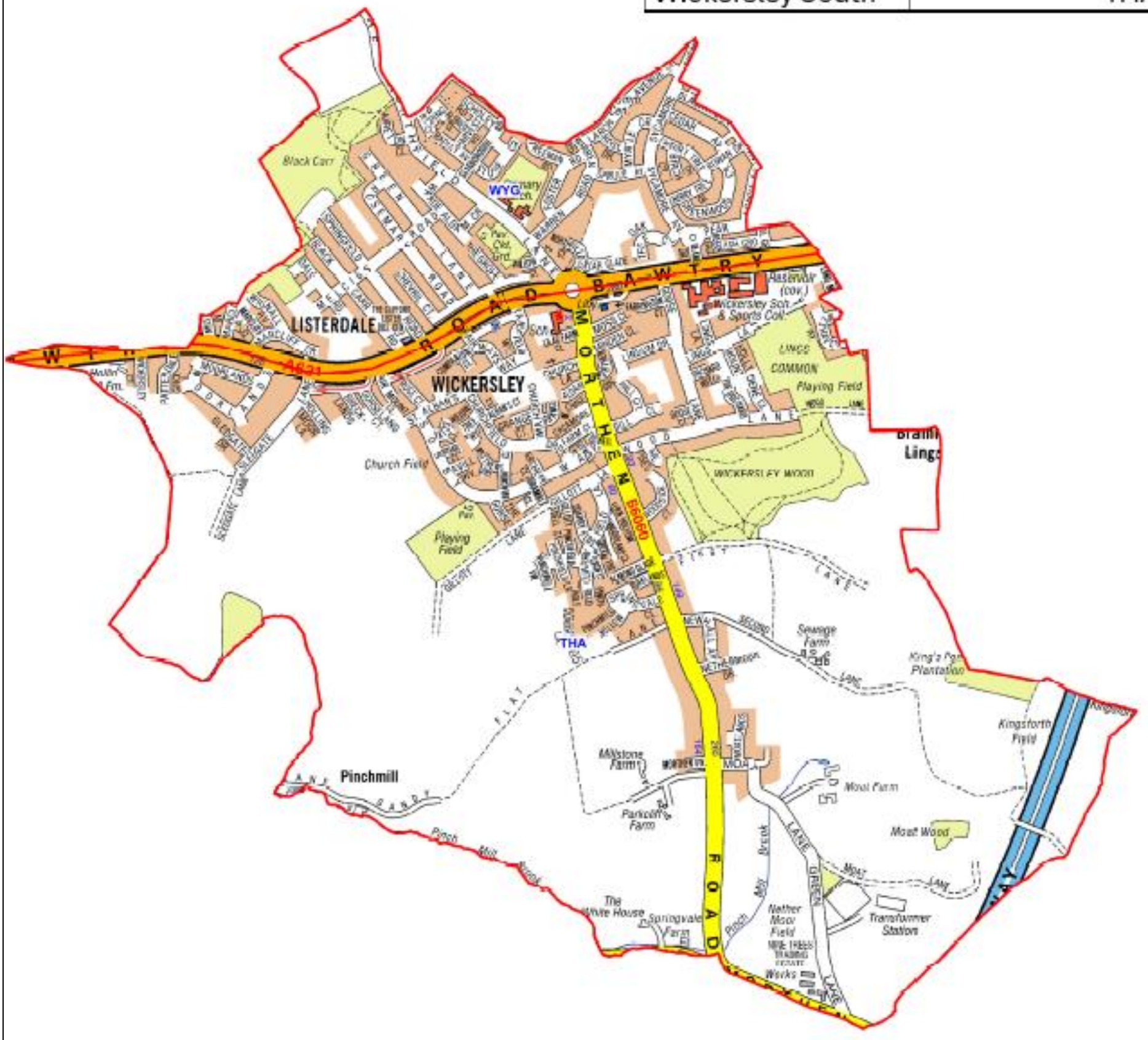
17/03/2026

Whiston Parish Council


SIF
SIE
SIG
WHISTON
Upper Whiston
Guilthwaite
NORTHEN
M1
M1
HOYOS MOOR HILL
MORTHEN
GUILTHWAITE WAY
A629
A629
LANE
LANE
ROAD
ROAD
LANE
LANE
LANE

Wickersley Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Wickersley North	WYG
Wickersley South	THA

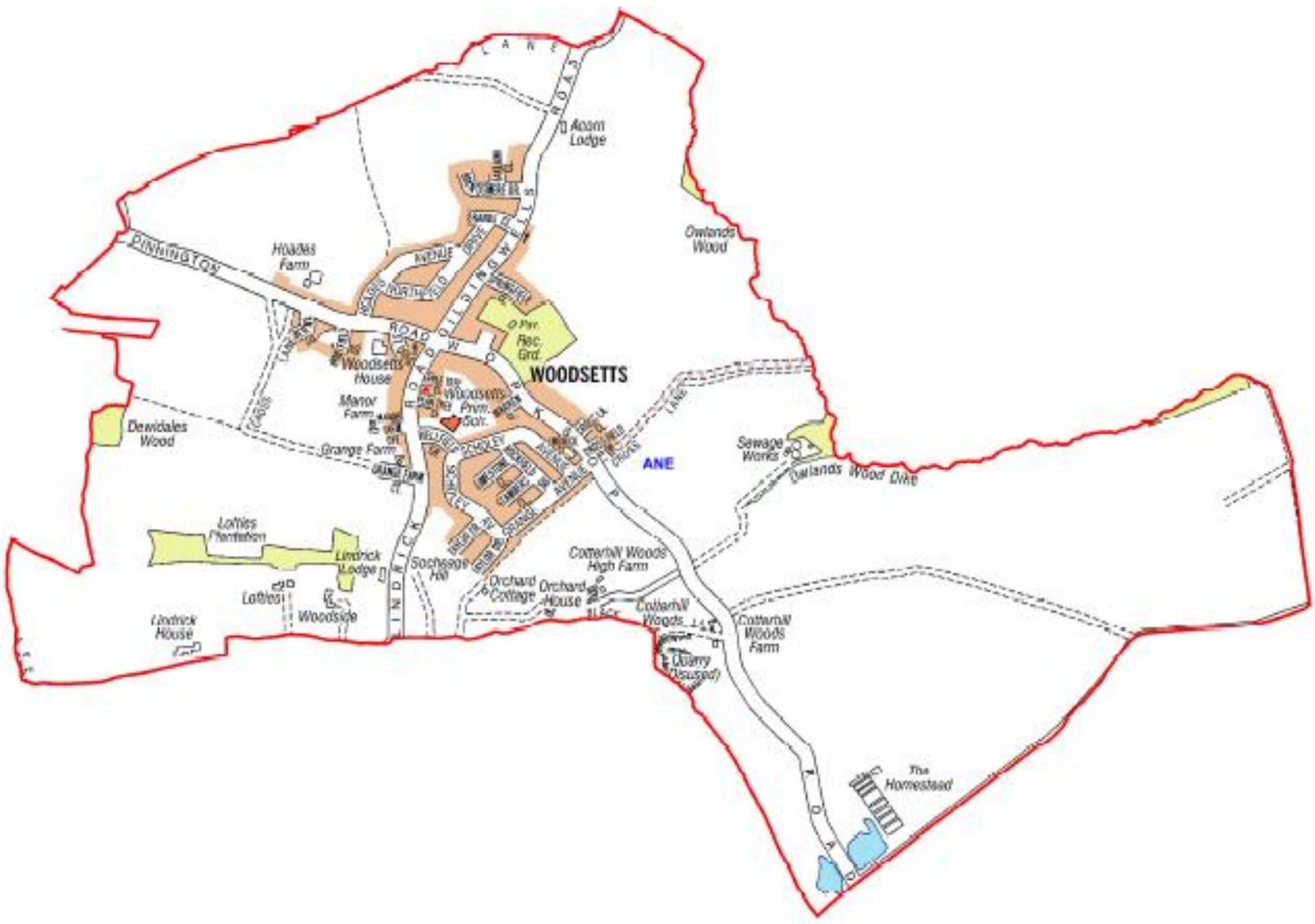


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Woodsetts Parish Council



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17/03/2026

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Appendix 2 - Community Governance Review Timetable

Stage	Event	Date
Commencement	Publication of Terms of Reference	1 May 2026
1	Public consultation period	1 May 2026 to 26 June 2026
2	Submissions received are considered, and draft initial recommendations are prepared and considered by Cabinet.	July 2026 to September 2026
3	Draft recommendations are published. Public consultation period on draft recommendations.	October 2026 to November 2026
4	Submissions are received and considered and final recommendations are prepared	December 2026 to February 2027
	Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council	March 2027
	Final recommendations are considered by Council and a decision taken on the outcome of the review. Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order (if required).	April 2027
Implementation	Scheduled parish elections	4 May 2028

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Appendix 3 - EIA

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Community Governance Review	
Directorate: Corporate Services	**Service area:** Electoral Services
Lead person: Mike Thomas	**Contact:** Mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 823 268
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify:** Statutory public consultation	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. The review process is known as a Community Governance Review (CGR). When carrying out a CGR, regard must be given to the 2010 Communities and Local Government and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's

Guidance on community governance reviews as set out in section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007.

CGRs are undertaken to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to facilitate effective and convenient local governance and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

In developing final recommendations for local governance arrangements for parish and town council areas the Council seeks to ensure that proposals:

- reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
- are effective and convenient; and
- take into consideration any other arrangements that might facilitate community representation and engagement.

A Community Governance Review may look at the following in respect of parishes:

- amending existing parishes / parish names
- establishing parish councils
- councillor numbers
- grouping / de-grouping / amalgamating parishes
- creating / abolishing parishes
- recommendations in respect of electoral arrangements (including warding arrangements, name of wards and councillors to be elected to parish wards)

Following the review, the final recommendations must go to Council for approval and resolve to make an Order to bring any approved recommendations into effect at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x

Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

A CGR is a statutory process that provides all stakeholders an opportunity to contribute their views about the existing parish council arrangements. The outcome of the review can include the amendment, creation or abolishment of a parish council. The CGR process does not have any specific impact on equality and diversity.

The consultation will be available online and printed copies in all Rotherham libraries. Consultation drop-in events will also be held in different areas of the Borough to provide the opportunity for all residents to take part.

Information can be requested in alternative formats, including large print and different languages.

An Equality Analysis (Part B) is not required at this stage of the CGR processes; however, it may be required depending on the impact of the draft recommendations, which will be developed following the initial round of public consultation.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**
  N/A
- **Key findings**
  N/A

• **Actions** N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Horsfield	Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services	10/03/2025

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	03/03/2026
Report title and date	Community Governance Review, 27/02/2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Community Governance Review, 03/03/2026 – publication date (Cabinet on 13 April 2026)
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	03/03/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	During the consultation, it may be necessary for Electoral Services staff to travel to different parts of the Borough to conduct visits and consultation events, resulting in vehicle emissions from the journeys. It is likely that this impact will be very small.	There may be some vehicle emissions from residents choosing to travel by car to any public consultation events or their local library to view a hardcopy of the consultation documents.	The consultation will be available online. For those wishing to view a hardcopy of the consultation, copies will be made available in all of Rotherham's libraires. Electoral Services staff will car share where possible, when conducting any visits or consultation events around the Borough. Where possible, any consultation events will take place in locations across the Borough to minimise travel distances for residents.	No additional monitoring possible. Where vehicles utilised are officers' personal vehicles emissions will be monitored as part of the Council's annual reporting process through the mileage claim process.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	A small increase in waste may be produced from paper copies of consultation materials. This is likely to have a negligible impact on the Council's emissions.		Hardcopies will be only available where necessary to ensure all relevant parties across the Borough are able to access the consultation, noting variances in digital accessibility and proficiency.	Impacts are likely to small to measure.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: *N/A*					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? *There are no significant impacts expected relating to resilience as a result of this decision.*

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years.

When carrying out a review, the Council must consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. As well as carrying out online consultation, hardcopies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel to view it.

To minimise the distances residents, would have to travel to any consultation events held as part of the review, the locations will be chosen to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough. When travelling to consultation events, where possible, Electoral Services staff will car share.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Mike Thomas Electoral Services Manager Electoral Service Corporate Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 609 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13th April 2026

Report Title
Street Safe Team Update

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Paul Murphy, Community Safety and Protection Manager,
Emma Ellis, Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services.

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet note the progress to date.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Initial equality screening assessment
Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact assessment

Background Papers

June 2025 – Street Safe Cabinet Report
Environmental Protection Act 1990

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers Statutory guidance for frontline professionals, Home Office, March 2023

Public Spaces Protection Order for Town Centre and Clifton Park – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Street Safe Team Update

1. Background

1.1 In March 2025 Council approved a £570k Revenue Budget Investment to create a new Street Safe Team which, working with a range of partners, would contribute to the creation of safe and attractive town centres across the Borough to create safer neighbourhoods, improve public perceptions, act as ambassadors for the areas they are working in and safeguard those at risk.

1.2 The aim of the Street Safe Team is to reduce both actual, and perceived crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), and increase feelings of safety, also identified as a priority in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2028. The Safer Rotherham Partnership provides governance across varying partnership activities to maximise impact and track progress and performance, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority.

1.3 The Street Safe Team aims to improve feelings of safety and security in the Town Centres of Rotherham, Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby. The team provide a visible, uniformed Council presence, with a particular focus on hot spot areas.

1.4 The Street Safe Team have provided dedicated resources utilising their ability to deploy various powers to bolster enforcement and alongside existing uniformed presence, provide a welcoming and reassuring presence in the town centres.

1.5 By being a highly visible presence, the team has acted as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Council and are identifying and reporting issues where they are unable to intervene directly. They are also developing a deeper understanding of the areas they are working in, advising and engaging with members of the public who approach them and developing relationships with key partners in these areas. The Team have focused on making best use of intelligence data and information to target resources and problem solve community issues.

1.6 The Street Safe Team has increased the Council’s capacity for both preventative and responsive interventions such as building and coordinating local intelligence, dealing with street drinking, anti-social behaviour, as well as enforcement for issues such as littering and wider environmental issues (commercial waste etc). The Team will be undertaking parking enforcement once training is complete.

1.7 A ‘Feelings of safety in the Town centre’ survey was undertaken between November 2025 and January 2026, which has received over 1,100 responses and these are currently being analysed. This survey will be repeated twice a year, with the next survey scheduled to take place in July/August 2026 which will help measure the impact of the service.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Street Safe Team went live on Monday 3 November 2025 with six officers recruited and having started on that date. The Team were further bolstered by four more officers starting in post on Monday 5 January 2026.The Team are now covering between 8am – 8pm from Monday through to Friday and 10am – 6pm on a Saturday and Sunday and are now operational in Rotherham Town Centre, Wath, Swinton, Maltby and Dinnington.

2.2 The Team have set out to support the delivery of a range of community safety services within specific neighbourhoods, including enforcement and regulation, providing regulatory advice and guidance while supporting the delivery of projects aimed at prevention and early intervention.

Performance management

2.3 To measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe team, a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators have been identified, aligned with community safety objectives. These will include:

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

2.3.1 These indicators will be reviewed regularly and reported through performance dashboards (to commence Quarter 1 2026/27), to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.

2.4 **To date (February 2026), the team has: -**

- Provided dedicated resources to enforce Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) and wider relevant legislation including the Environmental Protection Act. This has resulted in:
  - 12 Community Protection Warnings
  - 9 Fixed Penalties Notices (PSPO)
  - 17 environmental waste cases raised

- Contributed towards the improvement and feeling of safety in and around the town centres with high profile daily patrols.
    - 1,620 hrs of high-profile patrols in Rotherham Town Centre
    - 112 hrs of high-profile patrols across other town centres, (n.b. these patrols did not commence routinely until staffing capacity increased in January 2026 and training was fully completed)

- Provided support to local partner agencies through both physical high-profile interactions / patrols along with intelligence gathered from daily deployments. This has resulted in:
    - 6 vulnerable adult referrals
    - 17 actionable intelligence reports submitted
    - 4 incidents that Street Safe officers have dealt with leading directly to the arrest of individuals

- Provided a visible presence in targeted locations and attended dedicated events supporting the community with the feeling of being safe.
    - 11 community events attended
    - Positive community feedback through social media received.
    - Verbal feedback from community and Elected Members: "*it's so good to see you on patrol, we have needed this for such a long time*"

- Identified environmental vulnerabilities and supported opportunities to 'design out crime' through 'target hardening' (a crime prevention approach that focuses on making a potential target more difficult to damage or access unlawfully) in locations across the town centres.
    - e.g. the team has arranged for building repairs to Wharncliffe flats (previously affected by waste), which means access has now been prevented which will therefore prevent the waste deposits.

- Provided advice and guidance when approached by members of the public and supported vulnerable individuals through both referrals and medical care.

- Supported vulnerable individuals through providing first aid and providing pathways to wider support.
    - Critical first aid provided on 4 occasions, including a domestic violence incident raised as a result of the first aid response.

- Engaged with business and community groups across the Town Centre and Townships throughout the Borough.
    - Worked with outreach and community safety teams in the town centre and provided a visible presence and business events and CAPS

2.5 Overall, the Team have provided a high-profile community presence across Rotherham to challenge negative behaviours and help to minimise harm to communities. .

2.6 The Team continues to work collaboratively with key partners and consistently engage with communities to further build on the successes to date and see this as an essential aspect of helping continue to evolve and make further improvements. The team will continue to provide better connected services, that regularly engage with communities who are at the heart of what the Council do.

2.7 The Street Safe manager commenced in post on 3 September 2025 and the Coordinator and Officers have been recruited from two full recruitment processes which included group assessment centres as well as formal interviews. One officer role is still vacant but is currently being advertised. All the Street Safe Team have attained enhanced DBS clearance prior to deployment.

2.8 All Street Safe staff have been issued with the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All outer clothing including both winter and summer jackets. (RMBC logo).
- High visibility vests. (RMBC logo)
- Personal body camera and SOS device.
- Personal radio.
- Cold weather attire – hats / gloves (RMBC logo).
- Personal issue footwear.

Other equipment issued: -

- Laptop and smart device.
- Rucksack, for agile working across the Borough.
- Locker to store all work attire.
- Document pouches for enforcement notices.
- First aid kits including face shield and multi tool.
- Torch.
- Needle stick guard gloves.

2.9 The Team have been through a significant training and upskilling programme with the aim of meeting the requirements for initial deployment. The aim is to map out further training requirements of the team to support an omni-competent skill set that can support the wider enforcement opportunities held by the Council.

2.10 The training provided so far / planned before the financial year end: -

- All mandatory on-line training completed for new starters.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Domestic Abuse (DA) Matters training.

- Stalking and Harrassment
- Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service (ROADS) Training - Naloxone issued (all Street Safe officers now carry this capability), which provides Emergency Overdose Reversal as the primary antidote for acute opioid toxicity, restoring breathing in victims of overdoses
- Anti-social Behaviour, Community Protection Warning & Community Protection Notice legislation training.
- First Aid at Work.
- First Aid responder training including CPR.
- De-escalation training.
- Trauma informed training
- Driver training.
- Dynamic risk assessment training.
- Needle stick training.
- Legislative training including: -
  - Police and Criminal evidence act training.
  - Regulation of investigative powers act.
  - Fixed penalties issuance training.
  - Statement taking.
  - Enforcement interview training.
  - Criminal procedure and investigations act training.
  - Giving evidence in court training.
  - CIVICA Case Building.

2.11 A refreshed communications and perception-management plan has been developed and presented at the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board in February 2026.

The plan focuses on:

- Rebalancing the narrative around town centre safety.
- Improving transparency about enforcement and partnership work.
- Promoting positive developments (e.g., Forge Island, Street Safe Team).
- Encouraging public reporting and use of support services.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 That Cabinet note the progress to date and commit to receiving further updates annually as the team continues to evolve and develop.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Key stakeholders have been involved in the development and delivery of the induction and training programme.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The report does not provide for a specific decision. The Service Director for Community Safety and Street Scene retains overall accountability.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Street Safe Team was established following an approved revenue investment of £570k, as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process. As recruitment to posts was delayed, the Service are currently reporting an underspend against this investment in 2025/26, however, it is anticipated that the investment will be spent in full in 2026/27.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

7.2 The service are aware of legal requirements in relation to enforcement staff and a full training program is being delivered to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 As this is a progress update report there are no direct HR implications arising from the report.

8.2 The newly established Street Safe team has been supported through structured planning, training, and targeted managerial support to ensure successful integration and effective performance. Any HR issues would be addressed with the support of the HR Consultancy team if required.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Street Safe Team provides an increased focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people and receive additional training to identify and support vulnerable individuals, ensuring they receive appropriate help and protection.

9.2 The Team need to understand and respond to trauma experienced by vulnerable individuals to respond to sensitive situations empathetically and build trust within the community, especially among vulnerable groups to enhance overall public safety and reducing risks for vulnerable individuals.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An initial equality screening has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 An initial Carbon assessment has been completed and submitted and is attached at Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. The Street Safe Team continues to require enhanced coordination and collaboration with key partners such as South Yorkshire Police, neighbourhood teams, substance misuse services, homeless services and relevant communications teams to share progress and relevant information.

12.2 This collaboration continues to involve regular joint training sessions, information sharing, and coordinated responses to community issues. Partners will need to align their plans and resources to support the new team effectively, ensuring a comprehensive and unified approach to community safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals. This increased collaboration aims to strengthen relationships, improve service delivery, and enhance overall perceptions of safety.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Creating a new Team involves potential risks such as recruitment and retention challenges and impact on the capacity of the wider Community Protection and Environmental Health service who support the ongoing training and induction. To mitigate these, the service has implemented clear role definitions, detailed budget planning, targeted recruitment strategies, and a structured induction programme.

13.2 Focusing on community engagement, regular joint training with partners, thorough legal training, mental health support, hands-on technology training, and strategic patrol plans will seek to ensure the team's successful integration and operational capability.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Ellis: Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/2026
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/2026

Report Author: Paul Murphy Community Safety and Protection Manager (Street Safe) Paul.murphy@rotherham.gov.uk

Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services Emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Street Safe Team – Progress update	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	**Service area:** Community Protection
Lead person: Paul Murphy	**Contact:** 07345749679
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Cabinet Paper – First year update against budget allocated for the Street safe Initiative and the establishment of the Street Safe Team.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

Appendix 1

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		X
Could the proposal affect service users?		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
This is an update cabinet paper as to progress against budget allocated for Street Safe Initiative. Therefore, no equality implications derive from this report.		

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** N/A

Appendix 1

• **Key findings** N/A	
• **Actions** N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Murphy	Community Safety & Protection Manager	11.02.26
Emma Ellis	Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services	17.02.26

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	11.02.26
Report title and date	Street Safe Team – Progress Update.
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 13th April 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	11.02.26

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	A petrol hire vehicle is now in use to transport the Street Safe Team across the borough.	Improving community perceptions of safety in the town centre may support greater footfall, the local economy and regeneration in turn, with potentially beneficial carbon impacts for transport, as the town centre may be more accessible by public transport, walking and cycling than alternative venues and retail centres.	A business case to purchase two new vehicles is being prepared: battery electric (BEV), hybrid and second-generation biodiesel alternatives each offer a relative carbon saving. BEVs also offer a cheaper running cost.	Carbon emissions from fleet vehicles (including those which are hired or leased) are reported annually, with the Climate Change Annual Report.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				

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

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? Improving community perceptions of safety in the town centre may have long-term, intangible benefits for community resilience in response to external shocks such as extreme weather, including flooding. If increased footfall in the town centre supports a stronger local economy in turn, then Rotherham and its residents may be more resilient to supply chain impacts of climate change.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: A business case is being considered to purchase electric / hybrid vehicles for the Street Safe Team to perform duties across the borough. This will negate the use of short-term hire vehicles that are petrol / diesel. Longer-term benefits from improved perceptions of safety in the town centre are less certain but may support further mitigation of carbon emissions from transport and community resilience *e.g.*, to extreme weather and supply chain impacts of climate change.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Paul Murphy Community Safety & Protection Manager Community Safety Regeneration and Environment

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	UK government greenhouse gas conversion factors are applied as the basis for comparing emissions from petrol, diesel, battery electric, hybrid and second-generation biodiesel vehicles: reference below.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	DESNZ. 2025. *Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions*. [Online]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 601 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
To consider the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust. This is in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Document
Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy - Approved by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust

1. Background

1.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1988 conveys power on local authorities to allow discretionary relief that would be additional to any mandatory relief that may be applicable.

1.2 The Council can grant discretionary relief to: -

- Registered Charitable Organisations, including Community Amateur Sports Clubs. The relief granted is up to 20% of the rate liability as these organisations are eligible for 80% mandatory rate relief.

- Other organisations or institutions that are not established or conducted for profit and whose aims are charitable or otherwise, philanthropic, religious, concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature or fine arts. Relief can be granted up to 100% of the business rates liability.

- Properties occupied by not-for-profit sports or social clubs, societies or other organisations for the purposes of recreation. Relief can be granted up to 100% of the business rates liability.

- Rate relief to ratepayers – Section 47 of the LGFA 1988 as amended by Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council the discretion to grant relief to any other body, organisation or ratepayer, providing there is a decision of the Council to award relief in those circumstances and it is in the interests of the Council Tax payers in its area.

1.2.1 The Council has operated a system of awarding relief through the application of a Policy that was approved by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025.

1.2.2 Central Government and councils share every £1 of rates due as follows:

Central Government	50%
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	1%
Rotherham MBC	49%

1.3 **Application**

The Rotherham Hospice Trust for Unit 2 Amber Business Centre, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, S60 1RU.

1.3.1 The Rotherham Hospice Trust is a registered charity and is the only adult hospice serving the people of Rotherham and its surrounding towns and villages. The Hospice offers specialist palliative care through a range of holistic services aimed at supporting patients to live life as fully as they can to the end of their life.

1.3.2 The Charity runs retail and cafe outlets throughout the borough which are operated with the sole purpose of generating income to help fund the running costs of the Hospice. These are staffed and supported by a team of volunteers who give their time to assist with daily operations, serve customers and help maintain a welcoming environment.

1.3.3 The shops and cafes provide valuable social opportunities for the volunteers many of whom are retired, socially isolated or looking to gain confidence and work experience. The shops promote sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and reducing waste. Overall, these retail premises play a vital role in supporting the Hospice's charitable aims, fostering local engagement and delivering lasting social impact throughout the borough.

1.3.4 The Charity has benefited from an award for discretionary rate relief at their main hospice premises since 1 April 2005 and the retail and café outlets since 1 April 2025 and is now seeking additional support for the new premises which they have taken on from 25 November 2025.
The property will be used for the sorting and storage of donations. It will also be used to park the charity vans and will provide additional office space.

1.3.5 The application for the award of discretionary relief is in line with the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy. The Charity provides access to facilities which are open to all sections of the community and works to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery, volunteering, and staffing.

1.3.6 The Charity is applying for discretionary relief with regards to their 2025/26 and 2026/27 rates liability. The financial implication of awarding the relief is set out in Section 6 of the report. The application meets the requirements of the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

2. Key Issues

2.1 To consider the application for The Rotherham Hospice Trust which is requesting an award of discretionary rate relief for the property shown at 6.4 of this report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Given the discretionary nature of the relief requested, the Council can determine either to award or not award relief.

3.2 In helping Members make such a decision, the Council has put in place a specific Policy framework to consider individual applications. In accordance with that Policy, applications (including supporting documentation) for relief have been considered in line with the qualifying criteria and other considerations set out in that Policy.

3.3 In line with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy, having regard to the financial cost of the proposed relief, the charitable use of the premises and the contribution that the organisation makes to the local community, it is recommended that an award for discretionary relief be granted to The Rotherham Hospice Trust.

3.4 The alternative option was to decline to award relief to the applicant which has been rejected as a recommendation as the application from The Rotherham Hospice Trust meets the Council's Policy.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The recommendation in the report is based on the application of an existing policy. There has been no specific consultation carried out in relation to any individual organisation referred to within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The applicant will be advised by letter of the outcome of their applications for relief within 10 working days of the Cabinet decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The applicant has completed a full application for the proposed relief in accordance with the Council's discretionary scheme criteria.

6.2 Paragraph 6.4 shows the value of the relief alongside the specific cost to the Council.

6.3 As indicated in paragraph 1.2.2, 49% of the cost of the relief is met by the Council with 50% falling on Central Government and 1% on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

6.4 Recommended for approval

The Rotherham Hospice Trust – Unit 2, Amber Business Centre, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, S60 1RU

(Did not occupy until 25/11/2025)

Year	Total Amount of Relief	Cost to RMBC
2025/26	£901.21	£441.59
2026/27	£2,548.80	£1,248.91

6.5 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The statutory framework for discretionary relief is set out in the body of the report.

7.2 The recommendation is made in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy and with consideration to the criteria. A decision to refuse the applications when the criteria set out within the Policy has been met would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

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 The Rotherham Hospice Trust supports patients with life limiting illness to receive the care they need when and where they want it by addressing the unique needs of each individual and their family. Sunbeams is a service run by The Rotherham Hospice Trust and is offered to children and young people aged 3-17 to provide bereavement support.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommendation in the report is to grant discretionary relief to The Rotherham Hospice Trust as this will positively impact the organisation ensuring continuity of service provision. This recommendation is based on the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy under which other businesses may make an application.

10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Document has been completed and attached as Appendix 1. A Part B Equality Analysis was completed for the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy on 21/05/2025 and is attached as Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 It is anticipated that an award of relief would not change the organisation's current operational activities and therefore will not impact CO2 emissions.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 As stated in 1.2.2, 1% of the cost of any relief granted is met by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. In this case this cost is minimal.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Government has issued guidance notes to advise authorities what criteria should be used in considering applications for Discretionary Rate Relief. Authorities have been strongly advised to treat each individual case on its own merits and to not adopt a policy or rule which allows them to not consider each case without proper consideration. In cognisance of these guidance notes, the Council has formally adopted a Policy framework for considering individual discretionary business rates relief applications with the decision to award reserved for Cabinet.

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Service Director, Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/03/26

Report Author: Rachel Humphries - Operational Manager-Local Taxation
01709 255159 or rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, 01709 255159 or rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for The Rotherham Hospice Trust	
Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	**Service area: Financial Services**
Lead person: Rob Mahon	**Contact number: 01709 822034**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☑ **Other** **If other, please specify** **Cabinet Report to consider an application for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief.**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report presents an application for the award of Business Rates Discretionary Relief which has been considered in line with the policy agreed by Officer Delegated Decision on 1 July 2025. The policy criteria includes consideration of organisations who actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community which include, young people, women, persons with a disability and ethnic minorities.

A Part B equality analysis was completed for the Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy on 21/05/2025 covering all equalities implications. The applicant has submitted equalities information in support of their application which has not presented any additional actions.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		✓
Could the proposal affect service users?		✓
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		✓

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** The recommendation in the report is to award discretionary relief to The Rotherham Hospice Trust which will positively impact the organisation ensuring continuity of service and will ensure service users with protected characteristics can continue to access to these services.
• **Key findings** The Rotherham Hospice Trust are an equal opportunities employer and actively support human rights and all equality legislation and promote diversity and inclusion throughout the Hospice. Their ethos is to respect and value people's differences, and to help everyone achieve more at work as well as in their personal lives so that they feel proud of who they are and of the part they play in our success. Upon joining, volunteers and employees are informed of the Equality and Diversity policy and that they are obligated to comply with its requirements and promote fairness in the workplace.
• **Actions** The individual applicant has submitted equalities information in support of their application which has not presented any additional actions. A Part B equality analysis was completed on 21/05/2025 in relation to the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy. This equality analysis considers all equality implications deriving from the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy and is attached as Appendix 2 to the report. No other equality implications derive from this specific report.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	See above
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	See above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services	03/03/2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	19 February 2026
Report title and date	New Application for **Error! Reference source not found.**
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	19 February 2026

Appendix 2

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: Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 14 April 2025	
Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	**Service area: Revenues, Benefits and Payments**
Lead Manager: Rachel Humphries	**Contact number: 01709 255119**
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)**
Rob Mahon	RMBC	Assistant Director
Adrian Blaylock	RMBC	Head of Service
Rachel Humphries	RMBC	Operational Manager

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This policy sets out the Council's intentions for dealing with business rates discretionary rate relief applications (including hardship relief requests) from Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), Non-Profit Making Organisations (NPMOs), and other businesses situated within the borough of Rotherham.

Although allowing for discretion, the business rates regulations do prohibit Councils from adopting a strict policy or rule for granting discretionary relief. The Government has however provided good practice guidance to advise Councils of the criteria to use when considering applications for relief. Authorities are strongly advised to treat each case on its own merits. Councils can, however, agree on a general basis on which it will approach any application made. Rotherham's business rates discretionary relief policy considers all applications made on their individual merits.

The policy has the potential to affect all business ratepayers. They must have access to and be provided with the relevant information and the opportunity to claim any reliefs that they may be entitled to. This is to ensure that they are charged the correct amount of business rates.

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

The Council has a duty to consider all applications for discretionary rate relief from individuals and organisations. In doing so, we do encounter diverse groups but do not, currently, routinely gather information on those groups.

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

Due to the diverse range of businesses, the identification of those who support/impact customers with protected characteristics can only take place as part of the application process.

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

Data will be recorded including location, business type/sector and target customer base, e.g. whether this is a specific community/group, number and value of award.

This information will be analysed in order to ensure the policy is applied fairly and equitably and to assess its impact on businesses and communities, particularly those representing or serving communities/groups with protected characteristics.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	No direct engagement with customers has been undertaken in respect of this policy. The policy requires ratepayers to complete an initial application for consideration of relief. if relief is granted an annual renewal application is required for consideration of continued relief.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	The Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy has been developed with support from colleagues in Revenues, Benefits & Payments; RMBC legal services and an external legal review. The policy is subject to ongoing review by all stakeholders. Council Members and Officers and partners play a vital role in the application of the policy. Monthly management information is provided to the Head of Service and the Assistant Director.

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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Council recognises that some businesses might have difficulty in making an application for business rates discretionary relief and those individual ratepayers who are vulnerable may need help with this process. The Council will ensure businesses are offered as much support as possible to be able to access the relevant information.

In cases of hardship, the Council will assist businesses in discussing and maintaining reasonable payment plans. In appropriate cases, the Council will consider suspending recovery action pending an application or further investigation of disputes and complaints.

The Council will also advise businesses experiencing exceptional hardship of the range of mandatory and discretionary discounts, reliefs, and reductions where appropriate.

The Council will signpost any people struggling to manage their business rates liability and finances to agencies that could help them assess their financial position Finance and support for your business - GOV.UK.

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

The Council is committed to providing ratepayers with the full range of communication channels to overcome any barriers experienced with the following protected characteristics:

- **Age:** Communication methods may present barriers for older adults unfamiliar with digital technology. However, according to data provided by Statista, in 2022 there was an overall ownership in smartphones of 93%. In 2016, less than half of that 93% over the age of 55 owned a smartphone in comparison to 2022 where the figure rose to 82%. It may be presumptuous then to speculate that only the elderly population could be disadvantaged by digital communication channels. However, even if customers have not got access to a smartphone, the Council's telephony service is available daily Monday to Friday.

- **Disability:** ratepayers with disabilities may face challenges understanding or responding to communications, particularly if they have cognitive, sensory, or mobility impairments. Telephone support and online access through digital communication methods are anticipated to help overcome access barriers. It does mean that those who maybe have physical disabilities or are struggling with sight or hearing impediments can access the service via other methods that may be more accessible to their needs.

- **Gender Reassignment:** transgender individuals may face challenges if incorrect personal information (e.g., name, title) is used, leading to distress or delays.

- **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** joint liabilities/debts may create unequal burdens, particularly in cases of relationship breakdown.

- **Pregnancy and Maternity:** individuals on maternity leave or with caregiving responsibilities may affect individuals' ability to engage with application process (e.g. timing of contact).

- **Race:** language barriers may prevent individuals from understanding application processes or communications.

- **Religion or Belief:** religious observances or beliefs may affect individuals' ability to engage with application process (e.g. timing of contact).

- **Sex:** women, particularly single mothers, may face greater financial vulnerability due to caregiving responsibilities.

- **Sexual Orientation:** no specific barriers identified however, ensure inclusivity in communication to avoid assumptions.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?
The Council is committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring that the following actions provide a positive impact for communities or groups with protected characteristics. • **Age:** ensure that multiple communication channels are offered (e.g., telephone, mail, online) to provide ease of access to information around the business rates discretionary relief policy and business rates information. • **Disability:** offer accessible formats (e.g., large print, braille, audio). Train staff to recognise and support individuals with disabilities. • **Gender Reassignment:** ensure that systems allow for updated personal information and that staff are trained on respectful communication practices. • **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** address correspondence on an individual basis where appropriate, ensuring fair treatment for both parties (where a joint business rates liability). • **Pregnancy and Maternity:** be aware and communicate clearly about application deadlines during periods of maternity leave or caregiving. • **Race:** provide translated materials and access to interpreters as needed. • **Religion or Belief:** accommodate religious practices when dealing with applications and relevant deadlines. Continue to provide flexible contact times • **Sex:** Ensure equal treatment in policy application. • **Sexual Orientation** use neutral language in all communications and ensure staff are trained on inclusive practices.
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) It is not envisaged that the Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy will have any negative impact on community relations.

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: Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy
Directorate and service area: Finance and Customer Services
Lead Manager: Rachel Humphries – Operational Manager for Local Taxation
Summary of findings:
The policy sets out the Council's intentions for dealing with business rates discretionary rate relief applications (including hardship relief requests) from Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), Non-Profit Making Organisations (NPMOs), and other businesses situated within the borough of Rotherham. The Council has a duty to consider all applications for discretionary rate relief from individuals and organisations. Due to the diverse and wide range of businesses, the identification of those who support**/**impact customers with protected characteristics can only take place as part of the application process.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
The business rates discretionary relief application will be updated to capture information as to how the ratepayer supports/impacts protected groups which will allow relevant information to be provided in future cabinet reports. On receipt of new, or renewal applications, any data relating to a protected characteristic will be recorded along with the outcome of the application.	A,D,S,GR,RE,RoB,SO,P M,CPM,C,O	06/25

***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**
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services	21/05/2025

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	21/05/2025
Report title and date	**Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy**
Date report sent for publication	01/07/2025
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21/05/2025

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: N/A

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? No

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: It is anticipated that an award of relief would not change the organisation's current operational activities and therefore will not affect its carbon emissions. As noted in paragraph 1.3.3 of the Cabinet report, the Rotherham Hospice Trust's several shops promote sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and keeping local value by avoiding waste. By supporting the Trust to continue its activities, the award of discretionary business rates relief in turn promotes sustainability in the local economy.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rachel Humphries Operational Manager Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits & Payments Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Material in this Climate Impact Assessment was originally presented in CIA 535, concerning a previous application for business rates relief by Rotherham Hospice Trust.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 603 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27

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

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Katie.stead@rotherham.gov.uk
Chloe Harrop, Corporate Improvement Officer
Chloe.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In May 2025, the Council adopted a new Council Plan for 2025-30, 'Forging Ahead'. The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

A Year Ahead Delivery Plan is created annually to enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the priorities and commitments. It builds upon the previous year's progress and takes account of recent budget investments and external changes.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 sets out the activities to be delivered over the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, and associated measures of performance for this time period.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.

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

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026-27
Appendix 2 – Equality Analysis
Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment.

Background Papers
Council Plan 2025-30 approved by Council on 21 May 2025.

Council Plan 2025-30 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025-26 considered by Cabinet on 19 May 2025.

Mid-Year Report on Council Plan 2025-30 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2025-26 considered by Cabinet on 19 January 2026.

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026-27

1. Background

1.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 is a key document, which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

1.2 To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the priorities and commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan is created annually to set out the activities and performance measures required.

1.3 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan is the second delivery plan that has been produced to deliver this Council Plan. It sets out the key activities to be delivered over the upcoming financial year ending 31 March 2027.

1.4 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan has been informed by the most recent review of performance and progress against the delivery of the 2025/26 Year Ahead Delivery Plan, the budget investments agreed for 2026/27, the Council's risk register and changes in the external environment.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan 2025-30 sets out medium-term priorities and actions to make improvements for local people and places. The Plan is framed around the following five outcomes:

- Places are thriving, safe, and clean.
- An economy that works for everyone.
- Children and young people achieve.
- Residents live well.
- One Council that listens and learns.

2.2 Alongside the 5 strategic outcomes, the Council Plan identifies 17 priorities to be delivered, including defined differences that will be seen between 2025 and 2030. Meanwhile, the 30 long-term measures of success set out the changes to be realised across the Borough through the delivery of the Council Plan.

2.3 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes 81 priority actions and 35 performance measures, alongside a further 12 social care measures. Priority actions are broken down as follows.

2.4 ***Places are thriving, safe and clean***
32 priority actions and 6 performance measures.

Measures to help people feel safe in their communities include producing draft ward road safety plans, commencing work on tranche 2 of the local neighbourhood road safety programme and delivering the work of the Street Safe team. Council investment in public spaces and community facilities across the Borough is accompanied by a varied cultural programme of events to support and reflect vibrant communities. Essential bridge repairs and flood alleviation schemes are included, alongside the phased replacement of Council fleet vehicles as part of a suite of measures to create better public spaces. The continuing commitment to town centre revitalisation sees Rotherham Central Library opening and Riverside Gardens completed.

2.5 ***An economy that works for everyone***
8 priority actions and 8 performance measures.

Partnership work continues to progress the Don Valley Corridor development, including Rotherham Gateway and Waverley station opportunities. More than 600 businesses will be supported by investment into business centres and targeted advisory services and grants to aid growth and local employment opportunities. The Council continues to support the wider skills agenda by delivering apprenticeship opportunities within its workforce, as well as supporting 1,000 residents into training and/or employment.

2.6 ***Children and young people achieve***
10 priority actions and 7 performance measures.

Reflecting the Council's commitment to ensuring children and young people have fun things to do an extra 10,000 places are being made available on the Healthy Holidays activity programme and over 1,200 youth work sessions are being provided by the voluntary and community sector. The Council is also investing in improvements to 8 playgrounds and Crowden Outdoor Activity Centre facilities. Financial support is being made available for eligible families through the Crisis and Resilience Funding in the summer holidays and baby packs will continue to be delivered. Two registrations will be submitted for 2-bed homes for children in care.

2.7 ***Residents live well***
19 priority actions and 10 performance measures.

As part of its commitment to better physical and mental wellbeing, the cost of swimming for the over 65s is being discounted, and the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium is being renewed. The Council is continuing to provide a Council Tax support top up scheme and crisis support scheme for residents struggling with the costs of living. The Council is also delivering a further 150 new council houses as part of its commitment to create 1,000 Council homes and bringing 25 empty homes back into use.

2.8 ***One Council that listens and learns***
12 priority actions and 4 performance measures.

To create a better customer experience, residents will receive improved online services, including new systems for complaints, trees and housing repairs. The Council will continue to work with its partners to launch the new Rotherham Plan and gain tenant engagement accreditation. An action plan will be developed around the areas of improvement from the employee opinion survey as part of the priority to create a workforce that is ambitious and proud. Actions to respond to climate change include investing in solar panels on the town centre market and library buildings, energy conservation measures in council premises and tree planting.

2.9 ***Social care measures***
12 performance measures

The Council regularly reviews performance against these key strategic measures in adult and children's social care. For 2026/27 a new measure, SC5 'the proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met' is proposed for inclusion. This will replace the SC2 measure 'number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people as a rate per 100K population' that had been included in the 2025/26 plan, given the duplication of that measure with SC3, where this is expressed as a number. The measures regarding children's social care remain unchanged on the 2025/26 plan.

2.10 **Monitoring Performance**
Six-monthly progress reports will be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports will include progress and performance updates on the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The year-end progress report will include an update on the long-term measures of success. It is proposed that the mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, is reported to Cabinet in January 2027 and year-end report for the period October 2026 to March 2027 is reported to Cabinet in July 2027.

Service plans have been produced for every Council service, and these are reviewed annually alongside the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan to ensure a 'golden thread' runs from the Council Plan through to each service. This complements the 'My Year Ahead Delivery Plan' Performance Development Review (PDR) process at individual officer level.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 was developed in consultation with Elected Members and officers across all directorates and informed by public consultation.

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Agree the Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27.

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

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The programme of public consultation and engagement to support the development of the Council Plan took place between September and November 2024. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups (internal and external), and a series of short interactions and engagement activity at a number of locations across the borough. There were 214 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,960 interactions in total across all methods of engagement.

4.2 The consultation and engagement activity included speaking with voluntary and community groups which represent protected characteristic groups, as well as attendance at the Parish Council Network, direct engagement with the public and a session open to all elected members.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A six-monthly progress report will be presented to Cabinet in January 2027. A year-end progress report will be presented to Cabinet in July 2027, this will incorporate the annual update on the long term measures of success.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are designed to help steer the use of Council finances, balanced against the wider funding backdrop for the Council and the broader context of national local government finance and policy. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report, but the plan's delivery will require close financial management to ensure that financial implications are within budget, and longer-term implications that may be generated by the Plan are factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6.2 The Council operates in a constantly changing environment. It will be important to ensure that ambitions and performance targets remain realistic in the context of central government policy, legislative changes and the financial position of the Authority. The financial impact of delivery of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan will therefore need to be monitored as part of the Council's financial management arrangements and considered alongside the Council's overall financial position.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. Where the engagement of third party suppliers is required to deliver the year ahead delivery plan, these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Procurement Act 2023 or The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023)

dependent on the route to market selected as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council to have a Performance Management Framework and Council Plan, being clear about the Council's ambitions gives staff, partners, residents, and central Government a clear understanding of what it seeks to achieve and how it will prioritise its spending decisions.

7.2 An effective and embedded Council Plan is also a key part of the Council's performance management and continual improvement.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report, however, should any workforce matters emerge during the delivery of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, these will be managed in line with the Council's established HR policies and procedures, including consultation with staff and Trade Union representatives where appropriate. No issues are anticipated at this stage, and any requirements relating to staffing, training or changes to working practices will be addressed through normal management processes.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Council Plan has a core focus on the needs of children and young people and vulnerable adults, and this is embedded throughout all outcomes of the plan, particularly 'children and young people achieve' and 'residents live well'.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Three cross cutting policy drivers run throughout the plan. One of these includes 'opportunities are expanded to all' to ensure that the Council creates new opportunities, with help targeted to those who need it the most, so no one is left behind. All outcomes aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs.

10.2 A detailed Equality Analysis is attached (see Appendix 2).

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The 'one council that listens and learns' outcome has a focus around reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and the environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome also includes actions focussed on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas.

11.2 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been produced (see Appendix 3).

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Working with partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors is integral to the delivery of the Council Plan, and partners have been consulted as part of its development. All the outcomes require multi-agency approaches to some degree and the Council will continue to show effective leadership, operating through a range of strategic partnership bodies.

12.2 The Rotherham Plan 2025, the overarching partnership plan for the Borough, will be replaced with an updated plan in 2026. The Rotherham Plan will align with and complement the Council Plan, setting out partners' joint ambitions to improve outcomes for local people.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register is aligned to the new Council Plan outcomes and the process of updating and identifying strategic risks is already designed to manage risks connected to the plan.

13.2 Progress reports will continue to note the risks associated with actions at risk of not being delivered, or those that have missed the deadline, as well as performance measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/03/26
Service Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	23/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	23/03/26

Report Author:
Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Chloe Harrop, Corporate Improvement Officer

This report is published on the Council's website.

Outcome: Places are thriving, safe and clean						
Ref	**Priorities**	**Activity**	**Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)**	**Lead officer**	**Lead directorate**	**Lead Cabinet Member**
P1	**Helping people to feel safe in their communities**	Commence works on site for all projects in tranche 2 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P2		Produce drafts of the first 12 Ward Road Safety Plans, ahead of public consultation in 2027–28.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P3		Tackle hate crime incidents and the drivers of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: • 600 children and young people to attend group sessions • 55 one to one sessions	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P4		Deliver at least 50 enforcement interventions, including formal warnings, FPNs and notices	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P5		Ensure that a minimum of 70% of enforcement (formal or informal) actions across the Community Protection Unit result in compliance or cessation of Anti-Social Behaviour. *Enforcement actions include (but are not limited to): Formal ASB interventions, Community Protection Warnings/Notices, Fixed Penalty Notices, abatement notices, statutory enforcement letters, and prosecutions issued by Community Protection and Environmental Health team* *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P6	**Creating vibrant communities**	Delivery of Ward Plans – members to complete a mid-term review of their ward priorities and the activity within plans to address them.	Quarter 1	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
P7		Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy – how the Council supports members in their community leadership role within their wards.	Quarter 2	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
P8		Refresh the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy - how the council and partners will continue to integrate services at a	Quarter 4	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy &	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

		neighbourhood level, take a strength-based approach and maximise the opportunity to involve communities in the co-production of service delivery, projects and initiatives			Engagement	Children and Young People
P9		Complete Our Places Fund work at Maltby.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P10		Complete Our Places Fund work at Swinton.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P11		Appoint contractor for Our Places Fund cenotaphs and Memorials improvements.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P12		Appoint a contractor to deliver works, including public realm improvements, to civic centres as part of Our Places Fund. • High Street and Haugh Road in Rawmarsh, • Broad Street in Parkgate and • Gray Avenue in Swallownest.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P13		Deliver a varied cultural events programme for the borough, including events such as: • Roots • St George's Day Celebration • WOW Rotherham • Uplift Urban Sports Festival • Rotherham Show • Bonfire Night • Christmas Lights' Switch On • Winter Story Festival • Civic events	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P14		Recruitment of a Supporting High Streets team, of 3 Business Advisors. Focused primarily on Town Centre, Dinnington, Maltby, Wath and Swinton.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P15		Appoint contractor for construction of Dinnington High Street regeneration project.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P16		Complete the demolition of Wath library.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P17		Complete the £600k investment in community facilities across the borough to sustain and enable the participation in activities and engagement within them. Including: • The Black Hut • Clifton Learning Centre • Oaklea Retreat • The Meeting Place • United Multifaith Community Centre	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property & Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

		• Eastwood Community Centre • Artworks				
P18	**Better public spaces**	Commission a contractor to enable construction works on the Old Flatts Bridge Parapet Repair to begin.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P19		Complete design work for replacement of building at Ulley Country Park.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P20		Procure a contractor for the Treeton Lane, Catcliffe Bridge Replacement project detailed design.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P21a		Commence works for the Whiston Brook Flood alleviation scheme.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P21b		Complete the design and approval phase for the Eel Mires Dyke Flood Alleviation Scheme.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P22		Complete the recruitment of the new Roadside Cleaning team phase 2, linked to 2026/27 budget investment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P23		Complete the in-sourcing of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P24		Complete redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country Park including: • Open the new café and events space • Deliver improvements to the play area • Appoint new staff to enhance the overall visitor experience.	 Quarter 1 Quarter 1 Quarter 2	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P25		Purchasing of new machinery to ensure green spaces site can be maintained to the highest standards.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P26		Complete draft designs for five pedestrian crossings in preparation for consultation.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P27		Complete feasibility work to develop potential interventions at Treeton Crossroads and engage with local stakeholders to inform the preferred scheme design, ahead of design completion in 2027/28.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P28		Deliver prioritised minor transport improvements brought forward by Ward Members and communities.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy

P29a		Maintain the proportion of 'Principal' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair) *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P29b		Maintain the proportion of the 'Non-Principal' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P29c		Maintain the proportion of the 'Unclassified' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P30		Issue a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P31		Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P32	**Revitalising the Town Centre**	Open the new Rotherham Central Library to the public.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P33		Complete construction works for Health Hub phase 1.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P34		Complete construction of Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P35		Complete consultation and produce the draft Town Centre masterplan.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

Outcome: An economy that works for everyone						
Ref	**Priorities**	**Activity**	**Timescales for completion (Quarter)**	**Lead officer**	**Lead directorate**	**Lead Cabinet Member**
E1	**Developing the economy**	Launch of the Don Valley Corridor development partnership and proposition at UKREiiF.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E2		In accordance with the Council's Capital Programme, carry out a number of improvement works to Business Centres across the Borough. • **Century Business** – Roof works, including provision of solar panels, decoration and fire and compliance upgrades. • **Dinnington Matrix –** Decoration and fire/compliance improvements within the building.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E3		Support up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other high streets through the Shop Unit Grants programme. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E4		Help 60 new businesses to start up by providing support through Business Centres and Launchpad. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E5		Provide advice and support to 550 local businesses *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E6		Provide targeted support through a key account management service to 60 medium/large and/or high-growth local businesses, recognising their role in driving local growth and local employment. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E7	**Enhancing skills**	Through Pathways to Work, commence a programme of subsidised work placements, supporting young people (16-30 yrs), currently NEET, to move towards, and into employment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E8		Develop an apprenticeship plan which tracks employment in the Council once new starter apprentices have completed their apprenticeship.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council

E9a		Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: a) 40% progressing into work or training. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E9b		b) 25% progressing into meaningful employment. *(KPI output measure)*				
E9c		c) 35% progressing into training *(KPI output measure)*				
E10		Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5%. (Schools data will continue to be reported in this output but detailed as a separate figure) *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
E11	**Connecting people to opportunity**	Agree the contracting strategy for the design and delivery of Rotherham Gateway rail infrastructure.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E12		Produce a regeneration plan to improve the public realm and consider land uses along the corridor from Rotherham Gateway Station to the Town Centre.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E13		Work with SYMCA to progress an enhanced OBC for a new station at Waverley.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E14		Embed early careers approaches by increasing engagement with directorates around work experience, internships and graduate schemes which supports future workforce and inclusion activity across the Council.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council

Outcome: Children and young people achieve						
Ref	**Priorities**	**Activity**	**Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)**	**Lead officer**	**Lead directorate**	**Lead Cabinet Member**
C1	**Ensuring children and young people have fun things to do**	Deliver an extra 10,000 places throughout the year as part of Healthy Holidays Activity programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C2		Continue to embed the legacy and learning from Children's Capital of Culture through: • The development of an Alumni programme for previous trainees from the programme to continue their professional development in Rotherham. Quarter 3 • The development of a Creative Learning Strategy to support creative and cultural education in school settings. Quarter 4 • The creation of a Participation & Engagement post to be hosted by Rotherham Civic and continue the delivery of Arts Award supporting 100 young people to gain qualifications and confidence. Quarter 4		Service Director of Culture, Sport & Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
C3		Deliver improvements to eight playgrounds across the borough as part of the ongoing Children's Playgrounds Programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport & Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
C4		Refresh the self-catering and recreational facilities at Crowden Outdoor Education Centre to improve and enhance facilities for children using the centre.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education and Inclusion	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C5		Commission the voluntary and community sector to deliver 1275 universal youth work sessions so that young people have access to activities across the borough. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C6	**Enable children and young people to thrive**	Deliver a scheme to provide financial support for families with children during the school summer holidays as part of the measures agreed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).	Quarter 1	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
C7		Increase permanent staffing by 2 FTE Educational Psychologists to create capacity for a targeted early intervention offer that supports schools to implement a whole	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education and Inclusion	Children & Young People's	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

		school inclusive approach for children with SEND			Services	
C8		Implement the new education case management system.	Quarter 3	Joint Service Director of Commissioning, Quality and Performance	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C9		Deliver Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people to increase independence, through the Home to School Transport Policy. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C10		Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges, to enhance their career provision through the Careers Hub project. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C11		Deliver Baby Packs to all eligible Rotherham Families who have requested one. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C12		Ensure that at least 80% of families register their children with a Family Hub, within 6 months of birth. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C13		Family Help Outreach and Engagement to deliver 1900 support sessions to families with children aged 0-5 years. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C14		Issue 65% of Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective support when needed, in quarter 4 *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education & Skills	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C15a	**Keeping children and young people safe from harm**	Provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough. Submit registration for a **fifth two-bedroom** home. (W)	Quarter 1	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

C15b		Submit registration for a **sixth two-bedroom** home. (N)	Quarter 3		Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C16		Implement the new Families First delivery model which includes early intervention, a whole-family approach, and strengthened multi-agency partnerships to provide targeted, timely support that keeps families together (as currently defined by Department for Education).	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Outcome: Residents live well						
Ref	**Priorities**	**Activity**	**Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)**	**Lead officer**	**Lead directorate**	**Lead Cabinet Member**
R1	**Better physical and mental wellbeing**	Pilot half price discount on swimming for over 65s at all Rotherham leisure centres (Aston, Maltby, Rotherham and Wath).	Quarter 1	Service Director Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
R2		Submit a bid for Sport England Place Expansion main award grant funding to support continued Moving Rotherham delivery.	Quarter 3	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R3		Renew the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
R4		Ensure delivery of 8,500 NHS Health Checks to Rotherham residents per year. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R5		Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to set a smoking quit date per year. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R5	**Assisting people to live independent, safe and well**	Achieve endorsement at Cabinet for the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-29.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R6		Deliver the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, providing up to £131.44 to working households in receipt of council tax support.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R7		Deliver a Crisis Support Scheme to provide a one-off payment to support residents that are in financial difficultly.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R8		Co-design with voluntary and community sector partners and agree a new three-year crisis support scheme.	Quarter 3	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Leader of the Council

R9		Launch the Adult Social Care Involvement Framework to strengthen the voice of people with lived experience in the shaping and delivery of services.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R10		Amplify the voice of people with lived experience through establishing: - A voice sub-group to the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board. - A mental health partnership board to ensure the voice of people with mental ill health can shape local services (Mental Health Strategy Priority) - Voice forums as part of the delivery of the Learning Disability Strategy 2024-27 and the All-Age Autism Strategy 2024-27. *(Peer Review Recommendation)*	Quarter 3	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration Service Director of Strategic Commissioning	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R11		Launch Thrive at Castle View, our new day opportunities service to meet complex care and support needs closer to home.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R12		Empower people in their adult social care journey by launching an online self-assessment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R13		Support 1,300 residents per year with specialist Welfare Rights, advice and appeals. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R14		Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
R15		Ensure 98% of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support are dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R16	**Good quality, affordable homes for all**	Establish and effectively operate Selective Licensing Stakeholder Panels, including the recruitment of the Community Impact engagement roles agreed as part of the 2026/27 budgets, with quarterly meetings and annual reporting on compliance, property standards and engagement.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Housing
R17a		Start on site for the delivery of 20 new Council homes on the Tenter Street site in Thornhill.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R17b		Start on site for the delivery of 31 new Council homes across 2 sites at Eastwood	Quarter 1	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing

R18a		Complete the delivery of 27 new Council homes on the Addison Road site in Maltby	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18b		Complete the delivery of 16 new Council homes on the Larch Road site in Maltby.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18c		Complete the delivery of 6 new Council homes on the Valley Drive site in Wath.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18d		Deliver 101 new Council homes through acquisition (from private sector housebuilders as part of their planning obligations or direct from the open market) or through our innovative Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R19		Complete the refurbishment works across existing council homes in Kimberworth Park, The Lanes, East Herringthorpe, Richmond Park and Swinton Fitzwilliam	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R20		Bring at least 35 long term private sector empty homes back into use through Council support or intervention. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R21		Complete full stock condition surveys of 6000 properties during 2026/27. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R22		Reduce the average length of stay in Council Temporary Accommodation to less than 6 months. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R23		98% of repairs completed in time (emergency) *To align with TSMs. To be confirmed* *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R24		Deliver year 2 of the Warm Homes retrofit scheme providing insulation, solar panels and ventilation to 350 council homes.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing

Outcome: One Council that listens and learns						
Ref	**Priorities**	**Activity**	**Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)**	**Lead officer**	**Lead directorate**	**Lead Cabinet Member**
1	**Better customer experience**	Deliver an improved and wider range of online services for our customers including a new Complaints system (qtr1), a new Trees system (qtr1) and improvements to Housing Repairs (qtr3).	Quarter 3	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
2		Ensure strong cyber security is in place across all IT systems and data managed by the Council by recruiting two new cyber security officers	Quarter 2	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
3		Customer telephone wait time in the corporate contact centre averages 2.5 minutes or below. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
4		Respond to 85% or above of complaints within timescales. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
5		Reduce the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management to <190. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
6	**Working in partnership with our communities**	Develop and launch the new Rotherham Plan with partners at a showcase event.	Quarter 1	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Leader of the Council
7		Secure Tpas Exemplar Status. Tpas (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) is England's leading tenant engagement organisation who offer independent accreditation.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
8	**A workforce that is ambitious and proud**	The recruitment approach will be flexible to ensure our strategy reflects the communities we serve and is aligned with year one deliverables on the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
9		Agree an action plan around required areas of improvement arising from the employee opinion survey.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
10	**Responding to Climate Change**	Reduce reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy

11		To work with a number of partners in developing a broader climate sustainability strategy including those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	Quarter 4	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
12		Deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan, through the provision of energy conservation measures (solar, heat pumps, insulation etc.) to the following sites: • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library • Peacock Lodge Children's Home	Quarter 2	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
13		Conclude the procurement of all vehicles from the Phase 1 Fleet Replacement Programme.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
14		Deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan to 16 sites that are proposed in the Council's Climate Energy Annual Report (2026/27).	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
15		Install the Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure at the following sites utilising existing EVI Council Capital: • Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, S65 2HR • Rosehill Victoria Park, S62 7HJ • Parking on Highway, Woodlaithes, S66 3ZL	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
16		Plant at least 500 trees across the borough. *(KPI output measure)*	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

Social Care performance measures					
Ref	**Social Care performance measure**	**Good is**	**Lead officer**	**Service area**	**Target**
SC1	Proportion of adults with social care support, remaining at home.	N/A	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Social Care	n/a
SC3	Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people.	Low	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		330
SC4	Proportion of Adults who were enabled to be independent after short term at home support	N/A	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		90%
SC5	Proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support.	Better than national average	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		Better than national average
SC6	The proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met.	High	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		97%
SC7	Number of 0-17year old children who are a Child in Need as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	Children and Young People	<375.5
SC8	Number of 0-17year old children with a child protection plan as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		<55.0
SC9	Number of 0-17year old children in care as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		<90.0
SC10	Number of 0-17year old children open to the Family Help service as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	n/a	Service Director of Family Help		n/a
SC11	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	n/a	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		n/a
SC12	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CSE)	n/a	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		n/a
SC13	Proportion of children and young people being referred to social care services for a second of subsequent time within 12 months.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		<22%

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Appendix 2

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: Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): March 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	**Service area:** Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Fiona Boden	**Contact number:** Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk
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)**
Oscar Holden	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer
Amy Walker	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer
Chloe Harrop	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer
Kellie Rodgers	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Research Officer
Katie Stead	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's strategic vision for the organisation, the borough and its communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery. It was approved by Council at its meeting in May 2025.

The Council Plan focuses around five strategic outcomes and aims to improve the lives of every resident in the borough. This means focusing extra attention where it is needed, ensuring that everyone can achieve their potential. Outcomes include:

- Places are thriving, safe and clean
- An economy that works for everyone
- Children and young people achieve
- Residents live well
- One Council that listens and learns

Year Ahead Delivery Plans are created to support delivery of the Council Plan 2025-30 by outlining the headline priorities, outcomes and measures each year. This Year Ahead Delivery Plan covers the 2026/27 financial year. It is the second Year Ahead Delivery Plan within the current Council Plan period.

The report focuses on the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27, which contains 81 priority actions/milestones and 35 headline performance measures that best demonstrate progress in achieving the five key outcomes.

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

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as from the 2021 census, and consultation on the Council Plan is provided here.

Population

- The borough's population is ageing with 52,228 residents aged 65 or over. At 19.6% of the total population, an increasing proportion of residents fall within this age bracket, which is also above the national average of 18.4%. This proportion of the population aged 65 or over is forecast to increase further to around 21% by 2026, with a particularly large increase in the number of people aged over 75.
- Population estimates suggest the population is continuing to increase in its diversity. The 2021 census indicates the proportion of residents from ethnic minority communities increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British, with 3.8% of residents in 2021 and 6.3% of school pupils in 2024/25.
- Rotherham's ethnic minority population is highly concentrated within the inner areas of the town centre in areas such as Boston Castle, Rotherham East and Rotherham West where 63.3% of the residents across the three wards are from White British backgrounds. The outer areas of Rotherham, however, are 93.6% White British in 2021. 39.7% of residents from ethnic minority backgrounds live in areas that are amongst the most deprived 10% of boroughs in England with that figure increasing for certain backgrounds (IMD, 2025). Whereas only 21.4% of the boroughs total population lives in the 10% most deprived areas.
- There is a decreasing trend in the number of residents who hold religious beliefs. In the 2021 Census, 39.8% of residents identified as holding no religious beliefs, compared to 22.5% in 2011. The number of people reporting Christianity as their religion has decreased from 66.5% in 2011 to 49% in 2021. The number of people reporting their religion as Muslim has increased from 3.7% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2021.

Economy

- 22% of Rotherham residents live within the 10% most deprived areas of England and the borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England. 11,904 children were living in "absolute poverty" (DWP, 2022/23).
- According to the Office of National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings in 2024, Rotherham women's gross full-time earnings averaged £570 per week, which equates to 79.6% of men's full-time earnings locally and 84.7% of women's full-time earnings nationally.
- During the 2025 Council Plan consultation as part of the counter exercise, the majority of respondents (90.3%) agreed that the Council should help to create new jobs, compared to not delivering this service (9.7%)

Health and Wellbeing

- The 2021 Census recorded Rotherham as having 56,177 residents with a long-term health problem or disability with 9.8% responding that this limits their activity a lot, above the England average of 7.3%. There was an overall decrease in people with a disability from 12% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2021, but despite this health inequality remains.

- Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Rotherham is 9.9 years lower for men and 9.5 years lower for women than in the least deprived. Gaps in healthy life expectancy are greater at over 18 years for men and nearly 20 years for women.

Resident Satisfaction Survey
The Council Plan includes a number of measures from the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey.

- **Satisfaction with Local Area as a Place to Live** – 75% of respondents reported feeling 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with their local area as a place to live. This is the same as the national average (75%).

- **Satisfaction with Rotherham as a Place to Live** – 66% of respondents said that, overall, they were 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied. This was above the average across all the previous surveys (61.5%), although there has been considerable fluctuation in the responses to this question. Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to feel satisfied with Rotherham as a place to live, with 74% satisfied. Respondents aged 25-34 had the lowest level of satisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live, with only 52% satisfied. Dissatisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live was highest amongst people aged 45-54.

- **Feelings of Safety** – 85% of respondents in Rotherham said they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' during the day when outside in their local area (lower than the figures observed nationally at 91%). Feelings of safety in the local area after dark were lower (57%), when compared to the national average (71%). There was a significant gender difference in feelings of safety after dark – 62% of men but only 54% of women said they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe'.

- **Feelings of Optimism** – 53% of respondents reported feeling 'very optimistic' or 'fairly optimistic' about the future of Rotherham as a place to live, slightly below the 54% average across all surveys. Younger respondents (aged 18-24) were the most likely to be optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live (70%) and women are more optimistic than men overall. Fewer respondents (27%) felt optimistic about the future of Rotherham Town Centre and 35% of respondents were not optimistic at all about the town centre. The cohort most optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre were young people aged 18-24 (46%), whereas people aged 55-64 were most likely to not be optimistic.

- **Keeping Residents Informed** – 45% of Rotherham respondents said that the Council keeps residents 'very well' or 'fairly well' informed about the services and benefits it provides. This is below the most recent national result (52%) and below the average percentage across all Rotherham surveys (50%). Younger respondents (aged 18-24) and older respondents (65+) were the cohorts most likely to think that the Council keeps residents well informed. It should be noted that this measure covers not only corporate communications but could also refer to face to face or any other types of council touchpoint that the customer experiences.

- **Responsiveness of Rotherham MBC** – 52% of respondents in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which RMBC acts on the

concerns of residents (i.e. ‘a great deal’ or ‘a fair amount’). This is the highest response across all surveys and similar than the national average (47%). Respondents aged 25-34 were most likely to think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents (60% responded positively) whilst those aged 55-64 were least likely to have this view.

- **Provisions of Values for Money** – 38% of Rotherham residents agreed that the Council provides value for money, an increase from the previous year (36%). This is the same percentage as the national figures (38%) and the first time that Rotherham and national data have aligned on this measure.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan

When the Year Ahead Delivery Plan is developed, services set out the action to be taken to ensure consideration of equality, diversity, and inclusion, including timescales for delivery for each individual milestone. These actions are reviewed as part of the milestone setting process and progress captured as part of the reporting process.

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

Consultation Engagement Profile
There was a total of 214 responses to the postal and online surveys for the Council Plan. This was a return rate of 8%, above the national average for postal survey responses of 3-4%. Overall, there were more responses from women than from men, more from older people than from younger people, and more from those identifying as White British than those from BAME backgrounds, as compared to the Rotherham population.

Women made up 59% of the respondents, compared to 41% male respondents. Compared to the age profile of the borough, respondents were older – 39% over 65s, as compared to 20% - and only 2% of respondents were under 24, compared with a borough figure of 29%. There was a good representation of the middle age groups (25–34-year-olds and 35-44-year-olds), whilst 21% respondents were aged 45–54-year-old, a figure above that of their proportion of the borough’s population of 12%.

The religious make-up of respondents differed from Rotherham figures, with less of the respondents identifying as Christian (56% compared to 49%), and more stating no religion (36% compared to 40%). 2% of the respondents identified as Muslim, compared to the borough-wide figure of 5% (2021 Census). In terms of sexuality, 96% respondents identified as heterosexual, a proportion above the borough figures of 92%, 1% as bisexual, gay or lesbian, and 2% as prefer not to say.

95.4% of online and postal respondents identified as White British and 4.6% identified as an ethnic minority group. This included 2.3% Asian or Asian British, 0.8% Black or Black British, 0.8% White – Western European and 0.8% White – Other. To put this into context, in the 2021 Census, 88.3% of Rotherham residents identified as White British and 11.7% identified as ethnic minority groups.

Out of the respondents, 34% reported to have a disability. This compares with 21% of Rotherham residents who reported a long-term illness or disability in 2021. 19% of respondents stated they were unpaid carers.

Protected Characteristic Focus Groups
The consultation focus groups included a session with voluntary and community groups, which represented protected characteristic groups to participate in the discussions. Amongst these invitees was at least one group that work with communities representing each of the protected characteristics, however not all invited organisations attended.

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

Progress updates on the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan are published twice a year and considered by Cabinet and Scrutiny. They include progress in relation to actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and key performance measures. Supporting case studies are also provided.

As part of this monitoring process, services are required to set out progress on the delivery of equalities, diversity and inclusion outcomes for each individual action in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. These updates are reviewed and challenged as part of the monitoring process. They are reported as part of the internal monitoring and are also used to inform the public monitoring reports.

In addition, as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities are implemented, services are required to complete an equality screening and/or analysis to ensure due regard has been given and that there is an understanding of the effects of a strategy, policy, service or function on those from a protected characteristic group, where this is applicable to do so.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	To help inform the priorities and actions in the Council Plan 2025-2030, various consultation exercises took place between September and November 2024. There were 1,963 interactions across all engagement methods. The consultation was part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Engagement was made with residents through a variety of ways including online and postal surveys, focus groups and short interaction exercises to inform the Council and its partners' priorities over the next few years. The results have been analysed, and the findings were presented to Council, alongside the new Council Plan in May 2025. Residents are consulted and engaged with in different ways by services when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities. The performance measures monitored include the Resident Satisfaction Survey, which is conducted annually. In July and August 2024, a statistically representative random sample of 500 Rotherham residents (aged 18 or over) was polled by landline telephone using quotas set by age and gender. The data was further weighted to reflect the age, gender and social grade profile of Rotherham. This ensures that the sample is as representative of

	adults in the borough as possible as there are often biases in the profile of people who respond to any survey. See results from 2024 survey above. The results from the 2025/26 survey are currently being analysed.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Engagement with staff was undertaken through directorates with regards to identifying actions for the Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27. Staff also provided performance data and contributed to the equality actions and information. Drafts have been shared with the Service Director Group and Strategic Leadership Team. Throughout the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27, Cabinet Members are briefed. Staff at all levels were consulted as part of the consultation process for the new Council Plan 2025.

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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Of the five guiding principles, two in particular aim to meet residents and communities' differentiated needs:

- An economy that works for everyone
- Residents live well.

Residents live well encompasses the Council's priority to tackle inequality striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving. This will be done by striving to achieve the best outcomes for local people, ensuring that local residents are actively involved in the things that matter to them, and designing services based on input of those who use them. It also focuses on delivering tangible outputs, such as enhancing the quality of homes and supporting the overall health and wellbeing of residents. To complement this approach, an economy that works for everyone ensures that it connects residents to opportunity, providing work, education and financial opportunities in an inclusive manner that meets the needs of its population.

There is also an outcome focussed on helping people to feel safe in their communities within the 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need and taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing target support to those who need it the most.

Furthermore, the underlying 'one council' theme encompasses two specific areas, which ensure different needs are met:

- Better customer experience.
- Working in partnership with our communities.

The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and inclusion. This will involve working with services and partners to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone. The commitment to work in partnerships with our communities embodies our commitment to utilising a strengths-based approach to improve the Council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

Three cross cutting policy drivers also run throughout the plan. One of these includes 'opportunities are expanded to all' to ensure that as new opportunities arise, the Council target help to those who most need it, so no one is left behind.

Within the **five outcomes of the Council Plan**, a series of universal offers are aimed at all of Rotherham's residents, while several actions are specifically aimed at tackling inequalities and issues of access. The following expands both on the universal and the targeted offers within each theme.

Places Are Thriving, Safe and Clean

Activities in this area are aimed at meeting the needs of all residents and ensure they benefit from thriving neighbourhoods. The priorities of making neighbourhoods welcoming and safe, neighbourhoods to be cleaner and greener, local people having access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces, improved local town and village centres, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving street safety are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Residents, organisations and businesses are encouraged and enabled to use their skills and resources to help others.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 includes the following actions aimed at improving equality, diversity and inclusion within this outcome:

- Tackle hate crime incidents and the drivers of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: 600 children and young people to attend group sessions, 55 one to one sessions.
- Progress on the delivery of ward plans through the continuation of the programme of ward member reports presented to Council from April 2026, which have been informed by local communities. Ward profile and census data (including details of communities with protected characteristics) have informed the development of ward plans. Ongoing conversations with Rotherham's communities have identified and recognised their strengths, understood what is important to them and jointly agreed how to table those priorities, including the delivery of integrated, accessible and responsive services that meet diverse needs.
- Refresh the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy which will reflect how the Council and partners will continue to integrate services at a neighbourhood level, take a strength-based approach and maximise the opportunity to involve communities in the co-production of service delivery, projects and initiatives.

- Our Places Fund work at Maltby and Swinton, both projects include resurfacing paving to provide a safer and more accessible surface for vulnerable users such as elderly residents and parents with prams. The public realm at Swinton is designed to deliver tactile paving that is suitable for visually impaired/disabled people, walking surfaces will also be even and accessible.
- Our Places Fund cenotaphs, memorials and Civic Centres, funding will focus on accessibility reparation works to future proof each location, improved green spaces and rest areas. Designs will include implementation of better disabled access routes, such as ramps, more seating and rest areas and adjusting ground levels where possible.
- Deliver cultural events in varied locations across the borough, including events such as Roots, WOW Rotherham, Uplift Urban Sports Festival, Rotherham Show and other civic events. There is a year-round programme of events which is underpinned by a series of programming principles which ensure events are accessible, representative of their communities and inclusive to all. The events are co-created with a range of communities in order to facilitate inclusion. Equalities monitoring is included in the evaluation of events.

Individual services, such as parks, libraries, cultural offers and neighbourhood working will each undertake an equality analysis, where required to do so, to identify gaps, making sure that any physical, cultural, language or other access barriers are identified, and all residents have offers meeting their needs.

An Economy that Works for Everyone
Actions under this outcome include a growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress, places rejuvenated by regeneration that brings investment and opportunity, people have opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential, working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, apprenticeships, paid at the living wage or above, strengthened digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all. Contributing to these actions are programmes supporting vulnerable residents to gain skills and access, stay in or progress in employment.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 includes the following actions aimed at improving equality, diversity and inclusion within this outcome:

- Commence a programme of subsidised work placements supporting young people (16-24 yrs), currently NEET, to move towards, and into employment. The programme is aimed at specifically supporting young people, who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET) to access the labour market and move closer, or into, employment.
- Develop an apprenticeship plan which tracks employment in the Council once new starter apprenticeships have completed their apprenticeship.
- Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: 40% progressing into work or training; 25% progressing into meaningful employment; and 25% progressing into meaningful employment.
- Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5%.
- Embed early careers approaches by increasing engagement with directorates around work experience, internships and graduate schemes which supports future workforce and inclusion activity across the Council.

Equality analysis and monitoring will be carried out where appropriate to ensure vulnerable residents sharing protected characteristics benefit from this support.

Children and Young People Achieve
Actions under this outcome are aimed at children having the best start in life, children and young people having a voice and feeling listened to, young people empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations, and children and young people having fun things to do and safe places to go. Activities in the early years aim to address educational inequalities, collaborative working with schools to give children the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of ability, including vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and reconnect those disengaged from education to opportunities and training.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:

- Delivering an extra 10,000 spaces as part of the Healthy Holidays Activity programme.
- Continue to embed the legacy and learning from Children's Capital of Culture through:
    - The development of an Alumni programme for previous trainees from the programme to continue their professional development in Rotherham.
    - The development of a Creative Learning Strategy to support creative and cultural education in school settings.
    - The creation of a Participation & Engagement post to be hosted by Rotherham Civic and continue the delivery of Arts Award supporting 100 young people to gain qualifications and confidence.
    - All activities related to skills and learning will be supported with an Equalities Action Plan which will replace the previous Children's Capital of Culture Action Plan.
- Deliver improvements to eight playgrounds across the borough as part of the ongoing Children's Playgrounds Programme. In schemes where space allows, accessible play equipment (including BSL panels and accessible swings) will be included which ensures include, free outdoor play. Consultation will be carried out with Ward Members, local residents and children/young people before each play area improvement to ensure designs reflect local needs and are inclusive.
- Delivering a scheme to provide financial support for families with children as part of the measures agreed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.
- Increase permanent staffing by 2 FTE Educational Psychologists to create capacity for a targeted early intervention offer that supports schools to implement a whole school inclusive approach for children with SEND.
- Implement the new education case management system. An effective education system will provide support to identified cohorts to have enhanced education opportunities and provide support in order that all children and young people have the strongest possible preparation for adulthood.
- Deliver Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people to increase independence, through the Home to School Transport Policy. Independent Travel Training is a programme specifically designed to promote independence and preparation for adulthood by supporting individuals with specialist education needs, often due to disability.

- Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges, to enhance their career provision through the Careers Hub project.
- Issue 65% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective support when needed, by quarter 4.
- Provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough, including submitting for a sixth two-bedroom home.
- Implement the new Families First delivery model which includes early intervention, a whole-family approach and strengthened multi-agency partnerships to provide targeted, timely support that keeps families together (as currently defined by Department for Education).

Services contributing to this outcome, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data.

Residents Live Well

Actions in this area are aimed at protecting everyone's physical and mental health, while focusing on the most vulnerable. Within actions to ensure that people have good mental health and physical wellbeing, programmes to tackle loneliness and isolation will have benefits to older people and those living with disabilities. Within the priority for children, families and adults to feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible, actions focus on children in care, people with learning disabilities, independent living and adult social care ensure that the needs of these vulnerable groups are prioritised. Actions further include for everyone to have access to affordable, decent housing.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:

- Launch half price discount on swimming for over 65s at all Rotherham leisure centres (Aston, Maltby, Rotherham and Wath). Leisure centres are fully wheelchair accessible, hoists for the pools, accessible changing options and hearing loops installed.
- Submit a bid for Sport England Place Expansion main award grant funding to support continued Moving Rotherham delivery.
- Achieve endorsement at Cabinet for the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-29. Domestic abuse causes isolation and exclusion, by tackling domestic abuse, the well-being and life chances of survivors is improved. Equality monitoring of DA services ensures that any barriers to access and engagement in services experienced by people from protected characteristic groups is identified and remedial actions taken. An Equality Analysis will be prepared to go alongside the Cabinet report.
- Deliver the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top up scheme, providing up to £131.44 to working households in receipt of council tax support. Access to the scheme is governed by the Council's approved Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme is open to all residents who are financially vulnerable and due to the criteria outlined in the Council's Local Council Tax Support policy are eligible for support.
- Deliver a Crisis Support Scheme to provide a one-off payment to support residents that are in financial difficulty.
- Co-design with voluntary and community sector partners and agree a new three-year crisis support scheme. The crisis support scheme will provide additional

assistance for our most vulnerable residents when needed. Equalities information will be collected, where appropriate, regarding those accessing the scheme.
- Launch the Adult Social Care Involvement Framework to strengthen the voice of people with lived experience in the shaping and delivery of services.
- Amplify the voice of people with lived experiences through establishing a voice sub-group to the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board. This includes a mental health partnership board to ensure the voice of people with mental ill health can shape local services (Mental Health Strategy Priority) and voice forums as part of the delivery of the Learning Disability Strategy 2024-27 and the All-Age Autism Strategy 2024-27.
- Launch Thrive at Castle View, the new day opportunities service to meet complex care and support needs closer to home. The design of the service has been produced with people with lived experience through engagement events.
- Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered. Support is accessible and inclusive by tailoring engagement to the diverse needs of victims including those facing cultural, language, disability, LGBTQ+ or socioeconomic barriers. The service uses trauma informed and culturally competent approaches, provide accessible communication formats and work with specialist community organisations to improve engagement among under-represented groups. Equalities monitoring is included in quarterly data reported to the governance group.
- Reduce the average length of stay in Council Temporary Accommodation to less than 6 months.

Ongoing monitoring and improvement of the services contributing to this outcome will be key, as the most vulnerable often face the most barriers. Monitoring will identify and address gaps in provision, and ensure that individuals sharing several protected characteristics, and thus potentially facing multiple barriers, can access the support they need.

One Council that listens and learns
This outcome encompasses the ways in which the organisation operates and how it presents itself to the communities of Rotherham. The standards that service users experience from the Council, and our partner organisations will be attributable to this outcome for monitoring. This outcome also encompasses reductions in carbon emissions, working towards net zero targets.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:
- Deliver an improved and wider range of online services for our customers including a new complaints system, a new trees system and improvements to housing repairs.
- The recruitment approach will be flexible to ensure our strategy reflects the communities we serve and is aligned with year one deliverables on the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan.
- Agree an action plan around required areas of improvement arising from the employee opinion survey.
- Develop and launch the new Rotherham Plan with partners at a showcase event.

Services contributing to this outcome, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data. The Inclusion Strategy 2026-30 sets out how the Council will embed equality, diversity and inclusion across all services, focusing on reducing inequalities, improving accessibility, and ensuring decisions are shaped by strong community insight. It is built around four themes: Working Together, Responsive Services, Welcoming Places and Employer of Choice. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 aligns with these themes, including a specific HR action to ensure the Council's recruitment approach reflects local communities, supporting the strategy's ambition to be an inclusive and representative employer. Other Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions, such as improving customer accessibility to online services, increasing co-production with communities, and delivering targeted support for vulnerable groups all directly support the Inclusion Strategy's aims and objectives.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No problems or barriers have been identified or flagged as part of the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Yes, details found 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 – any targeted activities are based on known needs and vulnerabilities.

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: Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement, Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Summary of findings:
The Year Ahead Delivery Plan addresses inequalities in several of its key outcomes, and guiding principles, with the aim to reduce inequalities and for the council's services to deliver for all residents. Equality and access data will need to be monitored closely, as these are areas of considerable existing inequalities, which will make it more difficult for some individuals and groups to access opportunities and services.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Provide update reports to Cabinet twice a year, including consideration of the equality implications.	All	Six monthly
All services to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor.	All	Ongoing
Continue to obtain updates from directorates, regarding what has been done to consider equalities when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/activities.	All	Quarterly

***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**
Chris Paddock	Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	19/03/26
Cllr Chris Read	Leader	27/03/26

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	16/03/26
Report title and date	Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 Cabinet – 13 April 2026
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	18/03/26

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts.	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out.
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	Actions included within the 'Responding to climate change' theme of 'One Council that Listens and Learns' to decarbonise the Council's estate will reduce the Council's emissions.	Programmed improvement works to a number of business centres across the borough in line with the Capital Programme could increase emissions. Supporting up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grants' programme will incur carbon emissions due to construction processes. Where replacement windows are included this might reduce operational emissions in a small way. Helping 60 new businesses to start up by providing support through Business Centres and Launchpad could increase	The YADP for 2026-27 includes new actions which will contribute to reducing carbon emissions of the Councils estate such as through reducing reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre. The Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan will provide energy conservation measures such as solar, heat pumps, insulation at sites including 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens, Swinton CSC & Library and Peacock Lodge Children's Home. Business Support Officers are also able to	Carbon Impact Assessments are required for all Cabinet reports. All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly annually. Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.

			emissions from non-domestic buildings is also likely to increase emissions.	signpost businesses to Low Carbon Grants as part of their work which may further mitigate emissions arising as a result of construction projects associated with non-domestic buildings.	
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Supporting 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: 40% progressing into work or training; 25% progressing into meaningful employment; and 25% progressing into meaningful employment will have an impact on the number of people travelling to, from and for work. This will increase the Council's emissions from Transport associated with business travel. Concluding the procurement of all vehicles from the Phase 1 Fleet Replacement Programme which currently includes 64 EVs will reduce emissions. Commencing works on site for tranche 2 Local	Production of a masterplan for the corridor from Rotherham Gateway Station to the Town Centre. This scheme is expected to reduce transport emissions in the long term.	The Independent Travel Training Programme is in place to support children with special educational needs or disabilities who would normally access the Council's Home to School transport services. This initiative is promoting more sustainable travel and transport solutions. The carbon impact will need to be considered of each individual scheme to fully understand the carbon emissions outcome.	Approaches to monitoring vehicle usage, emissions, and fuel efficiency. Carbon Impact is included within the Fleet Replacement Programme. Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports. Progress reports for the YADP to Cabinet will include an updated CIA. Gateway Station project will include CIA as part of its process of development.

		Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme is likely to increase emissions.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	There may be increased waste generated as part of construction schemes though it is not currently possible to quantify this. Targeting a deduction in the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management would incur a slight increase in waste reduction output in terms of carbon and other emissions. It is likely that a number of schemes associated with the YADP will increase waste including events, construction, consultations and other Council operations.	A series of events and activities, including St George's Day Celebration, Women of the World Rotherham, Winter Story Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On, Bonfire Night, Rotherham Show, Signals Festival, Uplift, Roots Rotherham and civic events could increase the amount of waste. There may also be increased waste generated as part of construction schemes though it is not currently possible to quantify this.	Events should consider the waste management hierarchy as part of standard processes. This is built into the guidance provided to Events teams to be used when managing large events. See actions outlined in previous column for context. Completing the in-sourcing of the Household Waste Recycling Centres will give the Council more autonomy over decision making regarding waste practices and related emissions implications. Increase in the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45% is targeted in the Plan. This is just the percentage of kerbside waste that is collected for recycling, not overall recycling rates.	Improved information and data to take further action in reducing waste, improving recycling rates and reducing contamination. Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports. Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA. Local and internal waste carbon emissions are assessed annually.

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	Bringing at least 35 long term empty homes back into use through Council support will increase Carbon emissions through having an increased number of domestic properties in use throughout the borough. The commitment to provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough will see a fifth and sixth two-bedroom homes registered, the construction of which will have a carbon impact in the near future.	The emissions identified in the previous column will impact on Borough emissions dependent on long term ownership of the new sites.	Mitigations will need to be reviewed on a case by case basis and will be dependent on the property affected. The Council already has a programme in place for delivery of emissions reductions (to EPC C) in its Council housing stock by 2030	Completion of a full stock condition surveys of 6000 properties during 2026/27 will establish housing stock emission baselines, consolidate the available intelligence and gather further data as required, using existing data on council-owned housing stock, and developing intelligence on the wider housing stock across the Borough. Climate Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports. YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Delivery of a further 150 new council homes as part of the Housing Delivery Programme reaching 925/1000 target during 2026/27 will incur significant construction emissions. Plans for large scale developments and improvements, such as the Our Places Fund	The works detailed in the previous column will increase overall borough emissions. As per the impacts on the Council and its contractors.	See actions outlined in previous two columns. Specific mitigations to be incorporated into individual schemes.	Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports. Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.

		programmes in Maltby and Swindon may all have significant effects on carbon emissions. Appointment of contractors for Cenotaphs and Memorials and Civic Centres aspects of the programmes will increase construction emissions. Improving 8 play areas across the borough as part of the Children's Playgrounds Programme will incur construction emissions. Renewing the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium will incur further development emissions. Commissioning a contractor to enable construction works on the Old Flatts Bridge Parapet Repair will incur carbon emissions. Commencing works on site for tranche 2 Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme. The demolition of Wath			

		library to make way for new facilities will incur construction carbon emissions. Implementation of Phase 1 of the Our Places Fund by starting work on the Swinton and Maltby schemes will incur construction carbon emissions. Appointing a contractor for construction of Dinnington High Street regeneration project will increase emissions. Large scale developments and improvements, such as the construction of the new market and library in the town centre could significantly increase carbon emissions. Plans connected to the construction of flood alleviation schemes and barriers, such as reaching ‘shovel ready’ status for the Whiston Brook, Eel Mires Dyke and Kilnhurst flood			

		alleviation schemes will all entail emissions. Support up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in town centre and on other principal high streets through 'shop units grants' could potentially increase emissions.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	At least 500 trees will be planted across the borough by the end of the 2026/27 financial year. This quantity of trees will not provide substantial carbon sequestration benefits when compared with the scale of emissions. Reduction in reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre.	As per the previous column.	N/A	The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions. The trees planted will sequester carbon, however, it is unlikely that tree planting as part of the plan will provide substantial benefit overall due to the existing scale of emissions expended. Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports. Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

The reduction of carbon emissions and working towards net zero targets, is part of the One Council theme in the Council Plan 2025-30 under the section 'Climate Change', the Council Plan informs the YADP by acting as the strategic document providing direction to the actions delivered throughout the year.

Actions under this theme encompass plans to decarbonise Council buildings by adopting new technologies; cutting down on activities that waste energy and resources; transitioning towards environmentally friendly vehicles in the transport team and using the Council's influence to encourage partners, local businesses, anchor organisations, and our residents to be mindful of their environmental impact and to be more sustainable. However, it should be noted that there may be some increases in emissions due to other schemes that are included within the plan, especially with reference to new buildings, construction and housing development. The growth of the Rotherham economy, a theme within the YADP also aims to deliver increased productivity amongst businesses, motivating people into work and increasing the offer of the Borough for local residents, all of which would see increases to emissions in the Borough through business activity and increased output.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The commencing of works for Flood Alleviation Schemes at Whiston Brook and Eel Mires Dyke will mitigate the impact of climate change and as a response of the impact of flooding in Rotherham in catchment areas impacted by flooding events in 2007 and 2019. A priority in the YADP due to the predicted impacts of a changing climate exacerbating the risk of flooding, and the need for strategic solutions. Alongside the threat of flooding, also poses a threat to energy infrastructure at high risk from flooding events, and disruption to urban drainage systems.

Building standards incorporated within housing strategies will improve resilience through better quality insulation and solar power where appropriate. This will make for more resilient communities when delivered.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The majority of larger schemes will have separate climate impact assessments undertaken as part of their approval process. Where individual schemes require Cabinet approval a project specific climate impact assessment will be created and further mitigation on a project-by-project basis may be included.

The 'One Council that listens and learns' outcome is focused around reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The 'Places are thriving safe and clean' outcome also includes actions focused on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas.

The YADP will be monitored, reviewed, and updated every six months. Each update will include an accompanying Climate Impact Assessment. The overarching impact of the YADP is likely to be one of increase given the number of construction schemes planned.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Oscar Holden Corporate Improvement Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Climate Change Action Plan Local Authority Climate Report Met Office – Climate Report for Rotherham Directorate Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers and Performance Data for 2025/26.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not directly relevant for this report but individual actions arising from both the Council Plan and the YADP will include measurement where relevant.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 616 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Crisis and Resilience Fund

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Chris Paddock, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer
michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk

Sunday Alonge, Policy Officer
sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-wide

Report Summary
The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029.

The new fund has broader aims than the HSF. Instead of focusing primarily on crisis support to vulnerable households, it puts more emphasis on building financial resilience and creating a more connected local support system. The CRF also incorporates Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).

Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 is £5.2m. This represents an increase of around £300,000 on the combined HSF and DHP allocation for 2025/26.

This report sets out specific proposals for use of the funding in 2026/27 and a broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

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

   Crisis Support
   a. £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme
   b. £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer holidays
   c. £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments
   d. £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme
   e. £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement
   f. £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations
   g. £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

   Resilience Services
   h. £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham
   i. £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

   Community Coordination
   j. £50,000 to coordinate CRF elements, raise awareness, and improve data capture and referral systems

   Administrative Costs
   k. £81,699 for DHP administrative costs

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.

4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the fund.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Equality screening
Appendix 2 Equality analysis
Appendix 3 Climate impact assessment

Background Papers
The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029)

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Crisis and Resilience Fund

1. Background

1.1 The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) was announced in the June 2025 government spending review. It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029.

1.2 Whilst its aims are broader, the CRF replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF), which was first launched in October 2021 to support households adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.3 The HSF evolved from providing pandemic-related relief to offering cost-of-living support for low-income and vulnerable households during periods of rising inflation and economic uncertainty.

1.4 Primarily, it has helped residents facing financial hardship to meet essential living costs, particularly food and energy. Between April and December 2025, the HSF programme has:

- distributed around 130,000 food vouchers during school holidays for families with children eligible for free school meals
- contributed to the Local Council Tax Support scheme top up, supporting approximately 16,000 households
- helped over 2,000 households to manage fuel bills through the energy crisis support scheme
- provided financial support for 237 young care leavers
- worked with VCS organisations to provide nearly 600 families with Christmas and New Year food hampers

1.5 An evaluation of Rotherham's HSF programme was carried out in 2025. Learning points from the evaluation are summarised below and have informed the proposed approach to the CRF.

2. Key Issues

2.1 **CRF guidance**
Having involved local authorities and other organisations in a co-design process, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published detailed guidance for use of the CRF in January 2026. This guidance was subsequently updated in March 2026.

2.2 The overarching objective is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term. There is a specific focus on the outcomes summarised in the table below.

Outcome	Purpose
1. Provision of effective crisis support	To ensure timely, needs-based assistance for individuals and households experiencing financial shocks, including support for those who are struggling to meet their housing costs
2. Improving people's financial resilience	To strengthen financial resilience and empower people to manage financial shocks, reducing the risk and occurrence of crises
3. Bolstering the local support landscape	To strengthen local systems, joining up support services and ensuring there are clear support pathways

2.3 These outcomes reinforce the CRF's dual aims of providing immediate relief where needed, whilst also building the capacity of people and communities to avoid or mitigate future hardship.

2.4 Funding must be allocated across four distinct elements:

- **Crisis payment** – providing support to those in crisis
- **Housing payment** - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs
- **Resilience services** - funding for services that improve financial resilience
- **Community coordination** - investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape

Further details are provided below, based on the requirements and objectives set out in the government guidance.

2.5 **Crisis payment**
This will provide rapid, flexible, and person-centred assistance to those on low incomes who experience a financial shock, based on the following principles.

- **Broad eligibility and local discretion** - local authorities retain the flexibility to define local criteria and tailor support.
- **Person-centred, needs-based approach** - awards should respond to individual circumstances rather than rigid eligibility rules or blanket provision of support.
- **Cash-first model** - cash payments are preferred, as they offer dignity and choice, with vouchers or goods in-kind as alternatives.
- **Families with children** – after the current school year, support for families with children should not automatically be through the blanket provision of vouchers to those on free school meals. Relative need should be assessed and families should be directed to wraparound services to build their financial resilience.

- **Accessibility** - at least two application channels should be provided (e.g. online, phone, or in-person) and support should be easy to find.
- **No wrong door principle** - residents should receive assistance regardless of where they first seek help.

2.6 **Housing payment**
This will replicate and build on the existing DHP (Discretionary Housing Payments) model. It will ensure that households facing acute or ongoing housing pressures receive timely and targeted assistance to prevent homelessness, sustain tenancies, and reduce hardship linked to housing insecurity.

2.7 In the medium term, the aim is to integrate DHPs within the broader CRF programme, promoting coordination between crisis support, housing stability, and financial resilience initiatives.

2.8 Existing DHP arrangements will be maintained in years one and two. In year three (2028/29), all CRF funding will be brought together, with increased flexibility on the housing element, which will no longer have a separate allocation.

2.9 **Resilience Services**
A major focus shift within the CRF is the requirement to allocate a ‘significant amount’ of funding to long-term financial resilience building. What constitutes a ‘significant amount’ is not quantified in recognition of the differing local contexts across the country. Authorities are encouraged to determine what constitutes significant within the context of their local needs and existing provision of resilience services.

2.10 Resilience services are based around achieving the following outcomes:

- Increased savings
- Maximised income
- Reduction in priority debts
- Reduced need for emergency food parcels
- Reduced need for crisis payments
- Increased access to quality advice services
- Reduced experiences of material deprivation

2.11 Services that could be provided include community supermarkets or advice services, benefit application support, jobs-related support, enabling access to affordable credit and supporting financial education.

2.12 Local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with the VCS to extend reach and strengthen delivery. There should also be referrals from crisis and housing payment schemes to resilience services.

2.13 **Community coordination**
This element of CRF encourages local authorities to invest in the underlying structures, partnerships, and support pathways that enable effective

responses to crisis and help to build resilience. Essentially, this is about connecting services that are part of the local welfare system.

2.14 Activities that might be funded include:

- enabling roles to strengthen partnership working and improve coordination across organisations, services and programmes
- improved communication e.g. user-friendly websites and targeted outreach campaigns
- digital tools that help to map activity or support referrals and service integration
- costs of service design and co-production
- co-location of services
- capacity building for delivery partners

2.15 **Guidance summary**
In summary, the CRF guidance emphasises the following:

- A person-centred approach that allows for dignity and flexibility.
- An increased focus on outcomes and addressing underlying needs.
- Integration of services within a single delivery framework offering easy access to support.
- Improved coordination and strong collaboration with the VCS.

2.16.1 **HSF evaluation**
Last year, the Council carried out an evaluation of HSF activity in Rotherham. This has provided valuable insights into what works well in delivering cost-of-living support, as well as areas for improvement in future programmes. Key findings included:

2.16.2 • **Building on existing systems enhances efficiency**
Utilising established systems ensures continuity, simplifies delivery, reduces administrative burden, and enables residents to access support more easily. Integrating new initiatives into familiar frameworks – e.g. the energy crisis support scheme - also helps to scale interventions efficiently and maintain consistency.

2.16.3 • **Flexibility and collaboration strengthen delivery**
Flexibility and collaboration are key enablers of effective implementation. The Christmas food hampers initiative demonstrated how partnership working, particularly with the VCS, can expand reach. VCS partners are instrumental in engaging hard-to-reach groups, especially individuals who may distrust statutory bodies.

2.16.4 • **Raising public awareness is crucial**
While existing programmes have been effective, there is a concern that many eligible households remain unaware of the support available. This is particularly true for individuals without internet access or those disconnected from formal communication channels.

Improving public awareness through more proactive, community-based outreach is essential to ensure equitable access. Future delivery models should prioritise clear communication strategies, utilising trusted community networks, local media, and face-to-face engagement to ensure that information reaches those who need it most.

2.16.5 • **Addressing root causes, not just symptoms**
Stakeholder feedback emphasised that while HSF interventions have been vital, they often address the symptoms of financial crisis rather than its root causes.

Greater emphasis should be placed on preventive and capacity-building measures, such as skills development, financial literacy, and pathways to employment, that reduce dependency on crisis support.

2.16.6 • **The need for a more integrated welfare system**
The evaluation highlighted the fragmented nature of some local welfare provision. For example, the DWP currently cannot make direct referrals to food banks, creating unnecessary barriers for those in need. This lack of interconnectivity forces individuals to navigate a complex and often confusing network of services.

A more integrated and seamless system, where agencies share information and coordinate interventions, would enable more comprehensive and user-friendly support for vulnerable households.

2.16.7 • **Strengthening data and evidence systems**
Consistent data capture and management is essential for effective programme delivery and evaluation. Current monitoring arrangements vary across schemes, making it difficult to assess overall impact or identify gaps.

Introducing standardised and centralised data collection would improve coordination, enhance the targeting of beneficiaries, and provide a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions.

2.17 **Summary**
Informed by the CRF guidance and the findings from the HSF evaluation, it is proposed that the following principles inform the design and implementation of Rotherham's CRF programme over the three years:

- Build on what has worked well, utilising existing systems and interventions where they enable effective support to be provided in an efficient way.
- Aim to gradually shift resources from primarily crisis interventions to resilience building and integrated community-based support in line with government guidance i.e. addressing causes rather than symptoms.

- Improved monitoring and data management to inform an evidence-based approach - measure improved outcomes and impact as well as monitoring outputs.
- Ensure there is a strong emphasis on accessibility supported by awareness-raising, outreach, and improved referral systems – a 'no wrong door' approach.
- Co-design the programme with partners and communities wherever possible.
- Seek greater alignment of programmes and resources geared towards addressing crisis and building resilience.

2.18 **Local welfare system**
It is recognised that a range of advice and support services – 'resilience services' in the context of the CRF - are already operating in Rotherham. This includes Council services such as the financial inclusion team and money and benefits advice service, and many VCS services provided by organisations such as Citizens Advice Rotherham, Rotherham Federation and Age UK Rotherham.

2.19 The Council currently provides an annual advice services grant of £240,000 per year to Citizens Advice Rotherham. This is a three-year agreement ending in March 2027 and has been augmented with funding for immigration (£20,000 per annum in 2025/26 and 2026/27) and pension credits advice (£38,000 per annum in 2025/26 and 2026/27). Age UK Rotherham also receive £58,000 per annum to provide pension credits advice to residents.

2.20 The Open Arms Rotherham project, which has been operating in libraries and other community venues since 2022, has a particular focus on supporting residents from a financial inclusion or resilience perspective. This was funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund until the end of March 2026.

2.21 In addition to these, the Council has developed a model of providing crisis support to people in communities, which is VCS-led but underpinned by the Council. The Council's crisis support contract with FareShare Yorkshire, Voluntary Action Rotherham and Laser Credit Union (a total of £108,000 in 2025/26) includes the provision of crisis loans as well as food supplies for local foodbanks and community supermarkets. This three-year agreement ends in March 2027.

2.22 Further support is provided through Food Works. The Council is providing £30,000 per year to this initiative from April 2026, initially to establish ten 'Just Meals' hubs across Rotherham. The hubs offer affordable ready meals made from quality surplus ingredients, helping residents stretch budgets while cutting food waste.

2.23 It should also be noted that employment support services are part of the overall picture of available support. Under the overarching Pathways to Work programme, the Council provides £700,000 per year for Employment Solutions and £88,000 for Supported Employment, which helps residents with autism, ADHD or learning disabilities. This is combined with government funding for the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer (£1.7 million) and

Connect to Work (£475,000). Altogether, the programme supported 1,096 residents in 2025/26, helping 224 people into sustained employment and delivering 315 training interventions.

2.24 Other support provided by the Council includes, but is not limited to:

- Childcare support and vouchers, including improved take up of free childcare for two-year-olds
- Family hubs offering neighbourhood-based support for new parents
- Healthy Holidays programme providing free activities and meals for eligible children
- School uniform vouchers
- Rothercard scheme offering discounts for some Council services and leisure centre activities

2.25 Whilst the CRF guidance expects local authorities to use a significant amount of their total allocation on resilience services, it also acknowledges that areas will have different contexts and levels of existing provision. In year one of the CRF, the proposed approach is to utilise the above and other existing support services rather than using the limited funding to create new resilience services.

2.26 It is noted that much of the support delivered by VCS organisations relies on short-term funding, which creates challenges for the stability and sustainability of the local welfare system.

2.27 There is also a risk that referring crisis payments scheme applicants (see paragraph 3.4 below) to Council and external support services will create capacity issues. This will be monitored and assessed as the CRF programme is implemented, including by continuing to work closely with VCS partners.

2.28 The current global context has created further uncertainty and risk to the successful implementation of CRF. Alongside the deployment of CRF, the Council will continue to monitor the impact of increased energy costs and wider inflation on the cost of living and financial resilience of residents.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The preferred option is outlined below. This is informed by previous experience of ‘what works’ in the implementation of the HSF, findings from the HSF evaluation, and the CRF guidance.

3.2 The recommended allocations are for the first year of funding only. The rationale is that 2026/27 will be a transitional year, allowing more time to assess levels of need and the effectiveness of interventions. This will also enable the Council to work with VCS partners to co-design proposals for years two and three. It also aligns with the timescale to undertake a co-design process for the provision of advice services and crisis support from April 2027.

3.3 The specific year one (2026/27) proposals are:

Crisis support

3.4 **Crisis Support Fund - £1m**
In line with the CRF guidance, the proposed allocation will allow for an application-based crisis payments scheme offering support to people facing a financial shock or crisis. This will adapt the energy crisis scheme funded via the HSF. Crucially, applicants will receive referrals to support services to help them in addressing underlying issues with a view to increasing their financial resilience.

The CRF guidance requires that a crisis payments scheme be made available throughout the financial year. The proposed scheme will offer fixed payment amounts linked to the nature of the financial crisis and repeat awards will only be provided in exceptional circumstances. This will help to ensure that the funding allocation is sufficient to last for twelve months. However, the Council will need to close the scheme once funding from the CRF has been fully allocated and re-open the scheme in the new financial year.

It is envisaged that the risk of closing the scheme can be mitigated by the payment structure and payment values, though on a discretionary demand-led scheme such as this, there is an inherent risk that the funding may be exhausted before the end of the financial year.

The proposed scheme will look to support households that have been faced with a sudden financial crisis situation. The scheme will allow the Council to review and assess each claimant's situation, potentially provide a payment to contribute towards the financial crisis, and provide referrals into support services to help in addressing any underlying issues.

There will be two tiers to the payments: £80 for contributions towards financial crisis events such as an accident or health emergency; and £200 for contribution towards failure of white goods or where people are unable to pay their fuel bills. These examples are not exhaustive and cases will be assessed on their own merits.

All applicants to the Crisis Support Fund will also be signposted to other support – i.e. resilience services – to help them address any underlying issues.

3.5 **Targeted support for families with children - £1,402,600**
The CRF guidance states that the blanket provision of vouchers/payments to those on free school meals is not necessarily the most effective way of supporting families in crisis, as some free school meal eligible families may not routinely need crisis support during every school holiday.

Authorities are also expected to use 'a significant amount' of their CRF allocation on resilience services, whereas the current holiday voucher scheme would be classed as crisis payments.

That being the case, there is insufficient funding available to continue the holiday voucher scheme previously provided via the HSF. This scheme will therefore be discontinued after the Easter holidays.

The allocation above will provide for a one-off payment of £95 to support free school meal eligible families with the costs of the summer holidays.

As part of developing proposals for years two and three of the CRF, consideration will be given as to how targeted support for families with children could be provided. This will take into account other support for low-income families with children, particularly Healthy Holidays (funded through the government's Holiday Activities and Food programme). In 2026/27, the Council has invested an additional £350,000 in the Healthy Holidays programme. This is expected to create an additional 10,000 free places for children to enjoy a range of holiday activities and receive nutritious meals.

3.6 **Discretionary housing payments - £407,584**
This will continue to offer application-based support for people who need short-term help with their housing costs.

3.7 **Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme - £1,700,000**
To reflect the ongoing pressure on household budgets due to high inflation and energy prices, the Council agreed in March 2026 to extend the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme into 2026/27.

As in previous years, the scheme will provide an additional award on top of the 2026/27 support to working age claimants provided via the Council's Local Council Tax Support scheme. Based on current caseloads, this is expected to provide additional support to at least 14,400 households. This means that where a claimant has a Council Tax bill of £131.44 or less, their bill will be reduced to zero (this currently applies to around 11,000 households).

The estimated scheme costs are between £1.7m and £1.9m and will be funded by £1.7m from the CRF allocation, with the remaining £200,000 funded through the Local Council Tax Support Grant reserve. The actual cost will not be known until the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

3.8 **Christmas hampers - £60,000**
This will continue the VCS-delivered initiative providing food hampers to vulnerable households over Christmas and the New Year. Based on previous allocations, it is estimated that this allocation will enable around 600 hampers to be provided.

Consistent with how this has been administered previously, it is proposed that this would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement (SLA).

3.9 **Wider household essentials support - £20,000**
This will maintain – at a reduced level – a supply of non-food essential items (e.g. cleaning or personal hygiene products) to vulnerable households, distributed primarily through local food banks and social supermarkets. This would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support SLA.

3.10 **Food in crisis – £18,000**
Additional funding to cover the increased cost of food as part of the Council's food in crisis contract with FareShare Yorkshire and local providers. This would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support SLA.

Resilience services

3.11 **Open Arms Rotherham - £370,000**
Open Arms Rotherham is a community-based project delivered by VCS partners. It offers regular drop-in sessions in local libraries focusing on financial support in the context of cost-of-living pressures.

As an existing, VCS-led project with an established presence in local communities, Open Arms reflects several of the key elements of success highlighted by the HSF evaluation.

In 2026/27, the intention is to include sessions in local foodbanks as well as libraries.

3.12 **Support for care leavers - £90,000**
This proposal continues the HSF scheme, providing financial support to make it easier for young people leaving foster or local authority care to live independently.

Community coordination

3.13 **Community Coordination - £50,000**
The HSF evaluation indicates that while existing programmes have been effective, there is concern that many people remain unaware of the support available. Providing dedicated resources within this element will help to raise awareness of the available support, as well as joining up services and improving referral systems.

3.14 **Administration – £81,699**
As was the case with the HSF, it is proposed to minimise administrative costs in order to prioritise support for residents.

There is a specific allocation of £81,699 for DHP administrative costs. For the wider CRF programme, administrative costs will be absorbed by the Council.

3.15 **Balance of spend**
It is likely that actual spend will vary from that allocated to specific uses dependent on demand. It is proposed that to ensure full spend for the year,

any balancing sums be applied through the Crisis Support Fund.

3.16 **Other options**
Alternative options are summarised below.

3.17 **Continue with the current HSF programme**
Whilst the evaluation found that several aspects of HSF delivery are working well, the CRF signals a change of focus, including activity across several defined elements (see paragraph 2.4 above). For that reason, continuing with the current programme in its entirety is not recommended, as this would not be in accordance with government guidance.

3.18 **Equal splits across CRF elements**
Another option is to immediately introduce approximately equal allocations across the various elements of the fund. For year one at least, it is felt that a significant – and abrupt – reduction in current 'crisis' interventions to enable a substantial increase in resilience services or community coordination risks pushing people into crisis. This would obviously be counter-productive to the aims of the CRF.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Officers in relevant Council services, along with VCS partners, have been engaged in developing the approach to the use of this funding allocation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Arrangements are being put in place to implement the range of support measures so that residents can begin to access the benefits as soon as possible. In particular, multiple teams are working to adapt the energy crisis support scheme process to ensure that the new crisis support fund is in place following Cabinet approval.

5.2 The CRF programme will be overseen by the Policy, Strategy and Engagement directorate.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The value of the Crisis and Resilience Fund grant has been confirmed for 2026/27, with an allocation for Rotherham of £5.2million. The proposed spend detailed above reflects this allocation and is in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. The grant provides flexibility to local authorities on how the fund should be administered, in line with the guidance provided, though progress on spend will need to be monitored to ensure that government requirements are met.

6.2 Spend will be closely monitored as part of management of the CRF programme across the various elements to ensure that the overall grant allocation is not exceeded. As set out in the report, the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme may require £200,000 of additional funding from

reserves (Local Council Tax Support Grant) for this demand-led element. This will be closely monitored through the financial year.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in the report. Where support is being provided via third party organisations, this is being facilitated via grant agreements, which are outside the scope of procurement legislation. If there is a need to enter into contracts for goods/services to support this delivery, this must be undertaken in line with both the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules (FPPR's) and relevant procurement legislation (namely the Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, whichever is applicable).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recommended proposals are in accordance with the conditions of use of the fund. Further, the scheme is consistent with relevant public law principles, in particular it is lawful, fair and rational.

7.2 The Council can support this type of local welfare provision under the "Local authority's general power of competence", as set out in S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20). Further, local authorities have the ability to act in this area under powers contained in other legislation, for example, section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to provide financial assistance to any individual.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The recommended use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund includes support for families with children, as well as targeted support for care leavers. Whilst still substantial, the level of dedicated support for families with children is reduced from previous HSF allocations due to a change in the government guidance.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The objectives of the use of the grant and targeting towards vulnerable households, including families with children, will contribute to addressing economic and social inequalities.

10.2 Equalities data will be collected as part of administering the programme of support. An equality analysis has been completed and is appended.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no significant implications for CO2 emissions or climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. Partner organisations, particularly VCS organisations, are a crucial part of the local welfare system. As part of the proposals above, VCS organisations will be involved in both providing direct support to those in financial crisis as well as helping to build people's resilience by addressing the underlying causes of financial crisis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 A key risk relates to the new crisis support fund/crisis payments scheme. It is hard to anticipate the level of demand for this scheme, which the CRF guidance makes clear should aim to be available all year round.

13.2 To mitigate this, as described in section 3.4 above, the scheme will have fixed payment amounts and limited access to repeat awards. A case management system will be used to monitor applications and decisions, including the volume of awards and the types of crisis situation applicants are experiencing. This will enable the scheme to adapt and respond to demand.

13.3 A further risk is that the proposals do not reflect a 'significant' investment in resilience services, as envisaged in the guidance. As described in paragraphs 2.18 to 2.28 above, the initial approach is to mainly utilise the wide range of existing support services. This will be reviewed over the course of 2026/27, working with relevant Council teams and VCS partners.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy Performance and Intelligence

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/03/26
Service Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	23/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	23/03/26

Report Author:
Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer,
michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk;
Sunday Alonge, Policy Officer,
sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Crisis and Resilience Fund	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	**Service area:** Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead person: Sunday Alonge	**Contact:** sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. This includes specified funding for housing support. The CRF is classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP) and could be used to enhance existing Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes. However, it is not

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intended to replace existing LWA schemes, which play an important role as established discretionary crisis support mechanisms. Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 is £5.2m.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
N/A		

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

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

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4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** The report provides information on the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The fund is to be used to support vulnerable households in three main areas of Crisis Support, Resilience Services and Community Coordination. Rotherham has been awarded £5.2m for the borough for the 2026/27 financial year. The report sets out specific proposals for use of the funding in 2026/27 and a broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years in order to support vulnerable individuals and households in the borough.
• **Key findings** Addressing inequalities is central to the implementation of the CRF. Based on the guidance provided, the CRF will represent a significant evolution in the government's approach to local welfare provision. Building on the experience of HSF, the CRF introduces a more sustainable, integrated, and outcomes-focused framework that balances short-term crisis response with long-term financial resilience.
• **Actions** A full equality analysis screening (Part B) has been carried out and attached. To further ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion, consideration will be given to how the Council can deliberately target disadvantaged groups and those with protected characteristics in the implementation of the CRF, and to particularly target families with children who need crisis support to cope with the ongoing high cost-of-living. Apart from crisis support, the CRF will offer free, confidential drop-in sessions, providing debt advice, energy-saving tips, and financial inclusion services in safe, welcoming spaces like local libraries and food banks. The aim will be to empower individuals to achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency. This is in line with the resilience services aspect of the CRF.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer

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5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Michael Holmes	Policy and Strategy Officer	16th March, 2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	16th March 2026
Report title and date	Crisis and Resilience Fund
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	13th April Cabinet meeting
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16th March 2026

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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: Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026/27	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 13th March 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	**Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence**
Lead Manager(s): Michael Holmes – Policy and Strategy Officer	**Contact number:** Michael.holmes@roitherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

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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)**
Michael Holmes	RMBC	Policy and Strategy Officer
Sunday Alonge	RMBC	Policy Officer
Paul Stafford	RMBC	Policy Officer

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) targets individuals who are facing severe cost-of-living pressures or specific financial shocks.

The overarching objective is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term. There is a specific focus on the outcomes summarised in the table below.

Outcome	Purpose
1. Provision of effective crisis support	To ensure timely, needs-based assistance for individuals and households experiencing financial shocks, including support for those who are struggling to meet their housing costs
2. Improving people's financial resilience	To strengthen financial resilience and empower people to manage financial shocks, reducing the risk and occurrence of crises
3. Bolstering the local support landscape	To strengthen local systems, joining up support services and ensuring there are clear support pathways

These outcomes reinforce the CRF's dual aims of providing immediate relief where needed, whilst also building the capacity of people and communities to avoid or mitigate future hardship.

Funding must be allocated across four distinct elements:

- **Crisis payment** – providing support to those in crisis

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- **Housing payment** - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs
- **Resilience services** - funding for services that improve financial resilience.
- **Community coordination** - investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape

A crisis payment scheme must be introduced, offering rapid, flexible, and person-centred assistance to those on low incomes who experience a financial shock. The scheme should be based on the following principles:

- **Broad eligibility and local discretion** - local authorities retain the flexibility to define local criteria and tailor support
- **Person-centred, needs-based approach** - awards should respond to individual circumstances rather than rigid eligibility rules or blanket provision of support
- **Cash-first model** - cash payments are preferred, as they offer dignity and choice, with vouchers or goods in-kind as alternatives
- **Families with children** – after the current school year, support for families with children should not automatically be through the blanket provision of vouchers to those on free school meals. Relative need should be assessed and families should be directed to wraparound services to build their financial resilience.
- **Accessibility** - at least two application channels should be provided (e.g. online, phone, or in-person) and support should be easy to find.
- **No wrong door principle** - residents should receive assistance regardless of where they first seek help.

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

Inequality and inclusion remains a significant challenge for the borough. National Energy Action estimates that 19.4% of all households in Rotherham, equivalent to 7,672 homes, are in fuel poverty. This is substantially higher than both the regional and national averages.

Recent figures suggest that around 31% of children in Rotherham live in poverty, meaning nearly one in three children face significant financial hardship. Income deprivation affecting children is particularly stark. Public Health England's local authority profile shows that 21.8% of children (10,910) live in low-income families.

As set out in Rotherham's joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA), the borough contains 36 lower super output areas (LSOAs) ranked in the top 10% most deprived in England, alongside 59 LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived. These clusters of concentrated deprivation reflect structural issues around income, health, education, community infrastructure, and living conditions.

The South Yorkshire labour market analysis indicates an unemployment rate of 4.4% in Rotherham (2025), marginally above the national figure of 4%.

ONS statistics show that 28.7% of Rotherham's working age residents (16–64) are economically inactive. Of these, 35.2% are inactive due to long-term sickness, substantially above the national level of 27.2%.

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In terms of evidence of local need, information collected from community food organisations (i.e. foodbanks) as part of the Council's food in crisis contract indicates that a steady volume of food parcels provided over the past year, with peak distribution in June 2025 (723 parcels) and strong sustained demand between April and October 2025. Monthly figures remained above 500 parcels in all the months (April – December 2025), indicating that there is still high demand for food parcels.

Almost 1,000 first-time users accessed food parcels within the reporting period, with the highest intake in October 2025 (137). This suggests continued identification and engagement of new residents experiencing food insecurity. However, the majority of food parcels were issued to returning users, indicating ongoing reliance on food support among some residents. This suggests sustained need rather than short-term crisis usage.

The number of people applying for crisis loans in the borough has been consistent over time. In the past year, about 700 individuals applied for loans to cater for food, bills, and other essential costs. This again indicates the level of poverty among the residents in the borough.

The Council has conducted previous engagement to gain a better understanding of the extent to which the residents of the borough need support to cope with cost-of-living crisis. An evaluation of the Household Support Fund programme has helped to identify what works. This has informed the CRF proposals.

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

The above data does not represent all aspects of inequality relating to Rotherham residents. The data may not fully capture the true impact of the extent of the ongoing high cost-of-living and the levels of support needed in Rotherham.

Some of the statistics referenced are based on sources published up to 2025 and may have since changed in the intervening period, as support needs continue to evolve.

There is also the need to more consistently collect data by protected characteristic in relation to cost-of-living or crisis support initiatives such as those proposed as part of the CRF programme.

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

Data plays an important role in targeting and transparency. The HSF evaluation highlighted inconsistencies and gaps in the collection and reporting of data across the range of interventions.

To improve data collection and utilisation, there is a need to standardise monitoring requirements and data collection across all CRF schemes and complementary programmes. Data should be brought together and stored in a way that makes it accessible and easy to analyse, in accordance with regulations regarding data protection. This will

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help to give a more holistic view, to strengthen strategic oversight, leading to better informed decision-making. The approach to the CRF programme should also go beyond monitoring outputs, aiming to better understand the impact on individuals and households. Partly due to the government's reporting requirements, this was not a feature of the HSF programme. For example, the school holiday voucher scheme has no data on the percentage of households redeeming the vouchers or any assessment of how it has positively impacted families, including how this might differ for those with protected characteristics such as disabilities. As part of the implementation of the CRF programme, efforts will be made to collect qualitative information, including feedback from service users on how they've benefited from the various interventions. Where possible, data will be collected by protected characteristic to help identify whether particular demographic groups are accessing and benefiting from the programme. The HSF evaluation indicated that some residents are reluctant to share personal information, and for those who are not digitally connected, the process can be difficult to navigate. There is a concern that people are missing out on support because they find the system too complex or invasive. This points to a need for more sensitive and accessible application methods that can reach the most vulnerable members of the community who may not engage with formal processes. Accessibility and awareness-raising will be important aspects of the approach to CRF.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	During the evaluation of the HSF in August and September 2025, partner organisations including Citizens Advice, Rotherfed, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and other partners operating food banks across the borough were engaged to understand how effective HSF interventions have been and to better understand how the cost-of-living crisis can be effectively responded to in Rotherham. This has provided insights into what works well in delivering cost-of-living support, as well as areas for improvement in future programmes. Key points include. • **Building on existing systems enhances efficiency** Leveraging established systems – e.g. the council tax support scheme - ensures continuity, simplifies delivery, reduces administrative burden, and enables residents to access support more easily. Integrating new initiatives into familiar frameworks also helps local authorities to scale interventions efficiently and maintain consistency across funding rounds.

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	• **Flexibility and collaboration strengthen delivery** Consultation with stakeholders underscored that flexibility and collaboration are key enablers of effective implementation. The Christmas food hampers initiative demonstrated how partnership working, particularly with the VCS, can expand reach. • **Raising public awareness is crucial** While existing programmes have been effective, there is concern that many eligible households remain unaware of the support available. This is particularly true for individuals without internet access or those disconnected from formal communication channels. Improving public awareness through more proactive, community-based outreach is essential to ensure equitable access. Future delivery models should prioritise clear communication strategies, utilising trusted community networks, local media, and face-to-face engagement, to ensure that information reaches those who need it most. • **Addressing root causes, not just symptoms** Stakeholder feedback emphasised that while HSF interventions have been vital, they often address the symptoms of financial crisis rather than its root causes. Greater emphasis should be placed on preventive and capacity-building measures, such as skills development, financial literacy, and pathways to employment, that reduce dependency on crisis support. • **The need for a more integrated welfare system** The evaluation highlighted the fragmented nature of some local welfare provision. For example, the DWP currently cannot make direct referrals to food banks, creating unnecessary barriers for those in need. This lack of interconnectivity forces individuals to navigate a complex and often confusing network of services.

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	A more integrated and seamless system, where public agencies, local authorities, and voluntary organisations share information and coordinate interventions, would enable more comprehensive and user-friendly support for vulnerable households. • **Strengthening data and evidence systems** Consistent data capture and management is essential for effective programme delivery and evaluation. Current monitoring arrangements vary across schemes, making it difficult to assess overall impact or identify gaps. Introducing standardised and centralised data collection would improve coordination, enhance the targeting of beneficiaries, and provide a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	As part of the HSF evaluation, engagement took place with colleagues from Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Children and Young Peoples' Services, and Corporate Services (finance). This engagement reinforced the importance of joining up similar programmes and collecting data consistently. A working group of officers from multiple services has helped to shape the CRF proposals.

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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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance) The support proposed through the CRF is available to all residents and is expected to have particular benefits for those on low incomes. Whilst the HSF evaluation revealed a shifting profile of those seeking support, including more working households and public sector staff, particular vulnerable groups include pensioners, single parents and ethnic minority communities. The HSF evaluation has raised concern about access for certain groups. To address this, potential actions include expanding translation services, outreach, and face-to-face services to improve accessibility for minority groups, older people, and digitally excluded households.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? As outlined in this analysis, there is a recognition that incomplete information and inconsistent data collection on similar programmes makes it difficult to fully understand the barriers for specific communities or groups. There also potential barriers for some groups, particularly those who are digitally excluded or for whom English is not a first language.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Some barriers to access were evident in the implementation of HSF. Mechanisms to remove barriers to access will include: • Increasing communication and raising public awareness of the programmes. This is important so that beneficiaries are aware of the nature of interventions and how they can access them. • Access to the crisis support fund/payments scheme will be via an online form, phone or face to face. Help will be offered by Council officers to those who are unable to complete the application form. By offering crisis payments together with referrals to resilience building services, the implementation of CRF will provide several positive impacts and help remove barriers for a wide range of individuals, particularly those who are struggling financially. Delivering effective crisis support is intended to prevent the occurrence or escalation of individuals' crises. By offering timely, needs-based assistance to those with low incomes and vulnerable residents facing financial shocks, the proposals can reduce the risk of crisis need.

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By strengthening financial resilience among individuals, the proposals will empower residents to better manage financial shocks and mitigate the occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crises.

A joined-up, visible local support network is key to the CRF's approach. The programme will foster a culture of shared intelligence and joint working, improving referral pathways and enabling partners to adapt quickly to changing needs or circumstances. This, in turn, will help to ensure that those in crisis receive the support they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The approach to CRF will be guided by the following principles.

- **Person-centred** to ensure that people's preferences, needs and values stay central to professional decisions, providing support that is respectful to them.
- **Needs-based** to recognise the varied circumstances that individuals may experience, seeking to meet the underlying needs, not just the crisis symptoms.
- **Holistic** to provide integrated support that helps individuals or households access a wide range of services related to their assessed needs.
- **A no wrong door approach** that ensures individuals get the right service and support regardless of their initial point of contact.
- **Trauma informed approach** that creates a safe and empowering environment, emphasising safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment and cultural consideration.

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)

In general, the proposals should have a positive impact on community relations by helping to build partnerships, particularly through the community coordination element of CRF.

The effective co-ordination of statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, grassroots projects and place-based initiatives delivers benefits to both individuals needing support and the professionals involved, creating more financially resilient communities.

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.

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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: Crisis and Resilience Fund
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Lead Manager: Michael Holmes – Policy and Strategy Officer
Summary of findings:
The key finding is that improved data collection and use is crucial to the effective implementation of CRF in the longer term, enabling effective analysis of trends and impact, and improving targeting. Alongside this, it will be crucial to ensure that all groups, particularly those who may face barriers or risk exclusion, are aware of and can access the support available.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Implement a clear communication plan, including identifying awareness-raising activity that will help to ensure everyone at risk of financial crisis knows how to access the available support.	All	04/26
Ensure that multiple access routes are available for the crisis support fund / payments scheme, with support offered to help people complete applications.	All	04/26
Standardise data collection and reporting methods across CRF schemes, including information on protected characteristics, to identify trends and improve analysis and targeting	All	07/26

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Use qualitative impact measures to better understand the success of CRF interventions	All	07/26
Ensure the collaborative approach to CRF includes stakeholders who can effectively advocate for groups that may face barriers to access.	All	Ongoing

***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**
Fiona Boden	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	17/03/26
Chris Paddock	Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	20/03/26

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	16.03.26
Report title and date	Crisis and Resilience Fund – 13 April 2026
Date report sent for publication	

Appendix 2

Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16.03.26

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Provision of food hampers and parcels with wider household essentials is a potential source of household waste.		Decrease in funding for wider household essentials from £100,000 to £20,000 in response to reduced levels of need reported by VCS partners mitigates the risk of wasteful provision	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	Crisis and Resilience funding will continue to support households with their energy costs via the Crisis Support Fund		Previous rounds of Energy Crisis Support have not resulted in referrals to the Council's Community Energy team, which provides energy advice and supports households to apply for energy saving grants – with the effect that households may have received hundreds of pounds to meet their	Relevant metrics may include (i) the number of households receiving Energy Crisis Support, (ii) the number of referrals to the Community Energy team, (iii) the number of referrals to the Community Energy team which result in further advice or support and (iv) any change in households' EPC rating,

				immediate energy costs, without any help to manage those costs (and carbon emissions) in the longer term. To support the objectives of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, energy crisis and other forms of support should result in a referral to the Community Energy team, on the principle of *no wrong door*.	where support received includes material improvements to homes' energy efficiency.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: Actions considered to improve data management, including the use of shared platforms may have carbon impacts from digital services, such as those arising from data centres' energy and cooling demands. Aligning the Council's and other actors' data capture, monitoring and reporting could mitigate such impacts by avoiding duplicated effort.					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? While there are no direct impacts of CRF implementation on climate change adaptation, many of the outcomes in respect of resilience building may improve local residents' resilience more generally and by extension could help to improve resilience to climate change.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
Administration of the CRF does not have any significant climate impact. Where support involves material help with food and wider household essentials, lessons learned from the Council's previous implementation of the Household Support Fund will tailor support to meet actual local need and mitigate any risk of wasteful provision. To fulfil the principle of *no wrong door*, Energy Crisis and other forms of Crisis and Resilience support will result in referrals to the Council's Community Energy team, so that help with households' immediate energy costs may also improve their resilience to energy crises in the longer term – and so cut carbon emissions, from their domestic energy use.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Sunday Alonge Policy Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence Strategy, Policy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029)
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 615 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet - 13 April 2026

Report Title
Playing Pitch Strategy

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s) Rachel Stothard, Sport & Physical Activity Manager
01709 822417 or rachel.stothard@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The Playing Pitch Strategy - Part 1 (PPS) provides an up-to-date, robust, Sport England compliant assessment of the supply, demand and future needs for outdoor sports facilities in Rotherham. It covers football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis and padel.

The PPS is essential for:

- Planning Policy (evidence base for Local Plan review to 2040)
- Developer contributions (Access to Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator)
- Investment (supporting bids to the sports funders such as the Football Association, English Cricket Board and Lawn Tennis Association)
- Protecting playing fields as per the National Planning Policy Framework requirements
- Meeting participation demand, across all pitch sports

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the headline findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026 – 2029 Part 1.

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

3. Agree to receive a further report on the Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2 which will set out the response to the recommendations contained in Part 1, including Rotherham Council's vision and implementation plan.

4. Agree that the PPS is monitored annually and reviewed every 3 years, or sooner if significant changes occur.

5. Delegate implementation oversight to the Service Director for Culture, Sport and Tourism, supported by the Sport & Physical Activity Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Playing Pitch Strategy- Part 1
Appendix 2 Rotherham Playing Pitch Strategy Full Assessment Report
Appendix 3 Part A Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 4 Part B Equality Analysis
Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Improving Places Select Commission – 10 March 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Playing Pitch Strategy

1. Background

1.1 Rotherham's Playing Pitch Strategy Part 1 provides a strategic framework for the protection, improvement and development of outdoor sports provision across football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket, hockey, tennis and padel pitches.

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

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

1.4 This PPS uses the Sport England PPS methodology and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for non-pitch sports.

1.5 It provides the required evidence base for planning, investment and protection of playing fields under National Planning Policy Framework.

1.6 It incorporates future demand to 2040, aligned with the current Local Plan, including housing, population growth and sports club aspirations.

1.7 An up-to-date PPS enables access to Sport England calculators used to calculate housing developer contributions to sports provision.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The three aims of the strategy are:

1. To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.
2. To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
3. To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

The PPS Part 1 shall achieve these aims by:

2.1.1 Assessing Current and Future Needs

- Evaluating the quantity, quality, and accessibility of existing pitches.
- Considering population growth, participation trends, and club development to forecast future demand.

2.1.2 Supporting Planning and Financial Investment

- Providing evidence for planning applications and helping secure funding from bodies like Sport England, The Football Association, The Rugby Football Union and the England Cricket Board.
- Ensuring that new developments contribute to sports provision and protect existing facilities.

2.1.3 Protecting and Enhancing Facilities

- Identifying pitches at risk and setting priorities for maintenance, improvement, or replacement.
- Helping safeguard playing fields from inappropriate development under planning policy.

2.1.4 Promoting Participation and Health

- Encouraging community engagement, grassroots sport, and physical activity, supporting wider health and wellbeing objectives.
- Aligning with local authority strategies for sport, leisure, and social inclusion.

2.1.5 Coordinating Stakeholders

- Bringing together clubs, schools, governing bodies, and developers to ensure a joined-up approach.
- Creating a clear action plan for delivery over a 3-year period.

2.2 Although the needs assessment process has considered provision up to the year 2040, the lifespan of the new PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date, which is why delivery will be monitored annually. If it is not monitored and updated, a full Playing Pitch Strategy would need to be produced which would take another 12 months and further costs would be incurred.

2.3 The headline findings from the PPS for each individual sport are:

2.3.1 Football (Grass): There is a current shortfall in pitch provision for the youth age group in both 11v11 and 9v9 formats. There is an adequate number of adult size pitches and mini soccer pitches for young children. Within these age groups there is spare capacity to accommodate more teams.
It is predicted that there will be more demand in the future; with potentially between 16 and 24 new grass pitches being needed by 2040 if no improvements are made, both to the quality of some of the existing stock and to increasing the number of pitches. This can be achieved by either improving the condition current stock to increase the amount of matches possible or by increasing the number of pitches to increase overall capacity.

2.3.2 3G (artificial) Football Pitches: The Borough currently has a supply of 7.25 full-size pitches. It is anticipated there will be a demand for between 9 and 13.5 in the future. This is dependent on the extent of growth of the Borough's population. The need in the south area of the Borough is most acute.

2.3.3 Rugby Union: There is a shortfall of 19 matches per season (one game's worth of use on a pitch), rising to 23.5 by 2040 (in line with The Local Plan)with between 19 and 24 new grass pitches required if not mitigated by quality upgrades or a World Rugby-compliant 3G pitch (this is a different specification to football).

2.3.4 Cricket: 11 cricket grounds out of 19 are overplayed by 237 matches per season. This means the number of matches overall played on each wicket is higher than is recommended by the ECB. The installation of 36 additional wickets at key sites within the current stock would resolve this current shortfall. The addition of artificial, as well as grass, pitches would also alleviate this pressure.

2.3.5 Hockey: The Borough has 3 full-size artificial grass pitches which meet current demand, but this does not leave any room for growth in the sport. The pitch at Dinnington High School is in need of resurfacing, but it is likely this will change to become a 3G football pitch to meet unmet demand in football. There is the potential for Oakwood School's pitch to have more capacity if Chapeltown Hockey Club moves back to Sheffield.

2.3.6 Tennis: There are 56 courts across the Borough. Club demand is currently being met, but non-club courts need their quality improving along with lighting in order to be accessible for use all year round. It has been identified that there will be 3 new courts required by 2040. Padel is on the increase and is the fastest growing sport globally. Rotherham does not currently have any courts. In order to meet demand, it is predicted that 21 new courts are needed.

2.3.7 Rugby League: Rotherham does not host a full-contact club. There is a need to monitor future demand and maintain access for our only limited contact club, Rotherham Nomads Rugby League FC.

2.4 Monitoring and Delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy

2.4.1 The PPS Steering Group will develop and create an action plan using the information gathered, listing sites that require improvement and sports that require support by priority. The Steering Group will be chaired by and report into the Council's Sport & Physical Activity Manager. This Group will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategy and the required improvements to the various pitch sports. IIt will be the responsibility of the site owner to lead and manage the pitch improvement or development. This will not be the Council if the site is not within its ownership.

2.4.2 The Steering Group will comprise of representatives from The Football Association, Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA, RUFC Community Trust, The Yorkshire Cricket Board, The Rugby Football Union, The Rugby Football

League, The Lawn Tennis Association, England Hockey, Sport England and the Council.

2.4.3 The PPS will be a live document which will be used to:

- consult when developer contributions are required from housing schemes;
- act as a reference point for assessment of requests from local voluntary clubs for asset transfers on pitch sites; and
- justify funding applications and S106/CIL contributions when improvements are required over time

2.4.4 Continued cross-departmental governance of the PPS Action Plan and engagement with National Governing Bodies will be vital in terms of keeping the document up to date and fit for purpose. Opportunities to secure funding to sustain a dedicated PPS implementation resource will be explored (e.g. Sport England, Football Foundation) and set out in Part 2 of the Playing Pitch Strategy when that is produced later in the year.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Do nothing.
This leaves the Council and partners without a compliant evidence base and weakens planning decisions, developer negotiations and the protection of playing fields **(Not recommended)**

3.2 Adopt The PPS- Part 1.
This ensures compliance with Sport England methodology and will provide a robust evidence base for Local Plan policies. It can also unlock access to national funding (e.g. Football Foundation) and will help to ensure clear, prioritised site-specific improvements **(Recommended)**

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with:

- Sport England
- National Governing Bodies for sport: Football Association, Football Foundation, Rugby Football Union, Rugby Football League, English Cricket Board, Lawn Tennis Association
- Local clubs across all sports (over 100 clubs engaged)
- Schools and education providers
- Community organisations
- Neighbouring authorities (Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield)

4.2 Consultation with clubs included:

- Location of pitches including unused sites
- Number of club members/teams
- A club's aspirations for the future
- Usage of a pitch
- Pitch assessments
- Ancillary provision

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Immediate adoption allows use in the Local Plan evidence base (2026-2040).

5.2 Implementation responsibility:
Service Director – Culture Sport and Tourism
Head of Service – Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships
Supported by: Sport & Physical Activity Manager, Culture, Sport & Tourism

5.3 The key next steps are as follows:

- Develop a Multi-Pitch Investment Portfolio for 3G Pitches – By September 2026
- Production of Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2 – By November 2026
- Produce Monitoring Report on PPS - Part 1 – By April 2027

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The cost of the PPS was met through a s106 contribution. Part 2 of the Playing Pitch Strategy will include an action plan with associated costs and timescales. The Strategy will also support bids to relevant funding bodies and the prioritisation of capital funding when it becomes available. The steering group will oversee the implementation of this plan.

6.2 An important aspect of the PPS is it is a forward-looking document that has been established to support future funding bids and define priorities when and where funding is available. Part 1 has identified the needs, and Part 2 will clarify how the Council and partners will respond to these needs over time, prioritising the recommendations from Part 1 and utilising the Strategy Part 2 to:

- Direct the Council's own capital resources and those of our partners
- Prioritise investment through Planning Gain (Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106)
- Make the case for funding through external grants and foundations

Without the Playing Pitch Strategy, Sport England and other funders will not be willing to support significant investment into the borough.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. If there is a need to engage third party suppliers to support delivery of the strategy, this must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There is no Statutory Duty upon a local authority to prepare a PPS, however Sport England guidance describes a Playing Pitch Strategy as the

recommended approach to help local authorities understand need and plan provision.

7.2 Further, the Playing Pitch Strategy document will help the Council meet National Planning Policy Framework requirements for robust and up-to-date evidence when planning for sport and protecting playing fields, and further the Playing Pitch Strategy will underpin the Local Plan process as set out in the body of the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy will have a positive impact on children, young people and vulnerable adults by improving access to safe, high-quality outdoor sports facilities across the borough. The PPS identifies significant shortfalls in youth sports provision and sets out the investment and planning framework required to address these. Enhanced pitch quality, increased capacity, and improved ancillary provision will support participation, physical activity, health and wellbeing for children and young people, including those who are vulnerable or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

9.2 Adoption of the PPS strengthens the protection of playing fields, supports long-term planning for accessible community sport, and enables investment through national governing body funding streams. This will ensure safe environments, inclusive opportunities and improved pathways for young people and vulnerable adults. Increased local provision will also reduce travel barriers, support active travel and provide more accessible routes into structured sport, education partnerships and inclusive programmes.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Both an Initial Equality Screening and an Equality Analysis have been completed and are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy has a mixed climate impact, with some near-term carbon costs associated with construction of new or improved sports facilities, but with long-term environmental and social benefits. Carbon emissions from energy use in ancillary facilities may be mitigated by energy efficient design including LED lighting; whereas ensuring adequate provision of playing pitches throughout Rotherham may limit distances travelled to them, with more opportunities for active travel as a result. Protecting existing grass pitches from changes in use – and protecting grass pitches themselves from being ‘overplayed’ – may conserve or enhance the value of ecosystem services provided by these green spaces, as carbon stores and for rainwater infiltration.

11.2 Full details are available from the Climate Impact Assessment at Appendix 5.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The adoption of the PPS ensures that all partners named in this document have a shared strategic framework for addressing current sports pitch shortfalls, supporting funding applications, coordinating delivery, and improving the quality and accessibility of outdoor sports provision across Rotherham. It will strengthen joint working by providing partners with a clear, Sport England-compliant evidence base to guide planning, protect playing fields, and prioritise investment. This will be communicated via the Moving Rotherham Partnership Board and associated sports sub-networks e.g. the Tennis Network Group.

12.2 It will enable local clubs, leagues, schools and health partners to identify where capacity shortfalls exist, for example in youth football, cricket, rugby union and tennis/padel and to work collectively on solutions that expand participation opportunities for children, young people and adults.

12.3 The PPS also supports schools and academies by aligning facility improvements with future population growth and curriculum need, helping them maintain or expand community use.

12.4 For National Governing Bodies, the PPS provides the robust data required to unlock targeted funding streams and ensure resources are directed to the most impactful projects.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient resources to deliver PPS	Secore internal and/or external funding; cross-department responsibility
Pressure on playing fields from developments	PPS provides statutory protection evidence
Increasing participation outpacing supply	Annual monitoring through the steering group
Club viability issues	Targeted facility improvements and tenure security

14. Accountable Officers

Chris Siddall, Head of Service - Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	20/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	20/03/26

Report Author: *Rachel Stothard, Sport & Physical Activity Manager*
01709 822417 or rachel.stothard@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

STRATEGY REPORT – PART ONE
NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CC	Cricket Club
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
GB	Great Britain
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
M	Metres
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PP	PitchPower
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Sport England
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S&HFA	Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association
U	Under
WR	World Rugby
YCF	Yorkshire Cricket Foundation

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. Within this, it includes:

- A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.
- Guidance as to how the PPS can be delivered.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for "non-pitch" sports. Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- Application: Application of an assessment.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. The lifespan of a PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

An up-to-date PPS provides the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will therefore need to be delivered and implemented by e.g. sports organisations and education establishments, in addition to the Council. Although some investment will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development.

Study area

The study area for the PPS covers the full Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council area. This comprises of a central, densely populated urban core with suburban and less populated wards predominantly located in northern and southern parts.

In addition to the Borough-wide assessment, analysis areas (or sub areas) have also been used to allow for a more localised approach. For this, three areas have been used, with these known as North, Central and South, aligning to the Council's Neighbourhood Team areas and supporting how the Council manages the Borough. It is said that these sub areas also fit well with perceived sporting catchment areas and travel patterns, whilst they also fit with the Council's ward-based plans to support ambitions of the Moving Rotherham and Cultural Partnership boards. Alignment also exists to Police boundaries, the National Health Service and Inclusive Care Board groups.

The three sub-areas can be seen via the table and figure below.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

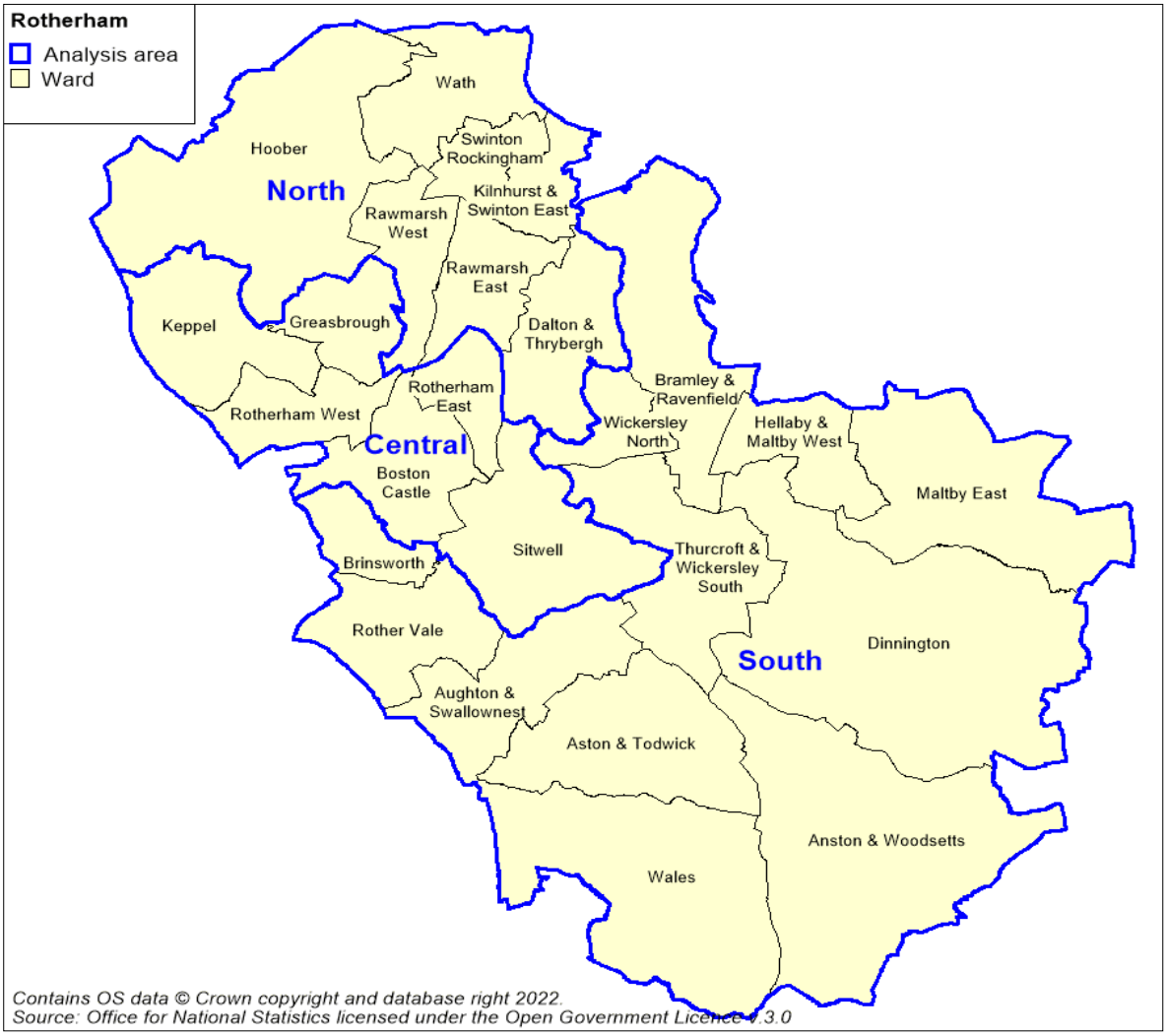


Table 1.1: Summary of analysis areas

Analysis area	Wards included
North	Dalton and Thrybergh, Hoober ,Kilnhurst and Swinton East, Rawmarsh East, Rawmarsh West, Swinton Rockingham and Wath
Central	Boston Castle, Greasbrough, Keppel, Rotherham East, Rotherham West and Sitwell
South	Anston and Woodsetts, Aston and Todwick, Aughton and Swallownest, Bramley and Ravenfield, Brinsworth, Dinnington, Hellaby and Maltby West, Rothervale, Thurcroft and Wickersley South, Wales and Wickersley North

In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities, including Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield. This includes reference to imported and exported demand into and from Rotherham as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

Scope

As standard, the PPS covers the following 'core' playing pitch sports, which are:

- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby league
- Rugby union

Detail appertaining to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included and separated out due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately relates to football but is also relevant to both rugby codes.

In addition, tennis, despite being a 'non-pitch' sport, has also been included within the scope of the study. Information relating to outdoor courts (including padel) is also therefore featured within the document.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to tennis.

PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

The vision of the Rotherham PPS is:

> 'Rotherham's Playing Pitch Strategy aims to facilitate the provision of high-quality places to play sport across the borough. It reviews existing pitch provision, helping to protect key sites and target investment where it's needed most, including supporting local clubs. In turn, this helps more people to get active, more often - fostering good health, wellbeing and community harmony'

To achieve this vision, the PPS also delivers against the following objectives:

- To provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches.
- To provide information to assist performance management and asset management.
- To provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing pitch stock and improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches.
- To enable local standards of provision to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of new pitches in relation to new housing developments.
- To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
- To ensure strong links to all NGB plans and relevant facilities strategies.
- To provide the context for sports development which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

In addition, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that these are also adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS as well as Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

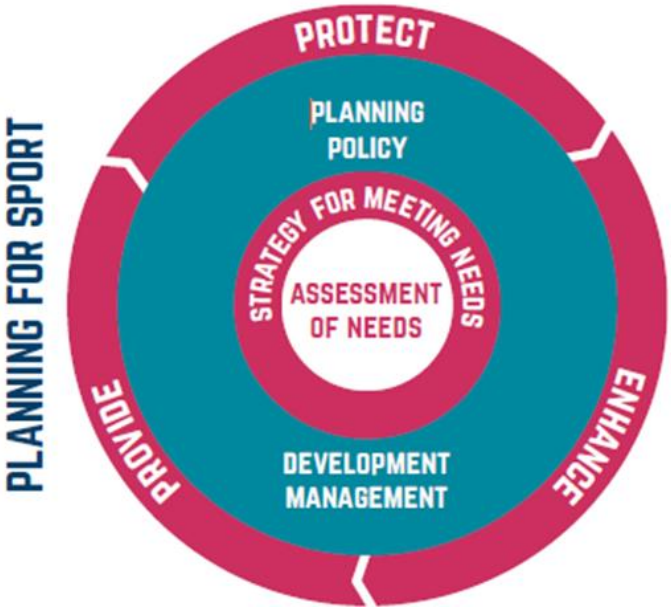
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2024)

PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is pertinent to 3G pitches and hockey suitable AGPs (sand/water-based pitches).

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
Football – grass pitches			
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 6.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 4.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Shortfall of 8**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 4**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 8**
3G pitches			
North	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	N/A
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	N/A
South	11v11	Shortfall of 5.25	N/A
Rotherham	**11v11**	**Shortfall of 8.75**	**Shortfall of 9.5**
Cricket squares			
North	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
North	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
North	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 24	Shortfall of 26
Central	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 32
Central	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 20
Central	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 16	Shortfall of 18
South	Senior (Saturday)	Shortfall of 189	Shortfall of 213
South	Senior (Sunday)	Shortfall of 189	Shortfall of 189
South	Junior (midweek)	Shortfall of 182	Shortfall of 190
Rotherham	**Senior (Saturday)**	**Shortfall of 237**	**Shortfall of 273**
Rotherham	**Senior (Sunday)**	**Shortfall of 237**	**Shortfall of 237**
Rotherham	**Junior (midweek)**	**Shortfall of 222**	**Shortfall of 234**
Rugby union – grass pitches			
North	-	Shortfall of 4.75	Shortfall of 5.75
Central	-	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
South	-	Shortfall of 6.75	Shortfall of 10.25
Rotherham	**-**	**Shortfall of 19**	**Shortfall of 23.5**
Rugby league – grass pitches			
North	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
Central	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
South	Senior	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
Rotherham	**Senior**	**No supply or demand**	**No supply or demand**
Hockey pitches			
North	Full size	No supply or demand	No supply or demand
Central	Full size	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
South	Full size	Played to capacity	Played to capacity

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance to 2040 (match equivalent sessions)
Rotherham	**Full size**	**Spare capacity of 1**	**Spare capacity of 1**

For tennis, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing (match equivalent sessions is not used) and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture is therefore instead summarised in the table below, with including specific reference to padel.

Table 3.2: Headline findings (tennis)

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	For non-club courts, no capacity issues have been identified, meaning all sites are considered to have capacity for additional growth. However, this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified. There is a resultant need to improve quality across many sites as well as increasing the level of sports-lit provision. For club-based tennis, the supply of provision is sufficient to meet demand, with current and expected future activity at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club being adequately accommodated. The same is also expected to apply at Ravenfield Tennis Court, although demand levels need to be monitored as and when a club forms at the site to ensure that this is the case.
Padel	There are currently no padel courts located in the Borough, despite LTA methodology identifying a total need for 21. As such, there is a significant shortfall of provision.

Conclusion

The existing position for the included sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with national planning policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional sports lighting and bringing disused sites back into use. However, there will likely be a need for some new provision in specific areas to completely alleviate existing and future deficits given the considerable shortfalls identified, especially for cricket and rugby union. This will also be necessary where other methods for eradicating the shortfalls are not possible (e.g., financially), or where major housing growth is proposed.

In addition, there is a clear shortfall of 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome without the creation of new facilities. Existing playing field sites and areas could, however, be utilised, at least to some extent.

Where spare capacity exists or where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming deficits elsewhere. As such, the specific sites where actual spare capacity exists must still be protected so that they can be utilised for alleviating current and potential future shortfalls (e.g., via the transfer of demand).

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, several scenario questions are tested against the findings evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report. This then informs the sport specific recommendations that are made.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested. For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of this report.

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified across 66 pitches and totals 47 match equivalent sessions per week, whereas overplay is found on 24 pitches and equates to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There are current and future shortfalls of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types, whereas overall spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- The analysis shows that the level of grass football pitch supply is insufficient to meet demand, although only in relation to youth football.

Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 237 grass football pitches across 81 sites in Rotherham, with 213 pitches across 69 sites identified as being available for community use.
- There are currently 26 pitches across 24 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past (disused).
- Of the community available pitches, most are managed by education providers (77), whilst 46 are managed by the Council and 22 by a parish or town council.
- Whilst tenure is generally secure across Rotherham, 15 clubs are accessing unsecure sites, all of which are schools.
- There are 54 good quality community available pitches, 110 standard quality pitches and 49 poor quality pitches.
- A total of 16 sites have received a PitchPower assessment, whilst 16 have received FF investment for quality improvements.
- Ten sites are considered to have poor quality ancillary facilities, whereas many additional sites are without any purposeful provision.

Demand summary

- In total there are 556 teams across 117 clubs which are identified as playing within Rotherham, with this equating to 130 adult teams, 151 youth 11v11 teams, 99 youth 9v9 teams, 94 mini 7v7 teams and 82 mini 5v5 teams.

- There are currently 39 women's teams and 55 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Rotherham, representing 17% of all demand.
- Two men's and one women's team play within the NLS.
- A total of 18 clubs identify latent demand in that they could field additional teams if they had access to more or better quality pitch provision.
- Three clubs import some level of demand from Sheffield.
- Of responding clubs, 10 quantify aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 59 teams.
- Population growth forecasts a growth of 35 teams, with this equating to nine adult, 15 youth and 11 mini teams.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality and addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of grass football pitches, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (weekly for football), as shown in the preceding Assessment Report.

In total, there are 24 pitches in Rotherham across 16 sites that are currently overplayed by a combined total of 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls across the Borough.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
16	Barkers Park	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5	0
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2	0
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	0

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	North	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	0
78	Kiveton Park	South	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	0
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	-
85	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0.5
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	1.5	4.5	0
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Good	1	1	-
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	7.5	4.5	-
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0.5
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5	0
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1	0
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Good	1	1	-
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3	0	-
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	South	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	0
120	Sitwell Junior School	Central	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	0
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	0
132	Swinton Academy	North	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1	3	0
141	Thurcroft Hub	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3.5	0.5	-

As seen, if the quality of overplayed pitches was improved to good, 27 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity would be created, although five currently overplayed pitches would remain as such even if quality is maximised (two of these are already good quality). This applies to provision at Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground, Millmoor Juniors Football Club, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club and Thurcroft Hub.

As also seen in the above table, whilst improving pitch quality would provide an overwhelming benefit to reducing overplay and improving the user experience, it would not generate a considerable amount of additional capacity in the peak periods of play (only 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week). This is due to peak time usage already being maximised across the large majority of pitches.
Improving quality as set out will eradicate all existing shortfalls on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches on a Borough-wide basis, with spare capacity increased on adult and mini 7v7 pitches. There would be no change for mini 5v5 pitches. Furthermore, only localised shortfalls would remain for youth 11v11 pitches in the South Analysis Area.

Table 4.2: Supply and demand if quality improved to good (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 6.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 2
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 6
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 14**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Spare capacity of 3.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Spare capacity of 3.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 8**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**

As shown below, on an authority level, the future shortfall amongst youth 11v11 provision would be reduced significantly, whilst the future shortfall for youth 9v9 pitches would be eradicated. There would be no change for mini 5v5 pitches. Furthermore, future spare capacity would increase across adult and mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 4.3: Future balance if quality improved to good (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 0.5

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 4.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Played to capacity
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 9.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Shortfall of 1**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Spare capacity of 0.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Spare capacity of 5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Spare capacity of 8**

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. It is, however, noted that this approach is not always realistic in rural communities as a result of long travel distances.

Providing security of tenure

Currently, 44.5 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Rotherham. If these pitches were to fall out of use, on a Borough-wide level, shortfalls would worsen on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity of adult and mini 5v5 pitches would diminish. Localised current shortfalls would also increase within each of the analysis areas, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.4: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 7.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 6.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 3
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 2
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 13
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Played to capacity
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 9**

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Shortfall of 20**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Shortfall of 20.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 2.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Shortfall of 1**

As shown below, on an authority level, future shortfalls would exacerbate across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst additional shortfalls would emerge for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. In addition, future spare capacity would reduce for adult pitches.

Table 4.5: Future balance without unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Shortfall of 2.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Played to capacity
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 8.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 7.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Shortfall of 3.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Played to capacity
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 14.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 15
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 0.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 4.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Shortfall of 24.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Shortfall of 23.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Shortfall of 0.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Shortfall of 3.5**

In addition to unsecured sites that are currently in use, 24 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity is discounted due to there being no security of tenure for the clubs playing at the site. Gaining secured access to these pitches would reduce current shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would increase. At a localised level, shortfalls would reduce on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in the Central and South analysis areas.

Table 4.6: Balance after securing access to unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 5

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 1
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 3
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 10
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 14**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Shortfall of 5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Shortfall of 0.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 14**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 15**

The impact of securing tenure to all sites on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would reduce on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst at a localised level, they would reduce on 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in the Central and South analysis areas.

Table 4.7: Future balance with access to unsecure sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 12
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 9.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Shortfall of 9.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Shortfall of 3.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Spare capacity of 11**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Spare capacity of 12.5**

Bringing disused pitches back into use

There are currently 26 pitches across 24 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past. If the pitches at these sites were to be brought back into community, shortfalls would be eradicated on youth 9v9 pitches and reduced on youth 11v11 pitches. In contrast, the spare capacity of adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would increase.

Table 4.8: Impact on current supply/demand through bringing back disused pitches

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 7
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 11
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 7
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 6
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 22**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Shortfall of 1**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Played to capacity**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 8**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 11.5**

The impact this would have on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would be reduced on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. In addition, future spare capacity would increase for adult pitches, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.9: Impact on future supply and demand through bringing back disused pitches

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 3
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 2.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 9
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Shortfall of 4.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 17.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Shortfall of 5.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Shortfall of 3**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Spare capacity of 5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Spare capacity of 9**

Impact of actioning all scenarios

If pitch quality was improved on overplayed pitches, tenure was secured across all sites and disused pitches were brought back into use, all current shortfalls would eradicate, and spare capacity would be left for each pitch type on a Rotherham-wide basis.

Table 4.10: Impact of actioning all scenarios (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 8.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 12.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 0.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 12.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Spare capacity of 1.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 9.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 10
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 26**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Spare capacity of 19.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Spare capacity of 13**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 16**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 16**

The impact on future demand is shown in the following table. All future shortfalls would eradicate on a Borough-wide basis, and spare capacity would be left for each pitch type.

Table 4.11: Future impact through actioning all scenarios (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 11.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 4.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 1.5
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 1
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 10.5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Shortfall of 1
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 7.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 21.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Spare capacity of 15**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Spare capacity of 10**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Spare capacity of 13**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Spare capacity of 13.5**

It should be noted that whilst idealistic, in practise, delivering the above outcomes is not considered to be wholly feasible, with pitch quality improvements unlikely to be achieved at some venues and with not all operators willing to enter community use agreements. Additionally, the FF anticipates that football participation will grow beyond the projections used so far within this process due to ongoing trends. This is further explored in the following scenarios.

Accounting for future demand club aspirations

Future demand has thus far been analysed against population growth (up to 2040); however, the following scenario examines the impact of growth via club ambitions also being achieved. This was detailed in the preceding Assessment Report before being discounted due to being considered more aspirational.

The table below shows that when accounting for future demand via club aspirations, Borough-wide shortfalls on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 would worsen, whilst spare capacity would diminish for adult and mini 7v7 pitches. Furthermore, spare capacity would been lost entirely for mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 4.12: Impact of club growth aspirations being realised (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Shortfall of 3
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Shortfall of 5.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Played to capacity

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 13
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 9.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Played to capacity
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Shortfall of 19.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Shortfall of 16**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 6**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Played to capacity**

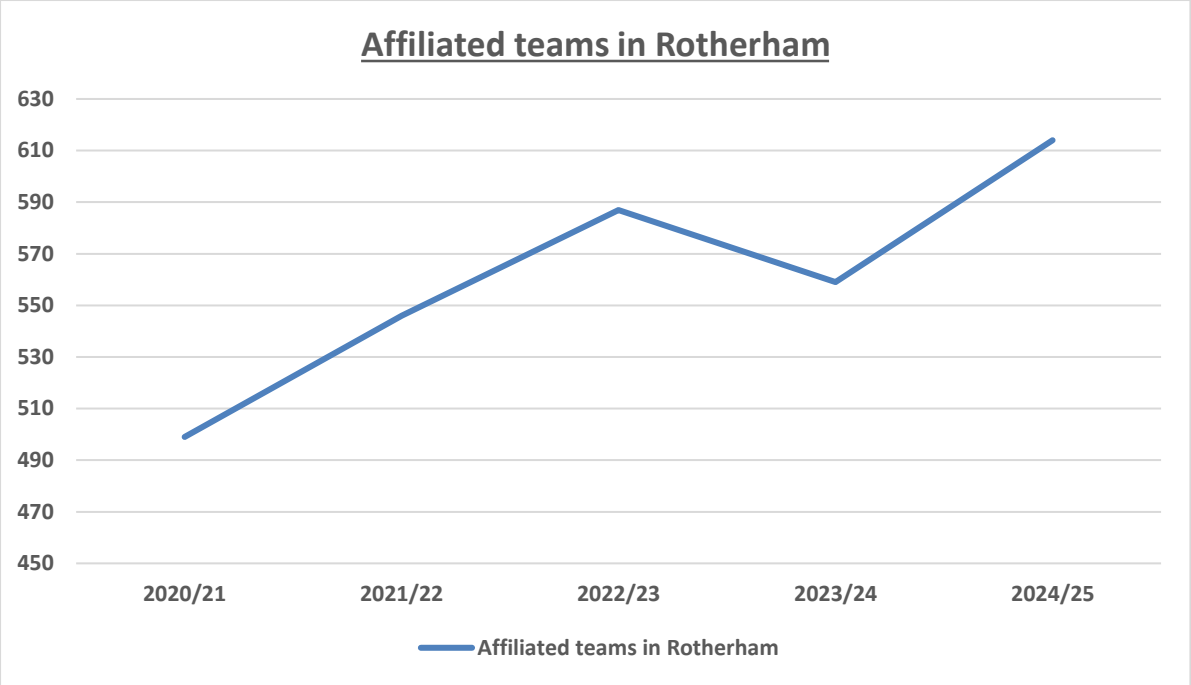
Continuation of growth trends

This scenario examines the impact of future demand for pitches based on potential growth from historical FA affiliation data (assuming that recent trends continue). Figure 4.1 below plots forecasted increases, considering the following demand from previous seasons:

- 2020/21: 499 teams.
- 2021/22: 546 teams.
- 2022/23: 587 teams.
- 2023/24: 559 teams.
- 2024/25: 614 teams.

With an average yearly increase of 5% in Rotherham between 2021 and 2025, this would result in an additional 170 teams and 85 match equivalent sessions per week over the next five years. On this basis, participation increases reported by clubs during consultation is significantly lower than those identified through forecasting growth via this method (as is growth determined via population growth).

Figure 4.1: Annual growth in football teams across Rotherham (2021-2025)



If the above future demand through forecasted growth was to be realised over the next five years, this would increase or create shortfalls on each type, with this being particularly significant on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.13: Supply and demand based on 5-year trend (in match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Current capacity	Potential capacity
Adult	Spare capacity of 12	Shortfall of 8
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	Shortfall of 34
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 20
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	Shortfall of 7
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	Shortfall of 2.5

Given the current shortfalls identified for grass football pitches, this further evidences the need to improve pitch quality at overplayed sites, secure unsecured sites and to potentially develop more pitches (which could include 3G pitches) to better support this anticipated growth in demand.

Given the differing levels of future growth identified, actual growth should be further monitored regularly via Stage E updates to fully understand which growth scenario (population forecasts, continuation of growth trends or club aspirations) is likely to be the most accurate.

Creation of a central venue league

Given the scale of 3G pitch shortfalls coupled with the identified grass pitch shortfalls, there is potential evidence to support the development of a multi 3G pitch football hub site[1] in Rotherham. This could then have the ability of hosting a central venue football league, whereby all matches would be held on an 11v11 3G pitch.

[1]https://sapca.org.uk/case-studies/ambitious-development-to-create-football-hub-in-washington-sunderland/

Currently, the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League caters for the largest demand across the Borough, made up of 313 teams across 33 clubs. Of these, 71 teams currently access 3G pitches for match play demand and, as such, these teams have been discounted from the scenario below.

If all match play demand from the League within Rotherham was dispersed onto 3G pitches, all pitch types would be left with significant spare capacity. This is shown further in the following table.

Table 4.14: Impact of a central venue league (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Potential supply/ demand balance
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 13
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 9.5
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3.5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Spare capacity of 5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 6
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 5
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Spare capacity of 9.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 10.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 20.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 25
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 12**	**Spare capacity of 12.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 11**	**Spare capacity of 27.5**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 5**	**Spare capacity of 21.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 7**	**Spare capacity of 33.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 10.5**	**Spare capacity of 39.5**

The impact this would have on future demand is shown in the following table. Future shortfalls would be alleviated on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, with significant spare capacity produced across all pitch types.

Table 4.15: Future impact of a central venue league (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 11
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 7
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 9
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2.5
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 4.5	Spare capacity of 4
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Spare capacity of 3

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Future supply/demand balance (2040)	Potential future supply/demand balanced (2040)
Central	Mini 7v7	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 5.5
Central	Mini 5v5	Played to capacity	Spare capacity of 4.5
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 12.5	Spare capacity of 7
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 6.5	Spare capacity of 8.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 18.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 23.5
Rotherham	**Adult**	**Spare capacity of 7.5**	**Spare capacity of 8**
Rotherham	**Youth 11v11**	**Shortfall of 15.5**	**Spare capacity of 23**
Rotherham	**Youth 9v9**	**Shortfall of 8**	**Spare capacity of 18.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 7v7**	**Spare capacity of 4**	**Spare capacity of 30.5**
Rotherham	**Mini 5v5**	**Spare capacity of 8**	**Spare capacity of 37**

It should be stressed that there have been no direct conversations identifying a potential site for Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League to manage. Furthermore, it is important to caveat that this scenario incorporates assumptions based solely on scale; further engagement is required with the League to fully understand the appetite for a 3G pitch central venue transition, and that other leagues could also be considered within this.

The 3G section within this part of the report also explores how many 3G pitches would be required to support the activity.

New grass pitches

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass pitches (or bringing disused pitches back into use). This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass pitches required for each playing format based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As seen, this totals 16 pitches, 11 of which would derive from youth 11v11 provision, which is fairly significant.

Table 4.16: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate current shortfalls

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Adult	Spare capacity of 12	-
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 11	11
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 5	5
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	-
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 10.5	-

In addition, the requirements increase when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 24 pitches across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 4.17: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate future shortfalls

Pitch type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Adult	Spare capacity of 7.5	-

Pitch type	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 15.5	16
Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 8	8
Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4	-
Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 8	-

Ancillary provision

As well as creating capacity on pitches, there is a requirement to also ensure that current and future levels of demand can be accommodated off the pitch, more specifically regarding ancillary provision and changing rooms.

As outlined in the Assessment Report, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for football clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and mini demand.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or adult, youth and mini separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of pitches and areas used for football activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches (e.g. at Thurcroft Hub) and key sites for women's and girls' football (e.g. at Phoenix Sports & Social Club).
- Utilise the FF's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- Provide security of tenure at sites, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs (e.g. at Swinton Academy) and those that provide multiple pitches.
- Consider bringing disused sites back into use, particularly when multi-pitch and in areas where existing shortfalls are present.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so, where it can benefit the wider footballing offer (e.g. at Stelrad Park) and where women's and girls' football can be supported.
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.

- Monitor participation growth of football through Stage E to ensure needs of community clubs continue to be met as needed.
- Consider the creation of a central venue for large league-based activity and the resultant transfer of demand from grass pitches.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

4.2: Third generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of 3G provision to meet football requirements, with large shortfalls identified across the Borough to meet training demand (in each analysis area)
- For rugby union, evidence exists to support the creation of World Rugby compliant provision given the large grass pitch shortfalls that have been identified.
- No action is presently required in relation to any other sports (rugby league information to be added).

Supply summary

- There are six 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham across the same number of sites, with all six pitches sports lit and available for community use.
- There are also ten smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites in Rotherham, with each serviced by sports lighting and nine considered to be available to the community.
- All six full size as well as the smaller sized pitches at Kiveton Community Sports Park and Parkgate Astro are FA approved to accommodate match play.
- No pitches are World Rugby or RFL compliant.
- Five of the six 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers with only the 11v11 3G pitch located at Blackout13.com Arena separate to this (it is operated by Dinnington Resource Centre).
- Availability is relatively good across the provision, with the only exception being at Maltby Academy, where no weekend accessibility is offered.
- The 11v11 3G pitch located at Maltby Academy is assessed as standard quality, whilst the remaining 11v11 3G pitches are good quality.
- All smaller sized 3G pitches are good or standard quality, with each within its recommended lifespan.
- No ancillary facility issues have been identified.

Demand summary

- The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Rotherham is reported by providers and clubs as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- In total, only seven hours of midweek spare capacity and eight hours of weekend spare capacity is identified across the 11v11 stock.
- All off the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is currently football related.
- Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 129 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- A total of 12 clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a high proportion of unmet demand (129 teams are represented).
- There are 25 teams exporting 3G pitch demand outside of Rotherham (to Sheffield).
- If future demand from population projections and club aspirations is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for football.
- Future demand could also exist for rugby union and rugby league based on the current supply and demand picture.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

Based on the FA Training Model, which identifies that an 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 teams for training activity, there is a current requirement for 16.25 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 16.16). This calculation includes affiliated football teams (556), exported demand (25 teams), walking football (seven teams), disability teams (13 teams), education teams (16 teams) and U6 teams (three teams), with six imported teams excluded from the total as they do not generate local demand.
In total, the above equates to 614 teams in Rotherham. Against the current supply of 7.25 11v11 3G pitches, there is therefore a shortfall of nine 11v11 3G pitch equivalents to meet training demand across the Borough.

Table 4.18: Current demand for 3G pitches in Rotherham (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
614	16.25	7.25	9

When considering future demand for an additional 58 teams (based on population growth up to 2040), there is potential demand for 17 full size pitches overall (rounded down from 17.08), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 9.75 pitches.

Table 4.19: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham (38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
649	17	7.25	9.75

If every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play their matches in, all three analysis areas would reflect a current shortfall, with the largest identified in the South Analysis Area (5.25 pitches).

Table 4.20: Current demand for 3G pitches in Rotherham by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
North	144	3.75	2	1.75
Central	119	3.25	1.25	2
South	351	9.25	4	5.25
Rotherham	**614**	**16.25**	**7.25**	**9**

Accounting for additional future demand

When factoring in future demand via participation increases (club aspirations), the overall requirement would increase to 18 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 17.97), with a future shortfall of 10.75 pitches. At a localised level, the largest future shortfall would be identified in the South Analysis Area (six pitches). Furthermore, both of the remaining analysis areas would also have a relatively large a future shortfall.
This demand has previously been discounted from the PPS due to being considered more aspirational than future growth from population growth. However, based on recent participation trends, it is considered to be possible by the FF.

Table 4.21: Future shortfall of 3G pitches via club aspirations (by analysis area)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
North	176	4.75	2	2.75
Central	123	3.25	1.25	2
South	384	10	4	6
Rotherham	**683**	**18**	**7.25**	**10.75**

The table below shows the total need for 3G pitches when accounting for the growth rate trend for football to 2030 (identified in Figure 4.1). This achieves a higher participation total than when compared to the population change and club aspirations and identifies a shortfall of 13.5 11v11 3G pitches by 2030 as opposed to 9.75 3G pitches by 2040.

Table 4.22: Future demand based on participation trends (5-year growth rate)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
784	20.75	7.25	13.5

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

In Rotherham, currently 129 affiliated teams are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play. To increase 3G match play demand, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. At peak time for each format of play, this applies to 107 teams in Rotherham.

Table 4.23: Number of teams currently using council-pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	34
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	25
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	16
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	17
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	15
		Total	**107**

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of 11v11 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.24: 11v11 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	No. of 3G units required per match[2]	Total 3G units required	No. of 3G pitches required
Adult	34	17	32	544	8.5
11v11	25	12.5	32	400	6.25
9v9	16	8	10	80	1.25
7v7	17	8.5	8	68	1.0625
5v5	15	7.5	4	30	0.46875

[2] Based on how pitches are split within a 11v11 3G pitch.

Transferring all matches currently on council and parish/town council pitches would equate to the need for 17.5 11v11 3G pitches. However, as this is more than the number of pitches required to meet current training demand, it could be unfeasible to provide this number in the short-term (as without sufficient midweek access the excess number may become unsustainable).

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.25: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	Playing format	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for eight full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 82 teams playing 5v5 football and 94 teams playing 7v7 football. This could therefore be accommodated via the supply of only two additional 11v11 3G pitches.

Requirement of 3G pitches to accommodate a central venue league in Rotheram

The table below identifies the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate a central venue league (the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League) in Rotherham, as also outlined within the grass pitch scenario section. Currently, the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League caters for the largest demand across the Borough, made up of 313 teams across 33 clubs. Of these, 71 teams currently access 3G pitches for match play demand. Based on the FA Training Model, which identifies that an 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 teams for training activity, there is a current requirement for 6.5 11v11 3G pitch equivalents in Rotherham (rounded up from 6.37).

Table 4.26: Potential demand based on a central venue league being hosted in Rotherham

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Number of 3G pitches	Potential surplus
242	6.5	7.25	0.75

As seen, the current supply of 3G pitches in Rotherham can accommodate the league's activity in Rotherham, although this would entail it being spread across several sites. In reality, for a central venue system to truly work, multiple suitable pitches need to be provided at one or two sites (e.g., one site needs to provide 6.5 pitches, or two sites collectively need to).

Borough-wide multi-sport approach to new 3G stock

Meeting the growing demand for high quality playing facilities in Rotherham requires targeted investment in additional 3G provision, with priority as outlined above give to football. However, a multi-sport approach should also be adopted when addressing the need for 3G provision across the Borough, with attention also given to additional activity that can be accommodate, particularly in regards to rugby union. This is because there are significant

shortfalls in grass pitch capacity for the sport, with further detail relating to this and the number of 3G pitches potentially required provided in Section 4.3.

Notwithstanding the above, it should also be noted that any 3G pitches developed for multi-sport activity may increase the overall number required to meet football demand. This is because such provision will have more limited capacity i.e. to cater for 38 teams for training, as per the FA's model.

Recommendations

- Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls.
- Consider creation of a 3G pitch hub as a means to reducing the shortfalls.
- Ensure all existing and new 3G providers have a pitch replacement fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek resurfacing when pitches reach the end of their recommended lifespan.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA quality standards.
- Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required,
- Where the delivery of new 3G pitch stock is considered, explore the feasibility of making such provision World Rugby compliant to facilitate multi-sport use and to help alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls.
- Where provision is established as World Rugby compliant, ensure construction is to RFU requirements and ensure re-testing every two years.
- Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches in order to reduce grass pitch shortfalls and increase overall capacity.
- Explore opportunities to establish a network of 3G pitch central venues and to transition Rotherham-based leagues to operate/play in this way.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- Ensure ancillary facilities are appropriate to support 3G pitch provision, meeting all relevant NGB standards (e.g. FA, RFU & RFL).
- Ensure that all new 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting (LED with controllable switch gear) to maximise usage potential.
- Ensure suitable infill containment measures are installed to existing supply where possible and that all pitches have containment and recycling strategies in place, with alternatives to rubber crumb to potentially be explored.

4.3: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- No actual spare capacity has been identified.
- There are seven pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a combined 19 match equivalent sessions, which is substantial.
- Overall, there is a shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 23.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union – supply summary

- There are 20 grass rugby union pitches identified across 13 sites in Rotherham.
- All pitches are available at some level for community use, albeit not all are being accessed.
- There are no WR22 compliant 3G pitches in Rotherham.
- Of the pitches, nine are operated by clubs and nine are operated by schools, with the remaining two being managed by the Council.

- Tenure for clubs is primarily secure at their primary venues, although some have unsecure access to secondary sites.
- Three pitches are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.
- Poor quality pitches are provided at Wales High School and Baths Field, neither of which are currently used by clubs.
- Three sports-lit pitches are provided at Phoenix Park, with one also in place at each of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane) and Wath Pump House Field.
- Rotherham Phoenix RUFC is without dedicated ancillary provision at Phoenix Park, with the facilities at Clifton Lane Rotherham Titans Rugby Club instead accessed.
- The ancillary facilities in place across the Borough are assessed as good or standard quality.

Rugby union – demand summary

- Five rugby union clubs play within Rotherham consisting of 52 teams.
- As a breakdown, there are nine senior men's, 20 age grade boys', seven age grade girls' and 16 age grade mixed teams.
- No senior women's teams are currently fielded, although Dinnington RUFC has ambitions to establish a side over the coming years.
- In addition to match play demand, all clubs access sports-lit pitches for some level of training activity, with non-lit pitches at Maltby Miners Welfare, Wath Academy and St Pius X Catholic High School also utilised.
- Both Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC report aspirations to grow their demand, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of nine teams.
- Increases forecast from population growth amount to one senior men's, one age grade boys' and one age grade mixed team, although no growth is identified when applied on an analysis area basis.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Improving pitch quality through enhanced maintenance and the installation of drainage systems would alleviate overplay on three of the seven overplayed rugby union pitches in Rotherham (leaving spare capacity), whilst overplay would be reduced on the remaining pitches. This is shown in the following table.

Table 4.27: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality was maximised (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	6	4.5
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	0.75	0.75
98	Phoenix Park	1	Standard (M1/D1)	3.5	2
98	Phoenix Park	1	Standard (M1/D1)	4	2.5
151	Wath Academy	1	Standard (M1/D1)	1.25	0.25
153	Wath Cricket Club	1	Standard (M1/D1)	3	1.5
154	Wath Pump House Field	1	Standard (M1/D1)	0.5	1

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality (M2/D3), both the current and future shortfalls in Rotherham would be reduced, albeit not alleviated entirely. A substantial level of shortfall would still remain, with this being due to particularly high demand levels across club-based sites.

Table 4.28: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Current	19	10.5
Future	23.5	15

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

An alternative or addition to improving pitch quality is to install additional sports lighting across overplayed sites. However, this would not make a discernible difference in Rotherham as most overplayed sites are already serviced, whilst the remaining site at Wath Cricket Club has only one pitch so no demand could be transferred.

Another solution would be to develop and enable access to World Rugby compliant 3G provision. The following table therefore further explores this and potential capacity impact it could have if all training demand in Rotherham was to be transferred to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Table 4.29: Supply and demand balance with access to World Rugby compliant provision

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Potential quality	Good quality capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	4.5	2.5
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.75	0.75
98	Phoenix Park	1	Good (M2/D3)	2	1
98	Phoenix Park	1	Good (M2/D3)	2.5	0.5
151	Wath Academy	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.25	1.25
153	Wath Cricket Club	1	Good (M2/D3)	1.5	1.5
154	Wath Pump House Field	1	Good (M2/D3)	1	1

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality (M2/D3) and access to a World Rugby complaint pitch was enabled, that the current shortfall in Rotherham would be alleviated. A small future shortfall would, however, remain.

Table 4.30: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Current	19	0
Future	23.5	4.5

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that for all rugby union training demand to take place on 3G pitches, multiple World Rugby compliant facilities would be required. This

is because one pitch would not be able to accommodate all of the demand, and it would not be reasonable to expect all clubs to travel to use it. In addition, transferring all training to a 3G pitch could negatively affect financial sustainability. Clubs currently earn significant income from clubhouse use on training nights, and this revenue stream would diminish if activity were relocated.

Locationally, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the North Analysis Area would cater for demand from Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC, whilst one in the Central Analysis Area would cater demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC and Rotherham Titans RUFC. A pitch in the South Analysis Area could cater for demand from Dinnington RUFC and Maltby RUFC.

Furthermore, as identified earlier in the report, a multi-sport approach should be adopted when addressing the need for 3G provision across the Borough, with facilities set up to support not only rugby union but also football (it is assumed that most developments will be football-led). This is because significant shortfalls in grass pitch capacity have been identified.

Accommodating future demand from club aspirations

Future demand expressed through club aspirations and by the RFU based on its own targets projects the number of rugby union teams to grow by ten teams across Rotherham. This is broken down as eight teams (one senior men's team, one senior women's team, two age grade boys' teams, two age grade girls' teams & two age grade mixed teams) in the South Analysis Area (from Dinnington RUFC) and two teams (one senior men's team & one age grade girls' team) in the North Analysis Area (from Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC).

Future demand through club aspirations has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough (by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week). This is presented only on a Borough-wide basis, as when future demand generated via population growth is applied on an analysis area basis, it does not equate to a whole team for any of the formats. This is further shown in the following table.

Table 4.31: Impact of future demand generated via population growth up to 2040 (in match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current supply and demand balance	Future demand	Future supply and demand balance
North	-	4.75	4.75	-	-
Central	-	7.5	7.5	-	-
South	-	6.75	6.75	-	-
Rotherham	**0**	**19**	**19**	**1.25**	**20.25**

As seen, the existing shortfall would increase overall across the Borough, this therefore increases the need for other scenarios to be actioned i.e., improved pitch quality, increased sports lighting and access to 3G provision.

New grass pitches

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass pitches. This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass pitches required based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As seen, this totals 19 pitches, equating to seven grass pitches in both the Central and South analysis areas and five grass pitches in the North Analysis Area.

Table 4.32: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate current shortfalls

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
North	4.75	5
Central	7	7
South	6.75	7

In addition, the requirements increase when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 24 pitches, 11 of which would derive from the South Analysis area.

Table 4.33: Potential number of new grass pitches required to alleviate future shortfalls

Analysis area	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
North	5.75	6
Central	7	7
South	10.25	11

The above shows the importance of trying to rectify the deficits through improving pitch quality and installing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. This is because the creation of at least 19 grass pitches is unfeasible and would involve significant land take.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of pitches and areas used for rugby union activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision.
- Retain the stock of pitches at all education sites for continued curricular and extra-curricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- Explore feasibility of providing one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in each analysis area, working in partnership with football stakeholders.
- Ensure ancillary facilities are inclusive and have appropriate segregation and improve quality across the Borough where required.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.

- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

4.4: Rugby league - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- With no full-contact rugby league supply or demand identified in Rotherham, no current action is required in relation to the traditional form of sport.
- Any potential participation should be signposted to activity in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.
- For Rotherham Nomads, continued access to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative) is imperative.

Rugby league – supply summary

- There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches within Rotherham.

Rugby league – demand summary

- There are no competitive, full-contact rugby league clubs based in Rotherham.
- Rotherham Giants RLFC had been the sole full-contact rugby league club in the Borough, based at Herringthorpe Playing Fields, before it folded in 2012.
- With no club based in Rotherham, it is likely that some demand will be exporting outside of the Borough to access clubs in nearby authorities (such as in Sheffield), although to what extent is difficult to determine.
- Rotherham Nomads is a community rugby league group specialising in X-League, which is a non-contact, mixed-gender variation of the sport designed to be inclusive, social and accessible to all abilities.

Scenarios

If participation grows to a level that supports establishing a new club during the PPS lifespan, demand should be directed to the North Analysis Area. This reflects the existing Tri-Tag provision at Parkgate Astro (Rotherham Nomads) and the high number of rugby union pitches which are frequently used to host rugby league when no dedicated pitches are available.

Recommendations

- Ensure any localised demand is signposted to clubs in neighbouring authorities until such a time when a sufficient level may exist for the formation of a Rotherham-based club.
- Establish links with schools to deliver rugby-league based activity to assist in growing the game.
- If a Rotherham-based club does form, ensure it has an appropriate site to play at (potentially via a dual use facility in the first instance).
- Ensure continued access for Rotherham Nomads to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative).
- Ensure that any residential development considers potential increases in demand for the sport and that new provision or contributions are properly sought through utilisation of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

4.5: Hockey - artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand; however, any future demand is likely to result in capacity pressures being created.
- The pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue.
- To further increase capacity, reported cost issues at Aurora Playing Fields linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Rotherham (provided at Aurora Playing Fields, Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School), with each of these available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- The pitch at Aurora Playing Field is accessed by Rotherham HC, whilst the pitch at Oakwood High School is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC (Dinnington High School is not currently used for any community hockey).
- There is also a smaller sized AGP with a hockey suitable surface at Clifton Community School (measuring 78 x 37 metres); however, it is not available for community use or serviced by sports lighting.
- Whilst all three pitches are available for community use, the pitch at Oakwood High School is generally inaccessible on Fridays and Sundays, whereas Rotherham HC indicates that usage outside of its agreed community use agreement is too expensive.
- The pitch at Dinnington High School is assessed as poor quality, which is linked to its lack of hockey usage as it is not currently suitable for access.
- The pitches at Aurora Playing Field and Oakwood High School are good quality.
- Whilst no significant ancillary facility issues are identified, Rotherham HC reports that the provision at Aurora Playing Fields is not dedicated to the hockey pitch, leading it access Phoenix Sports & Social Club as a post-match base instead.

Hockey – demand summary

- There are 26 hockey teams fielded by the three community clubs, with this equating to eight senior men's, seven senior women's, four junior boys', five junior girls' and two mini (mixed) teams.
- Across the three clubs, there are 349 registered members, with this consisting of 172 seniors and 177 juniors.
- Both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC were previously primarily based in Sheffield, which meant that Phoenix HC was exporting demand (as a Rotherham-based club), whilst Chapeltown HC's is now importing demand (it is a Sheffield-based club).
- Chapeltown HC still utilises supplementary provision in Sheffield via a smaller sized pitch at Caribbean Sports Club for some junior activity; however, the operator of this site is reportedly exploring options that may result in the facility being unusable for hockey in the future.
- Rotherham HC indicates plans to increase by one senior men's team, in addition to growing its junior section.
- Football demand is relatively high at both Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School, which further limits capacity for hockey at the sites.
- At Aurora Playing Fields, no football activity is taking place due to the conditions of the community use agreement that stipulates that only hockey and lacrosse demand can access the provision.

Scenarios

Accommodating current demand

For senior hockey, on the basis that there are three full size AGPs which can accommodate hockey matches in Rotherham, there is a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 hockey teams across the Borough (one pitch can meet demand for eight teams). As such, with 15 senior teams currently fielded in the Borough, this suggests that current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand. However, this is not a true reflection of overall capacity, with quality issues at Dinnington High School making the pitch unusable. As such, there is only capacity for one additional team to be fielded based on the current status of the provision.

The table below highlights the current capacity of community available AGPs within Rotherham on the basis that four match equivalent sessions per week can be catered for within the peak period (Saturday 09:00-17:00).

Table 4.34: Summary of capacity at peak time for senior hockey (Saturdays)

Site ID	Site	Peak time availability (Saturday)	Potential capacity (number of teams)	Actual capacity (number of teams)	Number of hockey teams using the provision	Capacity balance (number of teams)
14	Aurora Playing Field	09:00-17:00	8	8	8	0
49	Dinnington High School	09:00-15:00	8	-	-	-
95	Oakwood High School	09:00-17:00	8	8	7	1
-	**-**	**Total**	**24**	**16**	**15**	**1**

There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand. However, availability is extremely limited in relation to both match play and training usage at both Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School, with any future demand likely to result in capacity pressures being created. This is then a particular issue when considering that the alternative pitch at Dinnington High School cannot be used due to quality issues.
The picture could also be impacted upon if Chapeltown HC loses access to the supplementary provision that it uses in Sheffield.

Based on the above, it is clear that the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue. If this cannot be achieved, an alternative new pitch may be required.

In addition, there are clear means to further increase capacity via the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School. For Aurora Playing Fields, reported cost issues linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

Recommendations

- Protect all pitches for continued hockey demand.
- Resurface the pitch at Dinnington High School to provide a suitable overspill venue, or explore the creation of an alternative venue via the creation of a new pitch.
- Ensure sinking funds are in place across all venues to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Improve security of tenure for club access across the facility stock.

- Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are in place.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

4.6: Cricket pitches

Assessment Report summary

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 12 match equivalent sessions for Saturday cricket, 21 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket and 26 match equivalent sessions for midweek cricket, whereas a total of 11 sites are overplayed by 237 match equivalent sessions per season.
- Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket capacity in Rotherham to cater for all formats of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket).
- When considering future demand, the shortfall worsens for each playing format.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 19 grass wicket cricket squares provided across the same number of sites, with all 19 available for community use.
- There are a total of 33 NTPs across the Borough, with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 20 being standalone (eight are unavailable for community use).
- There are eight sites with disused cricket provision identified.
- Two clubs are without security of tenure, with these being Kiveton Park Colliery CC and Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares found two (11%) to be good quality, 14 (73%) to be of standard quality and three to be poor quality (16%).
- Four sites are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision and eight sites are accompanied by standard quality provision, one has poor quality facilities, and one site (Greenlands Park) does not offer any ancillary pavilion provision.
- A total of 15 sites offer some form of outdoor training provision; however, eight responsive clubs (57%) report a need for new, additional or improved practice facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are 21 clubs generating a total of 109 teams, which as a breakdown totals 50 senior men's, seven senior women's, 48 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- Rotherham Town CC previously provided additional demand prior to the 2025 season.
- 11 clubs currently take part in the All-Stars, 10 take part in Dynamos initiatives and seven host women's softball cricket.
- Upper Haugh CC and Whiston Parish Church CC currently export demand outside of Rotherham to fulfil match demand and seven clubs are travelling outside of the Borough to access indoor cricket provision.
- No clubs report any latent or unmet demand, and no imported demand is received.
- Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of three senior men's teams and three junior teams.
- There are nine clubs with future demand aspirations, with potential growth totalling two senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and eight junior boy's teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sophisticated maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a solution is generally recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.

In Rotherham, overplay is identified on seven squares. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

Only two of the 11 overplayed squares are identified as poor quality, with this being at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground and Greenlands Park. Therefore, the impact of improving the quality of overplayed squares to good across the Borough is relatively modest. This is shown in the table below.
Table 4.35: Impact on overplay if all overplayed squares were improved to good quality

Site ID	Site name	Current quality	No. of wickets	Current overplay (match equivalent sessions)	Potential position (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity
3	Anston Cricket Club	Standard	5	48	43	-
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Standard	10	11	1	-
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Poor	10	20	30	2 Sunday teams & 1 midweek team
61	Greenlands Park	Poor	2	20	10	-
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Standard	2	19	17	-
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Standard	6	5	1	0
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Standard	9	28	19	-
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Standard	3	53	50	-
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Good	12	10	10	-
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Good	8	13	13	-
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Standard	8	10	2	-

As seen in the table above, nine squares would continue to be overplayed even if improved to good quality. The overplay remains due to high levels of demand but also due to a

minimal number of wickets at the sites. The remaining squares (at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground and Maltby Miners Welfare) would see overplay alleviated and spare capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions per season collectively created.

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality, that the current shortfall in Rotherham would only reduce marginally across all playing formats.

Table 4.36: Overall supply and demand balance with overplayed pitch quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	165
Sunday	237	141
Midweek	222	146

Additional wickets

A common method for alleviating overplay on squares, in addition to quality improvements, is via the installation of NTPs. However, this is not relevant in Rotherham as eight of the nine overplayed squares are already supported by such provision.

A common theme with the remaining overplayed squares in Rotherham is a low number of grass wickets on each. In comparison to the majority of local authorities, this is relatively uncommon. With this in mind, there is a case to be made for additional grass wickets to be installed on these squares, if the space allows.

The following table shows the additional number of grass wickets that would be required on each remaining overplayed square to alleviate the outstanding overplay.

Table 4.37: Installing additional grass wickets on overplayed squares

Site ID	Site name	Quality	No. of wickets	Good quality capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Number of additional wickets needed	Potential position (match equivalent sessions)
3	Anston Cricket Club	Good	5	43	9	2
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Good	10	1	1	4
61	Greenlands Park	Good	2	10	2	0
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Good	2	17	4	3
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Good	9	19	4	1
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Good	3	50	10	0
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Good	12	10	2	0
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Good	8	13	3	2
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Good	8	2	1	3

A total of 36 additional grass wickets across the remaining nine overplayed squares would be required to alleviate the outstanding overplay across Rotherham.

The table below shows that if the overplayed pitches were improved to good quality and additional grass wickets are installed at the remaining overplayed squares, the current shortfall in Rotherham would be alleviated for each playing format.

Table 4.38: Overall supply and demand balance with quality improved & additional grass wickets installed

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Potential capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	24
Sunday	237	66
Midweek	222	41

Should the above scenario be realised and additional grass wickets installed, it should be noted that the squares must still meet the minimum boundary dimensions[3] (50 yards plus the three-yard safety margin). This is therefore site dependent and may not be achievable across the stock.

Accommodating future demand

Of the responding clubs in Rotherham, nine quantify their aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, three senior women's and eight junior boys' teams. Future demand through club aspirations has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough. This is further shown in the following table.

Table 4.39: Overall supply and demand balance with future demand (club aspirations) accounted for

Demand	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Future demand (club aspirations)	Potential future capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	237	24	261
Sunday	237	36	273
Midweek	222	32	254

As outlined above, any increase in demand will only exacerbate the existing shortfalls across all playing formats and cannot be feasibly accommodated under the current supply. This reinforces the urgency of pursuing alternative scenarios, such as improving pitch quality and increasing wicket numbers. It also increases the likelihood that additional provision will need to be established.

Accommodating girls' demand

The Assessment Report has accounted for future demand by applying team generation rates to ONS population projections to 2040. This identifies that there shall be the growth of three senior men's teams and four junior boys' teams, with no senior women's team or junior girls' team are projected to emerge. However, this is only because of existing low levels of female

[3] https://resources.thegma.org.uk/your-sport/cricket/maintaining-your-cricket-ground/cricket-season/preparing-ground-play/setting-and

demand, with it not taking into account recent growth trends and a drive to increase such participation.

The ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand across Rotherham. To quantify this, with one senior women's team and four junior girls' teams currently fielded in the Borough (from Anston CC, Upper Haugh CC, Whiston Parish Church CC & Wickersley Old Village CC), if fully realised, this could amount to an increase to 15 teams by 2026/2027.

As girls' demand commonly takes place midweek, the sites listed below showing spare capacity for midweek demand should be prioritised for accommodating additional fixtures:

- Brookhouse Cricket Club
- Scholes & Harley Cricket Club
- Wath Cricket Club

Although there is sufficient theoretical spare capacity to accommodate the club aspirational future demand for three senior women's teams, this capacity is not located at the clubs where such demand has been identified (Upper Haugh CC, Wath CC & Whiston Forge CC). As such, further evidence towards the need for pitch provision is provided.

New grass squares

Where shortfalls remain despite actioning other scenarios, this may necessitate the creation of new grass squares. This is also the case when and where other solutions cannot be actioned in full.

The table below explores the number of new grass squares required based on current shortfalls, on the assumption that no improvement is made to the existing supply to increase capacity. As shown, this identifies a need for 10 additional squares for each of the three playing periods.

Table 4.40: Potential number of new grass squares required to alleviate current shortfalls

Demand	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Saturday	237	10
Sunday	237	10
Midweek	222	10

In addition, the requirement increases when accounting for future demand, as seen in the following table. It totals 12 additional squares to accommodate Saturday demand, with a need for 10 still existing for Sunday and midweek cricket.

Table 4.41: Potential number of new grass squares required to alleviate future shortfalls

Demand	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential number of pitches required
Saturday	273	12
Sunday	237	10
Midweek	234	10

Notwithstanding the above, it should be recognised that new squares could be used for each playing period, providing they have enough grass wickets and overall capacity. This means that there will not be a need to consider the three separately, and that only 10 new squares could be needed for current demand and 12 for future demand. However, this also shows the importance of trying to rectify the deficits through improving square quality and installing additional grass wickets. The creation of 10-12 new squares is likely to be unfeasible and would involve significant land take.

Disused sites

There are five disused cricket squares in Rotherham, located at the following sites:

- Harley Recreation Ground (North Analysis Area)
- Herringthorpe Playing Fields (x2) (Central Analysis Area)
- Thurcroft Hub (South Analysis Area)
- Former Greasbrough Cricket Club site (Central Analysis Area)

The table below outlines the potential capacity created if the five above listed squares were to be brought back into use. As can be seen, if these sites were to be reinstated, there would be 120 sessions of actual spare capacity for Saturday demand, and shortfalls would remain in the North and South analysis areas.
4.42: Potential Saturday capacity if disused provision is reinstated

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Capacity created	Total
North	-	28	28	24[4]	4
Central	-	20	20	72	52
South	-	189	189	24	165
Rotherham	**0**	**237**	**237**	**120**	**117**

As there are relatively modest shortfalls identified in the Central and North analysis areas, if a disused square in each could once again become available, the localised shortfalls would be alleviated.

However, a substantial shortfall exists in the South Analysis Area (189 match equivalent sessions per season). As a result, the return of the Thurcroft Hub square alone would be insufficient; an additional seven squares would also be required to relieve the total localised shortfall.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of squares and areas used for cricket activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Improve quality of overplayed squares to alleviate overplay (e.g. Aston Hall Cricket Club).
- Explore the feasibility of installing additional grass wickets at overplayed sites (e.g. Harthill The Field Cricket Club).
- Improve existing and provide additional training facilities where there is demand (e.g. at Upper Haugh Cricket Club).

[4] On the basis that one new square would be equivalent to 24 match equivalent sessions.

- Improve ancillary changing facilities where there is a need and ensure the stock is appropriate to accommodate women and girls' cricket and inclusive access via separate changing rooms and shower facilities.
- Consider bringing disused squares back into use, where appropriate.
- Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.
- Explore the creation of new cricket provision to fully meet current and future demand.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

4.7: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- The supply of tennis provision in Rotherham is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with current and expected future activity being adequately accommodated.
- For non-club courts, issues across the supply are likely deterring usage, meaning it can be improved upon through increasing quantity, improving quality, installing sports lighting, and rolling out LTA products such as Clubspark and Gate Access.
- There is also a clear need to develop padel provision, with no courts currently provided.

Tennis – supply summary

- There are 56 tennis courts identified in Rotherham across 14 sites.
- Of the courts, 45 are categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites, compared to 11 that are unavailable at two sites.
- Disused courts at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.
- There are no padel courts currently provided, although a planning application has recently been submitted to construct an indoor centre at Hellaby Industrial Estate.
- Most community available courts are operated by education providers (31 courts), with only eight identified at council-owned sites.
- Most community available tennis courts in Rotherham have a macadam surface (37 courts), although there are also four artificial grass courts and four polymeric courts.
- A total of 31 of the 45 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 69% of the provision, although this applies to only two local authority courts.
- Eight courts (14%) are assessed as good quality, 31 (55%) as standard quality and 16 (30%) as poor quality.
- The ancillary facilities at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are considered to be good quality.
- At non-club venues, dedicated amenities are only provided at Wales Recreation Ground and Harthill Leisure Centre.

Tennis – demand summary

- There is one tennis club in Rotherham, Rotherham Moorgate LTC.
- The Club has a current membership of 172, which as a breakdown totals 133 senior and 39 junior members.
- Although not currently operational, Ravenfield LTC is expected to be established soon, with this to utilise provision at Ravenfield Tennis Courts.

- Courts at Clifton Park and Wales Recreation Ground are known to utilise LTA products currently, with this assisting in accommodating recreational demand.
- No LTA programmes or additional tennis activity is identified as currently taking place in the Borough (e.g., Local Tennis Leagues).
- With no padel courts provided, no demand is being received, although the LTA identifies a need for 21 courts to meet expected demand levels.
- No latent or unmet demand is identified for club-based tennis; however, together with future demand, it is expected to be high for parks tennis and padel due to existing quantity and quality issues.
- Rotherham Moorgate LTC reports anticipated future demand totalling 50 members (30 seniors and 20 juniors).

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, Rotherham Moorgate LTC (the sole tennis club in the Borough) has current spare capacity equating to 68 members, meaning overall capacity will also remain even if it fulfils its future growth plans. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.43: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	No. of courts	Sports-lit?	Capacity	Current membership	Current capacity balance (no. of members)	Future capacity balance (no. of members)
94	Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club	4	Yes	240	172	68	18

Given the expected emergence of Ravenfield LTC, consideration should also be given to Ravenfield Tennis Courts. This has capacity for a membership of 80 (two non-lit courts), meaning activity should be monitored if and when a club forms at the site. It is likely that sufficient capacity will exist, at least in the short term, but this is dependent on the growth of the Club.

Sports Facilities Calculator

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas.

The calculator uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension.

The table below sets out how many tennis courts the sports facilities calculator suggests would be required to serve the additional population growth in Rotherham to 2040.

Table 4.44: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Current demand	Future demand (2040)
ONS population projections	265,969	287,077
Population increase	-	21,108
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	2.79

As seen, it is projected that three additional tennis courts will be required (rounded up from 2.79). This is also on the assumption that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same.

If three additional courts without sports lighting were to be constructed in Rotherham based on the LTA recommended guidelines, an additional 120 users could theoretically be accommodated. This figure would increase to an additional 180 members if the courts are equipped with sports lighting.

Padel demand

The LTA has developed a calculator for the estimated requirement of padel courts across a local authority based on total population (20% of total population based on YouGov survey which estimates 20% of the population would be interested in playing tennis if there were local facilities available) and padel penetration with (8% of demand estimated to convert to playing padel).

On the basis of 200 players being accommodated per padel court, it is considered that up to 21 padel courts could be sustained across Rotherham. With none currently provided, this means a shortfall of 21 courts exists (notwithstanding a planning application existing for the creation of provision at Hellaby Industrial Estate).

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of courts and areas used for tennis activity, in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- Ensure club-based demand remains adequately provided for.
- Support investment into local authority courts to better provide for recreational tennis and seek to maximise usage following funding (e.g. Clifton Park).
- Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- Support opportunities to provide padel courts given its growing demand (and ensure any proposals for an increase provision are not to the detriment of other sports which use court facilities i.e. tennis and netball).
- Provide additional tennis courts to meet future demand projections, potentially linked to and funded by large-scale developments.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision as well as ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

a. Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs/users, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or appropriate mitigation until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls i.e., following improvements.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (as a result of no shortfalls existing), or unless appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon, in line with national planning policy. This also applies to sites providing for sports that have no shortfalls as the provision could be utilised to reduce deficits for other facility types (i.e., via re-configuration/designation).

The above is linked to the NPPF and specifically Paragraph 104. This states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. Local planning authorities are required by law to consult Sport England when they receive planning applications for development affecting playing fields. Sport England has a Playing Field Policy and Guidance in place to help it assess such applications. They will use the PPS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields .

Policy as set out below.

Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

'The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- of equivalent or better quality and
- of equivalent or greater quantity;
- in a suitable location and;
- subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

*'*The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Disused provision

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

For playing pitch sports, the lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of provision and that replacement facilities are in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost (e.g., taking into account a "bedding in" period).

Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in Rotherham. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as EH, FF and the Active Partnership can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

The Council and private landlords (as relevant) should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council (where relevant), parish and town councils and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

Alternative management models

The Council could explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and National Governing Bodies to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)[5]. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

The Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- Increasing participation.
- Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- Commitment to quality standards.
- Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

Community Asset Transfer

Another way of ensuring tenure long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- Make better use of underused assets.

[5] Link to CASC benefits

- Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: Link to Sport England Community assets and rights

Although sites could have the potential for a long-term lease or asset transfer more research is required to understand the feasibility of such a decision and wider implications such as any potential fencing of areas would need to take account of any FIT and Green Guarantee Status.

Recommendation (c) – Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools and higher/further education establishments is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Rotherham, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies.

A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the venues (e.g., via development funding, maintenance assistance and pitch hire income) and local clubs/users, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there are comparably few schools in Rotherham that do not currently allow for community use at their sites. This currently only applies to the following 10 sites:

- Aston All Saints School
- Aughton Junior Academy
- Dalton Listerdale Junior & Infant School
- Herringthorpe Junior School
- Laughton Junior & Infant School
- Maltby Redwood Academy
- Meadow View Primary School
- Rawmarsh Junior & Infant Thorogate School
- Wath Central Primary School
- Wickersley Northfield Primary School

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches/facilities, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England, as well as other funding bodies, can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.[6]

Where new schools are provided, these should be designed to facilitate community access via a community use agreement, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sporting needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential impact of the provision. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as artificial pitches (e.g., 3G) or courts that can accommodate tennis activity.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitch and outdoor sport provision as well as ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

d. Improve quality

e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.

f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.

g. Secure developer contributions.

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g., the largest, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

[6] https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/use-our-school

Notwithstanding the above, with pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore also be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Rotherham is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality pitches is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.

If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies, growingly, to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

For rugby union, rugby league and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G pitches and hockey AGPs, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites in Rotherham that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status and issues.

Table 5.1: Key sites requiring quality improvements (by sport / facility type)

Sport/facility	Sites for improvement
Football	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme Maltby Miners Welfare Phoenix Sports & Social Club Ruby Cook Recreation Ground Thurcroft Hub
3G pitches	-
Rugby league	-
Rugby union	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club Phoenix Park Wath Academy Wath Cricket Club Wath Pump House Field
Hockey	Dinnington High School
Cricket	Greenlands Park
Tennis	Clifton Park Coronation Park Harthill Leisure Centre

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock, it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each.

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a maximum number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.2: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

For tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality, where possible, should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future. In isolated cases, new provision may be required.

For cricket, an increase in grass wickets and/or NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer demand from existing wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as they can be installed in situ with existing squares (if space allows). The emergence of hybrid wickets could also provide an additional solution.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting can reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas, where the space exists. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for tennis. This is because it can allow for greater usage, especially during winter months.

To help assist with the identification of sites that are presently overused, the table below identifies sites in Rotherham that are currently operating over capacity for each sport.

Table 5.3: Overplayed sites (by sport / facility type)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Barkers Park Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme Greenlands Park Kilnhurst Recreation Ground Kiveton Park Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground Maltby Lilly Hall Academy Maltby Miners Welfare Millmoor Juniors Football Club Phoenix Sports & Social Club Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club Roughwood Road Recreation Ground Ruby Cook Recreation Ground Sitwell Junior School St Bernards Catholic High School Swinton Academy Thurcroft Hub
3G pitches	-
Rugby league	-
Rugby union	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club Phoenix Park Wath Academy Wath Cricket Club Wath Pump House Field
Hockey	-
Cricket	Anston Cricket Club Aston Hall Cricket Club Greenlands Park Harthill The Field Cricket Club Upper Haugh Cricket Club Waleswood Sports Cricket Club Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club
Tennis	-

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in Rotherham (these are detailed further in the Action Plan). For example, the changing provision at Kilnhurst Recreation Ground, Lodge Lane Park, Roughwood Road Recreation Ground, Stelrad Park, Swinton Miners Welfare and Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground are poor quality with users stating the need to redevelop the ancillary facilities as the current facilities are outdated. As previously mentioned, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised.

Emphasis in regards to changing facilities should also be placed on where women's and girls activity is or could be attracted, with dedicated spaces required to enable inclusive access. Such sites should therefore also prioritised, in addition to sites that have poor quality provision in need of general improvement.

Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. The identification of sites should be based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide and sporting context, taking into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues.

The proposed site-hierarchy for Rotherham is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.4: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Services the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for more at a basic level.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

Hub sites are of Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPS.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., mixed gender and inclusive usage) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community, although that can be meeting a localised need. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports.

For council sites in this tier, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Rotherham and lessen requirements within the Borough (and vice versa).

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations. The tool, however, should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- Facility location compared to demand.
- Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- Cross boundary movement of demand.
- Travel networks and topography.
- Attractiveness of facilities.

Once the calculators have been utilised, the PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused.

The preference for Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:

- Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

Developer contributions - step by step guide

For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

Step 1	Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development

The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

Step 2	Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site

For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

- Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites to close to the boundary.

The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

Step 3	**Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development**

The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part a multi-sport development.

Step 4	**Consider design principles for new provision**

The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 5	Calculate the financial contribution required

After using the Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new playing pitch and outdoor sport provision as well as ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.

i. Identify opportunities to increase to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) – Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6). In addition, first and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity and/or to artificial surfaces.

- The re-designation of facilities e.g., converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- Bringing disused provision back into use.
- Securing long-term tenure at sites that are currently unsecured.
- Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- Establishing additional sports lighting.
- Installing artificial surfaces.

The PPS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

Recommendation (i) – Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

Better utilising the stock of provision across Rotherham will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most existing shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock is therefore not recommended as a priority solution, although for certain sports and in specific areas it is likely to be required depending on the feasibility and success of other solutions.

In particular, for cricket and rugby union, evidence shows that some level of shortfall would still be present even if other solutions are maximised, particularly when accounting for future demand. As such, other methods of addressing overplay should also be explored, such as the installation of additional wickets/pitches and/or installing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to better support training demand.

In addition, there is also a discrete need for additional 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome via other actions. However, such provision could be provided via utilisation of existing playing fields, subject to meeting the relevant NPPF requirements.

Furthermore, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools will also necessitate the need for new provision, particularly in regards to football and tennis. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council-operated venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are most likely to have **high** priority actions, as they have wider importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are on occasion also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

Medium priority actions have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- (S) -Short (1-2 years).
- (M) - Medium (3-5 years).
- (L) - Long (6+ years).

Aim

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
Football – grass pitches			
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 2.5
North	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1.5
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 3.5
Football – 3G pitches			
North	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	-
Rugby union pitches			
North	-	Shortfall of 4.75	Shortfall of 5.75
Cricket pitches			
North	Saturday	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 28
Hockey pitches			
North	Full size	No supply and demand	No supply and demand

Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme). ◂ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Swinton Academy). ◂ Utilise spare capacity to alleviate overplay via transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Swinton Miners Welfare). ◂ Explore the feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Wath Pump House Field).
3G pitches	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate. ◂ Resurface pitches to improve quality (poor quality/exceeded ten-year recommended lifespan) and ensure a pitch replacement fund is in place for long-term sustainability (e.g. at DVC Sports). ◂ Ensure that 3G provision at Parkgate Astro remains accessible to Rotherham Nomads.
Rugby league	◂ N/A
Rugby union	◂ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Wath Academy). ◂ Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision. ◂ Explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the North Analysis Area.
Hockey	◂ N/A

Sport	Headline findings
Cricket	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore installing additional training provision where it is required and demand exists for it (e.g. at Wentworth Recreation Ground).
Tennis	◂ Protect provision.

NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
18	Baths Field	1202885	S63 7DH	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide
18	Baths Field	1202885	S63 7DH	Rugby Union	Council	One poor quality (M0/D1) pitch without sports lighting. The pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime as to create actual spare capacity.	RFU	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
23	Bow Broom Playing Field	6002494	S64 8NP	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
27	Brampton Bierlow Park	1041675	S73 0YA	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
28	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	1041814	S63 6AW	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are good quality. Both pitches have spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch capacity. Utilise actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
41	Claypit Lane Recreation Ground	6002493	S62 5JX	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch. The site is without ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	6001187	S73 0TU	Football	Community Organisation	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality. Pitches at the site are all either at capacity or overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	6001187	S73 0TU	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.	Explore options to bring the provision back into use to accommodate recreational demand.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provie

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
51	DVC Sports	1002916	S63 7EW	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2014. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan but remains as standard quality. The pitch is available for community use from 08:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 15:30 on Saturdays and from 08:00 until 14:00 on Sundays. The pitch has FA accreditation, due to expire in May 2026.	Look to resurface the pitch during the lifespan of the PPS to improve pitch quality. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
64	Harley Recreation Ground	1202818	S62 7UF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
64	Harley Recreation Ground	1202818	S62 7UF	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated a ten-wicket grass square.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	ECB, YCF SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
71	Hill Sixty	1202831	S62 5AQ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
73	Hollings Lane Sports Field	6016525	S65 4JE	Football	Community Organisation	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is without ancillary pavilion facilities.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	6002497	S64 5SN	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary pavilion facilities are poor quality and need major refurbishment to accommodate demand.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
97	Parkgate Astro	30007837	S62 6HQ	3G	Rotherham United Community Trust	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch that has recently undergone refurbishment this year. The pitch has FA accreditation and can accommodate match play (mini demand). Community use at this site has been discounted as the pitch is programmed to deliver principally non-affiliated football activity, with only Rotherham United Community Trust currently being accommodated. The 3G pitch is also accessed by Rotherham Nomads for its training sessions.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches. Ensure that 3G provision remains accessible to Rotherham Nomads.	Rotherham United Community Trust, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
101	Queens Ground	30002784	S63 6FS	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch.	Sustain pitch quality.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are poor quality and are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Rawmarsh Community School	1201733	S62 7GA	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use and equipped with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
103	Rawmarsh Junior & Infant Thorogate School	30004271	S62 7HS	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	1202890	S62 6DG	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has one match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are good quality but has no officials changing room or spectator toilets available.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime. Explore feasibility options to provide spectator toilets.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	1202890	S62 6DG	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	30003087	S62 7RZ	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are good quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	Community, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
110	Rosehill Victoria Park	1043037	S62 7HJ	Tennis (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts. The LTA reports that the disused courts are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.	Bring the courts back into use to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.	LTA, SE	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
116	Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club	1102098	S62 6LA	Football	Other	Three good quality adult pitches that have three match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality and utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
119	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	6001263	S65 3ES	Football	Other	Two youth 11v11 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
128	St Pius X Catholic High School	1201125	S63 7PQ	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Protect for curricular use. Seek to establish a community use agreement to provide security of tenure to users.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
129	Stelrad Park	30004817	S64 8BH	Football	Sports Club	One mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. Ancillary facilities are poor quality; there are no changing facilities, and the Club has access to a Portaloo to facilitate players and spectators.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore feasibility options improving ancillary provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
132	Swinton Academy	1201709	S64 8JW	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch, three youth 9v9 pitches, two youth 11v11 pitches and one adult pitch, all of which are standard quality. The adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality through enhancing maintenance regime to alleviate overplay. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
134	Swinton Miners Welfare	6002501	S64 8JH	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are good quality. The mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches both have one match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity. The site's ancillary provision is poor quality and consists of a mobile unit that contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch, three youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	1004772	S65 4BH	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts, two of which are serviced with sports lighting and both are available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	1202781	S62 7SL	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality nine-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 28 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with three fixed bays and a mobile net for training. The Club has aspirations for a new NTP wicket and additional fixed bay nets for training.	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing additional grass wickets to alleviate overplay. to alleviate overplay. Explore the Club's aspirations for replacing its NTP wicket and additional fixed nets to be installed.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Football	Education	Three mini 5v5 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity totalling six match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2023. The 3G pitch has FA accreditation and is available to the community from 18:00 to 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends. Wath Academy aspires to construct a second 11v11 3G pitch; plans have been drawn up for a new pitch	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch requires resurfacing. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches. Explore feasibility options for building a second 11v11 3G and accompanying ancillary pavilion provision and parking.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	H	M	H	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						together with an accompanying pavilion and car parking.							
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are standard quality; however, these are not generally accessed due to nature of usage by Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC (mostly age grade activity).	Seek to secure long-term access to the pitches at Wath Academy through a formal agreement between Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC and the School, ensuring the Club's continued use of the provision. Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, RFU	Hub	M	S	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Cricket (disused)	Education	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football cricket purposes.	Explore opportunities for re-establishing the provision to better accommodate curricular and extra curricular activity.	Education, ECB, YCF, SE	Hub	L	S	L	Protect Provide
151	Wath Academy	1201911	S63 7NW	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and serviced with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
152	Wath Central Primary School	6019285	S63 7HG	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Wath Cricket Club	1202787	S63 7RW	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are good quality and include changing rooms that include segregated showers. For Wath-upon-Deane RUFC, no issues are reported regarding sites ancillary facilities.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the North Analysis Area.	Sports Club, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Wath Cricket Club	1202787	S63 7RW	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 11-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The outfield of the square is poor quality. The site is accompanied by a three fixed bay net facility and mobile nets for training provision. The square has spare capacity for one additional midweek team.	Look to improve the quality of the outfield through thorough maintenance and drainage. Utilise midweek spare capacity.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
154	Wath Pump House Field	1202886	S63 7DQ	Rugby Union	Council	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions by Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 to alleviate overplay. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Football	Council	Three standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that have two match	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.							
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	1202820	S62 7SB	Cricket	Council	One standard quality eight-wicket grass square that is accompanied by an NTP. The square has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. The site is without any form of training net provision.	Explore feasibility of providing some form of training provision at the site, should demand exist. Encourage the Parish Council to allow for additional cricket to be played at the site, especially given localised and Borough-wide shortalls.	ECB, YCF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide
158	West Melton Park	6019127	S63 6GF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
173	Magna Lane Recreation Ground	N/A	S65 4HH	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
177	Newhill Park	N/A	S63 6HY	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
178	Picadilly Recreation Ground	N/A	S64 8JZ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
Football – grass pitches			
Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 2
Central	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
Central	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 2
Central	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Central	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Played to capacity
Football – 3G pitches			
Central	11v11	Shortfall of 1.75	-
Rugby union pitches			
Central	-	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 7.5
Cricket pitches			
Central	Saturday	Shortfall of 20	Shortfall of 32
Hockey pitches			
Central	Full size	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1

Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Barkers Park). ◂ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Clifton Community School). ◂ Improve ancillary facilities where required (e.g. at Roughwood Road Recreation Ground) and provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without (e.g. at Ferham Park). ◂ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Herringthorpe Stadium).
3G pitches	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore community use options (e.g. at St Bede's Catholic Primary School). ◂ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate. ◂ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when pitches need resurfacing.
Rugby league	◂ N/A
Rugby union	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Phoenix Park). ◂ Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the Central Analysis Area (e.g. at Phoenix Park). ◂ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Oakwood High School).

Sport	Headline findings
Hockey	◂ N/A
Cricket	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Seek to provide a long-term agreement for continued use of sites, providing security of tenure (e.g. at Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club). ◂ Utilise spare capacity where it exists (e.g. at Scholes & Harley Cricket Club).
Tennis	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Improve quality of courts (e.g. at Clifton Park). ◂ Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract demand (e.g. at Clifton Park).

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
16	Barkers Park	6002479	S61 3NU	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Facilities require a degree of modernisation to ensure they remain fit for purpose in the future.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Explore feasibility options for improving ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
24	Bradgate Park	30010145	S61 1LJ	Tennis	Council	Site previously accommodated two macadam courts.	Explore options to re-establish tennis at the site to cater for recreational activity.	LTA, SE	Local	L	M	M	Protect Provide
37	Canklow Recreation Ground	6019050	S60 2JH	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
42	Clifton Community School	1201803	S65 2SN	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
42	Clifton Community School	1201803	S65 2SN	AGP	Education	One smaller sized hockey suitable AGP that is unavailable for community use and is without sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	1201742	S65 1LN	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are standard quality. Both pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
43	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	1201742	S65 1LN	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
44	Clifton Park	1043034	S65 2AQ	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality macadam courts that are without sports lighting. Premier Tennis group (operating at the site) reports capacity concerns.	Look to improve court quality and explore sports lighting potential. Ensure that the needs of the Premier Tennis group are met in terms of capacity of courts.	LTA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
52	Eldon Road Recreation Ground	6002483	S65 1RD	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
54	Ferham Park	6002484	S61 1DY	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.						
62	Guilthwaite Hill	6002474	S60 4NE	Football (disused)	Private	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
62	Guilthwaite Hill	6002474	S60 4NE	Cricket	Private	One standard quality eight-wicket grass square accompanied by a poor quality NTP. The site is equipped with a mobile net for training provision. The square is accessed by Whiston Forge CC.	Retain for continued community use. Explore feasibility of replacing the carpet for the NTP.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
67	Herringthorpe Junior School	6019209	S65 2JW	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	1202829	S65 2ED	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are poor quality and have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Rotherham Borough Council are considering the potential of developing a 3G pitch at this site. The Council is currently establishing a masterplan for the site.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility options for developing a 3G pitch at the site.	S&HFA, FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	1202829	S65 2ED	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three squares, an eight-wicket grass wicket square, accompanied by an NTP, a seven-wicket grass square and a standalone NTP.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	ECB, YCF, SE	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
69	Herringthorpe Stadium	1004751	S65 2HR	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
82	Lodge Lane	6002488	S61 2SF	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
90	Meadow View Primary School	6019257	S61 2JD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	S61 2RB	6002485	Football	Sports Club	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						one adult pitch, all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.							
92	Millmoor Stadium	50000119	S60 1HB	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Sustain pitch quality. Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Football	Education	Three youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	AGP	Education	One good quality full-size hockey suitable AGP, installed in 2024. The site is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC. Both clubs are considered to have secure tenure that expires in 2038. The site is generally unavailable for use on Fridays and Sundays, this is due to operational cost, particularly in summer months.	Explore options to provide security of tenure for club users. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Explore opportunities to increase capacity via improved opening hours.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	M	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Cricket (disused)	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Explore opportunities to re-establish the provision to better meet curricular and extra curricular activity.	Education, ECB, YCF, SE	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
98	Phoenix Park	30009280	S65 2PS	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One good quality (M2/D1) pitch and two standard quality (M1/D1) pitches. All three pitches are equipped with sports lighting. Each pitch is significantly overplayed by accommodating both match and training demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the Central Analysis Area. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	Sports Club, RFU	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	1041740	S60 2SN	Rugby Union	Sports Club	One good quality (M2/D1) pitch. The pitch is used for match play and training by Rotherham Titans RUFC and is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality.	Sports Club, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	1041740	S60 2SN	Cricket	Sports Club	One standalone NTP that is available for community use. The square is accessed by Rotherham Sultans CC and Rotherham Town Eagles CC. The site is without any form of training net provision. Rotherham Town CC previously provided demand prior to the 2025 season; however, it ceased fielding competitive teams for the 2025 season due to a decision made by the committee that oversees both cricket and rugby union at the site. The Club has struggled financially for many years and its future is unknown at present.	Secure the future of Rotherham Town CC via access to the site or an appropriate alternative in the area. Explore creation of practice facilities at the site.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
113	Rotherham United Football Club (The Aesseal New York Stadium)	30003454	S60 1FJ	Football	Sports Cub	One good quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	3004426	S61 AAZ	Football	Council	One good quality mini 7v7 pitch, one standard quality mini 5v5, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are poor quality consisting of a mobile unit utilised as a clubhouse which contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	1202767	S61 2RQ	Cricket	Council	One standard quality seven-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate one additional midweek team. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training provision and the Club has aspirations for a	Explore the feasibility of the Club's aspirations for new training provision. Utilise spare capacity.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						fixed-bay net training facility at the site.							
120	Sitwell Junior School	6019168	S60 3LA	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	30008295	S61 1PD	3G	Education	One standard quality smaller sized 3G pitch that is unavailable for community use. The pitch was installed in 2019.	Explore community use options to provide a recreational offer.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	1201168	S65 3BE	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	1201168	S65 3BE	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
127	St Pauls Field	6002491	S61 3JF	Football	Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	30009781	S65 2UF	3G	Council	Five standard quality smaller sized 3G pitches, installed in 2021. The pitch has sports lighting but is discounted due to commercial use.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Explore sports lighting potential.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect
138	Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground	1041511	S61 2PT	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with changing rooms that are without any showering facilities or toilets.	Look to improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2019. The pitch is available for community use from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 14:00 on weekends.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	M	M	H	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						The pitch has FA accreditation due to expire in May 2027.							
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
143	TR Sports Centre	1004770	S60 2BE	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
147	Valley Park	1043035	S65 3DJ	Tennis (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts. The LTA reports that the disused courts are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA renovation fund.	Re-provide courts to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.	LTA, SE	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	1202791	S60 4JG	Cricket	Private	One good quality 12-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has a lease with Church Commissioners for use of the site (expires in 2041). The site is equipped with a three-lane fixed bay net facility (2025).	Explore the feasibility of installing two additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Private, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
166	Wingfield Academy	1203143	S61 4AU	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of standard quality and have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.	Utilise spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
166	Wingfield Academy	1203143	S61 4AU	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam courts that are equipped with sports lighting but are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Football	Education	Two good quality youth 11v11 pitches and one standard quality adult pitch, both of which are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	3G	Education	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch, installed in 2022. The pitch is large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	Protect for curricular use. Explore FA accreditation so that it can be used for competitive mini matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
167	Winterhill School	1201705	S61 2BD	Tennis	Education	Seven standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and equipped with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use and explore opportunities to establish a better community use programme given the number of courts provided and the presence of sports lighting.	Education, LTA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	N/A	S61 2SE	Cricket	Private	One standard quality eight-wicket square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a mobile net for training provision. The Club has a rolling annual lease with Wentworth Estate for use of the site. The square has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a long-term agreement between the Club and Wentworth Estate to provide security of tenure and to utilise spare capacity at the site. Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing one additional grass wicket on the square, to alleviate overplay.	ECB, YCF	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
193	Former Greasbrough Cricket Club site	N/A	S61 4NY	Cricket (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated a six-wicket grass square, accompanied by an NTP.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	YCF, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
194	New Wortley Road Park	N/A	S60 1LD	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously provided one mini 5v5 pitch circa 2016.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Analysis area summary - pitch sports

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balanced (match equivalent sessions)
Football – grass pitches			
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 5	Spare capacity of 3
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 10	Shortfall of 12.5
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4.5	Shortfall of 6.5
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 4.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
South	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 4.5
Football – 3G pitches			
South	11v11	Shortfall of 5.25	-
Rugby union pitches			
South	-	Shortfall of 6.75	Shortfall of 10.25
Cricket pitches			
South	Saturday	Played to capacity	Shortfall of 12
Hockey pitches			
South	Full size	Played to capacity	Played to capacity

Analysis area summary – tennis

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
Football	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. at Greenlands Park). ◂ Utilise spare capacity where it exists (e.g. at Bill Hawes Recreation Ground). ◂ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Kiveton Park). ◂ Explore feasibility of improving the site's ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Lodge Lane Park). ◂ Explore the feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision (e.g. at Bill Hawes Recreation Ground).
3G pitches	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore the viability of a new 3G pitch, where this is appropriate. ◂ Resurface pitches to improve quality (poor quality/exceeded ten-year recommended lifespan) (e.g. at Maltby Academy). ◂ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing (e.g. at Blackout13.Com Arena).
Rugby league	◂ N/A
Rugby union	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the South Analysis Area. ◂ Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Wales High School).

Sport	Headline findings
Hockey	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Immediately look to resurface the pitch (e.g. at Dinnington High School). ◂ Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing (e.g. at Aurora Playing Field).
Cricket	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Improve quality to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Aston Hall Cricket Club). ◂ Explore installing additional training provision where it is required and demand exists for it (e.g. at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground). ◂ Explore feasibility of installing additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay (e.g. at Harthill The Field Cricket Club).
Tennis	◂ Protect provision. ◂ Explore community use options at sites currently without (e.g. at Wales High School). ◂ Explore sports lighting potential at sites currently without (Aston Academy). ◂ Monitor demand levels at Ravenfield Tennis Courts, as when a club does form, it must be assured that the demand is being adequately accommodated in regard to access and ancillary facilities.

SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Anston Cricket Club	1041701	S25 4DL	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality five-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is serviced with a four-lane fixed bay net facility (2024). The square is overplayed by 48 match equivalent sessions per season.	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing nine additional grass wickets to the square in order to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
4	Anston Greenlands Primary	6019065	S25 4HD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Anston Park Junior School	6000502	S25 2QZ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
7	Anston Recreation Ground	6002476	S25 4DN	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
8	Aston Academy	12016151	S26 4SF	Football	Education	One adult pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. Two mini 7v7 pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches, all of which are good quality. Pitches at the site have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
8	Aston Academy	12016151	S26 4SF	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting.	Explore sports lighting potential.	Education, LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Aston All Saints School	6000499	S26 2BL	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	30006227	S26 2BD	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality 10-wicket grass square accompanied by a poor quality NTP. The site is equipped with a three-lane fixed bay facility and mobile nets for training. The square is overplayed by 11 match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has	Look to improve square quality and explore the feasibility of installing nine additional grass wickets to the square in order to alleviate overplay. Also, explore feasibility of replacing the carpet for the NTP wicket and explore the	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						aspirations for mobile training nets.	Club's aspirations for mobile nets.						
13	Aughton Junior Academy	30004914	S60 5ND	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use and then explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
14	Aurora Playing Field	1103866	S60 5ND	AGP	Education	One good quality full-size AGP, equipped with sports lighting and available for community use. The pitch is good quality despite not having been resurfaced since it was installed in 2017. The site has restricted its access in line with its community use agreement as any additional usage is too expensive.	Sustain AGP quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Ensure a future sink fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Look at increasing access to better support demand. Seek to improve security of tenure.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	6002502	S66 2UX	Football	Council	One mini 5v5 pitch, three mini 7v7 pitches, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision. All mini 5v5, mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	1041700	S25 2PS	3G	Dinnington Resource Centre	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, resurfaced in 2022. The pitch has FA accreditation due to expire in May 2026. Has FA accreditation which is due to expire in May 2026 Available for community use from 9:00 until 21:00 every day but is limited when matches are scheduled.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure re-accreditation every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive matches.	Dinnington Resource Centre, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	H	Protect
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	1041700	S25 2PS	Cricket (disused)	Dinnington Resource Centre	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.	Explore options to re-establish provision to accommodate recreational demand.	Dinnington Resource Centre, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
22	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	1041741	S66 1DR	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are good quality. One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. One of the youth 11v11 pitches and the youth 9v9	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						pitch has actual spare capacity.							
26	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	6018939	S66 3QW	Football	Education	Four mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are poor quality.	Look to improve pitch quality.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
29	Brinsworth Academy	1201658	S60 5EJ	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTPs that are available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	6000290	S60 5GD	Football	Brinsworth Parish Council	One good quality youth 11v11 pitch and two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches, both of which have actual spare capacity.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Brinsworth Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
36	Burgoyne Park	6002464	S26 3XA	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
47	Crowgate Recreation Ground	20000166	S25 5AL	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are poor quality and have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
48	Dalton Listerdale Junior & Infant School	6000401	S65 3HN	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Football	Education	One adult pitch, three mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	AGP	Education	One poor-quality full-size hockey suitable AGP. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan as it has not been resurfaced since it was originally installed in 2006. The pitch is used by the school until 17:30 during midweek to meet extra-curricular requirements, resulting in 2.5 hours that cannot be used by the community. Also, the pitch is not fully available on weekends due to closing at 15:00.	Immediately look to resurface the pitch. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Attempt to improve security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	Education, EH	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Rugby Union	Education	Two pitches, both of which are standard quality (M1/D1). The pitch is used to capacity through school and occasional access by Dinnington RUFC.	Sustain pitch quality. Attempt to improve security of tenure for users via a community use agreement.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
50	Dinnington Rugby Club	1202792	S25 2PB	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two standard quality (M1/D1) pitches and one good quality (M2/D1) pitch. Both standard quality pitches are overplayed through accommodating both match and training demand from Dinnington RUFC.	Look to improve pitch quality to M2/D3 and explore feasibility of transferring training demand to a 3G pitch, should one be installed in the South Analysis Area.	Sports Club, RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
53	Falconer Lane Recreation Ground	6002465	S13 9ZL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
56	Flash Lane Recreational Field	6002468	S66 1TS	Football	Council	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise spare capacity. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	6009728	S26 1HG	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	6009728	S26 1HG	Cricket	Todwick Parish Council	One poor quality 10-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is without any form of training provision. However, Todwick CC reports of aspirations for an NTP wicket to accompany the grass square and mobile nets for training.	Look to improve square quality to alleviate overplay. Support Todwick CC with its aspirations for an NTP wicket and mobile nets for training.	Todwick Parish Council, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
60	Green Arbour Road Rec Ground	6009716	S99 9LQ	Football	Council	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Without ancillary facilities.	Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
61	Greenlands Park	1202889	S25 4BR	Football	Council	Two mini 7v7 pitches, one youth 9v9 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are poor quality. Both youth pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Both mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Look to improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay where it exists and to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
61	Greenlands Park	1202889	S25 4BR	Cricket	Council	One poor quality two-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is without ancillary facilities or any form of training provision.	Look to improve square quality and explore feasibility of installing two additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
63	Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground	20001122	S25 3UD	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	1041750	S26 7YF	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality two-wicket grass square that is overplayed by 19 match equivalent sessions per season and is accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per season. It is equipped with a one-lane fixed net facility and a mobile net for training.	Explore feasibility of installing four additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
72	Hollings Lane Field	1041743	S65 4PS	Football	Council	One poor quality 11v11 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity for clubs. Explore feasibility of providing appropriate ancillary pavilion provision	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
77	Kiveton Community Sports Park	30006468	S26 6LR	3G	Community Organisation	One good quality smaller sized 3G pitch. The pitch has FA accreditation and therefore can accommodate match play (mini demand). Site hasn't been resurfaced since 2016 but still exists within its recommended lifespan.	Sustain 3G pitch quality. Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing. Seek FA testing every three years to ensure it remains suitable for match play.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Kiveton Park	1202494	S26 6SQ	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, all of which are standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Ancillary facilities are poor quality; Kiveton Park FC are in the process of upgrading its facilities at the site through fund raising and volunteers.	Utilise spare capacity where it exists via the transfer of demand. Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay where it exists. Support Kiveton Park FC with its ancillary development plans.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
78	Kiveton Park	1202494	S26 6SQ	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality 12-wicket grass square. Kiveton Park Colliery CC currently rents its use of the square from Kiveton Park Miners Welfare (unsecure tenure). The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility and a mobile net for training. The square has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek cricket discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a long-term agreement between the Club and Kiveton Park Miners Welfare to provide security of tenure.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	6010012	S25 1YD	Football	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
81	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	6002463	S26 3UT	Football	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that has actual spare capacity is 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
83	Lodge Lane Park	6002469	S26 2BB	Football	Council	One adult pitch and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are poor quality. The youth pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Ancillary facilities are of a poor quality with no changing rooms or toilets located onsite.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility of improving ancillary pavilion provision and providing appropriate changing rooms.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
84	Maltby Academy	1201700	S66 8AB	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch. The pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan and requires resurfacing. The pitch is available from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday. However, it is unavailable for community use on the weekends.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing pitch. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure FA accreditation so that the provision can be used for competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
85	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	6019317	S66 8AU	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
86	Maltby Manor Academy	6006630	S66 8JN	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, three mini 5v5 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are standard quality. All mini pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect
87	Maltby Manor Fields	6009754	S66 7EJ	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
87	Maltby Manor Fields	6009754	S66 7EJ	Rugby Union	Council	Two pitches are to be marked out from the beginning of the 2025/26 season. Maltby RUFC are to relocate to the site.	Ensure the needs of Maltby RUFC are met in terms of pitch capacity and ancillary provision.	RFU	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Football	Community Organisation	One good quality adult pitch and two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Consider the transfer of demand to a site with actual spare capacity to alleviate overplay.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Rugby Union	Community Organisation	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch that is without sports lighting. The pitch is played to capacity by Maltby RUFC.	Explore sports lighting potential.	Community Organisation, RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality six-wicket grass square that is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility.	Sustain quality. Look to improve square quality to alleviate overplay.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	1202759	S66 7JQ	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football and cricket purposes.	Explore options to re-establish provision to provide for recreational demand.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
89	Maltby Redwood Academy	6019312	S66 8DL	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
99	Phoenix Sports Club & Social Club	1102095	S60 5PA	Football	Sports Club	Two adult pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are good quality. The mini 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. One mini 5v5 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch and two youth 11v11 pitches, all of which are standard quality. All pitches are either at capacity or overplayed. One adult pitch, two mini 5v5 pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are poor quality. All pitches are either at capacity or overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity where it exists and to alleviate overplay where it exists.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect
99	Phoenix Sports Club & Social Club	1102095	S60 5PA	Cricket	Sports Club	One standalone NTP that is available for community use.	Retain for continued community demand.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
100	Poplar Way Recreation Ground	6004960	S60 5TR	Football	Catcliffe Parish Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches.	Sustain quality.	Catcliffe Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	6002470	S66 2LA	Football	Wickersley Parish Council	One mini 5v5 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are poor quality. All pitches are at capacity or overplayed. Two mini 5v5 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are good quality and have actual spare capacity. Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with no changing rooms available.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity. Explore feasibility options to improve ancillary pavilion provision and provide appropriate changing rooms.	Wickersley Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	6001486	S26 4UR	Football	Other	One good quality adult pitch, one poor quality adult pitch and one poor quality mini 5v5 pitch.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Miners Welfare, S&HFA, FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						One mini 7v7 pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are standard quality. Barring the poor quality adult pitch, all pitches have actual spare capacity.							
141	Thurcroft Hub	6000275	S66 9AB	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are standard quality and have actual spare capacity. One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve poor quality pitches to alleviate overplay and utilise actual spare capacity where it exists, at the site.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect
141	Thurcroft Hub	6000275	S66 9AB	Cricket (disused)	Community Organisation	Site previously accommodated a 10-wicket grass square. The site is still used for football purposes.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	1041747	S60 5PU	Football	Community Organisation	One good quality adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitch.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime.	Community Organisation, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	1041747	S60 5PU	Cricket	Community Organisation	One standard quality 14-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility which requires replacing due to deteriorating quality. The square is played to capacity.	Look to replace the two-lane net facility.	Community Organisation, ECB, YCF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Football	Education	One adult pitch, two youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are good quality. Both the adult and youth 11v11 pitches have actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Rugby Union	Education	Three poor quality (M1/D0) pitches. The pitches are unused by community with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and quality. A proposal is in place for the re-build of the School, with the existing plans impacting upon the playing field provision. It is set out that three rugby union pitches will still be provided following	Improve pitch quality and seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity. Ensure that the three rugby union pitches are re-installed at the site, to the same degree of quality, and that rugby union activity is not inhibited by football use.	Education, RFU	Hub	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						the development, although each will also be a dual use football pitch.							
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, installed in 2022. The pitch is FA registered, due to expire in May 2027. The pitch is available for community use from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for when the pitch needs resurfacing.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Hub	M	M	H	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Cricket	Education	Two standalone NTPs that are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Hub	L	L	L	Protect
148	Wales High School	1201878	S26 5QQ	Tennis	Education	Seven poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use and are equipped with sports lighting.	Look to improve court quality and explore community use options.	Education, LTA	Hub	L	L	L	Protect, Enhance
149	Wales Recreation Ground	6009741	S26 6RB	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is without ancillary pavilion provision.	Sustain pitch quality through a continuation of current maintenance regime. Utilise actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
149	Wales Recreation Ground	6009741	S26 6RB	Tennis	Council	Eight good quality polymeric courts, seven of which are equipped with sports lighting and one which is without.	Sustain quality.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	1041752	S26 5PE	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality three-wicket square accompanied by an NTP. The square is overplayed by 53 match equivalent sessions per season. The site is equipped with a two-lane fixed bay net facility for training.	Look to improve square quality and explore feasibility of installing ten additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
162	Wickersley Northfield Primary School	6019138	S66 2HL	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	1202788	S66 2HL	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality eight-wicket grass square accompanied by an NTP. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training, but the Club aspires for a fixed bay net facility. The square is overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions per season.	Explore feasibility of installing three additional grass wickets on the square, to alleviate overplay. Support the Club with its aspirations for new training provision.	Sports Club, ECB, YCF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Football	Education	Five youth 11v11 pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of which are poor quality. The mini 7v7 pitch has spare capacity but is discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Rugby Union	Education	One standard quality (M1/D1) pitch. The pitch is unused by the community and has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to secure a community use agreement, providing security of tenure and enabling actual spare capacity.	Education, RFU	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Provide
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	3G	Education	One standard quality smaller sized 3G, installed in 2019. The pitch is large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	Ensure a future sink fund is in place for carpet replacement is required. Look to achieve FA accreditation in order to host competitive matches.	Education, S&HFA, FF	Key Centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Cricket	Education	Four standalone NTPs that are unavailable for community use.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, ECB, YCF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	1201740	S66 1JL	Tennis	Education	Six standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and are equipped with sports lighting.	Protect for curricular use.	Education, LTA	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
168	Woodhouse Mill	1042668	S13 9WF	Football	Council	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch, one poor quality mini 7v7 pitch and youth 9v9 pitch. The youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable actual spare capacity.	S&HFA, FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	6002473	S81 8QA	Football	Woodsetts Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Woodsetts Parish Council, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	6002473	S81 8QA	Cricket	Woodsetts Parish Council	One poor quality one-wicket grass square that is currently unused.	Look to improve square quality.	Woodsetts Parish Council, ECB, YCF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
175	Highfield Park	N/A	S66 7DR	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
171	Mill Lane	N/A	S60 5PL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
176	Tickhill Road	N/A	S66 7QW	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch. The wider location is subject to development proposals.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, with protection required in line with national planning policy. Ensure area where the pitch resides is not impacted upon by development proposals, unless appropriate mitigation is provided.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
179	Redhill	N/A	S26 6QA	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
183	Winney Hill	N/A	S26 7YL	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
184	Harthill Leisure Centre	N/A	S26 7XG	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch.	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	N/A	S25 1XZ	Cricket	Private	One standard quality ten-wicket grass square that has spare capacity for one additional midweek team. The site is equipped with mobile nets for training, but the Club aspires for an NTP wicket to accompany the square.	Support the Club with its aspirations for an NTP wicket on the square.	ECB, YCF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
187	Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute	N/A	S21 1ED	Football	Sports Club	Three adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of which are good quality. The adult pitches have three match equivalent sessions	Utilise spare capacity via the transfer of demand.	Sports Club, S&HFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						per week of actual spare capacity.							
191	Ravenfield Tennis Courts	N/A	S65 4PP	Tennis	Private	Two good quality polymeric courts that are available for community use but are without sports lighting. Although not currently operational, a second tennis club known as Ravenfield LTC, is expected to be established in Rotherham in the near future. Plans are in place to develop appropriate ancillary facilities when a club is established at the site.	Monitor demand levels at the site, as when a club does form to ensure it is being adequately accommodated.	LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
192	Kiveton Park Industrial Estate	N/A	S26 6PB	Football (disused)	Council	Site previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch *circa 2010.*	Consider options to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls. Protection is required in line with national planning policy.	FA, S&HFA, SE	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040, with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision. The Calculator splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required to support the new demand.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Rotherham, thus showing how the calculator works and what it can provide. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions; where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will use either a 3G pitch (football demand) or an AGP (hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches (i.e., for rugby union).

The scenarios are as follows:

- **Scenario One – Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report - Five-year Housing Supply Trajectory Target (2025-2030)** - Additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth of 5,148 dwellings across the Borough.
- **Scenario Two – Land to the West of Maltby Colliery** - Additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth of 185 dwellings.

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3[7] per dwelling, which is based on a national average.

Scenario One – Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report - Five-year Housing Supply Trajectory Target (2025-2030)

Based on the five-year housing supply trajectory target outlined in the Rotherham Housing Land Supply Monitoring Report, the estimated additional population from 5,148 dwellings — assuming an average occupancy of 2.3 persons per household — is approximately 11,840 people.

Table 6.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 5,148 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 5,148 dwellings	
	Match demand[8]	Training demand[9]
Adult football	2.82	24.12
Youth football	5.42	
Mini soccer	3.81	
Rugby union	0.87	0.95
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.33	0.98

[7] The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.
[8] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[9] Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 5,148 dwellings	
	Match demand[8]	Training demand[9]
Junior & mixed hockey	0.24	0.27
Cricket	42.78	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 6.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[10]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[11]		Number	Capital cost
Adult football	2.82	£291,924	£57,509		5.64	£1,047,120
Youth football	5.42	£463,797	£93,687		6.55	£1,216,408
Mini soccer	3.81	£102,953	£20,385		-	-
Rugby union	0.87	£136,655	£25,281		1.74	£322,116
Rugby league	-	-	-		-	-
Cricket	0.94	£304,738	£56,072		1.88	£349,179
Sand based AGPs	0.1	£85,616	£2,226		0.19	£35,317
3G	0.63	£685,409	£22,847		1.27	£235,609

In total, it is set out that 14.6 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £2,071,093 in addition to lifecycle costs of £278,007. In addition, 17.27 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £3,205,748.

Scenario Two – Land to the West of Maltby Colliery development

The estimated additional population derived from the Land to the west of Maltby Colliery development of 185 dwellings, with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household, is 426 people.

Table 6.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 185 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 185 dwellings	
	Match demand[12]	Training demand[13]
Adult football	0.1	0.87
Youth football	0.2	
Mini soccer	0.14	
Rugby union	0.03	0.03
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.01	0.04
Junior & mixed hockey	0.01	0.01
Cricket	1.54	N/A

[10] Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/)
[11] Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)
[12] As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.
[13] Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 6.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[14]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[15]	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.1	£10,505	£2,070	0.2	£37,682
Youth football	0.2	£16,689	£3,371	0.24	£43,762
Mini soccer	0.14	£3,704	£733	-	-
Rugby union	0.03	£4,917	£910	0.06	£11,590
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.03	£10,966	£2,018	0.07	£12,566
Sand based AGPs	0	£3,081	£80	0.01	£1,271
3G	0.02	£24,663	£822	0.05	£8,478

In total, it is set out that 0.53 pitches will be required to meet the demand, with the capital cost of providing this estimated at £74,525 in addition to lifecycle costs of £10,004. In addition, 0.62 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £115,347.

Dinnington housing allocation

£663,000 of S106 funding has been allocated to Dinnington, with the potential recipients identified as either Dinnington High School or Dinnington Rugby Club. The summary below outlines the current supply and demand for sports provision in Dinnington, highlighting the key needs and shortfalls within the local area.

- Four sites: Anston Park Junior School, Blackout13.com Arena, Dinnington High School & Dinnington Rugby Club.
- One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, built in 2022 (at Blackout13.com Arena).
- One poor quality hockey-suitable AGP, built in 2006 (at Dinnington High School) – the AGP is currently unused for hockey due to its poor condition; it has exceeded its recommended lifespan and requires resurfacing.
- Grass football pitches at Anston Park Junior School and Dinnington High School.
- Three grass rugby union pitches at Dinnington Rugby Club, two of which are overplayed to total a combined shortfall of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Summary

The above scenarios identify that through overall housing growth, demand will be generated to some extent for all pitch sports, and the level of demand generated for football, 3G, rugby union and cricket is such that new provision will likely be warranted. As demand generated for hockey does not equate to a whole pitch, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

[14] Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/)
[15] Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created in their own right. Where this is the case, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). This would only be the case if nearby sites have sufficient actual spare capacity for the relevant sports, which could be established, as an example, through creating a bespoke catchment area for the development and reviewing the provision that falls within this.

If sufficient actual spare capacity does not exist, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Rotherham based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. There is also a need for the Council to identify a schedule to deliver Stage E, please see Appendix One for a tailored approach.

Delivery

The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Rotherham in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities. The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a ‘virtual’ group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

To extend the lifespan of the PPS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods.

The review process should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- How the PPS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

Checklist

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy ◂ Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?	✓	
◂ Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work?	✓	
◂ Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered?	✓	
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date ◂ Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?	✓	
◂ Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?	✓	
◂ Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?	✓	
◂ Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?	✓	
◂ Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?	✓	
◂ Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?	✓	

APPENDIX ONE: TAILORED APPROACH FOR ROTHERHAM PPS STAGE E

What?	Who?	When?
1. Internal Steering Group Meeting Meeting between council officers internal Steering Group members to discuss and log key changes in provision, covering: ◂ New pitch provision. ◂ Pitch improvements. ◂ Pitch re-configuration. ◂ Pitch loss/threat. ◂ Community access agreements (e.g. education/private sites). ◂ Plans for future provision. The outcomes from the meeting and updates to documents should be recorded.	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Bi-Annually
2. Sport England and NGB Update Meetings The Council to hold series of update meetings with individual sports NGBs to discuss and log: ◂ Any changes in club and team details. ◂ Any changes in sport format. ◂ Any site specific updates. ◂ Changes to supply and demand data. ◂ The application and use of the PPS e.g. in delivery of new or improved provision, funding opportunities, programmes and initiatives. ◂ Any new issues and opportunities.	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council NGBs Sport England	Annually for each sport, to fit with affiliation process (generally October for winter sports and June for summer sports)

What?	Who?	When?
3. Prepare Annual PPS Progress Paper Based on the outcome of actions above, a short Annual PPS Progress and Update paper should be produced, highlighting: ◂ The delivery of PPS recommendations and any changes in priority; ◂ Changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area and other supply and demand information with implications for PPS' key findings; ◂ Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; ◂ Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; ◂ Any issues with the application of the PPS and lessons learnt; ◂ Actions needed to keep the PPS 'live' and up to date. Based on the above, the Annual Progress Paper will also consider if a partial or full update of the PPS is required. Alternatively, both the Assessment Report and the Strategy can be updated to take into account and referencing all of the above.	PPS Steering Group	Annually
4. Circulation and Agreement Circulate the Annual Progress Paper or updated PPS document to the Steering Group for comment and agreement with opportunity to hold a further meeting to discuss findings and issues.	PPS Steering Group	Annually
5. Publish Paper Make Annual Progress paper or updated documents available online; report any significant findings to appropriate committee if considered necessary.	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Annually – following completion of all of the above

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KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

FULL ASSESSMENT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CC	Cricket Club
CCO	Club Community Organisations
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GPIF	Grass Pitch Improvement Fund
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
IMD	Indices (Index) of Multiple Deprivation
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
M	Metres
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PP	PitchPower
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
S&HFA	Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association
U	Under (related to participating age groups)
WR	World Rugby
YCF	Yorkshire Cricket Foundation

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to deliver a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting playing pitch provision within the local authority area.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities across Rotherham. It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance, which details five stages for the developing the study:

- Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPS has been approved and adopted.

The lifespan of a PPS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary. This is so that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value of the PPS.
- Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPS is updated.

Why the Strategy is being developed

The most recent PPS for Rotherham was produced in 2005, followed by a subsequent review which was adopted by Cabinet in 2009. However, this is now considerably out of date and was not supported by Sport England and the wider steering group. Moreover, the methodology utilised is no longer recognised by Sport England, with new guidance produced in 2013.

The PPS will help to guide future provision and management of existing and new sports pitches in Rotherham in the context of national and local policies as well as local sports development criteria. As a vision, it will also provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch decision-making throughout the Borough.

The key drivers for the PPS include:

- Aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport and physical activity.
- Acknowledging changes in how sports are played.
- The need for evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy, including Rotherham's Local Plan Review.
- To inform the determination of planning applications relating to existing playing field land.
- The need to fulfil the requirements of S106 planning obligations.
- The need to determine requirements linked to large housing developments and/or housing growth areas.
- The need to inform the expenditure of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- Ensuring the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision for the benefit of local communities.
- The need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- Prioritisation of capital and revenue investment from potential internal and external sources.
- The need to provide evidence to secure internal and external funding for new provision or the enhancement of existing facilities.
- To deliver the outcomes of NGB strategies and plans such as the Local Football Facility Plan (for football) and the County Facilities Strategy (for cricket).

Linked to the above, overarching objectives of the PPS are to:

- Provide a robust supply and demand assessment to inform the decision-making process in relation to planning applications impacting upon playing field land.
- Provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches.
- Provide information to assist performance management and asset management.
- Provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing stock and improvements in community access to non-local authority pitches.
- To enable processes to be developed to ensure the adequate provision of new pitches in relation to new housing developments.
- To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision.
- To provide a greater understanding of sports catchment areas and any issues that go beyond the Rotherham boundary that are relevant to the Borough (e.g., into Sheffield).

- To provide a better understanding of the local population and any particular sporting needs, including women's and girls' activity and disabled participation.
- To identify high indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) areas that have playing pitch shortfalls and deficiencies, or particular issues with aspects such as access and quality.
- To ensure that the Council's PPS has strong links to all NGB plans and strategies.
- To provide the context for sports development of pitch sports which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

In addition, the PPS will ensure that planning policy decisions are made in alignment with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was updated in December 2024. One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that "planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Study area

The study area for the PPS covers the full Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council area. This comprises of a central, densely populated urban core with suburban and less populated wards predominantly located in northern and southern parts.

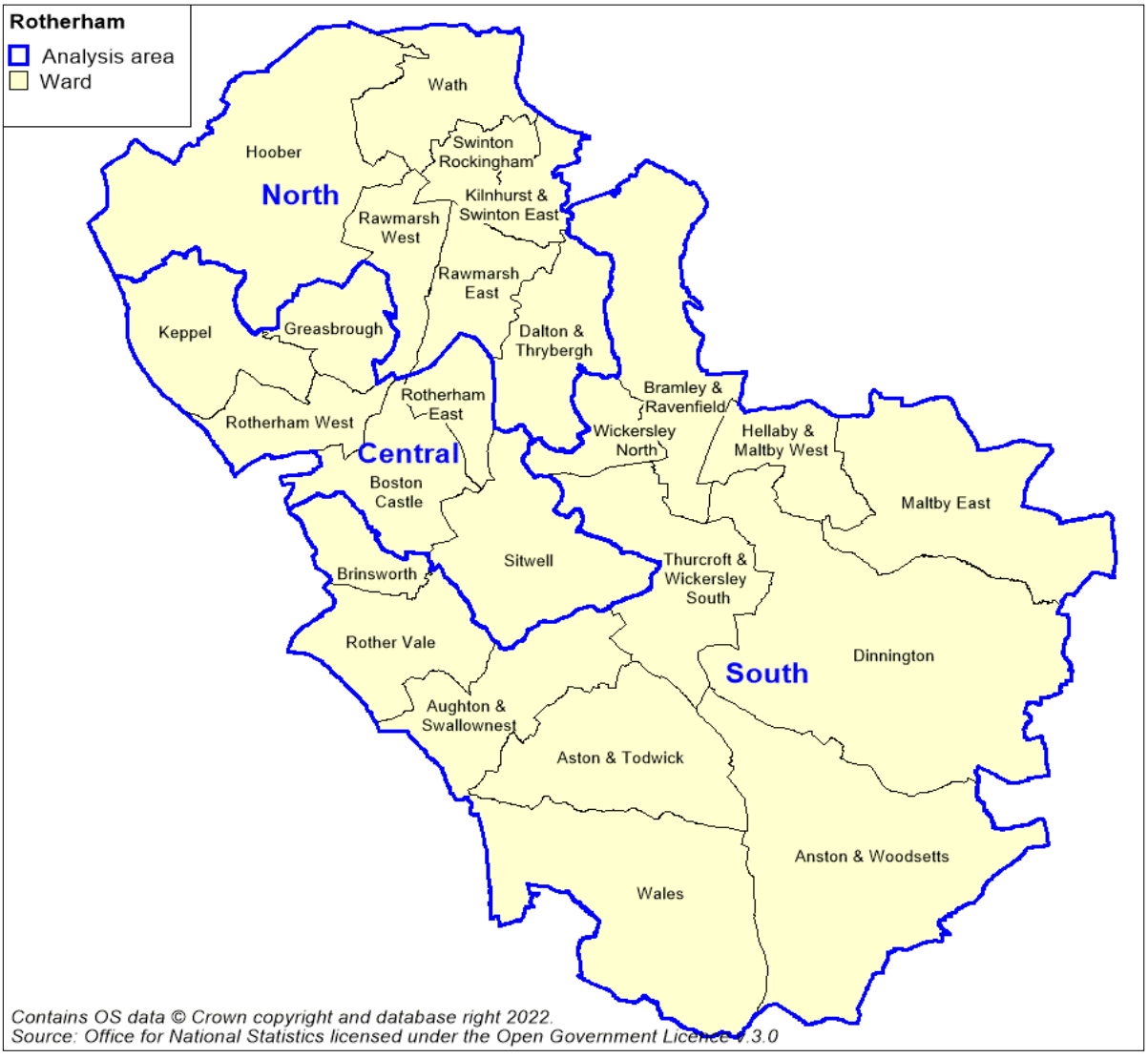
In addition to the Borough-wide assessment, analysis areas (or sub areas) are also used to allow for a more localised approach. For this, three areas have been created, with these known as North, Central and South, aligning to the Council's Neighbourhood Team areas and supporting how the Council manages the Borough. It is said that these sub areas also fit well with perceived sporting catchment areas and travel patterns, whilst they also fit with the Council's ward based plans to support ambitions of the Moving Rotherham and Cultural Partnership boards. Alignment also exists to Police boundaries, the National Health Service and Inclusive Care Board groups.

The three suggested sub-areas can be seen via the table and figure below.

Table 1.1: Analysis areas

Analysis area	Wards included
North	Dalton and Thrybergh, Hoober ,Kilnhurst and Swinton East, Rawmarsh East, Rawmarsh West, Swinton Rockingham and Wath
Central	Boston Castle, Greasbrough, Keppel, Rotherham East, Rotherham West and Sitwell
South	Anston and Woodsetts, Aston and Todwick, Aughton and Swallownest, Bramley and Ravenfield, Brinsworth, Dinnington, Hellaby and Maltby West, Rothervale, Thurcroft and Wickersley South, Wales and Wickersley North

Figure 1.1: Analysis area breakdown



In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities including Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield. This includes reference to imported and exported demand into and from Rotherham as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

Scope

As standard, the PPS covers the following 'core' playing pitch sports, which are:

- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby league
- Rugby union

Any other grass pitch sports are also included where supply and/or demand has been identified. This can include the likes of American football, Aussie rules, lacrosse, Gaelic football and hurling. Despite not being a playing pitch sport, tennis is also included to provide a separate supply and demand analysis for the sport.

A section dedicated to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately pertains to football but is also relevant to both rugby codes and potentially American football and lacrosse (where there is a presence).

1.3: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches in Rotherham is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitch facilities are included within the PPS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and challenging this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field, as set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order':

- **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

For each site that been included within the study, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- Active Places ID (and a PPS site ID)
- Ownership and management type
- Security of tenure
- Community availability
- Total number, type and quality of provision
- Usage levels

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all playing pitches facilities within Rotherham; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included where provision is identified via other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision is not recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Accessibility

Not all playing facilities offer the same level of access to the community, with ownership and accessibility often influencing actual availability. As such, each site included in the PPS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- **Disused** – any sites where facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of the PPS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any detail specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of ‘good’, ‘standard’ or ‘poor’ quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/ modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports primarily played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports predominately played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements/deterioration).

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Rotherham tends to fall within the following categories:

- Organised competitive play
- Organised training
- Informal play
- Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) were available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Rotherham-based demand that travels outside of the Borough to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the Borough (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Steering Group). This enables the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including schools and further education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey which has been sent to primary schools and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- Recent trends in the participation.
- The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPS for Rotherham covers the period up until 2040, which is aligned with the Council's Local Plan Review.

1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Rotherham and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For this, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions could be accommodated. Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

As a guide, the NGBs for the main playing pitch sports have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football, rugby league and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. It is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural inadequate	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural adequate	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe drained	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and slit drained	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Rugby league	Mini pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.4: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- Headline findings
- An overall vision and associated aims for the PPS
- Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
- Strategic recommendations
- A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan
- Housing growth scenarios

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation overseeing the development of football in Rotherham is Sheffield & Hallamshire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with Sheffield & Hallamshire FA, it helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial turf pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plan

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy, the FA has produced a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation. They identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the FF to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities.

Each LFFP builds upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game.

The LFFP for Rotherham was initially produced in 2018 and subsequently updated in 2025 alongside the production of the PPS to ensure it was based on findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated to guide potential investment priorities.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential FF investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of this PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In total, there are 556 football teams across 117 clubs that are based in Rotherham which are identified as accessing grass pitch and/or 3G pitch provision on a regular basis for the 2024/25 season.

In addition to face to face and video consultation with selected clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs, with this distributed and supported via Sheffield & Hallamshire FA. A team response rate of 70% has been achieved, with this including the following clubs identified as being particularly key in the Borough:

- Aston Swallownest JFC
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)
- Brinsworth Whitehill JFC
- Dinnington Town JFC
- Kiveton Park FC
- Maltby Main FC
- Maltby Main JFC
- Mexborough Rangers JFC
- Millmoor Juniors FC
- Millmoor Juniors (Girls) FC
- Parkgate FC
- Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC
- Rotherham Town JFC
- Swinton Athletic Spartans FC
- Wickersley Youth FC
- Wickersley Youth Girls FC

Furthermore, consultation has also been undertaken with the Rotherham & District Sunday League to inform this section of the report. Attempts continue to be made with clubs that have thus far been unresponsive.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 237 grass football pitches across 81 sites in Rotherham. Of these, 213 pitches at 69 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level (although not necessarily used), as shown in the table below.

Table 2.2: Number of grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

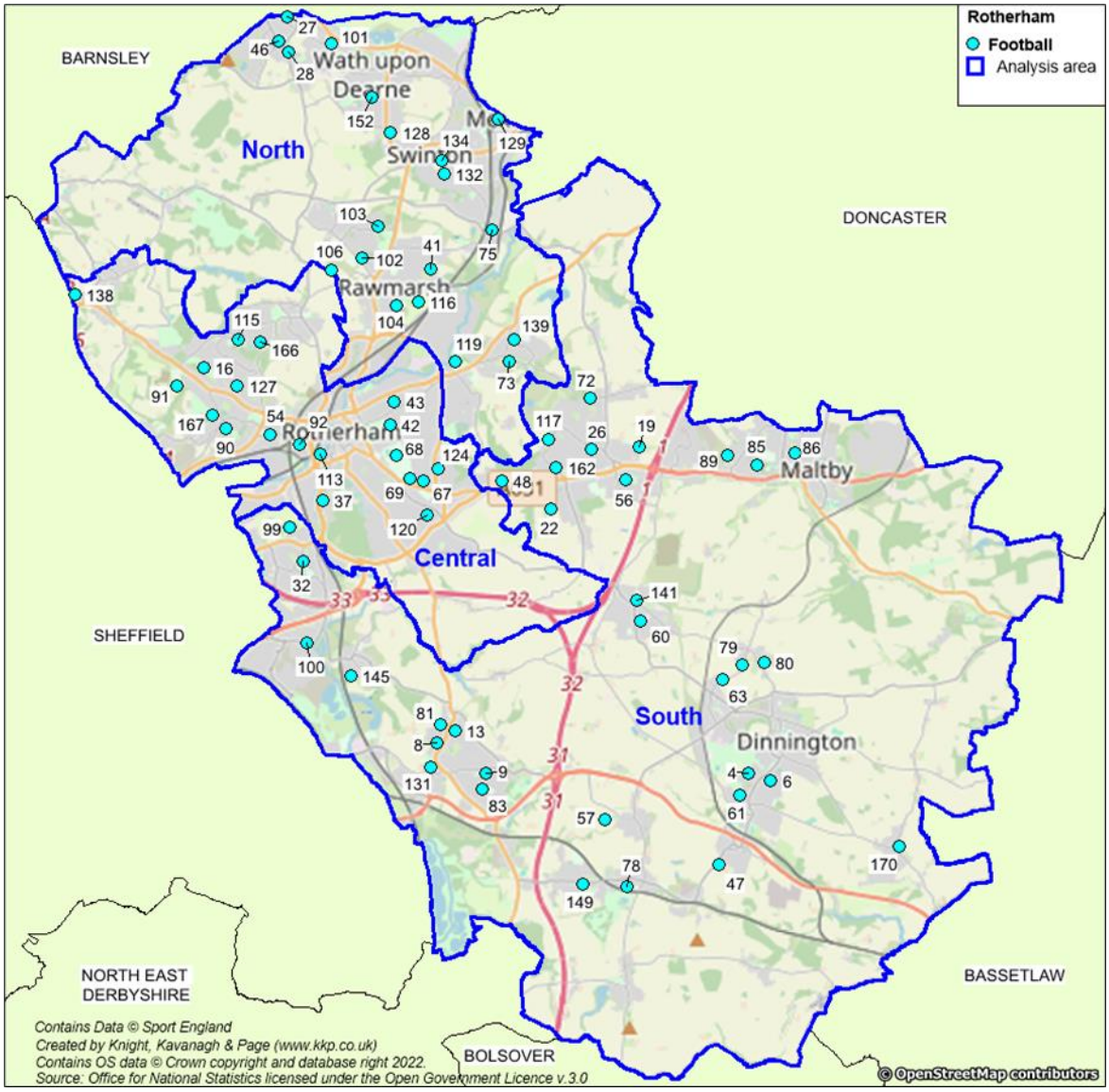
Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	5	15	7	4	4	**35**
North	12	18	9	8	9	**56**
South	24	28	17	23	30	**122**
Total	**41**	**61**	**33**	**35**	**43**	**213**

As seen, most community available pitches can be found in the South Analysis Area, with 122 pitches provided (57%). The Central Analysis Area provides the fewest number of community available pitches with just 34 (16%).

There are more youth 11v11 pitches (61) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which aligns to this being the most dominant format of play in the Borough. Across the rest of the pitch types, there is a relatively even split across Rotherham.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Rotherham, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.16.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Rotherham



Disused site/provision

There are several sites that have disused football provision in Rotherham. This includes sites that now have no formal sports pitches (disused sites), or that have previously accommodated football pitches but still accommodate some other form of provision (disused provision). These are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.3: Summary of disused sites/provision within Rotherham

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
7	6002476	Anston Recreation Ground	S25 4DN	South	**Disused site** - Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2015*
23	6002494	Bow Broom Playing Field	S64 8NP	North	**Disused site** - Provided one adult pitch *circa 2008*
36	6002464	Burgoyne Park	S26 3XA	South	**Disused provision** - Provided one adult pitch *circa 2022*
52	6002483	Eldon Road Recreation Ground	S65 1RD	Central	**Disused site** - Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2015*
53	6002465	Falconer Lane Recreation Ground	S13 9ZL	South	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2008*
62	6002474	Guilthwaite Hill	S60 4NE	Central	**Disused site** - Provided one adult pitch *circa 2008*
64	1202818	Harley Recreation Ground	S62 7UF	North	**Disused site** – Provided one youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2022*
71	1202831	Hill Sixty	S62 5AQ	North	**Disused site** - Provided one adult pitch *circa 2015*
82	6002488	Lodge Lane	S61 2SF	Central	**Disused site** - Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa*
87	6009754	Maltby Manor Fields	S66 7EJ	South	**Disused site** - Provided one adult pitch *circa 2009*
104	1202890	Rawmarsh Leisure	S62 6DG	North	**Disused provision** - Provided one adult and one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2023*
157	1202820	Wentworth Recreation Ground	S62 7SB	North	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2008*
158	6019127	West Melton Park	S63 6GF	North	**Disused site** - Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa*
171	N/A	Mill Lane	S60 5PL	South	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2010*
173	N/A	Magna Lane Recreation Ground	S65 4HH	North	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 9v9 pitch *circa 2015.*
175	N/A	Highfield Park	S66 7DR	South	**Disused site** – Provided one adult pitch *circa 2003*.
176	N/A	Tickhill Road	S66 7QW	South	**Disused site** – Provided one adult pitch *circa 2003*[1]
177	N/A	Newhill Park	S63 6HY	North	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2009*
178	N/A	Picadilly Recreation Ground	S64 8JZ	North	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2003*
179	N/A	Redhill	S26 6QA	South	**Disused provision** – Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa 2008*

[1] Site is subject to a planning application: RB2024/0453

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
183	N/A	Winney Hill	S26 7YL	South	**Disused site** – Provided one adult pitch *circa 2008*
184	N/A	Harthill Leisure Centre	S26 7XG	South	**Disused provision** – Provided one adult pitch *circa 2015*
192	N/A	Kiveton Park Industrial Estate	S26 6PB	South	**Disused site** - Provided one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch *circa 2010.*
194	N/A	New Wortley Road Park	S60 1LD	Central	**Disused provision** – Provided one mini 5v5 pitch *circa 2016*
195	N/A	Pitches Sports Club	S60 3PR	Central	**Disused site** – Provided one youth 11v11 pitch *circa* 2008.

As seen, there are currently 27 pitches across 25 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past. As a breakdown this equates to 10 adult pitches, 10 youth 11v11 pitches, five youth 9v9 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch.

Management

Of the 213 community available pitches in Rotherham, 46 are managed by the Council (22%), 22 are managed by a parish or town council (10%), 38 are managed in-house by sports clubs (18%), 73 are managed by education operators (34%), 19 are managed by community organisations (9%), and the remaining 15 pitches are managed by other providers (7%). This is summarised further in the table below.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch management (number of community available pitches)

Education	Council	Clubs	Parish/ Town Council	Community Organisation	Other
73	46	38	22	19	15

Education providers being the most dominant supplier of pitches is relatively common; however, this can cause issues as such operators are the most likely to prevent community access.

Security of tenure

Football clubs are considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s, for example via a community use agreement, for the next three or more years. In addition, demand that accesses local authority sites is also considered to have secure tenure on the basis that this provision will continue to be provided as part of the Council's ongoing leisure offering commitment. Based on this, tenure of sites in Rotherham is generally secure.

Of the 213 pitches that are available for community use in Rotherham, 159 pitches (75%) provide secure tenure for football participation, ensuring long-term and reliable access for users. In contrast, 54 pitches (25%) operate with an unsecure tenure, creating potential vulnerability in sustaining current levels of activity and future demand.

All community available sites across Rotherham that are classified as having unsecure tenure are schools. In the main, education establishments are mostly able to state their own policies, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of community use. Of the 73 community available pitches across the Borough that are situated at education sites, 18 provide a secure tenure for football participation through access arrangements via a planning condition. This is the case at Oakwood High School, TR Sports Centre, Wath Academy and Wickersley School & Sports College.

The below clubs are current accessing unsecure education sites for matches:

- Aston Swallownest JFC – Aston Academy
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC – Bramley Sunnyside Junior School
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls) - Bramley Sunnyside Junior School
- Hope Valley Tap FC – Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)
- Laughton Common FC – Dinnington High School
- Maltby JFC – Maltby Academy
- Red Lion Thorpe Hesley FC - Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)
- Rotherham Town JFC – St Bernards Catholic High School
- Sheffield International FC - Oakwood High School
- Swinton Athletic Spartans JFC – Swinton Academy
- Swinton W.M.C. FC – Swinton Academy
- The Cottage FC – St Pius X Catholic High School
- Valley JFC – Thrybergh Academy And Sports College
- Whiston Wildcats JFC – Sitwell Junior School/ Oakwood High School
- Woodman Rotherham FC - St Pius X Catholic High School

Additionally, several schools do not allow community access at all, with these also therefore providing unsecure tenure. The reasons for this vary. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues, whilst other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Rotherham has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in January 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports where available (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Rotherham. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (110 or 52%). There is then a reasonably even split between good quality pitches (54 or 25%) and poor quality pitches (49 or 23%).

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality by pitch type (community available)

Pitch type	No. of good quality pitches	No. of standard quality pitches	No. of poor quality pitches
Adult	21	16	4
Youth 11v11	9	33	19
Youth 9v9	6	19	8
Mini 7v7	8	20	7
Mini 5v5	10	22	11
Total	**54**	**110**	**49**

The good quality pitches are located at:

- Aston Academy
- Bob Mason Recreation Grounds
- Brampton Ellis Playing Fields
- Brinsworth Playing Fields
- Chapman Fields
- Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground
- Herringthorpe Stadium
- Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute
- Maltby Miners Welfare
- Millmoor Juniors Football Club
- Millmoor Stadium
- Phoenix Sports & Social Club
- Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club
- Roughwood Road Recreation Ground
- Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club
- Ruby Cook Recreation Ground
- Stelrad Park
- Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground
- Treeton Memorial Playing Field
- West Melton Recreation Ground

Many of these are operated and/or maintained by clubs, which can allow for a more sophisticated, specialist and regular groundskeeping regime to be undertaken. Furthermore, clubs that manage their own sites are more likely to attract external funding for site improvements.

In contrast, the poor quality pitches that have been identified are at:

- Barkers Park
- Bramley Sunnyside Junior School
- Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme
- Crowgate Recreation Ground
- Green Arbour Road Rec Ground
- Greenlands Park
- Herringthorpe Playing Fields
- Hollings Lane Field
- Hollings Lane Sports Field
- Lodge Lane Park
- Maltby Miners Welfare
- Phoenix Sports & Social Club
- Rawmarsh Leisure

- Roughwood Road Recreation Ground
- Ruby Cook Recreation Ground
- Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground
- Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground
- Thurcroft Hub
- Wickersley School & Sports College
- Woodhouse Mill

In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, are subject to basic/poor maintenance programmes, and/or suffer from waterlogging problems. Several are operated by the Council or a parish/town council.

The table below presents additional comments in regards to some sites where key information has been identified. This includes consultation feedback from responding clubs and leagues, non-technical assessment findings and wider operator consultation (e.g., with schools). However, please note that many of the comments provided are only opinions in regards to quality, rather than being evidence-based.

Table 2.6: Pitch quality findings

Site ID	Site name	Stakeholder	Consultation findings
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	Bramley Sunnyside Juniors FC	The Club states that the goal mouths are wearing thin and are subject to holding water after substantial wet weather. The Club also states that overall maintenance of the pitches carried out by the Council is poor.
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	Shakhtar Sheffield FC	The Club states that pitch quality has not improved upon previous seasons, with drainage on the site considered poor, whilst maintenance carried out by the Council is good.
49	Dinnington High School	Dinnington High School	Overall pitch quality is considered to be adequate although these are subject to curricular and extracurricular usage which contributes to overall carrying capacity and quality.
51	DVC Sports	AFC Trades Rawmarsh; Brecks Snooker Club Momentous Football Academy	The clubs collectively state that the overall maintenance carried out by the school is basic, with this relating to cutting and line marking and post season remedial work. Drainage on the site is considered to be good with no highlighted issues in relation to postponed fixtures.
54	Ferham Park	The Colin FC	The Club states poor maintenance is carried out by the council on these pitches with no difference in overall quality when compared to previous playing seasons.
61	Greenlands Park	Anston Rangers JFC	Overall pitch quality at this site has improved with the Club stating that this is due to an increase in maintenance. It should be noted that the goal mouths at this site have been highlighted as needing attention.
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	Rotherham & District Sunday League	The League states that the site is of a poor quality and that the pitches are not looked after, with maintenance not carried out as frequently as what it should be.

Site ID	Site name	Stakeholder	Consultation findings
72	Hollings Lane Field	Ravenfield Rangers JFC; The Woodman Woodlaithes FC	The clubs state that overall pitch quality is not good and has gotten significantly poorer when compared to previous seasons, with maintenance carried out by the Council seen as being ineffective when trying to improve pitch quality.
81	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	Aston Athletic FC	The Club states that overall maintenance carried out by the Council is standard quality and that the drainage is poor.
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby Main FC	The Club states that there has been miscommunication from the Council in relation to whose responsibility it is to maintain the pitches. Overall quality has improved at the site; however, the Club wishes to lead the maintenance regime.
95	Oakwood High School	Sheffield International FC	The Club states that the maintenance and drainage on this site is of a poor quality, although overall quality is standard. The pitches on this site are subject to curricular and extracurricular demand which contributes to the overall carrying capacity and quality of the pitches.
99	Phoenix Sports And Social Club	AFC Phoenix Club; Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	The clubs collectively state that as a result of investment to drainage at the site by Phoenix Sports & Recreation LTD, the overall pitch quality has improved in comparison to previous seasons.
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	AFC Rigdyke	The Club states that pitch maintenance carried out by the council is poor and that overall pitch quality has gotten slightly poorer when compared to previous seasons due to less grass cutting making conditions more difficult to play in.
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph JFC	Rawmarsh St Joseph JFC	The Club states that the overall pitch quality has improved upon previous seasons as a result of enhanced maintenance that the Club has funded. Despite this, drainage remains an issue when subject to heavy rainfall.
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Greasborough Youth FC	The Club states that the pitch quality has declined substantially when compared to previous seasons. The site is subject to unofficial use which contributes to a lack of grass coverage as well as poor drainage.
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	Wickersley Youth JFC	The Club states that overall pitch quality has improved significantly on previous seasons with this due to Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund carried out in addition to a groundsman.
119	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	Lord Reresby FC	The Club states that it carries out maintenance on the site but struggles to uphold quality due to a lack of financial support. Overall quality has declined in comparison to previous seasons.
127	St Pauls Field	The Club Pot FC	The Club states that the overall maintenance and drainage carried out by the Council is adequate with no major issues to report.
128	St Pius X Catholic High School	Woodman Rotherham FC	The Club states that the maintenance and drainage of the pitches are of a good quality.

Site ID	Site name	Stakeholder	Consultation findings
129	Stelrad Park	Mexborough Rangers JFC	The Club states that through time spent by volunteers and protecting the pitch during extreme weather conditions, the overall pitch quality at the site has improved on previous seasons.
132	Swinton Academy	Swinton Spartans FC	Pitches receive basic maintenance from external contractors and have decreased in quality in recent years since 2021. The Club states that overall quality was better when the school maintained the pitches.
138	Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground	Clubhouse FC	The Club states that pitch quality is significantly poorer when compared to previous seasons with it also stating that there is a lack of maintenance carried out to keep pitch quality at an adequate level.
141	Thurcroft Hub	Gallows FC	The Club states that overall pitch maintenance and drainage is adequate at the site with no major issues identified.
143	Tr Sports Centre	Sheffield International FC; Thomas Rotherham College	Investment from the School to improve the overall maintenance at the site has improved the pitch quality on previous seasons.
151	Wath Academy	Wath Academy; Wath All Stars FC; Wathletico Women FC	Overall pitch quality is good in relation to both maintenance and drainage. Heavy school usage, however, impacts on quality and carrying capacity.
164	Wickerlsey School and Sports College	Wickersley Old Village Veterans FC	The Club states that pitch quality is good although similar to other education sites these pitches are subject to curricular and extracurricular demand, contributing to carrying capacity and overall pitch quality.
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	Shireoaks Inn FC	The Club states that overall pitch quality has improved when compared to last season with this as a result of fewer matches taking place on the pitch.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.16.

The FA's Pitch Improvement Strategy

The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority maintained sites.

Further to this, the FF and the FA has recently developed the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF) that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for grant funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.

PitchPower

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the GMA with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the GPMF.

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play when compared to the non-technical assessments carried out for this PPS, instead being able to be undertaken at any time in the year. Assessments are completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - October, November – March or April – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.7: Agreed equivalent PPS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Rotherham, 16 sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 2.8: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPS rating
8	**Aston Academy**[2]	Adult	Basic	Standard

[2] Sites in bold have been used to inform the quality scores in this report.

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPS rating
8	**Aston Academy**	Youth 11v11	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Youth 11v11	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Youth 9v9	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Youth 9v9	Basic	Standard
8	**Aston Academy**	Mini 7v7	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Mini 7v7	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Mini 5v5	Advanced	Good
8	**Aston Academy**	Mini 5v5	Good	Good
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	Poor	Good
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	Poor	Standard
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	Poor	Standard
40	**Chapman Fields**	Adult	Good	Good
40	**Chapman Fields**	Youth 11v11	Good	Good
40	**Chapman Fields**	Youth 11v11	Good	Good
40	**Chapman Fields**	Youth 9v9	Good	Good
46	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	Youth 11v11	Poor	Poor
46	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	Youth 9v9	Poor	Poor
46	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	Mini 7v7	Poor	Poor
46	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	Mini 5v5	Poor	Poor
57	Goosecar Lane Recreation Ground	Adult	Poor	Standard
78	Kiveton Park	Adult	Advanced	Standard
78	Kiveton Park	Youth 11v11	Advanced	Standard
78	Kiveton Park	Youth 9v9	Advanced	Standard
91	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	Adult	Good	Good
91	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
91	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
91	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
91	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
99	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	Mini 7v7	Poor	Poor
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	Good	Poor
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9	Good	Good
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Mini 7v7	Good	Standard
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Mini 5v5	Basic	Standard
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Youth 9v9	Poor	Poor
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 7v7	Poor	Poor
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 7v7	Poor	Poor
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Advanced	Good
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Advanced	Good
117	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Poor	Poor
129	**Stelrad Park**	Youth 11v11	Good	Good

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPS rating
129	**Stelrad Park**	Youth 9v9	Good	Good
129	**Stelrad Park**	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Adult	Good	Good
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Adult	Poor	Poor
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Mini 7v7	Basic	Standard
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Basic	Standard
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Basic	Standard
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Basic	Standard
131	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	Mini 5v5	Poor	Poor
134	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	Youth 11v11	Good	Good
134	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
134	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	Mini 5v5	Good	Good
145	**Treeton Memorial Playing Field**	Adult	Advanced	Good
145	**Treeton Memorial Playing Field**	Mini 5v5	Advanced	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Adult	Advanced	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Adult	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Adult	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Youth 11v11	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Youth 9v9	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Mini 7v7	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Mini 5v5	Good	Good
187	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	Mini 5v5	Good	Good

As seen, most of the ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments. Where there are discrepancies, it has been agreed with the FF to use the PPS quality scores as these are the most up to date findings, although it should be noted these scores have still been cross referenced against PitchPower reports and club consultation.

Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund[3]

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessments can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for a site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GMPF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible organisations such as clubs and leagues enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic', then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the landowners permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding stadia pitches used for National League System play), leagues, education establishments and parish & town councils, Club Community Organisations (CCOs) and County FAs.

Several clubs in Rotherham have been awarded funding from the FF to improve the quality of their pitches. This incorporates investment into the following sites:

- Brinsworth Playing Fields
- Chapman Fields
- Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme
- Flash Lane Recreation Ground
- Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute
- Kiveton Park
- Maltby Miners Welfare
- Millmoor Juniors Football Club
- Phoenix Sports & Social Club
- Rawmarsh St Josep JFC
- Roughwood Recreation Ground
- Ruby Cook Recreation Ground
- Stelrad Park
- Swinton Miners Welfare
- Thurcroft Hub
- Treeton Memorial Playing Fields
- West Melton Recreation Ground

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms and car parking, as well as dedicated official and spectator facilities. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls' and disability demand.

[3] Link to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on sports using the provision and the number of pitches serviced, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics. These are as follows:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open plan changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria are not rated as anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

The table below highlights sites across Rotherham together with ancillary facility quality ratings and additional comments, where provided and available. This includes information from both the site assessment and consultation phase of the work undertaken.

Table 2.9: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
16	Barkers Park	Milldam FC; Ring O Bells FC	Standard	Poor	No changing facilities provided on site only toilets for users of pitches.
18	Baths Field	Cross Keys Wath FC; Westville FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	Bramley Sunnyside Juniors FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
22	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	Wickersley AFC	Standard	Standard	Two changing rooms with basic facilities including communal showers and toilet facilities.
27	Brampton Bierlow Park	-	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
28	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	-	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	Shakhtar Sheffield FC	Good	Standard	The Club state that they do not receive access to the onsite ancillary facilities.
37	Canklow Recreation Ground	Rotherham United Community Sports Trust; Treeton Terriers (Junior) FC	Standard	Standard	Two changing rooms onsite which are dated and in need of refurbishment. Facilities include changing rooms and toilets.
41	Claypit Lane Recreation Ground	AFC Monkwood	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	-	Standard	Standard	Facilities include toilets and changing rooms that are accessible to both players and spectators. Facility also used post-match for food and drinks with a bar/ kitchen available.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
47	Crowgate Recreation Ground	Laughton Juniors FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
54	Ferham Park	The Colin fc	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
56	Flash Lane Recreation Field	AFC Rotherham Spartans Bramley Stingers JFC Wickersley THS FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Thurcroft FC	Standard	Standard	Basic facilities provided within the pavilion including changing rooms and toilet facilities.
60	Green Arbour Road Rec Ground	Thurcroft JFC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
61	Greenlands Park	Anston Rangers JFC	Standard	Standard	Two changing rooms that are unused by the Club. No showers are within the changing rooms although a toilet is available within each. There are also dedicated spectator toilets which are disability compliant.
63	Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground	Thurcroft JFC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	The Park Hotel FC	Standard	Poor	Rotherham and District Sunday League states that the facilities are not adequate to accommodate the demand the site receives. The changing rooms are without showering facilities and include communal toilets.
69	Herringthorpe Stadium	Mail Coach FC; Rotherham United Women FC	Standard	Good	The general facilities include male and female changing rooms with showers and lockers available. There are also two meeting rooms which are available for hire. However, access to the changing rooms/toilets are reported to be infrequent.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
72	Hollings Lane Field	Ravenfield Rangers JFC; The Woodman Woodlaithes FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
73	Hollings Lane Sports Field	Woodman Woodlaithes FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	Courtyard FC; Parkgate FC; Swinton Robin Hood FC	Poor	Poor	Site is equipped with outdated facilities that include changing rooms and toilets which are in major need of refurbishment to accommodate demand.
78	Kiveton Park	AG Sports Elites FC; Kiveton Park FC	Standard	Poor	The Club are in the process of upgrading its facilities at the site through fund raising and volunteers . There is no current clubhouse for the Club however there were plans for the construction of a new building, as such they utilise the cricket club facilities.
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	Laughton Juniors FC	Standard	Standard	Basic provision identified within this supporting pavilion which includes toilets and a moderate space for events.
81	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	Aston Athletic FC	Standard	Standard	Three changing rooms on site which include communal player toilets and showers. Officials changing is also available with the same amenities. There is no access to dedicated spectator provision.
83	Lodge Lane Park	Aughton Black Bull FC; Swallownest Bethesda FC	Poor	Poor	No changing rooms or toilets located onsite, shipping container utilised for storage.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby Main FC; Maltby Main JFC	Standard	Standard	The clubhouse is equipped with a kitchen/ bar. The Club has access to four changing rooms equipped with communal showers, there is also an officials room. Dedicated spectator toilets and a medical room are also available on site. The Club often struggle to provide hot water for the showers.
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	Millmoor JFC	Good	Good	In 2018 the facilities were refurbished including kitchen improvements, a fully functional clubhouse, including changing rooms with showers, referee changing room, office, public toilets, kitchen and a cafe which serves hot and cold products on matchdays.
92	Millmoor Stadium	Sheffield FC Youth	Good	Good	Facility has recently undergone major refurbishment works including the changing room facilities which now include self-contained showers and toilets.
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	AFC Phoenix Club; Brinsworth FC; Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	Good	Standard	The Clubhouse onsite includes a kitchen/ bar and four changing rooms. The changing rooms include communal showers however does have self-contained toilets. An officials changing room is also included as well as dedicated spectator toilets and disabled access. Brinsworth Whitehill JFC states it needs segregated changing facilities in order to accommodate demand from girl's teams.
100	Poplar Way Recreation Ground	Cotts FC Treeton Terriers JFC	Good	Good	The onsite pavilion has recently been refurbished and includes changing rooms with self-contained showers and toilets as well as a function room.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
101	West Melton Recreation Ground	The Plough Ville FC	Standard	Standard	Small onsite clubhouse includes changing rooms with communal showers, toilet facilities and a social space.
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	AFC Rigdyke	Good	Standard	The Club states that there are two changing rooms available that contain communal player showers and toilets. No officials changing is available or dedicated spectator toilets.
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	Rawmarsh St Joseph JFC	Standard	Standard	The Club states that six changing rooms are available within its clubhouse which is also equipped with a kitchen/ bar. No showers are available within the changing rooms although communal player toilets are available. Dedicated spectator toilets, medical room and disabled access are available.
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Greasborough Youth FC	Poor	Poor	Mobile unit utilised as a clubhouse which contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.
116	Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club	Parkgate FC; Rotherham United Women FC	Good	Standard	Clubhouse includes two changing rooms with communal showers and toilets. Dedicated spectator toilets are also available alongside an officials room. Kitchen/ bar facilities are also available on site.
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	Wickersley Youth JFC	Standard	Poor	No changing rooms available within the clubhouse onsite. The Club does have toilets for both player and spectator access which are disability compliant. The Club states issues with carparking on match days with this being too small.
119	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	Lord Reresby FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
127	St Pauls Field	The Club Pot FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
129	Stelrad Park	Mexborough Rangers JFC	Poor	Poor	No changing facilities onsite. The Club has access to a portaloo to facilitate players and spectators.
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	Sheffield United Community Foundation FC; Swallownest FC	Standard	Good	Fully functional Clubhouse with kitchen/ bar changing rooms, officials changing, dedicated spectator facilities and a social space.
134	Swinton Miners Welfare	Swinton Athletic FC	Poor	Poor	Mobile unit utilised as a clubhouse which contains basic facilities including changing rooms and toilets.
138	Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground	Clubhouse FC; Thorpe Hesley Village FC	Poor	Poor	Two changing rooms that are without any showering facilities or toilets.
141	Thurcroft Hub	Gallows FC	Good	Standard	The clubhouse onsite includes a kitchen/ bar along with two changing rooms that are equipped with self-contained toilets and communal showers.
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	Treeton Terriers JFC	Standard	Standard	Clubhouse includes bar/ kitchen area and changing rooms with communal showers and toilets. Spectator toilets are also available on site as well as officials changing,
149	Wales Recreation Ground	Elsie's FC	N/A	N/A	No ancillary facilities available on site.
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	Shireoaks Inn FC	Standard	Good	The Club has access to five changing rooms within its clubhouse, with these including self-contained showers and toilet facilities. An officials room is also available which has a separate toilet and shower.
187	Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute	Killamarsh Juniors FC	Good	Standard	The facilities offer a kitchen, bar and spectator facilities. There are also numerous changing rooms with a multisport function; however, there are no dedicated female changing rooms/shower facilities.

As seen in the table above, 10 sites are identified as providing poor quality changing facilities across Rotherham, with these being Barkers Park, Herringthorpe Playing Fields, Kilnhurst Recreation Ground, Kiveton Park, Lodge Lane Park, Roughwood Recreation Ground, Ruby Cook Recreation Ground, Stelrad Park, Swinton Miners Welfare and Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground. These sites are generally serviced by dated facilities that require improving or replacing and have signs of wear and tear. Each therefore requires a degree of modernisation to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the future, although this ranges from renovation to the potential of a complete re-build.

Many sites are also identified as being without purposeful ancillary provision. On a site-by-site basis, this requires resolution, with facilities best suited to the userbase required. If sites are setup for and/or accessed by adult teams or women's and girls demand, this could necessitate the need for wide ranging clubhouses, whereas if demand is only received by youth and mini teams, less sophisticated provision is likely to be warranted. This is because such demand generally shows up ready to play, with facilities such as toilets considered to be most important rather than changing rooms.

2.3: Demand

A total of 556 teams from 117 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in Rotherham. As a breakdown, this equates to 130 adult teams, 151 youth 11v11 teams, 99 youth 9v9 teams, 94 mini 7v7 teams and 82 mini 5v5 teams. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.10: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Rotherham

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (18-45)	91
Adult Women's (18-45)	39
Youth Boys (12-17)	117
Youth Girls (12-17)	34
Youth Boys (10-11)	78
Youth Girls (10-11)	21
Mini Mixed (8-9)	94
Mini Mixed (6-7)	82
Total	**556**

Football in Rotherham is played predominately in the South Analysis Area with a total of 339 teams (61%), followed by the North Analysis Area with 121 teams (22%). The Central Analysis Area has the fewest number of teams with 96 (17%).

Table 2.11: Summary of number of competitive football teams playing affiliation matches

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	39	29	21	17	15	**121**
Central	31	28	14	13	10	**96**
South	60	94	64	64	57	**339**
Rotherham	**130**	**151**	**99**	**94**	**82**	**556**

Women's and girls' demand

As shown in table 2.10, there are currently 39 women's teams and 55 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Rotherham. This represents 17% of all demand across the Borough, which is a relatively high proportion.

Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include:

- Aston Swallownest JFC
- Bramley Stingers JFC
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)
- Brinsworth Whitehill Women FC
- Charnock Ridgeway Women & Girls
- Dinnington Town JFC
- Killamarsh Juniors FC
- Kiveton Park FC
- Laughton Common FC
- Laughton JFC
- Maltby JFC
- Maltby Main FC
- Maltby Main JFC
- Millmoor Juniors FC (Girls)
- Mind Over Matter FC
- Neverbee Athletic
- Parkgate FC
- Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC
- Rotherham Select Schools FC
- Rotherham Town JFC
- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust FC
- Rotherham United Women FC
- Sheffield FC Youth FC
- Sheffield Kingdom FC
- Sheffield United Community Foundation FC
- Socrates Ladies FC
- Swinton Athletic Spartans JFC
- Treeton Terriers JFC
- Wath Stars JFC
- Wathletico FC
- Wickersley Youth Girls FC
- Wickersley Youth Ladies FC
- Woodhouse Phoenix FC

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Reaching Higher Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

National League System demand

Men's National League System

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation[4] requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website[5] for the full specifications for each.

In Rotherham, Rotherham FC plays above the NLS as a professional football club in the Football League. Two teams from two clubs then play within the NLS, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.12: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Parkgate FC	Northern Counties East League Premier Division	Step 5
Maltby Main FC	Northern Counties East League Division One	Step 6

Women's National League System

The Women's NLS provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's NLS. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's system is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Rotherham United Women's FC competes within the East Midlands Women's Regional Football League at Tier 5 of the Women's NLS.

Unmet and latent demand

The below clubs in Rotherham all identify latent demand and indicate that they could field additional teams if they had access to more or better quality pitch provision for match and training demand.

- Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)
- Bramley Sunnyside JFC

[4] https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme
[5] http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading

- Brinsworth Whitehill JFC
- Brinsworth Whitehill Juniors FC (Girls)
- Club Brinsworth FC
- Greasbrough Youth FC
- Lord Reresby FC
- Maltby Main JFC
- Mexborough Rangers JFC
- Momentous Football Academy
- Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC
- Rawmarsh St Joseph's Juniors FC
- Shireoaks Inn FC
- Wath All Stars FC
- Wathletico FC
- Wathletico Women FC
- Wickersley Youth FC
- Wickersley Youth Girls FC

As seen, this covers 18 clubs, which is a relatively large amount. Most of the clubs also express future demand linked to the latent demand, with this covered later within this section of the report.

Exported and imported demand

The following three clubs are identified as importing four teams into Rotherham to accommodate match play demand on grass pitches:

- AG Sports Elites – one mini 5v5 team
- Sheffield United Community Foundation LFC – two adult women's teams
- Sheffield FC Youth - one youth 11v11 girls' team

These are all otherwise based in Sheffield.
There is also a relatively large element of exported football demand in relation to 3G pitches. Please see Part 3 of this report for more information in relation to this.

Conversely, no clubs are identified as exporting demand for grass pitches outside of Rotherham.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Rotherham.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, 12 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 69 teams. This is summarised below.

Table 2.13: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions per week[6]
Aston Swallownest JFC	South	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Aston Swallownest JFC	South	Boys	2	Youth 9v9	1
Aston Swallownest JFC	South	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Aston Swallownest JFC	South	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Aston Swallownest JFC	South	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)	South	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)	South	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Bramley Sunnyside JFC (Girls)	South	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	South	Mixed	3	Mini 5v5	1.5
Maltby Main JFC	South	Boys	3	Youth 11v11	1.5
Maltby Main JFC	South	Boys	3	Youth 9v9	1.5
Maltby Main JFC	South	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Maltby Main JFC	South	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Mexborough Rangers JFC	North	Youth	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Mexborough Rangers JFC	North	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Millmoor Juniors FC	Central	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Millmoor Juniors FC	Central	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Millmoor Juniors FC	Central	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Millmoor Juniors FC	Central	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Momentous Football Academy	North	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Momentous Football Academy	North	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC	North	Boys	5	Youth 11v11	2.5
Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC	North	Girls	5	Youth 11v11	2.5
Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC	North	Boys	5	Youth 9v9	2.5

[6] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions per week[6]
Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC	North	Girls	5	Youth 9v9	2.5
Rawmarsh St Josephs JFC	North	Mixed	5	Mini 5v5	2.5
Shireoaks Inn FC	South	Men	1	Adult	0.5
Wath All Stars FC	North	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Wathletico Women FC	North	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Wathletico Women FC	North	Mixed	1	Mini 5v5	0.5
Wickersley Youth JFC	South	Mixed	4	Mini 5v5	2
-	-	**Totals**	**69**	-	**34.5**

In addition, it should be noted that Swinton Spartans FC also states that it wishes to increase the number of its teams; however, it does not quantify this growth. It has therefore not been included in the table above.

The total future demand quantified by the clubs amounts to 34.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Broken down by pitch type, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 8.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, 11 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, one match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and 10.5 match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

By analysis area, 16.5 match equivalent sessions of future demand is expressed in the South Analysis Area and 16 match equivalent sessions is expressed in the North Analysis Area and two match equivalent sessions in the Central Analysis Area.

The future demand identified by clubs includes four senior women's and 17 junior girls' teams (in addition to mixed mini teams). To that end, it is worth reiterating that the FA has aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. It is therefore possible that the growth in affiliated women's and girls' teams may exceed that forecast through other means.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (in line with the Council's Local Plan Review), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week[7]
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:517	5.87	6	3
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:1239	2.52	3	1.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:61	7.29	7	3.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:202	2.13	2	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:47	4.84	5	2.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:169	1.29	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:75	5.87	6	3
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:85	5.03	5	2.5

As seen, an additional 35 teams are expected to be generated (equating to 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week). This represents relatively substantial growth from population forecasts alone. It equates to nine adult, nine youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, six mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 teams.

Future demand summary

The future demand that has carried through to the supply and demand analysis and the end of this section of the report will only be based on the increases identified via population growth. This is because future demand reported by clubs is considered more aspirational and to avoid potential double counting (as some aspirations will likely absorb population increases). However, the proceeding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised, with this considered possible based on recent growth trends. Furthermore, the Strategy document will also include a scenario that portrays future demand based on recent S&HFA growth trends over the previous five years.

Taking the above into consideration, a total requirement for 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, 4.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, three match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, three match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and 2.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

[7] Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches (or match equivalent sessions) that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Rotherham:

Adult pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	Youth pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions per week	Mini pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.16 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage at such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Over marked pitches

Where pitches are overmarked, only the larger pitch type is included within the capacity analysis as it is acknowledged that only one pitch can be used at one time, whilst any usage the larger pitch size receives will also result in usage of the smaller pitch/es within it. However, all usage is recorded, regardless of which of the pitches is accessed.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Rotherham, peak time for each pitch type is Sunday morning, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period that what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.16.

Table 2.15: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

Table 2.16: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
4	6019065	Anston Greenlands Primary School	S25 4HD	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
6	6000502	Anston Park Junior School	S25 2QZ	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
8	1201651	**Aston Academy**	S26 4SF	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
8	1201651	**Aston Academy**	S26 4SF	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4	8	4	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
8	1201651	**Aston Academy**	S26 4SF	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	7	8	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
8	1201651	**Aston Academy**	S26 4SF	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	4	12	8	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
8	1201651	**Aston Academy**	S26 4SF	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	5	12	7	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
9	6000499	Aston All Saints School	S26 2BL	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
9	6000499	Aston All Saints School	S26 2BL	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
13	30004914	Aughton Junior Academy	S26 3XQ	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
13	30004914	Aughton Junior Academy	S26 3XQ	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
13	30004914	Aughton Junior Academy	S26 3XQ	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
16	6002479	Barkers Park	S61 3NU	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed.
18	1202885	Baths Field	S63 7DH	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
19	6002502	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	S66 2UX	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0	8	8	1	Actual spare capacity.
19	6002502	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	S66 2UX	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	1.5	12	10.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
19	6002502	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	S66 2UX	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
19	6002502	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	S66 2UX	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
22	1041741	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	S66 1DR	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
22	1041741	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	S66 1DR	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
22	1041741	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	S66 1DR	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
26	6018939	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	S66 3QW	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Poor	8	8	0	-	At capacity.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
27	1041675	Brampton Bierlow Park	S73 0YA	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
28	1041814	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	S63 6AW	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0	3	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
28	1041814	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	S63 6AW	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
32	6000290	**Brinsworth Playing Fields**	S60 5DG	South	Yes	Brinsworth Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
32	6000290	**Brinsworth Playing Fields**[8]	S60 5DG	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
37	6019050	Canklow Recreation Ground	S60 2JH	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
40	30010083	**Chapman Fields**	S26 5QQ	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
40	30010083	**Chapman Fields**	S26 5QQ	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4.5	8	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
40	30010083	**Chapman Fields**	S26 5QQ	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	3.5	4	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
41	6002493	Claypit Lane Recreation Ground	S62 5JX	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
42	1201803	Clifton Community School	S65 2SN	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
43	1201742	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	S65 1LN	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
43	1201742	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	S65 1LN	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	6001187	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	S73 0TU	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
46	6001187	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	S73 0TU	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
46	6001187	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	S73 0TU	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Overplayed.
46	6001187	**Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme**	S73 0TU	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
47	20000166	Crowgate Recreation Ground	S25 5AL	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
47	20000166	Crowgate Recreation Ground	S25 5AL	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
48	6000401	Dalton Listerdale Junior & Infant School	S65 3HN	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.

[8] Bold lettering indicates the site has received Grass Pitch Maintenance Funding

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	4	12	8	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
54	6002484	Ferham Park	S61 1DY	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
56	6002468	**Flash Lane Recreation Field**	S66 1TS	South	Yes	Bramley Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
56	6002468	**Flash Lane Recreation Field**	S66 1TS	South	Yes	Bramley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
56	6002468	**Flash Lane Recreation Field**	S66 1TS	South	Yes	Bramley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
56	6002468	**Flash Lane Recreation Field**	S66 1TS	South	Yes	Bramley Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
57	6009728	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	S26 1HG	South	Yes	Todwick Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
60	6009716	Green Arbour Road Rec Ground	S66 9LQ	South	Yes	Thurcroft Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
60	6009716	Green Arbour Road Rec Ground	S66 9LQ	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	S25 4BR	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	S25 4BR	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed.
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	S25 4BR	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed.
63	20001122	Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground	S25 3UD	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
67	6019209	Herringthorpe Junior School	S65 2JW	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
68	1202829	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	S65 2ED	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
68	1202829	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	S65 2ED	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
69	1004751	Herringthorpe Stadium	S65 2HR	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
72	1041743	Hollings Lane Field	S65 4PS	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
73	6016525	Hollings Lane Sports Field	S65 4JE	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
75	6002497	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	S64 5SN	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
78	1202494	**Kiveton Park**	S26 6SQ	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
78	1202494	**Kiveton Park**	S26 6SQ	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
78	1202494	**Kiveton Park**	S26 6SQ	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
79	30005202	Laughton Junior & Infant School	S25 1YP	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
80	6010012	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	S25 1YD	South	Yes	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	4	2	2	-	Overplayed.
81	6002463	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	S26 3UT	South	Yes	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
83	6002469	Lodge Lane Park	S26 2BB	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	At capacity.
83	6002469	Lodge Lane Park	S26 2BB	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
85	6019317	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	S66 8AU	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
86	6006630	Maltby Manor Academy	S66 8JN	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
86	6006630	Maltby Manor Academy	S66 8JN	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
86	6006630	Maltby Manor Academy	S66 8JN	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
86	6006630	Maltby Manor Academy	S66 8JN	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
88	1202759	**Maltby Miners Welfare**	S66 7JQ	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	3	3	0	-	At capacity.
88	1202759	**Maltby Miners Welfare**	S66 7JQ	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	-	Overplayed.
89	6019312	Maltby Redwood Academy	S66 8DL	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
90	6019257	Meadow View Primary School	S61 2JD	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
91	6002485	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	S61 2RB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
91	6002485	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	S61 2RB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	5	4	1	-	Overplayed.
91	6002485	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	S61 2RB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
91	6002485	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	S61 2RB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
91	6002485	**Millmoor Juniors Football Club**	S61 2RB	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
92	50000119	Millmoor Stadium	S60 1HB	Central	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
95	1201828	Oakwood High School	S60 2UH	Central	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	5	6	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
95	1201828	Oakwood High School	S60 2UH	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Good	3	6	3	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	At capacity.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	5	4	1	-	Overplayed.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	8.5	1	7.5	-	Overplayed.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
99	1102095	**Phoenix Sports & Social Club**	S60 5PA	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
100	6004960	Poplar Way Recreation Ground	S60 5TR	South	Yes	Catcliffe Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
101	30002784	**West Melton Recreation Ground**	S63 6FS	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
103	30004271	Rawmarsh Junior & Infant Thorogate School	S62 7HS	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
104	1202890	Rawmarsh Leisure	S62 6DG	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
104	1202890	Rawmarsh Leisure	S62 6DG	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
106	30003087	**Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club**	S62 7RZ	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
106	30003087	**Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club**	S62 7RZ	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	6	6	0	-	At capacity.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
106	30003087	**Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club**	S62 7RZ	North	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	5	4	1	-	Overplayed.
113	30003454	Rotherham United Football Club (The Aesseal New York Stadium)	S60 1FJ	Central	No	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
115	30004426	**Roughwood Road Recreation Ground**	S61 4AZ	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
115	30004426	**Roughwood Road Recreation Ground**	S61 4AZ	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
115	30004426	**Roughwood Road Recreation Ground**	S61 4AZ	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
115	30004426	**Roughwood Road Recreation Ground**	S61 4AZ	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4	1	3	-	Overplayed.
116	1102098	Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club	S62 6LA	North	Yes	Other	Secure	Adult	-	3	Good	1.5	9	7.5	3	Actual spare capacity.
117	6002470	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	S66 2LA	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	3	12	9	1	Actual spare capacity.
117	6002470	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	S66 2LA	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
117	6002470	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	S66 2LA	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
117	6002470	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	S66 2LA	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
117	6002470	**Ruby Cook Recreation Ground**	S66 2LA	South	Yes	Wickersley Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3	1	2	-	Overplayed.
119	6001263	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	S65 3ES	North	Yes	Other	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
119	6001263	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	S65 3ES	North	Yes	Other	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	1	4	3	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
120	6019168	Sitwell Junior School	S60 3LA	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
124	1201168	St Bernards Catholic High School	S65 3BE	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
124	1201168	St Bernards Catholic High School	S65 3BE	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	4	4	0	-	At capacity.
124	1201168	St Bernards Catholic High School	S65 3BE	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	5.5	8	2.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
127	6002491	St Pauls Field	S61 3JF	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
128	1201125	St Pius X Catholic High School	S63 7PQ	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
128	1201125	St Pius X Catholic High School	S63 7PQ	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
129	30004817	**Stelrad Park**	S64 8BH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1	6	5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
129	30004817	**Stelrad Park**	S64 8BH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
129	30004817	**Stelrad Park**	S64 8BH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
131	6001486	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	S26 4UR	South	Yes	Other	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
131	6001486	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	S26 4UR	South	Yes	Other	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	At capacity.
131	6001486	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	S26 4UR	South	Yes	Other	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
131	6001486	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	S26 4UR	South	Yes	Other	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	0	12	12	3	Actual spare capacity.
131	6001486	**Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground**	S26 4UR	South	Yes	Other	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
132	1201709	Swinton Academy	S64 8JW	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
132	1201709	Swinton Academy	S64 8JW	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	4	8	4	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
132	1201709	Swinton Academy	S64 8JW	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
132	1201709	Swinton Academy	S64 8JW	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	5	4	1	-	Overplayed.
132	1201709	Swinton Academy	S64 8JW	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Standard	4	6	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
134	6002501	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	S64 8JH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
134	6002501	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	S64 8JH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity.
134	6002501	**Swinton Miners Welfare**	S64 8JH	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity.
138	1041511	Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground	S61 2PT	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
141	6000275	**Thurcroft Hub**	S66 9AB	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
141	6000275	**Thurcroft Hub**	S66 9AB	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
141	6000275	**Thurcroft Hub**	S66 9AB	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
141	6000275	**Thurcroft Hub**	S66 9AB	South	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4.5	1	3.5	-	Overplayed.
143	1004770	Tr Sports Centre	S60 2BE	Central	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
145	1041747	**Treeton Memorial Playing Field**	S60 5PU	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
145	1041747	**Treeton Memorial Playing Field**	S60 5PU	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	2	6	4	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
149	6009741	Wales Recreation Ground	S26 6RB	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Actual spare capacity.
152	6019285	Wath Central Primary School	S63 7HG	North	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
157	1202820	Wentworth Recreation Ground	S62 7SB	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity.
162	6019138	Wickersley Northfield Primary School	S66 2HL	South	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	5	Poor	5	5	0	-	At capacity.
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2	2	0	-	At capacity.
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
166	1203143	Wingfield Academy	S61 4AU	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
166	1203143	Wingfield Academy	S61 4AU	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
167	1201705	Winterhill School	S61 2BD	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
167	1201705	Winterhill School	S61 2BD	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
168	1042668	Woodhouse Mill	S13 9WF	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
168	1042668	Woodhouse Mill	S13 9WF	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
168	1042668	Woodhouse Mill	S13 9WF	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
170	6002473	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	S81 8QA	South	Yes	Woodsetts Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
187	N/A	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	S21 1ED	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	3	Good	0	9	9	3	Actual spare capacity.
187	N/A	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	S21 1ED	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
187	N/A	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	S21 1ED	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
187	N/A	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	S21 1ED	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1.5	6	4.5	0	No spare capacity in peak period.
187	N/A	**Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute**	S21 1ED	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	2	12	10	0	No spare capacity in peak period.

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Rotherham. It totals 46.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 65 pitches.

Table 2.17: Summary of actual spare capacity of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	South	Mini (5v5)	1	1
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	South	Mini (7v7)	3	1.5
19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	South	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
22	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
22	Bob Mason Recreation Grounds	South	Youth (9v9)	1	1
28	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	North	Adult	1	1
28	Brampton Ellis Playing Fields	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
32	Brinsworth Playing Fields	South	Youth (11v11)	2	1
37	Canklow Recreation Ground	Central	Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
40	Chapman Fields	South	Adult	1	1
40	Chapman Fields	South	Youth (11v11)	2	0.5
54	Ferham Park	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
56	Flash Lane Recreation Field	South	Mini (7v7)	1	1
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5
63	Hangsman Lane Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5
69	Herringthorpe Stadium	Central	Adult	1	0.5
78	Kiveton Park	South	Mini (7v7)	1	1
81	Leonard Kyte Recreation Ground	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	Central	Adult	1	1
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
104	Rawmarsh Leisure	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	North	Adult	1	0.5
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Central	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Central	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
116	Roundwood Golf Sports & Social Club	North	Adult	3	3
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	South	Mini (5v5)	2	1
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	South	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
119	Silverwood Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	North	Youth (9v9)	2	1.5
127	St Pauls Field	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	1
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	South	Mini (7v7)	1	1
131	Swallownest Hamlet Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	South	Mini (5v5)	3	3
134	Swinton Miners Welfare	North	Mini (5v5)	1	1
134	Swinton Miners Welfare	North	Mini (7v7)	1	1
141	Thurcroft Hub	South	Adult	1	0.5
141	Thurcroft Hub	South	Mini (7v7)	2	0.5
143	Tr Sports Centre	Central	Adult	1	1
149	Wales Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5
151	Wath Academy	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1
151	Wath Academy	North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
151	Wath Academy	North	Mini (7v7)	1	1
151	Wath Academy	North	Mini (5v5)	3	3
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	North	Youth (11v11)	3	2
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5
187	Killamarsh Junior Athletics Club & Institute	South	Adult	3	3
-	-	-	**Total**	**65**	**46.5**

Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches (14.5 match equivalent sessions per week), although there is some level of spare capacity across all pitch types. By analysis area, both the North and South analysis areas have 18 and 23.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity, respectively. In contrast, the Central Analysis Area has only five match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity per week.

Table 2.18: Summary of actual spare capacity (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	4.5	5	2.5	2	4	**18**
Central	2.5	1.5	-	0.5	0.5	**5**
South	7.5	3	1.5	5.5	6	**23.5**
Rotherham	**14.5**	**9.5**	**4**	**8**	**10.5**	**46.5**

Overplay

In Rotherham, 24 pitches across 16 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.19: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
16	Barkers Park	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
61	Greenlands Park	South	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	North	Adult	1	0.5
78	Kiveton Park	South	Adult	1	0.5
80	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	2
85	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	South	Youth (9v9)	1	1
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Youth (11v11)	2	1.5
91	Millmoor Juniors Football Club	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	1
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (11v11)	1	7.5
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Youth (9v9)	2	2.5
99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	South	Mini (7v7)	1	1
106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Junior Football Club	North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	3
117	Ruby Cook Recreation Ground	South	Youth (9v9)	1	2
120	Sitwell Junior School	Central	Youth (9v9)	1	1
124	St Bernards Catholic High School	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
132	Swinton Academy	North	Youth (11v11)	2	1
141	Thurcroft Hub	South	Youth (11v11)	1	3.5
-	-	-	**Total**	**24**	**33.5**

Most overplay is situated in the South Analysis Area (22.5 match equivalent sessions per week), the remaining overplay is split relatively evenly across the Central and North analysis areas, with six and five match equivalent sessions per week, respectively.

By pitch type, overplay is mostly on youth 11v11 pitches (20.5 match equivalent sessions per week), although a proportion is identified on each pitch type. It is most minimal on mini 7v7 (one match equivalent session per week) and absent amongst mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.20: Summary of overplay (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North	0.5	2.5	2	-	-	**5**
Central	-	5	1	-	-	**6**
South	2.5	13	6	1	-	**22.5**
Rotherham	**3**	**20.5**	**9**	**1**	**0**	**33.5**

A large degree of overplay is generated from poor quality pitches (23 match equivalent sessions per week or 69%). This therefore means that quality improvements would have a significant impact on the identified capacity pressures.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.21: Summary and demand for adult pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	4.5	0.5	4	1.5	2.5
Central	2.5	-	2.5	1	1.5
South	7.5	2.5	5	2	3
Rotherham	**14.5**	**3**	**11.5**	**4.5**	**7**

The table above shows that there is currently spare capacity of 11.5 match equivalent session per week on adult pitches in Rotherham. Spare capacity is identified across each analysis area, with it being most prevalent in the South Analysis Area (five match equivalent sessions per week).

After considering future demand, the actual spare capacity diminishes to seven match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	5	2.5	2.5	1	1.5
Central	1.5	5	3.5	1	4.5
South	3	13	10	2.5	12.5
Rotherham	**9.5**	**20.5**	**11**	**4.5**	**15.5**

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Rotherham. Spare capacity is identified in the North Analysis Area (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst shortfalls can be found in the Central and South analysis areas. In the South Analysis Area, the shortfall is particularly large (10 match equivalent sessions per week).

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.23: Supply and demand for youth 9v9 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	2.5	2	0.5	-	0.5
Central	-	1	1	1	2
South	1.5	6	4.5	2	6.5
Rotherham	**4**	**9**	**5**	**3**	**8**

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Rotherham. Spare capacity is identified in the North Analysis Area (0.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst a shortfall can be found in the both the Central and South analysis areas.

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to eight match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	2	-	2	0.5	1.5
Central	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
South	5.5	1	4.5	2	2.5
Rotherham	**8**	**1**	**7**	**3**	**4**

The table above shows that there is currently spare capacity of seven match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches in Rotherham. Spare capacity is identified in each of the analysis areas.

After considering future demand, the spare capacity reduces to four match equivalent sessions per week. No future deficits are predicted.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.25: Supply and demand for mini 5v5 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	4	-	4	0.5	3.5
Central	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
South	6	-	6	1.5	4.5
Rotherham	**10.5**	**0**	**10.5**	**2.5**	**8**

The table above shows that there is currently spare capacity of 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches in Rotherham. Spare capacity is identified in each of the analysis areas.

After considering future demand, the spare capacity reduces to eight match equivalent sessions per week.

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Rotherham supply and demand balance by pitch type.

Table 2.26: Summary of analysis for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	14.5	3	11.5	4.5	7
Youth 11v11	9.5	20.5	11	4.5	15.5
Youth 9v9	4	9	5	3	8
Mini 7v7	8	1	7	3	4
Mini 5v5	10.5	-	10.5	2.5	8

As seen, there are currently shortfalls of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types, whereas overall spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. When considering future demand, the deficits of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 capacity increases, whilst adult pitch types are forecast to diminish but still remain.

In conclusion, the analysis shows that the level of grass football pitch supply in Rotherham is insufficient to meet demand, although this is only in relation to youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 formats. As such, the deficits are relatively modest, and in isolation do not result in an overarching need for additional provision (although new provision may be required to support additional future demand e.g., from housing growth). The proceeding Strategy document will therefore take this forward and identify alternative ways to overcome the shortfalls.

Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified across 65 pitches and totals 46.5 match equivalent sessions per week, whereas overplay is found on 24 pitches and equates to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There are current and future shortfalls of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types, whereas overall spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- The analysis shows that the level of grass football pitch supply is insufficient to meet demand, although only in relation to youth football.

Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 237 grass football pitches across 81 sites in Rotherham, with 213 pitches across 69 sites identified as being available for community use.
- There are currently 27 pitches across 25 sites which are not currently marked out but have been in the past (disused).
- Of the community available pitches, most are managed by education providers (73), whilst 46 are managed by the Council and 22 by a parish or town council.
- Whilst tenure is generally secure across Rotherham, 16 clubs are accessing unsecure sites, most of which are schools.
- There are 54 good quality community available pitches, 110 standard quality pitches and 49 poor quality pitches.
- A total of 16 sites have received a PitchPower assessment, whilst 16 have received FF investment for quality improvements.
- 10 sites are considered to have poor quality ancillary facilities, whereas many additional sites are without any purposeful provision.

Demand summary

- In total there are 556 teams across 117 clubs which are identified as playing within Rotherham, with this equating to 130 adult teams, 151 youth 11v11 teams, 99 youth 9v9 teams, 94 mini 7v7 teams and 82 mini 5v5 teams.
- There are currently 39 women's teams and 55 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Rotherham, representing 17% of all demand.
- Two men's and one women's team play within the NLS.
- A total of 18 clubs identify latent demand in that they could field additional teams if they had access to more or better quality pitch provision.
- Three clubs import some level of demand from Sheffield.
- Of responding clubs, 10 quantify aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 59 teams.
- Population growth forecasts a growth of 35 teams, with this equating to nine adult, 15 youth and 11 mini teams.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 3G Pitch Register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. RFL Stadium pitches require testing every two years and is slightly above the requirements for WR22/RFL Community pitches which requires retesting every two years. Community games can be played on RFL Community compliant pitches, but Tiers 1 & 2 must be played on a RFL Stadium compliant surface if they intend to play on 3G. Training demand can take place on both RFL Stadium and RFL Community pitches.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower-level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch should measure 106 x 68 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller sized pitches can, however, be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

For rugby league, the preferred size of a 3G pitch must measure 116 x 68 metres, with a maximum size 3G pitch measuring 122 x 68 metres and for a minimum size 3G pitch it must measure 100 x 55 metres all with a standard three metre run off.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sports, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., for football, a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

For the purposes of the PPS, all 11v11 3G pitches 91m x 55m or larger are considered as 11v11 supply.

There are six 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham across the same number of sites. All six pitches are sports lit and available for community use, as summarised in the following table.

Table 3.1: 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting	Pitch size (metres)
21	1041700	Blackout13.Com Arena	S25 2PS	South	Yes	Yes	100 x 64
40	30010083	Chapman Fields	S26 5QQ	South	Yes	Yes	100 x 64
51	1002916	DVC Sports	S63 7EW	North	Yes	Yes	96 x 60
84	1201700	Maltby Academy	S66 8AB	South	Yes	Yes	100 x 64
143	1004770	Tr Sports Centre	S60 2BE	Central	Yes	Yes	92 x 60
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	Yes	92 x 55

Three of the 11v11 3G pitches are located in the South Analysis Area, two are in the North Analysis Area and one is in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of 11v11 pitches
North	2
Central	1
South	3
Rotherham	**6**

As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 10 smaller sized outdoor 3G pitches across six sites in Rotherham. All of these are serviced by sports lighting, although only nine pitches are available to the community.

Community use on the pitch at Parkgate Astro has been discounted as the pitch is programmed to deliver principally non-affiliated football activity, with only Rotherham United Community Trust currently being accommodated. The other unavailable pitch is at St Bede's Catholic Primary School.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Pitch size (metres)
77	30006468	Kiveton Community Sports Park	S26 6LR	South	Yes	Yes	73 x 46
97	30007837	Parkgate Astro	S62 6HQ	North	Yes[9]	Yes	55 x 37
123	30008295	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	S61 1PD	Central	No	Yes	50 x 30
136	30009781	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	S65 2UF	Central	Yes	Yes	31 x 17
136	30009781	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	S65 2UF	Central	Yes	Yes	31 x 17
136	30009781	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	S65 2UF	Central	Yes	Yes	31 x 17
136	30009781	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	S65 2UF	Central	Yes	Yes	31 x 17
136	30009781	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	S65 2UF	Central	Yes	Yes	31 x 17
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	Yes	Yes	65 x 40
167	1201705	Winterhill School	S61 2BD	Central	Yes	Yes	58 x 39

Most of the smaller sized pitch provision is provided in the Central Analysis Area (seven of 10 – 70%), followed by the South Analysis Area providing two smaller sized pitches (20%) and the North Analysis Area providing one smaller sized pitch (10%).

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

[9] Pitch is not considered in the FA Training Model.

Figure 3.1 identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Rotherham, regardless of size.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Rotherham



Future supply

Wath Academy has aspirations to construct a second 11v11 3G pitch. No planning application has been submitted, but plans have been drawn up for the new pitch together with an accompanying new build pavilion and adjacent car parking.

Sheffield & Hallamshire FA has recently relocated from its business park offices at Meadowhall to Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park. It aspires to explore how it can play a greater role as a partner and/or facilities operator across a range of secondary sites spanning the four main local authorities within its region, including Rotherham. It is keen to open discussions with local authorities and other partners regarding the prospect of taking a greater lead in the operation of facilities.

Aspirations to develop a 3G pitch at Killamarsh Juniors Athletic Club Institute exist; whilst the site lies directly on the border with Rotherham, it is deemed a North East Derbyshire site for planning purposes. However, FF and S&HF report that if such a development is to be realised at the site, this would draw demand from clubs in Rotherham.

Rotherham Borough Council are considering the potential of developing a 3G pitch at Herringthorpe Playing Fields. In order to determine the feasibility of this, the Council is currently establishing a masterplan for the site.

FA 3G Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA Quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain on the Register, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the National League System (Step 1-6).

In Rotherham, all of the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, with the table below highlighting the current accreditation period.

Table 3.4: Summary of FA accreditation

Site ID	Site name	FA registered?	Expiry
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	Yes	31/05/2026
40	Chapman Fields	Yes	31/05/2027
51	DVC Sports	Yes	31/05/2028
84	Maltby Academy	Yes	31/05/2027
143	Tr Sports Centre	Yes	31/05/2027
151	Wath Academy	Yes	31/05/2028

In addition, the smaller sized pitches located at Kiveton Community Sports Park and Parkgate Astro are also on the FA 3G Pitch Register and therefore can accommodate match play (mini demand).

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification included a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Rotherham, there are currently no 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant.

RFL compliant pitches

3G pitches for rugby league are classed as either RFL Community or RFL Stadium. RFL Community is suitable for Tiers 4-6 and training; if used for competitive games they should be tested every two years, and if it only used training only then every three years. RFL Stadium pitches are considered suitable for match play use in Tiers 1-3 and should be retested annually if used for competitive games.

The aforementioned World Rugby testing complies with the RFL Community element of this, but the frequency of retest is different should the 3G be used for competitive rugby league. The RFL Stadium criteria requires an additional test.

In Rotherham, there are currently no 3G pitches which are RFL compliant.

Management

Four of the six 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers, with only two 11v11 3G pitches located at Blackout13.com Arena and Chapman Fields separate to this. The former is managed by Dinnington Resource Centre, whilst the latter is managed by Kiveton Park FC.

There is more of a mixture with the smaller sized 3G pitches in Rotherham. Five are managed by a commercial operator at The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre), three are managed by education providers (30%), one is managed by a CCO (Rotherham United Community Trust) and one is managed by a community organisation at Kiveton Community Sports Park.

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham. This uses Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based the following 34 hours a week - Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site name	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	34	Availability from 09:00 until 21:00 everyday, although this is limited when matches are scheduled.
40	Chapman Fields	34	Availability from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends.
51	DVC Sports	29.5	Availability from 08:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to

Site ID	Site name	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
			15:30 on Saturdays and from 08:00 until 14:00 on Sundays.
84	Maltby Academy	18	Availability from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday. No community use on the weekends.
143	Tr Sports Centre	31	Availability from 17:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 14:00 on weekends.
151	Wath Academy	30	Availability from 18:00 to 21:30 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends.

As seen, availability is relatively good across the provision, with most pitches accessible for at least 29 of the 34 peak period hours. The only exception is the provision at Maltby Academy, where no weekend availability is offered. This will be having a particular impact on its potential use for matches, despite FA compliancy.

In relation to smaller sized pitches, availability is generally similar, other than at Parkgate Astro and St Bede's Catholic Primary School. All remaining pitches are accessible at the very least on weekday evenings and at weekends.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately 10 years', and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishments beyond this period.

In Rotherham, the 11v11 3G pitch located at Maltby Academy is assessed as standard quality, whilst the remaining 11v11 3G pitches are all considered to be good quality (none are poor quality).

Table 3.6: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site name	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	2022	Good
40	Chapman Fields	2022	Good
51	DVC Sports	2014	Good
84	Maltby Academy	2015	Standard
143	Tr Sports Centre	2019	Good
151	Wath Academy	2023	Good

The pitch at Maltby Academy is assessed as standard quality primarily due to general wear and tear, with the surface now being 10 years old. This means that imminent resurfacing is recommended.

The lifespan of the pitch at DVC Sports has also been exceeded, although it remains a good quality pitch. This is due to a regular and thorough maintenance programme.

In addition to above, there are three good quality and seven are standard quality smaller size 3G pitches, as shown in the following table.

Table 3.7: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
77	Kiveton Community Sports Park	2016	Good
97	Parkgate Astro	2025	Good
123	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	2019	Standard
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	2021	Standard
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	2021	Standard
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	2021	Standard
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	2021	Standard
136	The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	2021	Standard
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	2019	Standard
167	Winterhill School	2022	Good

Similar to the 11v11 3G pitches, no significant reports of quality issues have been raised during consultation. Furthermore, all pitches are within their recommended lifespans, with the provision at Kiveton Community Sports Park being the oldest (nine years).

At Parkgate Astro, the pitch has recently undergone resurfacing; this has been reflected in its quality score.

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision in Rotherham is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate, with no issues raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This also applies to both midweek training demand and weekend usage given that each pitch is also on the FA 3G Pitch Register to host competitive matches.

Currently, it is considered that all the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, although this varies from usage from affiliated clubs to recreational groups and commercial league activity. Many of the pitches have large clubs tied to them, which gives them a prominent userbase that is then supplemented by other clubs as well as other forms of demand.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in Rotherham, where known (it is not for Blackout13.Com Arena or DVC Sports). This is based on booking sheets supplied by the operators, feedback from clubs during the consultation process and affiliation data. It is then compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's FPM.

As seen, midweek and weekend availability is currently close to capacity across the sites where information is known. In total, only seven hours of midweek spare capacity and eight hours of weekend spare capacity is identified.

Table 3.8: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches across Rotherham

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	Dinnington Town Juniors FC	18	*Unknown*	16	*Unknown*
40	Chapman Fields	Kiveton Park FC	18	16	16	16
51	DVC Sports	Ring O' Bells Old Boys	18	*Unknown*	11.5	*Unknown*
84	Maltby Academy	Maltby Juniors FC, Maltby Main FC, Ravenfield Arms FC and TSF Partnership Football Academy	18	13	0	0
143	Tr Sports Centre	Brinsworth Whitehill Juniors FC	18	18	13	13
151	Wath Academy	Crown Inn Newhill FC, Dearne Dragons Juniors FC, Queens Taproom FC, Swinton Ring O' Bells, Team Sport FC and Wath Stars Juniors FC	14	14	16	8

The usage levels of smaller sized pitches has been harder to determine, with booking sheets not supplied by the operators. However, it can be assumed that greater levels of availability remain, with such provision generally less in demand from clubs due to size limitations. This particularly applies to matchday usage at weekends.

Conversely, smaller sized pitches can receive higher levels of recreational and commercial use when compared to 11v11 provision, particularly when multiple pitches are provided at one venue as is the case at The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre). This is because they better lend themselves to small-sided activity.

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

Across Rotherham, 12 football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a relatively high proportion of unmet demand. Some of these are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.

Across the clubs, 129 teams are represented, which is a significant number, with 71 of the teams not currently accessing any 3G provision for training (55%). The clubs expressing this demand and sites presently used are summarised in the following table.

Table 3.9: Current training facilities of clubs reporting unmet/latent 3G pitch demand

Club name	Site ID	Site	Surface
Bramley Sunnyside JFC	19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	Grass
Bramley Sunnyside JFC	141	Thurcroft Hub	Grass
Bramley Sunnyside JFC Girls	19	Bill Hawes Recreation Ground	Grass
Bramley Sunnyside JFC Girls	141	Thurcroft Hub	Grass
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	Grass
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC	143	Tr Sports Centre	3G
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC Girls	99	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	Grass
Brinsworth Whitehill JFC Girls	143	Tr Sports Centre	3G
Club Brinsworth FC	-	-	-
Greasbrough Youth FC	115	Roughwood Road Recreation Ground	Grass
Lord Reresby FC	68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	Grass
Mexborough Rangers JFC	51	DVC Sports	3G
Mexborough Rangers JFC	129	Stelrad Park	Grass
Rawmarsh St Joseph's JFC	106	Rawmarsh St Joseph Jfc	Grass
Wathletico FC	151	Wath Academy	3G
Wickersley Youth FC	164	Wickersley School & Sports College	3G
Wickersley Youth Girls FC	164	Wickersley School & Sports College	3G

No unmet or latent 3G demand has been identified for any sport other than football.

Exported/imported demand

There are 25 teams from across three clubs (Aston Swallownest Juniors FC, Rotherham United Community Sports Trust and Rotherham United FC) that are identified as exporting demand outside of Rotherham to access 3G provision for match demand. This is summarised in the following table. It is due to the use of central venues within the leagues that the clubs access.

Table 3.10: Exported demand for 3G pitches

Club name	Teams	Site	Local authority
Aston Swallownest Juniors FC	2x adult men's teams	Concord Sports Centre	Sheffield
Aston Swallownest Juniors FC	2x adult men's teams	Eco-Power Stadium	Doncaster
Aston Swallownest Juniors FC	1x adult men's team	Leisure United Woodbourn Road	Sheffield
Aston Swallownest Juniors FC	1x adult women's team	Leisure United Woodbourn Road	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	4x adult men's teams	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	1x adult women's team	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	1x youth 11v11 boys' team	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	2x youth 11v11 girls' teams	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	1x youth 9v9 girls' team	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United Community Sports Trust	1x mini 7v7 team	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United FC	5x youth 11v11 boys' teams	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United FC	2x youth 9v9 boys' teams	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United FC	1x mini 7v7 team	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield
Rotherham United FC	1x mini 5v5 teams	Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park	Sheffield

In addition, two teams from Dearne Dragons Juniors FC import demand into Rotherham from Barnsley. This is via the 3G pitch at Wath Academy for its match demand.

No displaced 3G demand has been identified for any other sport.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 35 football teams in Rotherham. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will therefore be subject to scenarios in Strategy document.

In addition, although no rugby union or rugby league demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with non-suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in other section of this report. This would be particularly relevant in the case of Dinnington RUFC and Rotherham Phoenix RUFC, given the current overplay of their grass pitches.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training; however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling in Rotherham is therefore summarised in the table below, which then informs the proceeding modelling tables.

Table 3.10: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
11v11 size				
Blackout13.Com Arena	South	100 x 64	Available for community use.	1
Chapman Fields	South	100 x 64	Available for community use.	1
DVC Sports	North	96 x 60	Available for community use.	1
Maltby Academy	South	100 x 64	Available for community use.	1
Tr Sports Centre	Central	92 x 60	Available for community use.	1
Wath Academy	North	92 x 55	Available for community use.	1
Smaller size				
Kiveton Community Sports Park	South	73 x 46	Available for community use.	0.75
Parkgate Astro	North	55 x 37	No accommodation of affiliated community football (blocked out by Rotherham United Community Trust).	-
St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Central	50 x 30	Unavailable for community use.	-
The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	Central	31 x 17	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	Central	31 x 17	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	Central	31 x 17	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	Central	31 x 17	Discounted due to commercial use.	-

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
The Team Sport (Fitzwilliam Centre)	Central	31 x 17	Discounted due to commercial use.	-
Wickersley School & Sports College	South	65 x 40	Large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	0.25
Winterhill School	Central	58 x 39	Large enough for mini 7v7 football usage.	0.25
-	-	-	**Total**	**7.25**

No clubs currently report using any of the pitches for training that have been discounted in the table above, further evidencing their unsuitability for this purpose.

In addition to affiliated football demand in Rotherham (556 teams), exported demand (25 teams), walking football (seven teams), disability teams (13 teams), education teams (16 teams) and U6 teams (three teams) are all included for the modelling. In comparison, the six teams recorded as imported demand are taken away. This is because each is expected to contribute to training demand for 3G pitches. Therefore, given there is a total of 614 teams which originate in Rotherham, there is a theoretical need for 16.25 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 16.16), meaning a current shortfall of nine pitches.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham (38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
614	16.25	7.25	9

When considering future demand for an additional 35 teams (based on population growth up to 2040), there is potential demand for 17 11v11 3G pitches overall. This means a theoretical future shortfall of 9.75 pitches.

Table 3.12: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham (38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
649	17	7.25	9.75

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.13: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches
North	144	3.75	2	1.75
Central	119	3.25	1.25	2
South	351	9.25	4	5.25
Rotherham	**614**	**16.25**	**7.25**	**9**

This shows an overall shortfall of nine 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, equal to the shortfall across Rotherham as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in all analysis areas, with each needing at least one additional pitch. The largest deficit equates to 5.25 pitches in the South Analysis Area, with a shortfall of two pitches in the Central Analysis Area and 1.75 pitches in the North Analysis Area.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is one the FA 3G Pitch Register, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Rotherham, all of the 11v11 3G pitches and two smaller sized pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and can therefore host competitive matches, with 129 affiliated teams registered as using the provision currently. Whilst this is a considerable number, especially compared to most other authorities, there are opportunities for this to be further increased.

As the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where sports lights are in place, with one pitch often designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate grass training area. This tends to result in deterioration in pitch quality, sometimes coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

As mentioned previously, there are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Rotherham with the nearest pitch located at Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park (Sheffield). This means that no rugby union demand is currently taking place across the supply; however, there is evidence to warrant the creation of suitable provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident in Part 4 of this report.

The above particularly relates to Dinnington RUFC (South Analysis Area), Rotherham Phoenix RUFC (Central Analysis Area) and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC (North Analysis Area), given the levels of overplay their grass pitches receive. Whilst other solutions to alleviate these deficits may be possible, they could be difficult to achieve and would not be as impactful (this will be tested in the subsequent Strategy document).

Rugby league

Rotherham Nomads trains on Monday evenings on the 3G pitch at Parkgate Astro.

Other sports

Currently, no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Rotherham (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, no demand for access has been identified, meaning no action is required in this regard.

3.5: Conclusion

There is an insufficient supply of 3G pitches in Rotherham to meet football requirements. This is clear through the high levels of unmet demand identified, as well as through the current and future training demand shortfalls that have been evidenced across the Borough. There is a theoretical current shortfall of nine 11v11 3G pitches, increasing to an anticipated future shortfall of 9.75 11v11 3G pitches. Increasing the supply along these lines will also better accommodate match play activity (if compliant).

For rugby union, evidence exists to support the creation of World Rugby compliant provision given the large grass pitch shortfalls that have been identified. Resolving this could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if it is adjudged that the provision would receive enough usage and be sustainable without football demand.

Supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of 3G provision to meet football requirements, with large shortfalls identified across the Borough to meet training demand (in each analysis area)
- For rugby union, evidence exists to support the creation of World Rugby compliant provision given the large grass pitch shortfalls that have been identified.
- X-League rugby league activity is identified on the 3G pitch at Parkgate Astro.

Supply summary

- There are six 11v11 3G pitches in Rotherham across the same number of sites, with all six pitches sports lit and available for community use.
- There are also 10 smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites in Rotherham, with each serviced by sports lighting and nine considered to be available to the community.
- All six full size as well as the smaller sized pitches at Kiveton Community Sports Park and Parkgate Astro are FA approved to accommodate match play.
- No pitches are World Rugby or RFL compliant.
- Four of the six 11v11 3G pitches are managed by education providers with only two 11v11 3G pitches located at Blackout13.com Arena and Chapman Fields are separate to this.
- Availability is relatively good across the provision, with the only exception being at Maltby Academy, where no weekend accessibility is offered.
- The 11v11 3G pitch located at Maltby Academy is assessed as standard quality, whilst the remaining 11v11 3G pitches are good quality.
- All smaller sized 3G pitches are good or standard quality, with each within its recommended lifespan.
- No ancillary facility issues have been identified.

Demand summary

- The majority of 3G provision currently servicing Rotherham is reported by providers and clubs as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- In total, only seven hours of midweek spare capacity and eight hours of weekend spare capacity is identified across the 11v11 stock.
- Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 129 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- A total of 12 clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a high proportion of unmet demand (129 teams are represented).
- There are 25 teams exporting 3G pitch demand outside of Rotherham (to Sheffield).
- If future demand from population projections and club aspirations is realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for football.
- Future demand could also exist for rugby union and rugby league based on the current supply and demand picture.

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-aside, 10-aside, 7-aside and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season generally operates from September to May. Dinnington RUFC plays in the Counties 2 Yorkshire of Northern Division, Maltby RUFC plays in the Counties 4 Yorkshire of Southern Division, Rotherham Phoenix RUFC plays in the Counties 3 Yorkshire of Northern Division, Rotherham Titans RUFC plays in the National League 1 and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC plays in the Counties 1 Yorkshire of Northern Division.

Consultation

There are five rugby union clubs in Rotherham, with two responding consultation requests (Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC).

Table 4.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Dinnington RUFC	Yes
Maltby RUFC	No
Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	No
Rotherham Titans RUFC	No
Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Yes

4.2: Supply

Within Rotherham, there are 20 grass rugby union pitches identified across 13 unique sites. All of the pitches across the Borough are available at some level for community use, albeit not all are currently being accessed.

As seen via the following table, the North Analysis Area provides the most pitches (10), whereas the fewest are found in the South Analysis Area (four).

Table 4.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. pitches
North	10
Central	6
South	4
Rotherham	**20**

For reference, the audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, it is recognised that there are often some additional marked spaces that can be used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby.

Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)[10]
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

No disused pitches are identified.

Future supply

A proposal is in place at for the re-build of Wales High School, with the existing plans impacting upon the playing field provision. It is set out that three rugby union pitches will still be provided following the development, with these measuring 101 x 59 metres, 94 x 55 metres and 60 x 43 metres. However, it is proposed that each will also be a dual use football pitch as well as having summer sport over markings (e.g., athletics and rounders). The existing pitches are dedicated to rugby union.

From the beginning of the 2025/26 season, two pitches are to be marked out at Maltby Manor Fields and Maltby RUFC are to move to the site and no longer use Maltby Miners Welfare.

Figure 4.1 below shows the location of the rugby union pitches. For a key to the map, see Table 4.9.

[10] Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Rotherham



Management and security of tenure

Of the 20 pitches provided, nine are operated by clubs and nine are operated by schools, with the remaining two being managed by the Council.

Table 4.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

Club	Council	Education	Other
9	2	9	-

In relation to clubs, tenure of the sites that they use is generally secure, particularly regarding primary venues. Dinnington RUFC as an example has a 999-year lease of its site (Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club) from the Council, with it fully managing the maintenance of the provision as part of this. However, the Club also occasionally utilises Dinnington High School, which is said to be unsecure as no formal, long-term agreement is in place.

Rotherham Phoenix RUFC and Rotherham Titans RUFC also have long-term tenure of their sites, with these accessing Phoenix Park and Clifton Park, respectively. These two clubs are based entirely at these sites, with no secondary venues utilised.

Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC splits its activity across four venues, with Wath Pump House Field and the adjacent Wath Cricket Club primarily used. This is via a rental agreement, which provides security of tenure as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering. However, the RFU notes that a long-term lease agreement would be preferred as this can be more beneficial, particularly when it comes to site development and funding applications.

The Club also accesses both Wath Academy and St Pius X Catholic High School, particularly for training and age grade activity. With no formal community use agreements in place, this is via unsecure arrangements, albeit no issues are reported. At St Pius X Catholic High School, no formal rugby union provision is marked out, with the general playing field instead accessed (grids are occasionally marked out).

As for Maltby RUFC, the Club operates at Maltby Miners Welfare under an unsecure tenure, with no long-term agreement in place with the community organisation operating the site. As part of the Club's relocation to Maltby Manor Fields (council-owned site), it will operate at the site under a secure tenure, as per the Council's ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

Of the 20 pitches that are available for community use in Rotherham, 11 pitches (55%) provide secure tenure for rugby union participation, ensuring long-term and reliable access for users. In contrast, nine pitches (45%) operate with an unsecure tenure, creating potential vulnerability in sustaining current levels of activity and future demand.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5-metre centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1-metre centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the pitches in Rotherham, three are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.

Table 4.8: Quality of pitches available for community use

Pitch quality		
Good	Standard	Poor
3	13	4

One of the good quality pitches is located at Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, with a higher level of maintenance carried out on the provision (M2/D1) when compared to the other two pitches at the site (M1/D1). The Club also reports that it is looking to improve the under-footing around the pitches, in addition to seeking investment into better maintenance machinery that will aid further enhancements.

One of the pitches at Phoenix Park is also assessed as good quality (M2/D1), with the other two pitches at the site considered to be standard (M1/D1). The remaining good quality pitch is the sole pitch at Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane).

In contrast, none of the poor quality pitches are currently accessed by clubs, with them all found at education (Wales High School) and council (Baths Field) sites.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

Table 4.9: Pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user/s	Management	Tenure	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Quality score	Quality rating
18	1202885	Baths Field	S63 7DH	North	-	Council	Secure	Yes-unused	No	M0/D1	Poor
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Dinnington RUFC	Education	Unsecure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Dinnington RUFC	Education	Unsecure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
50	1202792	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	S25 2PB	South	Dinnington RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
50	1202792	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	S25 2PB	South	Dinnington RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
50	1202792	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	S25 2PB	South	Dinnington RUFC	Community Organisation	Secure	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
88	1202759	Maltby Miners Welfare	S66 7JQ	South	Maltby RUFC	Community Organisation	Unsecure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
95	1201828	Oakwood High School	S60 2UH	Central	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D1	Standard
98	30009280	Phoenix Park	S65 2PS	Central	Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
98	30009280	Phoenix Park	S65 2PS	Central	Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
98	30009280	Phoenix Park	S65 2PS	Central	Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	Yes	M2/D1	Good
112	1041740	Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane)	S60 2SN	Central	Rotherham Titans RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	Yes	M2/D1	Good
143	1004770	Tr Sports Centre	S60 2BE	Central	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D1	Standard
148	1201878	Wales High School	S26 5QQ	South	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D0	Poor
148	1201878	Wales High School	S26 5QQ	South	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D0	Poor
148	1201878	Wales High School	S26 5QQ	South	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D0	Poor
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Education	Unsecure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
153	1202787	Wath Cricket Club	S63 7RW	North	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
154	1202886	Wath Pump House Field	S63 7DQ	North	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Council	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	-	Education	Unsecure	Yes-unused	No	M1/D1	Standard

Sports lighting

As also identified in Table 4.9, three sports-lit pitches are identified at Phoenix Park, with one also in place at each of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane) and Wath Pump House Field. Such provision can enable training demand to take place on the pitches, in addition to match play, although this can then have capacity consequences due to the intensification of use.

From a club perspective, only Maltby RUFC is without access to a sports-lit pitch.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms and car parking, combined with the quality of such provision. In this regard, good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby union clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches the facilities service, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics. This includes:

- Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing rooms, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many users, resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document, regardless of their overall condition.

The table details the ancillary facility quality in Rotherham for the sites accessed by clubs, with additional context behind the rationale for the findings also provided. Unused sites are not featured given that there is no current demand for access.

Table 4.10: Summary of ancillary provision servicing rugby union sites

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
49	Dinnington High School	Dinnington RUFC	Standard	Standard	Changing facilities are available at the site; however, these are not generally accessed due to nature of usage by Dinnington RUFC (mostly age grade activity).

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	Dinnington RUFC	Good	Good	The site has eight full size changing rooms, all with showers, as well as a physio room, officials' room, reception area, kitchen, function room, bar, laundry room and an onsite gym.
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby RUFC	Standard	Standard	A large clubhouse with changing rooms, a function room, bar and kitchen.
98	Phoenix Park	Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	N/A	N/A	No clubhouse or changing rooms are identified onsite, with provision at Clifton Lane instead accessed.
112	Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane)	Rotherham Titans RUFC	Standard	Standard	A large facility with changing rooms, a function room, bar and kitchen. This is often hired out for external events.
151	Wath Academy	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Standard	Standard	Changing facilities are available at the site; however, these are not generally accessed due to nature of usage by Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC (mostly age grade activity).
153	Wath Cricket Club	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	Good	Good	The site has a clubhouse with changing rooms that include segregated showers. Dedicated officials' room is also provided, as is a small function room.
154	Wath Pump House Field	Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	N/A	N/A	The area does not have its own ancillary provision, with facilities at Wath Cricket Club instead utilised.

As seen, Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC are serviced by good quality facilities, whilst Maltby and Rotherham Titans rugby clubs have standard quality provision. The main issue across these sites is generally the age of the buildings, with some level of refurbishment required across the venues.

Contrastingly, Rotherham Phoenix RUFC is without dedicated provision at its site (Phoenix Park), with no clubhouse provided. A planning application has also been submitted at this site for the siting of two storage containers.

At Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, an aspiration exists to upgrade and increase the toilet facilities, beginning with the women's and girls' provision. This is despite the overall good quality of the clubhouse and changing rooms at the site.

For Wath-upon-Deane RUFC, no issues are reported in regards the facilities at Wath Cricket Club; the site has recently been refurbished, providing a new bar area and function room.

4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Rotherham tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive demand

There are five clubs based in Rotherham, collectively providing a total of 52 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of nine senior men's, 20 age grade boys', seven aged grade girls' and 16 age grade mixed teams.

The demand is summarised by club in the following table. As seen, Dinnington, Rotherham Phoenix and Wath-upon-Dean rugby clubs are large clubs with significant senior and age grade sections, whereas both Maltby RUFC and Rotherham Titans RUFC field just one or two teams.

Table 4.11: Summary of demand by club (number of teams)

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Dinnington RUFC	South	2	-	7	4	5
Maltby RUFC	South	2	-	-	-	-
Rotherham Phoenix RUFC	Central	2	-	7	3	6
Rotherham Titans RUFC	Central	1	-	1	-	-
Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	North	2	-	5	-	5
Total	**-**	**9**	**0**	**20**	**7**	**16**

The demand is relatively evenly split across the three analysis areas. There are 20 teams in the South Analysis Area, 20 in the Central Analysis Area and 12 in the North Analysis Area.

Table 4.12: Summary of demand by analysis area (number of teams)

Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
North	2	-	5	-	5
Central	3	-	8	3	6
South	4	-	7	4	5
Rotherham	**9**	**0**	**20**	**7**	**16**

Although there are currently no dedicated senior women's teams, there is a good level of female participation at age grade level. In addition, Dennington RUFC previously fielded a senior team and has an aspiration to re-establish this over the coming years (see future demand section).

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby union teams train at their home ground on match provision. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

In Rotherham, Dinnington RUFC, Rotherham Phoenix RUFC, Rotherham Titans RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC all access their sports-lit pitches for training, with this equating to high levels of demand given the number of teams that are fielded by each. Dinnington RUFC as an example, reports that it utilises its provision on each day of the week. Each club currently train on a pitch that is also used to cater for match demand.

In addition to utilising sports-lit provision at Wath Pump House Field, Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC also accesses both Wath Academy and St Pius X Catholic High School for some training activity, albeit the latter does not have marked out rugby union provision. In both cases, this is predominately for age grade activity.

Maltby RUFC trains twice a week, once on Tuesdays and once on Thursdays. On a Tuesday, it uses its provision at Maltby Miners Welfare, despite the lack of sports lighting, whereas a sports-lit pitch at Phoenix Park is used on Thursdays.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Rotherham, although evidence could exist to support and/or warrant the establishment of provision. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported/imported demand

No rugby union demand is identified as being exported from Rotherham, with all clubs using provision within the Borough for all their demand. Similarly, no imported demand into Rotherham is identified.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent demand relating to rugby union provision is identified. However, both Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC identify that they have capacity issues across their primary venues, with this leading to them needing to use other sites.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined through multiple ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that can be used to estimate additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments across Rotherham.

Participation growth

Both Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC report aspirations to grow their demand, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of nine teams. Dinnington RUFC has an aim to increase its age grade demand across the formats of play, noting that it will never turn away younger players, whilst also wanting to re-establish a senior women's team and create a third senior men's team.

Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC also wants to create a third senior men's team in addition to establishing an age grade girls' team.

Table 4.13: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs (number of teams)

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Dinnington RUFC	South	1	1	2	2	2
Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC	North	1	-	-	1	-
Total	**-**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**2**

Aspirations relating to other clubs are at this stage are unknown.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (in line with the Council's Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Current number of teams	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population
Men (19-45yrs)	9	1:4,710	1
Women (19-45yrs)	0	-	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	20	1:489	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	7	1:1,369	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	16	1:1,270	1

As seen, growth of one senior men's, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team is projected. However, when this applied on an analysis area basis, it does not equate to a whole team for any of the formats.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused on certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal increases within each format of play. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and the recent 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025

The expanded showcase event was hosted across eight venues and cities around England (Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York) with 16 teams competing. The country-wide format made it the most accessible Women's Rugby World Cup ever, offering an unparalleled opportunity for fans to see, engage with and support the stars of the women's game in towns and cities across England.

The Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 represented a generational moment for global rugby, setting new standards, welcoming new fans and families to the sport, and inspiring a new generation of players. As a result, its impact now needs to be monitored throughout the lifespan of the PPS, following the event.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby union. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

Table 4.15: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Using the above, the following assumptions are then applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby union matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- For senior and age grade boys/girls' teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- Play per week for age grade mixed teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (80-90 minutes of training equates to one match equivalent session).
- Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, where community availability is offered, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.
- Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby union. For senior teams in Rotherham, it is considered to be Saturday PM, whilst is it is Sunday AM for all forms of age grade rugby.

Table 4.16: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Rotherham

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Tenure	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	Match usage (match equivalent sessions per week)	Training usage (match equivalent sessions per week)	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)	Comments
18	Baths Field	North	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	-	-	1.5	An unused pitch with spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions, although this is discounted due to poor quality.
49	Dinnington High School	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	2	-	0	Used to capacity through school use and occasional access by Dinnington RUFC.
49	Dinnington High School	South	Yes	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	2	-	0	Used to capacity through school use and occasional access by Dinnington RUFC.
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	7	6	Significantly overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions through accommodating both match and training demand from Dinnington RUFC.
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	2.75	-	0.75	Overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions through usage by Dinnington RUFC.
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	No	M2/D1	Good	3	3	-	0	Played to capacity by Dinnington RUFC.
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Yes	Sports Club	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	1	0	Played to capacity by Maltby RUFC.
95	Oakwood High School	Central	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of one match equivalent session, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
98	Phoenix Park	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	2.5	3	3.5	Significantly overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions through accommodating both match and training demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC.
98	Phoenix Park	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	3	3	4	Significantly overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions through accommodating both match and training demand from Rotherham Phoenix RUFC.
98	Phoenix Park	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	M2/D1	Good	3	2	1	0	Played to capacity by Rotherham Phoenix RUFC.
112	Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane)	Central	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	M2/D1	Good	3	1.5	1.5	0	Played to capacity by Rotherham Titans RUFC.
143	Tr Sports Centre	Central	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of one match equivalent session, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Tenure	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	Match usage (match equivalent sessions per week)	Training usage (match equivalent sessions per week)	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)	Comments
148	Wales High School	South	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
148	Wales High School	South	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
148	Wales High School	South	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
151	Wath Academy	North	Yes	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	2.25	1	1.25	Overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions through school use as well as match play and training demand by Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC.
153	Wath Cricket Club	North	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	2	3	3	Significantly overplayed by three match equivalent sessions through accommodating both match and training demand from Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC.
154	Wath Pump House Field	North	Yes	Council	Secure	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	0.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions by Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC.
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	South	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	A pitch unused by the community with spare capacity of one match equivalent session, although this is discounted due to unsecure tenure.

Actual spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis. In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time or that are poor quality are not considered to have actual spare capacity as usage of such provision should not be encouraged until the problems are resolved.

Furthermore, there are numerous rugby pitches in Rotherham at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would be not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, tenure at the sites is generally unsecure, meaning long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Using the above, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' of sites in Table 4.16 can be used to accommodate an increase in play on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis. This would then equate to actual spare capacity.

Table 4.17: Summary of actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitches with spare capacity	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
18	Baths Field	North	1	1.5	-	Discounted due to poor quality.
95	Oakwood High School	Central	1	1	-	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
143	Tr Sports Centre	Central	1	1	-	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
148	Wales High School	South	2	1	-	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
148	Wales High School	South	1	0.5	-	Discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
164	Wickersley School & Sports College	South	1	1	-	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.

As seen, of the seven pitches with potential spare capacity, none offer any actual spare capacity.

Overplay

There are seven pitches across five sites in Rotherham that are overplayed by a total of 19 match equivalent sessions per week. This represents a substantial level across the venues.

Table 4.18: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
50	Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club	South	2	6.75
98	Phoenix Park	Central	2	7.5
151	Wath Academy	North	1	1.25
153	Wath Cricket Club	North	1	3
154	Wath Pump House Field	North	1	0.5

At Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, Phoenix Park, Wath Cricket Club and Wath Academy, the overplay is identified on the pitches that are used to accommodate training demand in addition to match play. This therefore considerably impacts on capacity.

The overplay is found across the three analysis areas, although the most is found in the Central Analysis Area (7.5 match equivalent sessions). The least is in the North Analysis Area (4.75 match equivalent sessions).

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay by analysis area (match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
North	4.75
Central	7.5
South	6.75
Rotherham	**19**

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

The table below identifies the overall supply and demand balance for rugby union in each of the analysis areas as well as across Rotherham as a whole. This is for both current and future demand.

For future demand, with no growth forecast on an analysis area basis from population increases, the aspirations from clubs have instead been included. This is because these are said to be realistic targets.

Table 4.20: Supply and demand balance for rugby union (match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current supply and demand balance	Future demand	Future supply and demand balance
North	-	4.75	4.75	1	5.75
Central	-	7.5	7.5	-	7.5
South	-	6.75	6.75	3.5	10.25
Rotherham	**0**	**19**	**19**	**4.5**	**23.5**

As seen, there is a significant shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions based on current demand levels, with a deficit identified in each of the three analysis areas. When accounting for future demand, the shortfall increases to 23.5 match equivalent sessions, with a worsening picture identified in the North and South analysis areas.

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union provision in Rotherham, with this identified across the Borough as well as in all three analysis areas. Furthermore, the deficits are relatively big, with significant levels of overplay identified across multiple sites that are in use by clubs and with no sites displaying actual spare capacity. This is primarily a consequence of large levels of demand and pitches being used to accommodate both match play and training activity.

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- No actual spare capacity is identified.
- There are seven pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a combined 19 match equivalent sessions, which is substantial.
- Overall, there is a shortfall of 19 match equivalent sessions to meet current demand, with this increasing to 23.5 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union – supply summary

- There are 20 grass rugby union pitches identified across 13 sites in Rotherham.
- All pitches are available at some level for community use, albeit not all are being accessed.
- There are no WR22 compliant 3G pitches in Rotherham.
- Of the pitches, nine are operated by clubs and nine are operated by schools, with the remaining two being managed by the Council.
- Three pitches are assessed as good quality, 13 are assessed as standard quality and four are assessed as poor quality.
- Poor quality pitches are provided at Wales High School and Baths Field, neither of which are currently used by clubs.
- Three sports-lit pitches are provided at Phoenix Park, with one also in place at each of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club, Rotherham Titans Rugby Club (Clifton Lane) and Wath Pump House Field.
- The ancillary facilities in place across the Borough are assessed as good or standard quality.

Rugby union – demand summary

- Five rugby union clubs play within Rotherham consisting of 52 teams.
- As a breakdown, there are nine senior men's, 20 age grade boys', seven age grade girls' and 16 age grade mixed teams.
- No senior women's teams are currently fielded, although Dinnington RUFC has ambitions to establish a side over the coming years.
- In addition to match play demand, all clubs access sports-lit pitches for some level of training activity, with non-lit pitches at Maltby Miners Welfare, Wath Academy and St Pius X Catholic High School also utilised.
- Both Dinnington RUFC and Wath-upon-Dearne RUFC report aspirations to grow their demand, with this collectively amounting to a potential increase of nine teams.
- Increases forecast from population growth amount to one senior men's, one age grade boys' and one age grade mixed team, although no growth is identified when applied on an analysis area basis.

PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK. It also administers the amateur and junior game across the Country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

5.2: Supply

There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches within Rotherham.

5.3: Demand

There are currently no full-contact, open-age rugby league clubs based in Rotherham. The nearest are in neighbouring Sheffield, which hosts three main clubs, with these known as Sheffield Eagles RLFC (professional), Sheffield Forgers RLFC and Sheffield Hawks ARLFC. In addition, there are also university-based rugby league teams competing in the City.

Previously, Rotherham Giants RLFC had been the sole full-contact rugby league club in Rotherham, based at Herringthorpe Playing Fields. However, the Club folded a significant length of time ago - in 2012.

With no traditional club based in Rotherham, that is not to say that there is no demand. Instead, it is feasible that most demand will be exporting outside of the Borough to access clubs in nearby authorities (such as those in Sheffield). That being said, to what extent this is occurring is difficult to determine.

Rotherham Nomads (X-League)

Rotherham Nomads are a community rugby league group specialising in X-League, which is a non-contact, mixed-gender variation of the sport designed to be inclusive, social and accessible to all abilities. The format emphasises fitness, teamwork and fun rather than heavy tackling, making it a welcoming route back into rugby league for lapsed players or a gentle introduction for complete beginners.

Founded in 2024, Rotherham Nomads trains on Monday evenings on the 3G pitch at Parkgate Astro. The Club’s ethos centres on community engagement, mental and physical well-being and providing an enjoyable environment to play the sport without the intensity of the full-contact game.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis / conclusion

With no full-contact rugby league supply or demand identified in Rotherham, no current action is required in relation to the traditional form of the sport. That being said, any potential participation should be signposted to activity in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.

For Rotherham Nomads, continued access to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative) is imperative.

Rugby league – supply and demand summary

- With no full-contact rugby league supply or demand identified in Rotherham, no current action is required in relation to the traditional form of sport.
- Any potential participation should be signposted to activity in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.
- For Rotherham Nomads, continued access to the provision at Parkgate Astro (or a suitable alternative) is imperative.

Rugby league – supply summary

- There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches within Rotherham.

Rugby league – demand summary

- There are no competitive, full-contact rugby league clubs based in Rotherham.
- Rotherham Giants RLFC had been the sole full-contact rugby league club in the Borough, based at Herringthorpe Playing Fields, before it folded in 2012.
- With no club based in Rotherham, it is likely that some demand will be exporting outside of the Borough to access clubs in nearby authorities (such as in Sheffield), although to what extent is difficult to determine.

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches, and training can only be played on sand-filled, sand-dressed or water-based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2[11], is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size hockey pitch for matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres.

[11] http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596&sectionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

Consultation

There are three hockey clubs playing within Rotherham, with these being Rotherham HC, Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC. Both Rotherham HC and Phoenix Ladies HC have responded to consultation requests, whereas Chapeltown HC has been unresponsive. This results in a 66% response rate.

Rotherham HC men's first team plays in the Yorkshire & North East, Yorkshire Men's Division 2, whilst its ladies first team plays in the Yorkshire League Division 1. Chapeltown HC men's first team plays in the Yorkshire & North East, Yorkshire Men's Division 1, whilst its ladies first team plays in the Yorkshire & North East Area Women's – Peak & Wold Women's Division 1. Phoenix Ladies HC also plays in the Yorkshire & North East Area Women's – Peak & Wold Women's Division 1.

6.2: Supply

There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Rotherham, with each of these available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. The pitches are located at Aurora Playing Field, Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School.

Two of the pitches are provided in the South Analysis Area (at Aurora Playing Field and Dinnington High School), whereas one is in the Central Analysis Area (at Oakwood High School). This means that there is no such provision within the North Analysis Area.

The pitch at Aurora Playing Field is accessed by Rotherham HC, whilst the pitch at Oakwood High School is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC. The provision at Dinnington High School is therefore not currently used for any community hockey.

Regarding Aurora Playing Field, it should be noted that this is considered to form part of the wider Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park site, the bulk of which is situated within Sheffield. However, the land that hosts the hockey pitch is slightly separated and falls within the boundary of Rotherham, albeit right on the border, which is why it has been included within this study.

In addition to the full size provision, there is also a smaller sized AGP with a hockey suitable surface in Rotherham. This is at Clifton Community School (measuring 78 x 37 metres). It is in the Central Analysis Area, although it is not available for community use or serviced by sports lighting.

Nationally, many smaller sized pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones can be utilised for training demand and junior play. However, this cannot be said to be the case at Clifton Community School given that it is inaccessible and without lighting. It is therefore discounted from this point forward as it is not relevant from a hockey perspective, although it is recognised that it will be serving a multi-sport purpose for curricular and extra-curricular demand.

Table 6.2 overleaf provides a site-by-site summary of the full size pitches. For the location, please refer to Figure 6.1.

Table 6.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in the Borough

Site ID	Site	Active Places Power ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	Sports-lit?	Dimensions (metres)	Users
14	Aurora Playing Field	1103866	S60 5ND	South	Yes	Secure	Yes	98 x 58	Rotherham HC
49	Dinnington High School	1201653	S25 2NZ	South	Yes	Unsecure	Yes	105 x 66	-
95	Oakwood High School	1201828	S60 2UH	Central	Yes	Secure / Unsecure	Yes	100 x 62	Chapeltown HC Phoenix HC

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey pitches



Management and security of tenure

All three full size hockey pitches in Rotherham are managed in house by education providers, with Aurora Playing Field operated by Sheffield Hallam University and Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School operated by the respective schools.

Both Rotherham HC and Chapeltown HC are considered to have secure tenure at the sites that they use, with each having a community use agreement in place that guarantees access for at least the next three years. This relates to Aurora Playing Field for Rotherham HC (agreement expires in 2038) and Oakwood High School for Chapeltown HC.

In contrast, Phoenix HC has unsecure tenure as it only rents the provision at Oakwood High School on an annual basis.

Table 6.3: Summary of management and tenure status

Site ID	Club	Management	Users	Tenure
14	Aurora Playing Field	Education	Rotherham HC	Secure
49	Dinnington High School	Education	-	-
95	Oakwood High School	Education	Chapeltown HC/Phoenix HC	Secure / Unsecure

Availability / Usage

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the availability at each site providing a full size pitch in Rotherham is summarised in the table below. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section.

As shown, the level of availability is somewhat mixed, with full availability offered at Aurora Playing Field but with limitations in place at Dinnington High School and more so at Oakwood High School.

Table 6.4: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period (hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (hours)
14	Aurora Playing Field	Monday-Friday 09:00 – 21:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 – 17:00	18 / 18	16 / 16
49	Dinnington High School	Monday-Friday 17:30 – 21:30 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 – 15:00	15.5/18	12/16
95	Oakwood High School	Monday-Thursday 18:00 – 21:00 Friday - Closed Saturday 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday - Closed	12/18	8/16

The pitch at Dinnington High School is used by the School until 17:30 during midweek to meet curricular and extra-curricular requirements, resulting in two and a half hours that cannot be utilised by the community. Similarly, it is not fully available at weekends due to closing at 15:00.

The pitch at Oakwood High School has less availability than Dinnington High School as it is generally unavailable for use on Fridays and Sundays. This is said to be because of operational costs, particularly during summer months when less demand for access exists and therefore less income. That being said, Phoenix HC identifies that it does occasionally access the pitch on Sundays, so some room for manoeuvre is provided.

At Aurora Playing Fields, whilst full availability is offered during peak times, Rotherham HC indicates that it only accesses the provision in line with its community use agreement as any additional usage is considered too expensive. As a result, it restricts its access to Thursday evenings (18:30-21:00), Saturdays (all day) and Sundays (10:00-11:30). It also cannot hire the pitch out to any other third-party due to the cost and to protect surface quality, with the community use agreement stating that the provision can only be used for hockey and lacrosse purposes. There are no lacrosse clubs based in Rotherham.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years, and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being outside of their recommended lifespan and, consequently, poor quality.

For the PPS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments undertaken in January 2025, with this checked and challenged via provider and user consultation as well as EH input. The rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance regime that is undertaken (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

As seen in the following table, two of the pitches are considered good quality (at Aurora Playing Field and Oakwood High School), whereas one is poor quality (at Dinnington High School).

Table 6.5: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality rating
14	Aurora Playing Field	South	2017	Good
49	Dinnington High School	South	2006	Poor
95	Oakwood High School	Central	2024	Good

The pitch at Oakwood High School is rated as good quality having only recently been installed, whereas the pitch at Aurora Playing Field is assessed as such despite it being eight years old and nearing the end of its recommended lifespan. This is because it is rarely used for any demand other than that received from Rotherham HC, whilst it is also regularly maintained to a high level. The lack of football training demand on the site has also helped protect the surface, resulting in less wear and tear.
Conversely, the pitch at Dinnington High School is poor quality having not been refurbished since it was originally installed in 2006 (making the surface 19 years old). This is likely linked to its lack of hockey use, with clubs generally not wanting to utilise surfaces that are in a state of disrepair.

Ancillary provision

No significant issues have been identified through site assessments of via consultation at either Dinnington High School or Oakwood High School regarding either the quality, quantity and/or accessibility of ancillary provision.

At Aurora Playing Fields, Rotherham HC notes that the provision is not dedicated to the hockey pitch, with it instead servicing the whole Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park site. This causes some logistical issues and results in the Club also accessing Phoenix Sports & Social Club as post-match base.

In addition, the Club also references a perceived lack of car parking spaces at Aurora Playing Field. This is particularly pressing when there are multiple users and sports accessing the site at the same time.

6.3: Demand

Across Rotherham, there are 26 hockey teams fielded by the three community clubs. Broken down, this equates to eight senior men's, seven senior women's, four junior boys', five junior girls' and two mini (mixed) teams.

Rotherham HC is the largest club with 17 teams, followed by Chapeltown HC with seven. Phoenix HC is a comparatively small club, fielding just two senior women's teams.

Table 6.6: Summary of hockey teams within the Borough

Name of club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini	Total
Chapeltown HC	3	2	1	1	-	**7**
Phoenix HC	-	2	-	-	-	**2**
Rotherham HC	5	3	3	4	2	**17**
Total	**8**	**7**	**4**	**5**	**2**	**26**

In addition to overall team numbers, the table below identifies each club's participation figures by specific demographics. Across the three clubs, there are 349 registered members, with this consisting of 172 seniors and 177 juniors.

Table 6.7: Summary of club membership within the Borough

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Chapeltown HC	43	27	21	24	-	-	-	**115**
Phoenix HC	-	39	-	1	-	-	-	**40**
Rotherham HC	47	16	41	48	15	15	12	**194**
Total	**90**	**82**	**62**	**73**	**15**	**15**	**12**	**349**

Rotherham HC accesses the pitch at Aurora Playing Fields for all its activity. As mentioned previously, it accesses the provision on Thursday evenings for training from 18:30 until 21:00 as well as all day on Saturdays and from 10:00 until 11:30 on Sundays for matches.

Phoenix HC utilises the pitch at Oakwood High School on Wednesday evening from 18:00 until 19:00 for training. It then plays matches at the site on Saturdays, in addition to occasionally utilising it on Sundays for additional sessions or friendlies.

Chapeltown HC also uses the pitch at Oakwood High School on Wednesday for training and on Saturdays for matches. In addition to this, it also accesses a smaller sized AGP at Caribbean Sports Club for some junior activity. This provision is located in Sheffield (see imported/exported demand section for further details).

Additional demand

Away from club-based match play and training demand, there are also several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- Back to Hockey
- Flyerz Hockey
- Hockey Heroes
- Quicksticks
- Rush Hockey
- In2 Hockey
- Walking Hockey

Where undertaken, these initiatives add to hockey demand at sites. Each is therefore summarised further below.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- More members.
- More casual players.
- Additional income.
- Extra publicity.
- New volunteers.

In Rotherham, Back to Hockey sessions are run out of Aurora Playing Field on Tuesday evenings.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

There are no Flyerz Hockey sessions currently taking place in Rotherham.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

Rotherham HC currently runs Hockey Heroes activity at Aurora Playing Field.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

Rotherham HC runs In2Hockey activity at Aurora Playing Field.

Quicksticks

Quicksticks is designed to introduce young people (aged 7-11) to the game of hockey. It is 4-a-side, can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball. It is a fun, fast, safe and exciting game that has been designed so that anyone can deliver the game, regardless of previous hockey experience.

Currently, no clubs or sites in Rotherham offer dedicated Quicksticks delivery.

Rush hockey

Rush hockey is a new way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush hockey activity is identified in Rotherham.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in the Borough, although Rotherham HC indicates that it has hosted sessions in the past.

Imported/exported demand

Prior to the development of the hockey pitch at Oakwood High School, both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC were primarily based outside of Rotherham in Sheffield (a pitch at Ecclesfield Secondary School was utilised before this was converted to 3G). This meant that Phoenix HC was exporting demand outside of Rotherham (as it is a Rotherham-based club), whilst Chapeltown HC's presence in the Borough now means that it is importing demand (as it is a Sheffield-based club).

As mentioned above, despite Chapeltown HC now utilising a pitch within Rotherham, it is also still using provision in Sheffield via a smaller sized pitch at Caribbean Sports Club. This is pertinent as it is reported that the operator of this site is exploring options that may impact on this activity, with long-term usage therefore not guaranteed.

Based on the close proximity of Aurora Playing Field to Sheffield, it is also expected that there will be additional imported and exported hockey demand between the two authorities, particularly relating to Rotherham HC. However, as this will only relate to members rather than teams, it is difficult to quantify.

Unmet/latent demand

There is no known unmet or latent demand identified from hockey clubs in Rotherham. The general consensus is that all activity is being adequately accommodated, particularly following the development of the pitch at Oakwood High School.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategy (Creating A Future for Our Game Together 2024-2028), whilst it is also currently working on an updated facilities strategy that will add to this. Due to its significant plans, it does not see projected participation increases from general population growth to be an accurate measure of future demand, meaning this tool is not used in the way that it is for other playing pitch sports within this study. Instead, it states that growth should be regularly monitored to understand that impact it is having on pitch supply, with clubs also to be supported to fulfil their aspirations.

In relation to club aspirations, Rotherham HC indicates plans to increase by one senior men's team, in addition to growing its junior section. For this, it notes that it is making progress in promoting the Club within schools, although a difficult in recruiting junior boys over the age of 14 is identified.

In comparison, Phoenix HC reports that its main goal is to sustain its current levels of demand. It therefore does not express any ambitions to increase its number of teams or membership.

6.4: Capacity analysis

When assessing the capacity of AGPs, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand.

In Rotherham, football demand at Dinnington High School is particularly high, especially given that the pitch is not by or suitable for hockey demand. As a result, the pitch quality at the aforementioned site has worsened considerably. There is also a presence of it at Oakwood High School, although the impression is that this is yet to be fully maximised due to the relative newness of the provision. A full, consistent programme of use is still being established.

At Aurora Playing Fields, no football activity is taking place due to the conditions of the community use agreement that stipulates that only hockey and lacrosse demand can access the provision. Moreover, outside of use by Rotherham HC, only internal university demand (for both hockey and lacrosse) is seemingly being received.

The table below details the usage at all three sites providing full size hockey pitches, comparing availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Peak time for senior hockey matches in Rotherham is Saturday, whilst it is Sunday for junior hockey matches. For training, it is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with Mondays and Fridays generally not considered as teams do not want to train in such close proximity to weekend matches.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for a minimum of an hour during evenings, midweek (Tuesday-Thursday).

Table 6.8: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Midweek usage comments	Midweek capacity for hockey	Weekend usage comments	Weekend capacity for hockey
14	Aurora Playing Field	Used to capacity by Rotherham HC for training, with some university usage also recorded outside of this.	Capacity exists for an increase in demand on Tuesdays and Thursdays.	Used to capacity by Rotherham HC for matches on Saturdays. Some spare capacity exists on Sunday afternoons.	No capacity for an increase in senior demand, although some exists for junior demand.
49	Dinnington High School	No current midweek hockey usage but heavily used for football. Only 20:00-21:00 slots remain.	Capacity remains but is limited to one-hour slots.	No current hockey demand and only minimal usage for other purposes.	Capacity on both Saturdays and Sundays, although quality is an issue.
95	Oakwood High School	Used by both Phoenix HC and Chapeltown HC on Wednesdays in addition to considerable football usage outside of this.	Minimal spare capacity exists for an increase in demand.	Used by Phoenix HC and Chapeltown HC on Saturdays, with only one available slot remaining. Not accessible on Sundays, although some ad hoc activity is recorded.	Minimal capacity for senior demand on Saturdays but no capacity for junior demand on Sundays due to access restrictions.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

The below examines both match play and training demand across the Borough considering both current and future levels of demand.

Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. For senior demand, with teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams on a Saturday (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week). Using this, on the basis that there are three pitches in Rotherham, there is a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 senior hockey teams in the Borough.

With 15 senior teams currently playing in Rotherham, there is seemingly a sufficient supply of pitches to meet demand. However, this is not a true reflection of overall capacity, with quality issues at Dinnington High School making the pitch unusable. As such, there is only capacity for one additional team to be fielded based on the current status of the provision.

Table 6.9: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time senior match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Potential capacity (number of teams)	Actual capacity (number of teams)	Number of hockey teams using the provision	Capacity balance (number of teams)
14	Aurora Playing Field	8	8	8	0
49	Dinnington High School	6	-	-	-
95	Oakwood High School	8	8	7	1
-	**Total**	**22**	**16**	**15**	**1**

It should also be noted that the spare capacity that has been identified is only relevant to Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC, given that Rotherham HC does not utilise the pitch at Oakwood High School. This is significant as the Club has senior team growth plans that cannot be achieved at Aurora Playing Field based on existing demand levels.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is usually less than it is for senior hockey, particularly given that younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time). However, limited capacity in Rotherham has also been identified in this regard given that the pitch at Oakwood High School is unavailable for community use on Sundays. Furthermore, the community use agreement for Rotherham HC at Aurora Playing Fields only enables access to 11:30 on Sundays.

Training analysis

In terms of capacity for hockey training, additional availability has been identified across the three full size pitches, although this is minimal at both Oakwood High School and Dinnington High School due to the levels of football demand received. Both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC could increase their hours at Oakwood High School, but only to a limited degree.

The above is crucial due to Chapeltown HC's supplementary usage of a smaller sized pitch at Caribbean Sports Club, in Sheffield, and the uncertain future of this provision. Should it not be accessible in the long-term, additional capacity pressures could be created within Rotherham, with the demand potentially needing to relocate into the Borough.
More capacity has been identified at Aurora Playing Fields, although Rotherham HC indicates that there is a cost issue that is preventing further usage.

6.5: Conclusion

There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand. However, availability is extremely limited in relation to both match play and training usage at both Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School, with any future demand likely to result in capacity pressures being created. This is then a particular issue when considering that the alternative pitch at Dinnington High School cannot be used due to quality issues. The picture could also be impacted upon if Chapeltown HC loses access to the supplementary provision that it uses in Sheffield.

Based on the above, it is clear that the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue. If this cannot be achieved, an alternative new pitch may be required.

In addition, there are clear means to further increase capacity via the pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School. For Aurora Playing Fields, reported cost issues linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- There is a sufficient supply of hockey pitches in Rotherham to cater for current demand; however, any future demand is likely to result in capacity pressures being created.
- The pitches at Aurora Playing Fields and Oakwood High School require ongoing protection for hockey, whilst improvements at Dinnington High School would be beneficial in order to provide a suitable overspill venue.
- To further increase capacity, reported cost issues at Aurora Playing Fields linked to Rotherham HC's community use agreement can be explored, whilst enabling regular Sunday access at Oakwood High School should also be prioritised.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Rotherham (provided at Aurora Playing Fields, Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School), with each of these available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- The pitch at Aurora Playing Field is accessed by Rotherham HC, whilst the pitch at Oakwood High School is utilised by both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC (Dinnington High School is not currently used for any community hockey).
- There is also a smaller sized AGP with a hockey suitable surface at Clifton Community School (measuring 78 x 37 metres); however, it is not available for community use or serviced by sports lighting.
- All three full size hockey pitches are managed in house by education providers.
- Whilst all three pitches are available for community use, the pitch at Oakwood High School is generally inaccessible on Fridays and Sundays, whereas Rotherham HC indicates that usage outside of its agreed community use agreement is too expensive.
- The pitch at Dinnington High School is assessed as poor quality, which is linked to its lack of hockey usage as it is not currently suitable for access.
- The pitches at Aurora Playing Field and Oakwood High School are good quality.
- Whilst no significant ancillary facility issues are identified, Rotherham HC reports that the provision at Aurora Playing Fields is not dedicated to the hockey pitch, leading it access Phoenix Sports & Social Club as a post-match base instead.

Hockey – demand summary

- There are 26 hockey teams fielded by the three community clubs, with this equating to eight senior men's, seven senior women's, four junior boys', five junior girls' and two mini (mixed) teams.
- Across the three clubs, there are 349 registered members, with this consisting of 172 seniors and 177 juniors.
- Back to Hockey, Hockey Heroes and In2Hockey sessions are all in operation, led by Rotherham HC.
- Both Chapeltown HC and Phoenix HC were previously primarily based in Sheffield, which meant that Phoenix HC was exporting demand (as a Rotherham-based club), whilst Chapeltown HC's is now importing demand (it is a Sheffield-based club).
- Chapeltown HC still utilises supplementary provision in Sheffield via a smaller sized pitch at Caribbean Sports Club for some junior activity; however, the operator of this site is reportedly exploring options that may result in the facility being unusable for hockey in the future.
- Rotherham HC indicates plans to increase by one senior men's team, in addition to growing its junior section.
- Football demand is relatively high at both Dinnington High School and Oakwood High School, which further limits capacity for hockey at the sites.
- At Aurora Playing Fields, no football activity is taking place due to the conditions of the community use agreement that stipulates that only hockey and lacrosse demand can access the provision.

PART 7: CRICKET

7.1: Introduction

The Yorkshire Cricket Foundation (YCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket for Rotherham. Working closely with the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within each authority across the County.

Inspiring Generations

In October 2024 the ECB launched its refreshed strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025–2028). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generations (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, although many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- To become the most inclusive team sport
- To grow and unite the game
- Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives:

- Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- Connect communities through play
- Inspire through winning England teams
- Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- Win the battle for attention

County Facilities Strategy

The YCF has recently completed its County Facilities Strategy (CFS) in partnership with the ECB. Its production involved engagement with key stakeholders, including leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The CFS is to be used to shape investment decisions and priorities for CCB moving forward, with the following facilities considered throughout its development:

- Traditional facilities (pitches, outfields, pavilions, practice areas)
- Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
- Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

Notwithstanding the above; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

In total, 20 active, affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within Rotherham, with 13 responding to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 65% with support provided from Yorkshire Cricket Foundation and the Council.

Table 7.1: Cricket club response rate

Clubs	Responded?
Anston CC	Yes
Aston Hall CC	Yes
Brookhouse CC	Yes
Harthill CC	No
Kiveton Park Colliery CC	Yes
Maltby Miners Welfare CC	Yes
Rother Valley CC	No
Rotherham Sultans CC	No
Rotherham Town Eagles CC	No
Sangham Waleswood CC	No
Scholes & Harley CC	Yes
Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Yes
Todwick CC	Yes
Treeton CC	Yes
Upper Haugh CC	Yes
Waleswood Sports CC	No
Wath CC	Yes
Whiston Forge CC	Yes
Whiston Parish Church CC	Yes
Wickersley Old Village CC	Yes

7.2: Supply

In total, there are 19 grass wicket cricket squares in Rotherham provided across the same number of sites. They are all available for community use. The most grass wicket squares are identified in the South Analysis Area (12 squares or 63%), whilst the Central Analysis Areas provides four squares (21%) and the North Analysis Area has three squares (16%).

Table 7.2: Summary of grass wicket squares and community availability

Analysis area	No. of community available squares	No. of unavailable squares
North	3	-
Central	4	-
South	12	-
Rotherham	**19**	**0**

Non-turf pitches

There is a total of 33 active non-turf pitches (NTPs) across Rotherham with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 20 being standalone. Most of the standalone wickets are located at educational sites, although seven of these are unavailable for community use.

A new NTP is to be installed at Maltby Miners Welfare.

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets.

The maps below show the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Rotherham. For a key to the map see Table 7.3.

Figure 7.1: Location of cricket squares in Rotherham



Table 7.3: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	User/s	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
3	1041701	Anston Cricket Club	S25 4DL	South	Yes	1	Anston CC	5	1
10	30006227	Aston Hall Cricket Club	S26 2BD	South	Yes	1	Aston Hall CC	10	1
29	1201658	Brinsworth Academy	S60 5EJ	South	Yes	2	-	-	2
40	30010083	Chapman Fields	S26 5QQ	South	Yes	1	-	-	1
43	1201742	Clifton Community School (Cranworth Road Campus)	S65 1LN	Central	No	1	-	-	1
49	1201653	Dinnington High School	S25 2NZ	South	Yes	1	-	-	1
57	6009728	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	S26 1HG	South	Yes	1	Aston Hall CC; Todwick CC	10	-
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	S25 4BR	South	Yes	1	Anston CC	2	-
62	6002474	Guilthwaite Hill	S60 4NE	Central	Yes	1	Whiston Forge CC	8	1
66	1041750	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	S26 7YF	South	Yes	1	Harthill CC	2	1
78	1202494	Kiveton Park	S26 6SQ	South	Yes	1	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	12	-
88	1202759	Maltby Miners Welfare	S66 7JQ	South	Yes	1	Maltby Miners Welfare CC	6	-
95	1201828	Oakwood High School	S60 2UH	Central	Yes	1	-	-	1
99	1102095	Phoenix Sports & Social Club	S60 5PA	South	Yes	1	-	-	1
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	Yes	1	-	-	1
112	1041740	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	S60 2SN	Central	Yes	1	Rotherham Sultans CC; Rotherham Town Eagles CC	-	1
118	1202767	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	S61 2RQ	Central	Yes	1	Scholes & Harley CC	7	1
124	1201168	St Bernards Catholic High School	S65 3BE	Central	Yes	1	-	-	1

Site ID	Active Places ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	User/s	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
128	1201125	St Pius X Catholic High School	S63 7PQ	North	No	1	-	-	1
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Yes	1	-	-	1
143	1004770	Tr Sports Centre	S60 2BE	Central	No	1	-	-	1
145	1041747	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	S60 5PU	South	Yes	1	Treeton CC	14	1
146	1202781	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	S62 7SL	North	Yes	1	Upper Haugh CC	9	1
148	1201878	Wales High School	S26 5QQ	South	No	1	-	-	1
150	1041752	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	S26 5PE	South	Yes	1	Sangham Waleswood CC & Waleswood Sports CC	3	1
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Yes	1	-	-	1
153	1202787	Wath Cricket Club	S63 7RW	North	Yes	1	Wath CC	11	1
157	1202820	Wentworth Recreation Ground	S62 7SB	North	Yes	1	Wath CC	8	1
161	1202791	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	S60 4JG	Central	Yes	1	Whiston Parish Church CC	12	1
163	1202788	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	S66 2HL	South	Yes	1	Wickersley Old Village CC	8	1
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	No	4	-	-	4
167	1201705	Winterhill School	S61 2BD	Central	Yes	1	-	-	1
170	6002473	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	S81 8QA	South	Yes	1	-	1	-
185	N/A	Brookhouse Cricket Club	S25 1XZ	South	Yes	1	Brookhouse CC & Wickersley Old Village CC	10	-
190	N/A	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	S61 2SE	Central	Yes	1	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	8	1

Disused sites/provision

There are 10 sites which have previously accommodated cricket provision (but that are still used for other sports), or that are completely disused sites. Exact details surrounding each site are referenced in the table below.

Table 7.4: Summary of disused sites

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Disused site / disused provision	Comments
21	Blackout13.Com Arena	S25 2PS	South	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.
46	Cortonwood Miners Welfare Scheme	S73 0TU	North	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.
64	Harley Recreation Ground	S62 7UF	North	Disused site	Site previously accommodated a 10-wicket grass square.
68	Herringthorpe Playing Fields	S65 2ED	Central	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated three squares, an eight-wicket grass wicket square, accompanied by an NTP, a seven-wicket grass square and a standalone NTP.
75	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground	S64 5SN	North	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football purposes.
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	S66 7JQ	South	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football and cricket purposes.
141	Thurcroft Hub	S66 9AB	South	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated a 10-wicket grass square. The site is still used for football purposes.
151	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Disused provision	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket. The site is still used for football cricket purposes.
193	Former Greasbrough Cricket Club site	S61 4NY	Central	Disused site	Site previously accommodated a six-wicket grass square, accompanied by an NTP.
195	Pitches Sports Club	S60 3PR	Central	Disused site	Site previously accommodated one NTP wicket.

In addition, the two-lane fixed net facility at Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane) is considered to be disused.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Several of the active cricket sites in Rotherham are located in the more deprived areas of the Borough, as seen via the mapping overleaf.

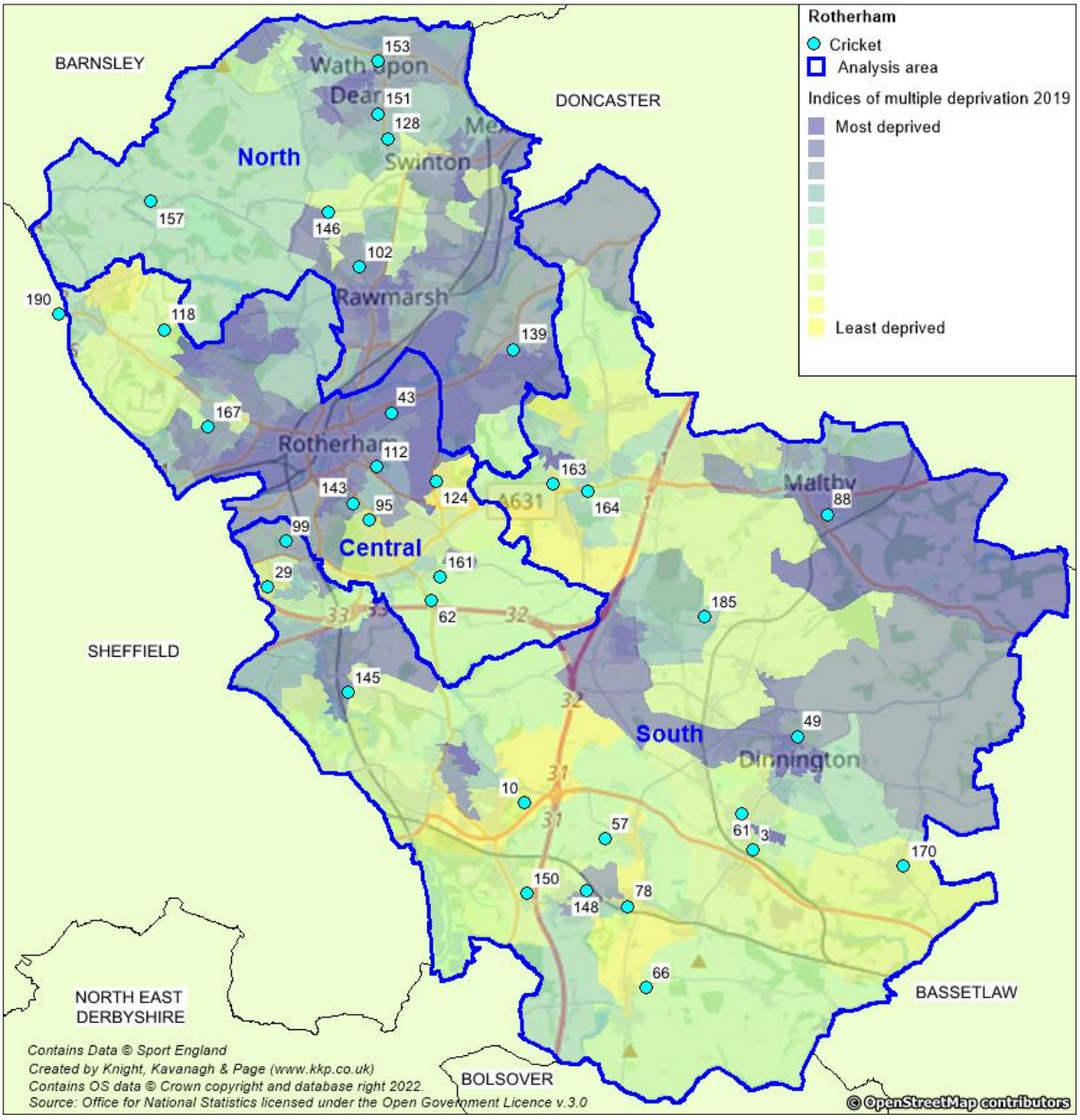
As seen, the following community available provision is within the most deprived areas of the Borough:

- Dinnington High School

- Maltby Miners Welfare
- Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)
- Thrybergh Academy & Sports College

These sites could be seen as a priority for investment due to the impact improvements could have on their communities.

Figure 7.2: Location of cricket sites against IMD



Management and security of tenure

Where it is known, all clubs except two in Rotherham are considered to have security of tenure, with this generally through freehold, a long-term lease or rental of a council-operated site.

Table 7.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Site ID	Home ground	Club	Agreement	Tenure
3	Anston Cricket Club	Anston CC	Freehold	Secure
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Aston Hall CC	Freehold	Secure
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Todwick CC	Rent from Todwick Parish Council	Secure
62	Guilthwaite Hill	Whiston Forge CC	Lease from Sitwell Estate (expires in 15 years)	Secure
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Harthill CC	Freehold	Secure
78	Kiveton Park	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	Rent from Kiveton Park Miners Welfare	**Unsecure**
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby Miners Welfare CC	Rent from Maltby Town Council	Secure
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	Rotherham Sultans CC & Rotherham Town Eagles CC	*Unknown*	*Unknown*
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Scholes & Harley CC	Lease from the Council (expires in 2031)	Secure
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	Treeton CC	Community use agreement with Treeton Memorial Community Centre & Playing Fields	Secure
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Upper Haugh CC	Freehold	Secure
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Sangham Waleswood CC & Waleswood Sports CC	*Unknown*	*Unknown*
153	Wath Cricket Club	Wath CC	Rolling annual lease via the Council	Secure
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Whiston Parish Church CC	Lease with Church Commissioners (expires in 2041)	Secure
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Wickersley Old Village CC	Freehold	Secure
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	Brookhouse CC	Lease with British Coal Board (100+ year agreement)	Secure
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Rolling annual lease with Wentworth Estate	**Unsecure**

Scholes & Harley CC is negotiations with the Council to extend the lease of its site given that only six years remain on the current agreement.

The two clubs without security of tenure are Kiveton Park Colliery CC and Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC. For Kiveton Park Colliery CC, the Club currently operates at Kiveton Park via a rental agreement with Kiveton Park Miners Welfare on an annual basis.

Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC has a rolling annual lease with Wentworth Estate for use of the square at its home ground. This does not provide security of tenure as the operator could feasibly deny access beyond the playing season.

Tenure agreements for Rotherham Sultans, Rotherham Town Eagles, Sangham Waleswood and Waleswood Sports cricket clubs are unknown.

It is important to recognise that although Parish and Town Council sites used for cricket in Rotherham are generally considered to offer secure tenure, based on an expectation that community access will continue, this should be regularly monitored to confirm that such provision remains in place.

A notable exception is Wentworth Recreation Ground itself, where communication between Wentworth Parish Council and YCF indicates that the site is intended solely for use by Wath CC and will not accommodate any additional demand. As a result, the tenure for other potential users at this site should be deemed as unsecure.

Of the 19 squares that are available for community use in Rotherham, 16 squares (84%) provide secure tenure for cricket participation, ensuring long-term and reliable access for users. In contrast, three squares (16%) operate with an unsecure tenure, creating potential vulnerability in sustaining current levels of activity and future demand.

Pitch quality

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

For the PPS, the quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits completed in July 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the KKP) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- Good
- Standard
- Poor

The quality of a cricket square is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wicket being rolled, the wicket being correctly cut, evidence of cover usage, evidence of maintenance and the presence of line markings. Comparatively, an outfield is assessed on the provisions grass length, quantity of weeds, evenness of the surface, level of undulations, damage to the surface and evidence of dog fouling (for the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2).

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares found two to be good quality (11%), 14 to be standard quality (73%) and three to be poor quality (16%). This is summarised further in the following table. Although capacity solely derives from overall square quality, as outlined later in the section, the specific ratings for outfields have also been included due to the fact that this can affect the accessibility of the provision in addition to them also being used for cricket initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos cricket, as well as women's softball cricket.

Table 7.6: Overall quality ratings for grass wicket squares and outfield (site-by-site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality	Outfield quality
3	Anston Cricket Club	South	Standard	Standard
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	South	Standard	Standard
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	South	Poor	Poor
61	Greenlands Park	South	Poor	Poor
62	Guilthwaite Hill	Central	Standard	Standard
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	South	Standard	Standard
78	Kiveton Park	South	Standard	Standard
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Standard	Standard
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Central	Standard	Standard
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	South	Standard	Good
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	North	Standard	Good
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	South	Standard	Standard
153	Wath Cricket Club	North	Standard	Standard
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	North	Standard	Good
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Central	Good	Good
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	South	Good	Standard
170	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	South	Poor	Standard
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	South	Standard	Standard
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Central	Standard	Standard

The three squares with an overall rating of poor quality are at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground, Greenlands Park and Woodsetts Recreation Ground. At the former, the square suffers from limited grass coverage and is regarded as being very uneven, whilst the latter is in a state of disrepair, with weeds present on the wickets. It is currently unused due to this.

Conversely, the good quality squares are provided at Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club and Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club. These are generally all maintained to a high level, with no significant issues identified.

In addition to the overall quality scores, six clubs (46%) report an improvement in the quality of their home ground's square over the last 12 months, whereas five (38%) report a deterioration. Clubs reporting improvements largely attribute this to the dry summer conditions reducing drainage issues, whilst those reporting deterioration mostly link this to inadequate maintenance. As an example, Anston CC is currently in negotiations with the Council to assume responsibility for site maintenance, citing that the existing arrangement is seen as inadequate.

In relation to NTPs, five significant concerns have been found. The NTPs at Aston Hall Cricket Club, Guilthwaite Hill, Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane), Treeton Memorial Playing Field and Upper Haugh Cricket Club require replacement following them being condemned by the YCF. Each club is actively exploring funding opportunities to support the installation of a new strip.

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund[12]

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower for cricket, the ECB, in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery, has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups.

The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- Women's and girls' cricket.
- Cricket in diverse communities.
- Disability cricket.
- Low socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- Improving the quality of squares and outfields (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is fully allocated.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required for cricket differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Ancillary facility quality is primarily influenced by the type and standard of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire provision, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is also a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls cricket, South Asian and BAME communities, and All Stars and Dynamos cricket.

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Rotherham (where known through access and club consultation) determines that four sites are accompanied by good quality provision, eight sites are accompanied by standard quality provision and one is considered to have poor quality facilities (at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground). In addition, one site (Greenlands Park) does not offer any ancillary pavilion provision.

In correlation with the above, of responding clubs, 54% rate their changing room/clubhouse facilities as good quality (Anston CC, Brookhouse CC, Thorpe Hesley CC, Treeton CC, Whiston Forge CC, Whiston Parish CC and Wickersley Old Village CC). In comparison, only Wath CC identifies its ancillary pavilion provision as poor quality.

[12] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbdc040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf

Eight clubs (57%) report not having suitable/separate changing rooms for women's and girls' provision, which is significant. However, of the clubs that currently cater for female demand (Anston CC, Aston Hall CC, Treeton CC, Whiston Parish Church CC and Wickersley Old Village CC), only Treeton CC is inadequately provided for in this regard.

A summary on a site-by-site basis relating to what is provided and the quality of the provision is provided overleaf. Please note, however, that this only includes sites with natural turf wickets.

Table 7.7: Changing room quality (at community available sites with natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Club	Quality	Provision on site	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
3	Anston Cricket Club	Anston CC	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club has suitable, dedicated changing rooms and suitable shower facilities for female players. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Aston Hall CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, sight screens, mowers/rollers and hot/cold water.	The clubhouse is serviced with separate shower facilities for female players but not separate changing rooms. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as standard quality but highlights that it does not have a social area/clubroom within the clubhouse. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Aston Hall CC & Todwick CC	Poor	Access to changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club has suitable, dedicated changing rooms and suitable shower facilities for female players. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as standard quality but the condition of its social area/clubroom as poor quality. The Club also reports suffering from vandalism to its sightscreens and clubhouse. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
61	Greenlands Park	Anston CC	N/A	-	-
62	Guilthwaite Hill	Whiston Forge CC	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players, or suitable shower facilities. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality but the condition of its toilets facilities as standard quality. The Club also reports suffering from minor vandalism. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
78	Kiveton Park	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players, or suitable shower facilities. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as standard quality but the condition of its toilet facilities as poor quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Scholes & Harley CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, access for disabled and hot/cold water.	The clubhouse is serviced with separate changing rooms for female players but not separate shower facilities. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as standard quality but the condition of its toilets facilities as poor quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	Treeton CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players, or suitable shower facilities. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality but the condition of its toilet facilities and changing rooms as standard quality. The Club also reports suffering from vandalism to its clubhouse. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Upper Haugh CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players, or suitable shower facilities. The Club rates its ancillary facilities as poor quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
153	Wath Cricket Club	Wath CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, sight screens, mowers/rollers and portable covers for square.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players, or suitable shower facilities. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as poor quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Whiston Parish Church CC	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club has suitable, dedicated changing rooms and suitable shower facilities for female players. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality but the condition of its toilets facilities as standard quality. The Club also reports suffering from vandalism to its perimeter fence. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Wickersley Old Village CC	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club has suitable, dedicated changing rooms and suitable shower facilities for female players. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	Brookhouse CC & Wickersley Old Village CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, portable covers for square and hot/cold water.	The Club has suitable, dedicated changing rooms and suitable shower facilities for female players. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality. The Club also reports suffering from vandalism to its clubhouse due to golf balls hitting the facility. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square and access for disabled.	The clubhouse is serviced with separate shower facilities for female players but not separate changing rooms. The Club rates its overall ancillary facilities as good quality. The parking at the site is deemed sufficient to cater for all demand.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs generally access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, with outdoor training provision the supply most of the use during playing periods. The below table identifies current training provision at each cricket site, in addition to relevant comments made by clubs.

Table 7.8: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Club name	Training facility	Comments
3	Anston Cricket Club	Anston CC	4 x fixed bays[13]	-
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Aston Hall CC	3 x fixed bays and mobile nets	Aspires for mobile nets
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Todwick CC	N/A	Aspire for NTP wicket & mobile nets
61	Greenlands Park	Anston CC	N/A	-
62	Guilthwaite Hill	Whiston Forge CC	Mobile net	-
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Harthill CC	1 x fixed bay and mobile net	-
78	Kiveton Park	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	2 x fixed bays and mobile net	-
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby Miners Welfare CC	2 x fixed bays	-
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	Rotherham Sultans CC & Rotherham Town Eagles CC	N/A	-
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Scholes & Harley CC	Mobile nets	Aspire for fixed bay NTP nets.
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	Treeton CC	2 x fixed bays	Fixed nets require replacing
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Upper Haugh CC	3 x fixed bays and mobile net	Aspire for new NTP & additional fixed bays
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Sangham Waleswood CC & Waleswood Sports CC	2 x fixed bays	-
153	Wath Cricket Club	Wath CC	3 x fixed bays and mobile nets	-
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	Wath CC	N/A	-
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Whiston Parish Church CC	3 x fixed bays	New provision (2025) and suitable for wheelchair access
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Wickersley Old Village CC	Mobile nets	Aspire for fixed bay NTP nets

[13] Installed in 2024.

Site ID	Site	Club name	Training facility	Comments
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	Brookhouse CC	Mobile nets	Aspire for NTP wicket
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Mobile nets	-

In total, eight responsive clubs (57%) report a need for new, additional or improved practice provision. This suggests that, whilst provision exists, it is currently insufficient to meet overall demand, both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective. In addition, there are currently no public outdoor practice net facilities i.e., nets located at local authority sites that are not for the primary purpose of clubs. Whilst not overly uncommon, this will be impacting upon recreational demand levels.

In addition to outdoor training facilities, and whilst not within the remit of this study, several cricket clubs also report a dependency on indoor facilities for practice, particularly outside of summer months. However, seven clubs state that they are currently travelling outside of the Borough to access such provision, as follows:

- Nitticar Cricket Centre (Bolsover) – Kiveton Park Colliery CC & Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC
- Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park (Sheffield) – Treeton CC, Wickersley Old Village CC & Whiston Forge CC
- S20 The Boundary (Sheffield) – Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC, Todwick CC, Treeton CC & Wickersley Old Village CC
- Westfield Sports Centre (Sheffield) – Whiston Parish Church CC

7.3: Demand

In Rotherham, there are 21 clubs generating a total of 109 teams. Broken down, this equates to 50 senior men's, seven senior women's, 48 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.

Table 7.9: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams	Total
Anston CC	South	5	2	8	-	**15**
Aston Hall CC	South	4	1	5	-	**10**
Brookhouse CC	South	3	-	-	-	**3**
Harthill CC	South	2	-	1	-	**3**
Kiveton Park Colliery CC	South	2	-	-	-	**2**
Maltby Miners Welfare CC	South	2	-	-	-	**2**
Rother Valley CC	North	-	-	-	-	**0**
Rotherham Sultans CC	Central	1	-	-	-	**1**
Rotherham Town CC	Central	-	-	-	-	**0**
Rotherham Town Eagles CC	Central	1	-	-	-	**1**
Sangham Waleswood CC	South	2	-	-	-	**2**
Scholes & Harley CC	Central	2	-	1	-	**3**
Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Central	4	-	3	-	**7**
Todwick CC	South	1	-	-	-	**1**
Treeton CC	South	3	1	7	-	**11**

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams	Total
Upper Haugh CC	North	3	1	3	1	**8**
Waleswood Sports CC	South	2	-	1	-	**3**
Wath CC	North	3	-	5	-	**8**
Whiston Forge CC	Central	3	-	-	-	**3**
Whiston Parish Church CC	Central	3	2	7	1	**13**
Wickersley Old Village CC	South	4	-	7	2	**13**
Total	**-**	**50**	**7**	**48**	**4**	**109**

Most demand (65 teams or 60%) is located in the South Analysis Area, followed by the Central Analysis Area (28 teams or 25%). The least amount of demand is in the North Analysis Area, with 16 teams (15%).

It should also be noted that Rotherham Town CC previously provided demand prior to the 2025 season. However, it ceased fielding competitive teams season due to a decision made by the committee who oversee both cricket and rugby union at Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane). The Club has struggled financially for many years and its future is unknown at present.

In addition, Rother Valley CC (despite considered a Rotherham-based club) currently plays outside of the Borough, in neighbouring Barnsley.

In 2023, Harley CC folded and merged with Scholes CC to form Scholes & Harley CC.

Additional demand

The ECB run several initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfields, making squares unusable during these periods. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Rotherham can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight.

Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment.
- Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

The table below summarises sites and clubs which are involved in All Stars and Dynamos for 2025.

Table 7.10: Summary of All Stars participation

Site ID	Site	Club	All Stars	Dynamos
3	Anston Cricket Club	Anston CC	Yes	Yes
10	Aston Hall Cricket Club	Aston Hall CC	Yes	Yes
57	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	Aston Hall CC & Todwick CC	No	No
62	Guilthwaite Hill	Whiston Forge CC	Yes	Yes
66	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	Harthill CC	No	No
78	Kiveton Park	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	No	No
88	Maltby Miners Welfare	Maltby Miners Welfare CC	Yes	Yes
112	Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane)	Rotherham Sultans CC & Rotherham Town Eagles CC	No	No
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Scholes & Harley CC	Yes	Yes
145	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	Treeton CC	Yes	Yes
146	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	Upper Haugh CC	Yes	Yes
150	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	Sangham Waleswood CC & Waleswood Sports CC	No	No
153	Wath Cricket Club	Wath CC	Yes	Yes
157	Wentworth Recreation Ground	Wath CC	No	No
161	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Whiston Parish Church CC	Yes	Yes
163	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	Wickersley Old Village CC	Yes	Yes
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	Brookhouse CC & Wickersley Old Village CC	No	No
190	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Yes	No
-	-	**Total**	**11/19 (58%)**	**10/19 (53%)**

Dynamos cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which launched in 2021.

In Rotherham, all 10 clubs taking part in All Stars also operate Dynamos. However, there are no further participants.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and with limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In Rotherham, Anston, Aston Hall, Treeton, Upper Haugh CC, Wath CC, Whiston Parish Church and Wickersley Old Village cricket clubs all operate a women's softball section, with 14 teams fielded in total.

Unaffiliated demand

The Allama Iqbal League (based in Sheffield) utilises the squares at Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane), Treeton Memorial Playing Field, Upper Haugh Cricket Club and Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club (two senior matches per season).

Demand from the Yorkshire Premier League is also prevalent within Rotherham, with Sangham Waleswood accessing the square at Waleswood Sports Cricket Club for its match demand.

In addition, demand from the Rotherham Super League also exists in the Borough, with Sangham Waleswood CC utilising the square at Waleswood Sports Cricket Club and Taz Tigers CC accessing the square at Maltby Miners Welfare for its home matches.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on NTPs. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS does not currently operate in Rotherham.

Imported/exported demand

Two cricket clubs currently export demand outside of Rotherham to fulfil match requirements due to a lack of capacity within the Borough. Upper Haugh CC sends senior men's teams to Hooton Pagnell Cricket Club in Doncaster and one junior boys' team to Worsbrough Bridge Football & Cricket Club in Barnsley. Whiston Parish Church CC allocates one junior boys' team to Holmesfield Cricket Club in North East Derbyshire.

The Allama Iqbal League[14] (based in Sheffield) utilises the squares at Rotherham Titans (Clifton Lane), Treeton Memorial Playing Field, Upper Haugh Cricket Club and Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club (two senior matches per season).

[14] Unaffiliated demand.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent demand for cricket is reported by clubs in Rotherham. That is to say that no clubs state that capacity is limiting the number of teams that they field, other than with the identified exported demand.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Rotherham.

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2040 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Total current population in Rotherham is 265,969 and is anticipated to increase to 287,077 by 2040. The table below shows the number of likely teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 7.11: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	No. of match equivalent sessions per season
Men (18-55yrs)	1:1,228	3.23	3	Saturday	12	36
Women (18-55yrs)	1:9,009	0.45	0	Sunday	12	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:417	3.10	3	Midweek	4	12
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:4,923	0.26	0	Midweek	4	0

As seen in the above, there are six additional teams are expected to be generated by population growth in Rotherham, with this generating demand for 48 match sessions per season. This equates to three senior men's teams (two in the South Analysis Area and one in the Central Analysis Area) and three junior boys' teams (the same split).

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in Rotherham is likely as it is currently a national priority (it has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2027). This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs in Rotherham, nine quantify their aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, three senior women's and eight junior boys' teams.

Table 7.12: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Anston CC	South	-	-	1	-
Aston Hall CC	South	-	-	1	-
Kiveton Park Colliery CC	South	1	-	-	-
Scholes & Harley CC	Central	-	-	3	-
Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Central	1	-	1	-
Upper Haugh CC	North	-	1	-	-
Wath CC	North	-	1	-	-
Whiston Forge CC	Central	-	1	1	-
Whiston Parish Church CC	Central	-	-	1	-
Total	**-**	**2**	**3**	**8**	**0**

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is to avoid any potential double counting and also factors in that some additional club context is unquantified.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact if the club-driven growth was realised. It will also factor in a particular growth in women's and girls activity, as well as increases linked to potential housing growth.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Rotherham is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek.

7.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between 10 and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice is followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play, although this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Rotherham is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 7.14 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 7.13: Spare capacity examples

Examples	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a "no" it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a "yes" that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor quality, the lack of community availability, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed.
Yes	If the cell has a "yes" and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

Table 7.14: Capacity analysis of grass cricket squares

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
3	1041701	Anston Cricket Club	South	Anston CC	Secure	1	Standard	5	20	68	48	No	No	No
10	30006227	Aston Hall Cricket Club	South	Aston Hall CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	51	11	No	No	No
57	6009728	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	South	Aston Hall CC & Todwick CC	Secure	1	Poor	10	-	20	20	No	No	No
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	South	Anston CC	Secure	1	Poor	2	-	20	20	No	No	No
62	6002474	Guilthwaite Hill	Central	Whiston Forge CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	29	3	No	No	No
66	1041750	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	South	Harthill CC	Secure	1	Standard	2	8	27	19	No	No	No
78	1202494	Kiveton Park	South	Kiveton Park Colliery CC	Unsecure	1	Standard	12	48	22	26	No	Yes	Yes
88	1202759	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	Maltby Miners Welfare CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	29	5	No	No	No
118	1202767	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Central	Scholes & Harley CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	24	4	No	No	Yes
145	1041747	Treeton Memorial Playing Field	South	Treeton CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	56	0	No	No	No
146	1202781	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	North	Upper Haugh CC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	64	28	No	No	No
150	1041752	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	South	Sangham Waleswood CC & Waleswood Sports CC	Secure	1	Standard	3	12	65	53	No	No	No
153	1202787	Wath Cricket Club	North	Wath CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	38	6	No	No	Yes
157	1202820	Wentworth Recreation Ground	North	Wath CC	Unsecure	1	Standard	8	32	11	21	Yes	Yes	Yes
161	1202791	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Central	Whiston Parish Church CC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	70	10	No	No	No
163	1202788	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	South	Wickersley Old Village CC	Secure	1	Good	8	40	53	13	No	No	No
170	6002473	Woodsetts Recreation Ground	South	-	Secure	1	Poor	1	-	-	0	No	No	No
185	N/A	Brookhouse Cricket Club	South	Brookhouse CC & Wickersley Old Village CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	33	7	No	No	Yes
190	N/A	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Central	Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	Unsecure	1	Standard	8	32	42	10	No	No	No

Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Furthermore, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Saturday cricket spare capacity

For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity of at 12 match equivalent sessions (the average number of home matches played by a senior team), actual spare capacity for demand is generally identified.

Taking this into consideration, there are no squares in Rotherham that have potential capacity to accommodate further Saturday demand.

Sunday cricket spare capacity

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams on this day, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity.

Taking this into consideration, there are no squares in Rotherham that have potential capacity to accommodate further Sunday demand.

Midweek cricket spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking the above into consideration, there are three squares across the same number of sites in Rotherham that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek. This is shown in the table below.

Table 7.16: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
118	Scholes & Harley Cricket Club	Central	4	Used by one midweek team; spare capacity exists for five additional teams, midweek.
153	Wath Cricket Club	North	6	Used by five midweek teams; spare capacity for one additional team, midweek.
185	Brookhouse Cricket Club	South	7	Used by two midweek teams; spare capacity for four additional team, midweek.

As seen, a total of 17 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity is identified for midweek cricket, with such spare capacity relatively even across each analysis area.

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In Rotherham, 11 sites are overplayed by a total of 237 match equivalent sessions a season. Although a large amount of the overplay is due to the high levels of demand, some sites are also overplayed due to poor or standard quality pitches.

Table 7.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Active Places Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per season)
3	1041701	Anston Cricket Club	South	48
10	30006227	Aston Hall Cricket Club	South	11
57	6009728	Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground	South	20
61	1202889	Greenlands Park	South	20
66	1041750	Harthill The Field Cricket Club	South	19
88	1202759	Maltby Miners Welfare	South	5
146	1202781	Upper Haugh Cricket Club	North	28
150	1041752	Waleswood Sports Cricket Club	South	53
161	1202791	Whiston Parish Church Cricket Club	Central	10
163	1202788	Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	South	13
190	N/A	Thorpe Hesley & High Green Cricket Club	Central	10
-	**-**	**Total**	**-**	**237**

The overplay is predominately identified in the South Analysis Area, with this amounting to 189 match equivalent sessions per season. The remaining overplay is identified in the North Analysis Area, with 28 match equivalent sessions per season and in the Central Analysis Area, with 20 match equivalent sessions per season.

7.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and six matches for junior teams).

Saturday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). As seen in the table below, there is a significant shortfall in Rotherham, with this amounting to 237 match equivalent sessions. Furthermore, each analysis area has a current shortfall, most notably in the South Analysis Area.

Table 7.18: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Saturday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	-	28	28	**-**	**28**
Central	-	20	20	**12**	**32**
South	-	189	189	**24**	**213**
Rotherham	**0**	**237**	**237**	**36**	**273**

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall for Saturday cricket worsens by 36 match equivalent sessions a season (three senior men's teams) to total 273 match equivalent sessions per season. At a localised level, shortfalls are evident in each analysis area, with this amounting to a particularly substantial amount in the South Analysis Area.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams. For actual spare capacity, this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand (based on senior teams playing on average 12 home matches a season).

As seen in the table below, there is a current and future shortfall for Sunday cricket in Rotherham, amounting to 237 match equivalent sessions. Furthermore, each analysis area has a current shortfall, most notably in the South Analysis Area.

Table 7.19: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	-	28	28	-	28
Central	-	20	20	-	20
South	-	189	189	-	189
Rotherham	**0**	**237**	**237**	**0**	**237**

Whilst no change is recorded based on no future demand being included, this is likely to be altered by an expected growth, particularly in relation to women's cricket. As outlined previously, this will be factored into the Strategy document.

Midweek cricket supply and demand analysis

For the midweek supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional midweek teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate four midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because midweek demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket.

As seen in the table below, there is a shortfall for midweek cricket in Rotherham amounting to 222 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 7.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	4	28	24	2	26
Central	4	20	16	2	18
South	7	189	182	8	190
Rotherham	**15**	**237**	**222**	**12**	**234**

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall for midweek cricket exacerbates by 12 match equivalent sessions a season (three junior teams) to leave an overall future shortfall of 234 match equivalent sessions per season. At a localised level, future demand is identified in all three analysis areas, exacerbating the shortfalls each.

7.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket provision in Rotherham to cater for all formats of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket). Furthermore, when considering future demand, the shortfall is projected to worsen for Saturday and midweek cricket.

Table 7.21: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across Rotherham

Playing format	Match equivalent sessions per season				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	-	237	**237**	36	**273**
Sunday	-	237	**237**	0	**237**
Midweek	**15**	**237**	**222**	**12**	**234**

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket capacity in Rotherham to cater for all formats of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket).
- A total of 11 sites are overplayed by 237 match equivalent sessions per season.
- When considering future demand, the shortfall worsens for each playing format.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 19 grass wicket cricket squares provided across the same number of sites, with all 19 available for community use.
- There are a total of 33 NTPs across the Borough, with 13 accompanying grass wickets squares and the remaining 20 being standalone (seven are unavailable for community use).
- There are 10 sites with disused cricket provision identified.
- Two clubs are without security of tenure, with these being Kiveton Park Colliery CC and Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares found two (11%) to be good quality, 14 (73%) to be of standard quality and three to be poor quality (16%).
- Four sites are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision and eight sites are accompanied by standard quality provision, one has poor quality facilities, and one site (Greenlands Park) does not offer any ancillary pavilion provision.
- A total of 15 sites offer some form of outdoor training provision; however, eight responsive clubs (57%) report a need for new, additional or improved practice facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are 21 clubs generating a total of 109 teams, which as a breakdown totals 50 senior men's, seven senior women's, 48 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- Rotherham Town CC previously provided additional demand prior to the 2025 season.
- 11 clubs currently take part in the All-Stars, 10 take part in Dynamos initiatives and seven host women's softball cricket.
- Upper Haugh CC and Whiston Parish Church CC currently export demand outside of Rotherham to fulfil match demand and seven clubs are travelling outside of the Borough to access indoor cricket provision.
- No clubs report any latent or unmet demand, and no imported demand is received.
- Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of three senior men's teams and three junior teams.
- There are nine clubs with future demand aspirations, with potential growth totalling two senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and eight junior boy's teams.

PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Rotherham. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

In addition, the LTA is also the NGB for padel tennis. This therefore also features within this section of the report.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme[15]

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an online booking system.

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- New sports lights.
- New court provision.
- Outdoor padel courts.
- Covered padel (courts and cover).
- Covered tennis courts.

Consultation

Rotherham Moorgate LTC, the only tennis club in Rotherham, has contributed to this section of the report by participating in the consultation process and through providing detailed information.

8.2: Supply

There are 56 tennis courts identified in Rotherham across 14 sites. Of the courts, 45 are categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites, compared to 11 that are unavailable at two sites.

[15] Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities (lta.org.uk)

The South Analysis Area contains the highest amount of accessible provision with 18 courts, which equates to 40% of all community available tennis courts. This is followed by 14 courts in the Central Analysis Area (31%) and 13 courts in the North Analysis Area (29%).

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of community available tennis courts	No. of community unavailable tennis courts
North	13	-
Central	14	4
South	18	7
Rotherham	**45**	**11**

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). All unavailable courts in Rotherham are located at educational sites, with these being located at Wales High School and Wingfield Academy.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Rotherham regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.2 overleaf.

Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Rotherham



Table 8.2: Tennis courts in Rotherham

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	Tenure	Club user/s	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
8	1201651	Aston Academy	S26 4SF	South	Education	Yes	No	-	5	No	Macadam	Standard
44	1043034	Clifton Park	S65 2AQ	Central	Other	Yes	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
45	1043033	Coronation Park	S66 7NE	South	Council	Yes	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
65	1041749	Harthill Leisure Centre	S26 7YQ	South	Council	Yes	Yes	-	1	Yes	Macadam	Poor
94	30007134	Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club	S60 2AZ	Central	Sports Club	Yes	Yes	Rotherham Moorgate LTC	4	Yes	Artificial grass	Good
102	1201733	Rawmarsh Community School	S62 7GA	North	Education	Yes	No	-	4	Yes	Macadam	Poor
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Education	Yes	No	-	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
139	1004772	Thrybergh Academy & Sports College	S65 4BH	North	Education	Yes	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Standard
148	1201878	Wales High School	S26 5QQ	South	Education	No	No		7	No	Macadam	Poor
149	6009741	Wales Recreation Ground	S26 6RB	South	Council	Yes	Yes	-	1	Yes	Polymeric	Good
149	6009741	Wales Recreation Ground	S26 6RB	South	Council	Yes	Yes	-	1	No	Polymeric	Good
151	1201911	Wath Academy	S63 7NW	North	Education	Yes	No	-	6	Yes	Macadam	Standard
164	1201740	Wickersley School & Sports College	S66 1JL	South	Education	Yes	No	-	6	Yes	Macadam	Standard
166	1203143	Wingfield Academy	S61 4AU	Central	Education	No	No	-	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
167	1201705	Winterhill School	S61 2BD	Central	Education	Yes	No	-	7	Yes	Macadam	Standard

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	Tenure	Club user/s	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type	Court quality
191	N/A	Ravenfield Tennis Courts	S65 4PP	South	Private	Yes	No	-	2	No	Polymeric	Good

Disused provision

A disused site is a site that has previously been used for sport but is not currently being used by any users and that is not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). In relation to the tennis, the table below details sites that previously provided formal courts but which no longer do so.

Table 8.3: Disused tennis courts in Rotherham

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
24	Bradgate Park	S61 1LJ	Central	Site previously accommodated two macadam courts.
110	Rosehill Victoria Park	S62 7HJ	North	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts.
147	Valley Park	S65 3DJ	Central	Site previously accommodated three macadam courts.

Regarding Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, the LTA reports that the disused courts are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA Parks Project Fund. The LTA reports that, work began on the refurbishment of the tennis courts at Rosehill Victoria and Valley Park in mid-October. This will be completed by Spring 2026 and both parks will have SmartAccess gate systems linked to online court booking.

In addition, there was previously tennis markings on a court at Goosecarr Lane Recreation Ground; however, only basketball markings now exist.

Padel provision

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway, with £6 million invested by the NGB since 2021. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, with this growing to 350 in 2023 and 500 in 2024. There is also a projected growth to 1,000 in 2026, with it therefore envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will increase significantly over the coming years.[16]

Notwithstanding the above, there are currently no padel courts in Rotherham, which means that no demand can be met within the Borough (LTA analysis on supply required to meet padel demand in Rotherham is detailed further on in the chapter). A planning application has, however, recently been submitted to construct an indoor padel centre (seven indoor padel courts) at Hellaby Industrial Estate (REF: RB2025/1005). In addition, a separate planning application has been submitted for the development of five outdoor padel courts at The Grange Golf Club (REF: RB2025/0949).

[16]https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/about-lta-padel/lta-padel-strategy-2024-2029.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

In terms of additional future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (e.g., tennis clubs, parks and indoor tennis centres), whilst development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and rugby/football sites can also be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model.

Linked to the above, the LTA is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient and that the growth of padel is not detrimental.

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Rotherham. As seen, most community available courts are operated by education providers (42 courts or 75%). There are five courts identified at council-owned sites (9%), whilst four courts (7%) are operated by tennis clubs/sports clubs and two courts are under private ownership (4%). The remaining courts (three courts or 5% at Clifton Park) are managed by Courtside.

Table 8.4: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Number of courts				
	Council	Education	Sports Club	Private	Other
Available	5	31	4	2	3
Unavailable	-	11	-	-	-
Total	**5**	**42**	**4**	**2**	**3**

Rotherham Moorgate LTC has security of tenure at its home venue (Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club), with the Club owning freehold of the site.

Of the 45 courts that are available for community use in Rotherham, 12 pitches (27%) provide secure tenure for tennis participation, ensuring long-term and reliable access for users. In contrast, 33 courts (73%) operate with an unsecure tenure, creating potential vulnerability in sustaining current levels of activity and future demand.

Court type

Most community available outdoor tennis courts in Rotherham (37 courts or 82%) have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is 10 years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

The remaining provision across the Borough consists of four artificial grass courts (9%) and four polymeric courts (9%). The former are located at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club, whilst the latter are at Wales Recreation Ground and Ravenfield Tennis Courts. At Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club, the four artificial courts were resurfaced in April 2025.

Sports lighting

Sports lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Rotherham, 31 of the 45 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 69% of the provision, which is a comparatively good percentage. Furthermore, all the courts at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are equipped with sports lighting meaning all club-based demand is catered for in this regard. Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members.

Increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. However, of the council-owned courts in Rotherham, only two out of seven are currently serviced by sports lighting.

Court quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use such as vandalism and/or littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

Of the courts in Rotherham, eight (14%) are assessed as good quality, 31 (55%) as standard quality and 16 (30%) as poor quality. Of the community available provision, eight (18%) are good quality, 27 (60%) are standard and 10 (22%) are poor.

Table 8.5: Quality of tennis courts across Rotherham

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	8	27	10
Unavailable	-	4	7
Total	**8**	**31**	**17**

The community available courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- Clifton Park
- Coronation Park
- Harthill Leisure Centre
- Rawmarsh Community School

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

Three of the poor quality courts are at a council-owned sites, with these being at Coronation Park and Harthill Leisure Centre. Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

Conversely, all four artificial grass courts at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are assessed as good quality, which aligns with the Club's own rating. This also reflects the fact that the courts were resurfaced in April 2025.

The remaining good quality courts are located at Wales Recreation Ground and Ravenfield Tennis Courts.

Ancillary facilities

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

In Rotherham, the facilities at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are considered to be good quality, with toilets, changing rooms and a social area all provided to a high standard. Furthermore, the venue offers dedicated separate women and girls' changing rooms.

At non-club venues, the provision at Wales Recreation Ground is also rated as good quality, whereas standard quality facilities are in place at Harthill Leisure Centre.

The remaining council-operated sites do not provide dedicated amenities, including changing rooms and toilets, which could be restricting the usage or at least the appeal of the venues. The same also applies at Ravenfield Tennis Courts, although plans are in place to develop appropriate ancillary facilities when a club is established at the site (see section 8.3 below).

8.3: Demand

Club-based tennis

There is one tennis club in Rotherham, Rotherham Moorgate LTC. It has a current membership of 172, which as a breakdown totals 133 senior and 39 junior members. The Club also reports that over the previous five years, its senior members have grown whilst its junior members have remained the same.

Although not currently operational, a second tennis club known as Ravenfield LTC, is expected to be established in Rotherham in the near future. As per its name, this will utilise Ravenfield Tennis Courts, which consists of two polymeric courts (without sports lighting) and has recently been acquired by a private landlord.

Informal and parks tennis

Away from clubs, community tennis activity can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at some local authority sites in Rotherham. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity can exist outside of this.

The LTA has developed a support package for local authorities to grow use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation, with products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access established. The LTA believes this presents a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.
In Rotherham, courts at Clifton Park and Wales Recreation Ground[17] are known to utilise the products currently, whilst it is also assumed that provision at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park will feature at least some of them when they are brought back into use.

[17] Previously online booking had been available at Bradgate Park and Ravenfield Tennis Courts.

The products are further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA Play

Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two Gate Access gate systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage, with some of these detailed below. However, it should be referenced that none are currently identified as having a presence within the Borough.

Local Tennis Leagues

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which is owned by the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

Local Tennis Leagues are to be introduced at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, once the courts at these sites are brought back into use.

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4-18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- Blue Stage (Age 4-6).
- Red Stage (Age 6-8).
- Orange Stage (Age 8-9).
- Green Stage (Age 9-10).
- Yellow Stage (Age 10+).

Key points:

- There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills

LTA Youth Start[18]

LTA Youth Start[19] is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £29.99 (Plus £5 postage & packaging), kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

[18] https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/start/
[19] https://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA has launched the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following identified needs:

- Player Trends:
  - 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
  - The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- Barriers:
  - 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
  - 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
  - 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
  - 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
  - 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- Free for all players to book and attend.
- Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three-court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Free Parks Tennis sessions are to be introduced at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, once the courts at these sites are brought back into use.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend sessions are to be introduced at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, once the courts at these sites are brought back into use.

Padel demand

In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 data (15,000). This then reportedly increased to 129,000 players in 2023, exemplifying the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

Building on from the above, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key demand objectives are to:

- Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- Enable 10 players to break into the World top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

Despite the above, there are currently no padel courts in Rotherham, meaning no activity is taking place. However, that is not to say that there is no demand. Some operators have aspirations to establish provision and this would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends.

To assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In Rotherham, this identifies a need for 21 courts, which is based on 20% of the population being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 8%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

The above figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. It does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the has LTA confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. Some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand. The figure also only represents the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary. The second phase is to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay, which will in many instances cut across boundary lines.

Notwithstanding the above, Rotherham Moorgate LTC does not report of any aspirations to access padel court provision. As such, it is considered that any future padel demand will be away from the existing club.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are ‘offline’) and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, with headline findings as follows:

- Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.

- 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA also suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Rotherham for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

Linked to the above, Rotherham Moorgate LTC does not report of any latent demand, suggesting that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, it is further considered that any latent demand in Rotherham will relate to non-club activity.

Future demand

Rotherham Moorgate LTC reports anticipated future demand totalling 50 members, with this equating 30 senior and 20 junior members. As outlined above, it considers that it can accommodate this growth on its current courts.

Additionally, a growth in demand for tennis is likely to emanate from general population growth, with much of this likely to be outside of the club environment. Using Sport England Sports Facility Calculator, projected growth to 2040 (in line with the Council's Local Plan) equates to the need for 2.79 courts. This is based on extrapolating current demand levels.

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment. This also links with the expected further growth of padel demand.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members, whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

Using the guidance, the table below identifies the capacity balance at Rotheram Moorgate Tennis Club. As shown, the Club has current spare capacity equating to 68 members, meaning overall capacity will also remain even if it fulfils its future growth plans.

Table 8.6: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	No. of courts	Sports-lit?	Capacity	Current membership	Current capacity balance (no. of members)	Future capacity balance (no. of members)
94	Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club	4	Yes	240	172	68	18

Given the expected emergence of Ravenfield LTC, consideration should also be given to Ravenfield Tennis Courts. This has capacity for a membership of 80 (two non-lit courts), meaning activity should be monitored if and when a club forms at the site.

Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult as usage figures are not generally known. That being said, no capacity issues have been identified in Rotherham, meaning all sites are considered to have capacity for additional growth. However, this does not equate to a surplus of courts given the high levels of unmet/latent demand identified. Furthermore, there are existing quality issues across many of the local authority sites as well as a general lack of sports lighting which will be inhibiting demand.

It should also be referenced that the presence of only eight local authority operated courts is low for an area the size of Rotherham, although this is expected to increase with the re-introduction of tennis at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park (six courts).

8.5: Conclusion

The supply of tennis provision in Rotherham is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with current and expected future activity at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club being adequately accommodated. The same is also expected to apply at Ravenfield Tennis Courts, although demand levels need to be monitored as and when a club forms at the site to ensure that this is the case.

For non-club courts, the existing supply can clearly be improved upon through increasing quantity, improving quality, installing sports lighting, and rolling out LTA products such as Clubspark and Gate Access. Whilst no capacity issues are identified on the existing provision, issues across the venues are likely deterring demand and preventing growth in activity levels.

There is also a clear need to develop padel provision, with no courts currently provided.

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- The supply of tennis provision in Rotherham is sufficient to meet club-based demand, with current and expected future activity being adequately accommodated.
- For non-club courts, issues across the supply are likely deterring usage, meaning it can be improved upon through increasing quantity, improving quality, installing sports lighting, and rolling out LTA products such as Clubspark and Gate Access.
- There is also a clear need to develop padel provision, with no courts currently provided.

Tennis – supply summary

- There are 56 tennis courts identified in Rotherham across 14 sites.
- Of the courts, 45 are categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites, compared to 11 that are unavailable at two sites.
- Disused courts at Rosehill Victoria Park and Valley Park, are to be brought back into use imminently via the LTA Parks Project Fund.
- There are no padel courts currently provided.
- Most community available courts are operated by education providers (31 courts), with only five identified at council-managed sites.
- Most community available tennis courts in Rotherham have a macadam surface (37 courts), although there are also four artificial grass courts and four polymeric courts.
- A total of 31 of the 45 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 69% of the provision, although this applies to only two local authority courts.
- Eight courts (14%) are assessed as good quality, 31 (55%) as standard quality and 16 (30%) as poor quality.
- The ancillary facilities at Rotherham Moorgate Tennis Club are considered to be good quality.
- At non-club venues, dedicated amenities are only provided at Wales Recreation Ground and Harthill Leisure Centre.

Tennis – demand summary

- There is one tennis club in Rotherham, Rotherham Moorgate LTC.
- The Club has a current membership of 172, which as a breakdown totals 133 senior and 39 junior members.
- Although not currently operational, Ravenfield LTC is expected to be established soon, with this to utilise provision at Ravenfield Tennis Courts.
- Courts at Clifton Park and Wales Recreation Ground are known to utilise LTA products currently, with this assisting in accommodating recreational demand.
- No LTA programmes or additional tennis activity is identified as currently taking place in the Borough (e.g., Local Tennis Leagues).
- With no padel courts provided, no demand is being received, although the LTA identifies a need for 21 courts to meet expected demand levels.
- No latent or unmet demand is identified for club-based tennis; however, together with future demand, it is expected to be high for parks tennis and padel due to existing quantity and quality issues.
- Rotherham Moorgate LTC reports anticipated future demand totalling 50 members (30 seniors and 20 juniors).

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development
- Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
  - Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
  - Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
  - Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
  - Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
  - Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
  - Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
  - Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2024)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches,** with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses,** linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- **Support access to flexible indoor spaces,** including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision,** recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- **Support testing of technology and innovation,** building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA commissioned a national project to develop a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

1. **Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**
   Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
2. **Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**
   Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
3. **Building and Improving Facilities**
   Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
4. **Tackling Poor Behaviour**
   Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
5. **Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**
   Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**
  Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- **Connecting and Serving Participants**
  Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.

- **Progressing the Game's Governance**
  Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)[20]

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:
- Win tournaments
  - Develop pathways
  - Support elite players
  - Enhance environments
  - Collaborate and influence
- A game free from discrimination
  - Boost representation
  - Drive more inclusion
  - Tackle discrimination
- Equal opportunities for women & girls
  - Increase school participation
  - Increase club participation
  - Enhance women's competitions
  - Support female coaches and referees
- Transform the pitch landscape
  - Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
  - Deliver new 3G pitches
  - Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities

Drivers:
- Thriving community clubs
  - Develop club opportunities
  - Support the current and future generation of club leaders
  - Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- World-class FA cups
  - Broaden commercial appeal
  - Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- Participant led
  - Place participants at the centre of decision making
  - Create flexible models to meet participants needs
  - Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- Progressive governance
  - Support integration of women's and girls' football
  - Support governance of the NLS

[20] FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association

- Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)[21]

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.
This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game**: Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament**: Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition**: Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play**: Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

[21] The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)[1]

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025–28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- To become the most inclusive team sport
- To grow and unite the game
- Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- Connect communities through play
- Inspire through winning England teams
- Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found here.

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

Game objectives

- ***Enjoyment*** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ***Winning England –*** Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ***Welfare –*** Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ***Flourishing rugby communities –*** Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

Driving objectives

- ***Diversity & inclusion*** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.
- ***Understand –*** Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.
- ***Connect –*** Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.
- ***Commercial & operational excellence –*** Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

[1] https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create and inclusive environment for all.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- **Focus community clubs**
  - Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
  - Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
  - Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
  - Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
  - Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
  - Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
  - Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.
- **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
  - Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
  - Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.

- Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
- Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
- Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies

- **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
  - Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
  - Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
  - Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.
- **Technological solutions**
  - Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
  - Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
  - Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
  - Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.
- **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
  - Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
  - Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
  - Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
  - Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found here.

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

LTA – Tennis Opened Up 2024-2026

The LTA's vision for 2024-2026, is Tennis Opened Up. Its mission is to transform communities through tennis, by making it by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. The objectives of the LTA are:

- Put tennis at the heart of communities.
- Grow and diversity our audience of fans and players.
- Attract and engage the tennis workforce for the next generation.
- Be one of the most respected nations in the world for player development.
- Secure a sustainable future for tennis in Britain.

These objectives will be delivered through six strategies: Invest, Grow, Engage, Perform, Diversity and Lead. The LTA will implement a facilities strategy with a focus on parks, covered courts, Community Indoor Tennis Centres and Padel.

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference:		**Site Name:**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s):**	
Number of football pitches on site:		**Pitch size:**	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)
Availability		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
		If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues	
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			
Pitch Issues:			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	**Rating**						**Guidance notes**	**Comments**
Playing surface								
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch	
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe			
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less	
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage			
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								**Section total**
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No			
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No			
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No			
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No			
								Section total

NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.

PITCH SCORE	0.0%	**RATING**	Poor

Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union

Please complete one form per pitch

Site reference		**Site Name**	
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID(s)**	
Date of assessment		**Pitch size**	(Senior, Mini/Midi)
Number of pitches on site		**Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?**	
Availability		*If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues*	
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused			
Weather at time of visit			
General comments/observations			

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Qualitative information (gathered on site)	**Rating**						**Guidance notes**	**Comments**
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor	
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.	
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots			
GOALPOSTS								
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No					
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No					
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No					
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No					
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No					
ANCILLARY								
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No					
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No					
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No					
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below								
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
									Pitch Maintenance Score
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) **SCORE D0**		Natural (adequate) **SCORE D1**		Pipe drained **SCORE D2**		Pipe and slit drained **SCORE D3**		Unknown **SCORE D0**		**Natural (adequate)** = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season **Natural (inadequate)** = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a **pipe drained** system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a **slit drained** system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.	

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artifical grass pitches

Site reference		**Site Name**			
6 figure grid reference		**Pitch ID**			
Number of AGPs on site		**Pitch size**	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)
Availability					

Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused

Type of pitch	**Long Pile 3G** (65mm with shock pad)		**Medium Pile 3G** (55-60mm)		**Short Pile 3G** (40mm)		
	Sand Dressed		**Sand Filled**		**Water based**		

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating								Guidance notes	Site comments
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years			
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.	
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate				Poor			
Adequate safety margins (where appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate				No - not adequate			
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes				No					
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes				No					
Are there dug outs?	Yes				No					
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes				No					
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes				No					

Maximum score	**93**	**Scoring:**	Poor	<=50	Total Score **0**
			Standard	51-79	
			Good	80+	Potential Rating **Poor**

Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield								
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven				Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to ward cllr/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		eg informal, unusual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to ward cllr/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required		eg from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey	
Artifical wickets								
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No				There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven				There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes		No				Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No				There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No				If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No				If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No					
Grass wickets								
Presence of line markings	Yes		No					
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes		No					
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No				9mm on match wicket/12mm oval of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No					
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No				<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surace rebound?	Yes		No					
Changing/ Pavilion								
Umpires provision	Yes		No					
Toilets	Yes		No					
Hot/cold water	Yes		No					
Heating	Yes		No					
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention			
NTP								
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No					
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven					
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No					
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No					
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No					
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No					
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No					
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes		No					
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No					
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No					
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No					
Is appropraite safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes		No					

Court non-technical assessment (netball and tennis)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of courts -	**Tennis**		**Netball**		**Basketball**		**Five-a-side**		
General Playground or specific sports court area?									
Court surface		**Management**		**Community Use?**	
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale		Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School		

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating												Comments
About the courts													
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfa	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gat	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Changing Accomodation													
Changing Accomodation	Yes					No							
About the equipment													
Posts and net	Good			Adequate			Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes					No							
Practice wall	Yes					No							

Appendix 3

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Playing Pitch Strategy	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	**Service area: Culture, Sport and Tourism**
Lead person: Rachel Stothard	**Contact: rachel.stothard@rotherham.gov.uk**
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Approval for adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which assesses current and future supply and demand for football, rugby union/ league, cricket, hockey, tennis and padel facilities across Rotherham and provides a Borough-wide action plan.

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

Appendix 3

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

How have you considered equality and diversity?

Equality and diversity have been embedded throughout the PPS by:

- Using a Borough-wide facility audit capturing accessibility, quality, lighting, safety and suitability for women, girls, disabled users and juniors.

Appendix 3

- Identifying sports and locations where protected groups face disproportionate shortfalls, such as:
    - Large youth football shortfalls in Central and South areas.
    - Shortfalls in 3G pitches restricting safe environments for women, girls and disability groups.
    - Lack of padel courts and the need for low-cost tennis access in deprived communities.
    - Cricket shortfalls restricting junior, women's and girls' development.
    - Rugby union pitches lacking inclusive changing provision.
- Assessing ancillary facilities and their suitability for privacy, gender inclusion and disability access.
- Engaging with stakeholders from diverse age groups, genders, and communities across the full set of pitch sports

Key findings

- There are significant participation inequalities for women and girls in football, cricket and rugby union, linked to facility quality and availability.
- Several sites lack suitable accessible or gender-appropriate changing provision, limiting participation for women, girls, transgender and non-binary people, and disabled users.
- Youth-focused shortfalls (football, cricket) limit access for children and young people, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- Transport and locality issues disproportionately affect households on low incomes, who rely on local provision.
- Disabled users may face barriers due to poor-quality pavilions, absence of accessible toilets, uneven surfaces, and limited lighting.
- The strategy includes targeted actions such as pitch-quality improvements, inclusive ancillary upgrades, and creating new facilities in areas of highest need.

Actions

- Reflect women & girls, disabled users, juniors and low-income communities within delivery priorities.
- Review annually through updates.
- Continue structured engagement with clubs, disability groups, women & girl's networks and youth organisations.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	14th January 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	16th January 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rachel Stothard, Sport and Physical Activity Manager.

Appendix 3

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Chris Siddall	Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships	15.01.2026
Polly Hamilton	Service Director for Culture, Sport & Tourism	16.02.2026
Cllr. Lynda Marshall	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces	05.02.2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	14th January 2026
Report title and date	Playing Pitch Strategy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet- Playing Pitch Strategy
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15/01/2026

Appendix 4

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: Playing Pitch Strategy	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 15th January 2026	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	**Service area: Culture, Sport and Tourism**
Lead Manager: Rachel Stothard	**Contact number: 01709 822417**
Is this a:	
[X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other**	
If other, please specify	

Appendix 4

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)**
Rachel Stothard	RMBC	Sport & Physical Activity Manager
Hal Collinge	Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP)	Technical Author / Needs Assessment Specialist
Chris Siddall	RMBC	Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The PPS assesses the supply, demand and quality of outdoor sports provision (football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis and padel) and identifies current and future shortfalls to 2040. It aims to:

Protect playing pitch stock.

Improve quality, accessibility and inclusivity.

Address geographical inequalities.

Enable investment from national governing bodies.

Guide planning decisions and developer contributions.

<u>The PPS affects:</u>

Children and young people (major shortfalls in youth pitches).

Women and girls (growing participation but insufficient inclusive facilities).

Disabled people (quality of ancillary and accessibility varies significantly).

People on low incomes relying on local accessible grassroots provision.

Ethnically diverse communities, particularly in urban areas with limited pitch capacity.

Clubs, schools, leagues, volunteers, parish councils, and all partners.

Transgender and non-binary people (insufficient inclusive facilities)

Appendix 4

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

A full audit of all pitch sports by quality, accessibility, location and availability.

Detailed participation data for juniors, women and girls, disability football, community cricket and rugby. The growth in participation for women and girls can be seen across football, rugby union and cricket.

Club consultation across all sports (over 100 clubs engaged).

Data on overplay, participation growth, facility suitability for women and girls, availability of accessible changing rooms, security of tenure issues, and demand from deprived areas.

The PPS states that one of its objectives is to identify high-deprivation (IMD) areas with pitch shortfalls, access barriers, or poor-quality facilities, so that these can be prioritised for improvement. The report repeatedly notes that poor-quality pitches, unsecure tenure, and restricted community access are disproportionately found in more deprived neighbourhoods. These sites will be named as a priority investment location because of their potential social benefit.

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

Limited granular data on disability participation across all sports.

Limited gender identity, specific data (trans/non-binary participants).

Limited race/ethnicity participation data, though geographic deprivation mapping gives useful proxy insight.

Limited data on accessibility of travel routes for lower-income or car-less households.

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

Annual review of PPS (Sport England requirement).

Club consultations every 12–18 months.

Facility operator monitoring (usage, gender split, disability access).

Tracking funding applications and uptake from disadvantaged groups.

Planning system monitoring (S106/CIL)

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	A full PPS stakeholder consultation (clubs, leagues, schools, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), community groups) took place. The approach to developing the Strategy

	For pitch sports (i.e., not including tennis), the PPS will be delivered in adherence to Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. This consisted of a stepped approach, as follows: Section A: Preparation Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed. Step 2: Set up the management arrangements. Step 3: Tailor the approach The Stage A, meeting took place 5/09/2024 Section B: Information Gathering Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches. Step 5: Develop a picture of demand. The Stage B, meeting took place 27/02/2025 Section C: Assessment Step 6: Understand how each site is being used. Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision. Step 8: Carry out scenario testing. The Stage C, meeting took place 24/04/2025 Section D: Key Findings & Issues Step 9: Identify key findings & issues. Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues The Stade D, meeting took place 3/11/2025 Section E: Strategy Development & Implementation Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations. Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan. Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS. Key findings: Women & girls hindered by unsuitable changing facilities. Youth teams facing pitch shortages. Demand for disability-friendly facilities and secure, safe spaces. Cost and availability barriers for lower-income families. Geographical inequalities (central and south areas face the largest shortfalls).

Appendix 4

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Internal colleagues were included in the various Stage meetings listed above, with representatives from Planning, Asset Management, and Green Spaces teams/ officers. Key findings: Need for consistency with Local Plan review. Operational challenges associated with ageing stock. Need for long-term funding strategy. Importance of inclusive design

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? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Age:
Responds directly to major shortfalls in youth football and cricket, enabling more opportunities for children and young people.

Disability:
Identifies accessibility shortcomings in ancillary facilities; encourages inclusive design, step-free access, private changing, accessible toilets.

Sex (Women & Girls):
PPS highlights significant barriers due to legacy changing facilities, insufficient privacy, and lack of appropriate playing opportunities. Actions include improving facilities and creating more 3G capacity to support safe training environments.

Gender reassignment / Non-binary people:
Inclusive facility design recommended with private cubicles and non-gendered changing rooms.

Race / Ethnicity:
Areas with higher ethnic diversity also face geographic shortfalls in playing pitch supply; PPS actions include addressing localised deficits.

Religion / Belief:
Some groups require privacy and secure changing; enhanced ancillary provision supports this.

Pregnancy / maternity:
PPS supports accessible, clean, safe spaces for post-natal participation and family-friendly environments.

Socio-economic groups:
Identifies issues with cost, travel distance, and local provision scarcity.
More local provision reduces exclusion

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

Yes, without additional mitigation, barriers include:

Existing shortfalls in several sports disproportionately affect juniors and women.
Poor ancillary facilities can deter women, girls, disabled people, faith groups and LGBTQ+ participants.

Lack of padel courts, limited tennis quality, and insufficient 3G access limit inclusion.

Capacity issues could worsen if population and club aspirations growth materialise.

Risk of inequalities widening if improvements are not prioritised in deprived communities.

Lack of sufficient local 3G pitches/ quality grass pitches creates transport issues (as well as capacity). This could result in participants travelling across the borough or in some cases out of Rotherham to train/ play. This reduces access to low income residents and increases the carbon footprint.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Increased pitch capacity and improved quality benefit all protected groups.

Women's and girls' participation is directly supported.

Improved accessibility and privacy in changing rooms boosts inclusion.
More 3G stock enables safer, floodlit, year-round participation for underrepresented groups.

Enhanced security of tenure supports community clubs serving diverse populations.

Investment guided by PPS is targeted to areas of greatest need, reducing geographical inequalities.

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)

Positive: more inclusive, better quality facilities, accessible sport provision fosters community cohesion and improves health and wellbeing outcomes.

Appendix 4

Provides shared spaces for multicultural participation. Mitigates negative perceptions by ensuring investment prioritises demonstrable need, not advantaging one group unfairly. Supports community clubs that act as key social anchors

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: Playing Pitch Strategy
Directorate and service area: Regeneration & Environment – Culture, Sport & Tourism
Lead Manager: Rachel Stothard (Sport and Physical Activity Manager)
Summary of findings:
The PPS will have overall positive equality impacts, but only if its recommendations are implemented effectively. Key risks relate to inequality of access for: • Women and Girls • Disabled people • Children and Young People • Residents on low income Targeted actions are required to improve ancillary facilities, pitch quality, accessibility, and geographic equity. The PPS provides a clear route to reducing inequalities through inclusive planning, investment, and monitoring.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Prioritise investment in Youth pitch shortfalls	A, O, S, RE, RoB	**01/2029**
Develop additional 3G provision in areas of highest need	A, S, D, RE, O, RoB	**01/2029**
Target women & girl's participation via facility upgrades at priority sites	S, PM, GR, RoB	**01/2029**
Enhance provision in geographical areas of deprivation	RE, O, A, D, ROB	**01/2029**
Support the promotion of improving ancillary facilities with private, accessible, gender-neutral spaces	D, S, GR, RoB, SO, PM	**01/2029**

***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**
Chris Siddall	Head of Sport, Leisure & Strategic Partnerships	15/01/2026
Polly Hamilton	Service Director for Culture, Sport & Tourism	16/02/2026
Cllr. Lynda Marshall	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces	05/02/2026

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	15th January 2026
Report title and date	Playing Pitch Strategy
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15/01/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	Any construction of new pavilions, changing rooms or 3G pitch infrastructure could temporarily increase embodied carbon and operational emissions. Ongoing building use may increase electricity consumption, though PPS recommends LED lighting, energy-efficient systems and modernised buildings that reduce long-term emissions.	Community clubs may also develop new ancillary buildings, creating mixed impacts. Long-term efficiency gains from better-quality, accessible facilities may reduce heating/lighting waste	New non-domestic buildings will be designed to minimise carbon emissions operationally if built by the Council. Where the council are not the developers, support and knowledge will be shared in best practice with regards to reductions in carbon footprint.	Track energy consumption at Council-owned and leased sites annually.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Where a development may occur, there will be an increase in emissions. There is a potential increase in the emissions from the council due to travel for site maintenance.	There is a potential increase in emissions from cars due to increased participation, people attending training, matches. However, there is a current export from the borough which may decrease the amount of travel and emissions from users.	The creation of central venue leagues may lead to more car sharing, use of public transport if town centre based. Promotion of public transport and active travel options.	The number of teams will be monitored on an annual basis, as the PPS is updated.

			There could also be a reduction in emissions where a new facility is created that is more local and accessible via public transport or active travel.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Construction of new 3G pitches or development of grass pitches (i.e. levelling a pitch) will generate waste. PPS does not directly increase waste; modernisation may reduce material waste long-term	Emissions and quantity from waste will be minimal once construction has been completed. Community clubs may generate waste from events/matchdays	Offer recycling provision at playing fields.	Annual site audits
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	The PPS does not influence domestic buildings However, people will be encouraged to be more active and outdoors more often supporting the Cultural Strategy, which may have an impact on emissions from housing and buildings.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	New 3G pitches, cricket squares, lighting and pavilion upgrades involve embodied carbon and construction impacts.	Temporary increase in Borough emissions during construction.	Locally sourced materials and resources where possible. Avoid over-building by prioritising refurbishment and bringing disused	Industry standard practises to be managed by contractor.

				sites back into use (which the PPS strongly supports)	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	Potential but this isn't quantifiable at the moment as the programme hasn't been drafted as of yet. Pitch developments may require removal of minor vegetation. Opportunities exist to plant new trees/hedging around sports sites	Protecting large green open spaces as playing fields prevents them from being developed, maintaining carbon-absorbing land use. Outdoor sports areas provide informal green infrastructure	Avoid loss of green space; PPS already emphasises protection of existing pitches	Annual review of lost/created green assets as part of PPS updates

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Use of rubber crumb in some existing 3G pitches: PPS recommends infill containment measures and exploring alternative infills in line with environmental policy. In September 2023, European REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) introduced restrictions on the use of microplastics for such infill material, effective from October 2031, which may affect the continued viability of maintaining 3G pitches in the UK (*Position statement on 3G pitches*, Sport England, 2025. Available from: https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/position-statement-on-3g-pitches).

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The impact is positive:

Outdoor sports sites form part of Rotherham's green infrastructure, supporting natural drainage and reducing localised flood risk.
The PPS encourages bringing disused pitches back into use, limiting pressure to convert open spaces into built development.
Upgrades to pitches improve drainage and resilience to extreme rainfall (notably relevant given Rotherham's recent flood history).
Enhanced/modernised pavilions can be designed to be resilient to heatwaves, flooding and power interruptions.
More geographically local facilities reduce transport vulnerability during disruption.
Community wellbeing and physical activity are important resilience factors.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The Playing Pitch Strategy has a balanced climate impact, with some temporary carbon costs associated with construction of new or improved sports facilities, but with long-term environmental and social benefits.

Key emissions considerations:

- Short-term carbon increases from construction of 3G pitches, pavilions and lighting.
- Long-term reductions through energy-efficient designs, LED lighting, modern buildings and reduced travel distances.
- Protection of green open space maintains carbon capture and reduces development-related emissions.
- Active travel opportunities increase when facilities are more local and accessible.
- Improved drainage and modern infrastructure enhance resilience to Rotherham-specific climate risks (flooding, heatwaves).
- Reuse of existing sites (rather than new land take) significantly reduces embodied carbon impacts.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rachel Stothard Sport and Physical Activity Manager Culture, Sport and Tourism Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	• Rotherham Playing Pitch Strategy • Part A Equality Screening Assessment • Sport England's Position Statement on 3G Pitches
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not required at PPS adoption stage; to be completed at project design stage if new builds or lighting systems are specified.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 589 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Barry Connolly – Head of Environmental Services
Barry.Connolly@Rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In March 2025 Council approved a £307k revenue investment to create a new Rural Verge & Principal Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance Team (RVGC) to improve the cleanliness and appearance of rural verges and key gateway locations across the Borough. Following recruitment and traffic management (TM) training, the Team became fully operational in October 2025. This report provides a progress update on rural verge cleansing, outlines the forthcoming gateway maintenance programme, and notes the agreed development of a second RVGC team.

Headlines to date (since mobilisation):

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

A focused gateway cleansing and maintenance schedule will run in the April–October window, complementing the established rural verge programme (May–October).

Recommendations

That Cabinet note:

1. The progress delivered by the RVGC team since mobilisation.

2. The planned April–October gateway cleansing and maintenance programme and the improved data capture now in place to inform future scheduling.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Equality analysis
Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact assessment

Background Papers

June 2025 – Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Cabinet Report

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements

1. Background and Context

1.1 In March 2025 Council approved a £307k revenue investment to create the RVGC team to address longstanding issues including litter accumulation on rural verges requiring Traffic Management (TM), and the overall appearance of principal township gateways. The new team provides additional capacity and a more visible presence on the network. It also proactively provides intelligence on littering and flytipping to Community Protection colleagues. Following recruitment delays, due to lack of initial market interest, the team became fully operational in October 2025 after TM training. The Team comprises 3 × Band C operatives and 1 × Band D operative.

1.2 The service complements the Rural Verge Maintenance team which operates from May to October each year maintaining 360 roadside verges (460km) that require traffic management. As a result of this investment, the capacity in this area has been doubled.

1.3 The RVGC model splits activity into two seasons to maximise impact and avoid duplication with the established rural verge programme:

- **Autumn/Winter (October–March):** Rural verge cleansing on routes requiring TM, doubling capacity for litter-picking on the network while operating to a different seasonal schedule to the established verge team.
- **Spring/Summer (April–October):** Principal township gateway cleansing and maintenance on a newly developed schedule to improve detritus removal, weeds management, litter picking, grubbing out, and vegetation management along key entrances to the Borough.

1.4 While active in TM-restricted areas, the Team also undertakes proactive flytipping clearance and provides littering/flytipping intelligence for enforcement and targeted interventions.

2. Key Issues

2.1 **Progress to date (Autumn/Winter Rural Verge Cleansing)**

2.2 **Work started:** October 2025, following TM training and mobilisation.

2.3 **Annual Target:** 250 roadside litter pick sites, totalling approximately 300 km.

Completed so far: 117 sites (across all three operational zones), 146 km cleansed. The delivery pace reflects initial conditions and the need for team competence building.

2.4 **Waste collected:** 4,200 bags; 12 tonnes recorded to date, with additional unbagged tonnage from large flytipping incidents. This is lower tonnage than standard residual waste which reflects the predominance of light, high-volume

roadside litter (bottles, cans, food packaging, paper) – hence the shift to bag count reporting alongside weights.

2.5 **Data & intelligence improvements:** daily bag counts, weights, and hotspot mapping (fly-tipping, asbestos, drug paraphernalia) are now being captured and will be shared with relevant teams to help refine future schedules and enforcement priorities.

2.6 Photos from site jobs are shown below:

Hellaby Lane

2.7







Oldcotes/Lambs Lane

2.8 Before Before After







2.9 **Next Phase: Gateway Cleansing & Maintenance (April–October)**

From late March/early April the RVGC team will switch to the gateway programme, while the established verge team commences its May–October cycle. The gateway work is a new scheduled activity covering several key routes in and out of the borough (detailed below). The scope includes detritus removal, weed treatment/clearance, litter-picking, removal of overhanging branches/hedges, grubbing out, and other tasks needed to improve gateway appearance. Officers will monitor progress, recognising that some locations may require a return visit to complete the full scope of works required. This programme is in addition to any routine jobs logged by residents in these areas.

2.10 **Initial focused gateway cleansing areas:**

Site
A629 New Wortley Road
Centenary Way A630
Wickersley Road / Broom Road / Wellgate A6021
Fitzwilliam Road A630
Greasbrough Road A6123
Meadowbank Road / Wilton Lane / New Wortley Road
Rawmarsh Road
St Annes Road A633
Clifton Lane
Ferham Road To Coronation Bridge
Moorgate Road A618
Warren Vale Rawmarsh

2.11 The current plan is to visit these by schedule and complete 1 day's work on each location every 3 weeks. There will be an immediate noticeable improvement from works completed in each location and these improvements will hopefully be sustained by the new the schedule. Many of the improvements require slightly less frequent maintenance, i.e. the removal of detritus, path edging etc. allowing the teams to focus return efforts on cleansing.

3. **Options Considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The options and proposals were agreed in the March 2025 report and Cabinet are asked to note the progress to date.

3.2 Future development and reports

3.3 Council (March 2026) approved a further revenue investment of £272k to create a second RVGC team. Recruitment commenced in mid-March 2026. A full-year update on both teams' performance will be reported in April 2027

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 As the implementation of this service is the result of a budget investment approved as part of the Council's budget, further consultation has not been required, and this report provides information to note only.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Recruitment of second team: underway from March 2026.

5.2 Progress update: Cabinet in April 2027 covering Team 1 and Team 2.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this update. The team is funded by a revenue investment of £307k approved as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process, with a further revenue investment of £272k approved as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process. Spend and performance will be monitored via the Council's established budget financial monitoring reporting cycle. As recruitment to posts was delayed, the Service are currently reporting an underspend against this investment in 2025/26, however, it is anticipated that this and the additional investment will be spent in full in 2026/27.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Recruitment to new roles will be undertaken in line with the Council's policies, procedures, and the legal framework governing recruitment and selection. Once recruitment has taken place appropriate training is also to be provided.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Recruitment for the additional team is being progressed in accordance with corporate HR policies and safer recruitment standards. Operational staff will continue to receive mandatory training (including TM and H&S), PPE, and access to occupational health support as required.

8.2 The service intends to undertake an internal recruitment exercise in the first instance, to support development and progression from within the organisation. Should a suitable candidate not be appointed internally, the vacancy will then be advertised externally via the RMBC website.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Team and Officers will undertake mandatory training with regards to safeguarding and relevant reporting procedures.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1.

10.2 This is a progress update to inform cabinet, all decisions will be made in line with Council policy regarding recruitment that ensures a process which regards equality and diversity through all stages, and therefore there are no equality implications for this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Service carbon emissions may increase slightly due to staff deployment and vehicle movements across the borough; mitigations include efficient scheduling, sustainable travel where feasible, and effective waste management. As an outdoor service, staff and activities may be affected by climate change impacts (heatwaves and flooding) and these will be managed through existing procedure.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners as part of this update.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 **Recruitment & retention:** Delays in appointing to specialist roles could impact delivery windows. *Mitigation:* early advertising, use of talent pools, and cross-skilling within Grounds & Streets and Waste.

Weather/seasonality: Severe weather can disrupt schedules and vegetation management. *Mitigation:* seasonal planning, flexible scheduling, contingency routes.

Traffic management availability: TM constraints can limit daily output. *Mitigation:* forward booking TM resources and dynamic rerouting.

Health & safety on highspeed roads: Elevated risk to crews. *Mitigation:* TM training, Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS)supervision and compliance audits.

Waste volumes & composition: High bag counts but low weight can affect productivity measures; large fly tips can draw capacity. *Mitigation:* dual KPI approach (bags and weights) and rapid response protocols with enforcement support.

13.2 Performance will be tracked using:

- **Operational output:** sites completed, km cleansed, bags and tonnes collected.
- **Quality/impact:** hotspot trend analysis and gateway condition checks.
- **Programme delivery:** adherence to seasonal schedules, completion rates by route.

13.3 Progress will be reported through routine financial/performance cycles and via the 2027 Cabinet update.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow: Service Director Community Safety and Street Scene

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

Report Author:
Barry Connolly – Head of Environmental Services
Barry.Connolly@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Street Cleansing and Fly Tipping Improvements	
Directorate: **Regeneration and Environment**	**Service area:** **Regulation and Enforcement**
Lead person: **Barry Connolly**	**Contact number:** **07934232720**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This screening relates to the Cleaner Streets Programme progress update, presented to Cabinet in April 2026. The report summarises: • Delivery of the Rural Verge & Gateway Cleansing (RVGC) Team since mobilisation in October 2025 • Progress against rural verge targets (sites completed, tonnage, bag counts, hotspot intelligence) • Introduction of the gateway cleansing schedule (April–October)

- Recruitment of a second RVGC team (3 × Band C, 1 × Band D) already approved by Cabinet in March 2026, with recruitment commencing in early March 2026

This is not a new service proposal.
It is an update on previously approved investment and operational progress.
The only new activity relevant to this screening is recruitment into four new posts.

Recruitment will follow RMBC's corporate equality standards, including accessible job advertisements, objective shortlisting, unbiased interview processes, and reasonable adjustments where required.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		No
Could the proposal affect service users?		No
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	Yes	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		No
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		No
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	Yes	

Appendix 1

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason
Because recruitment of a new team is included, there is a minor and expected workforce-related relevance, but there are no concerns, because RMBC's existing HR procedures ensure equitable treatment and prevent discriminatory effects. There are no changes to public access, eligibility, or service availability

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
How have you considered equality and diversity? The update does not propose changes to service delivery, eligibility or public access. It solely reports progress on work already approved. The only forward-looking element—recruitment of a second team—is fully governed by RMBC's equality and employment policies. For recruitment: • Inclusive job adverts and accessible language will be used • Clear criteria ensure decisions are merit-based • Reasonable adjustments will be offered to applicants who need support • Bias-awareness for recruiting managers will be applied as standard • Monitoring of workforce diversity will take place through HR systems No negative impacts for protected characteristics have been identified.
Key findings • The service update does not introduce new policy changes or service restrictions. • The recruitment element carries only standard equality considerations, which are already managed through corporate HR policy. • No protected group is negatively affected by the progress update or the planned seasonal work. • Positive environmental improvements (cleaner verges, clearer footways, safer gateways) may indirectly benefit older residents, disabled people and people with mobility limitations.

Appendix 1

Actions • Ensure recruitment for the second RVGC team follows RMBC's inclusive recruitment policy. • Continue to provide mandatory equality, H&S and safeguarding training to all operatives and officers. • No further equality actions are required because no policy or operational changes are proposed	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	18/02/2026 – Cabinet April 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	18/02/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Barry Connolly – Head of Environmental Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Barry Connolly	Head of Environmental Services	18/02/2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	18/02/2026
Report title and date	Cleaner Streets – Progress Update
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	18/02/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	Slight increase due to staffing and depot usage	No wider borough impact.	Energy-efficient working practices	Monitored in Scope 1 & 2 annual reporting.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Additional vehicle use from RVGC teams.	Minimal borough impact	Route optimisation, future hybrid/electric fleet.	Monitored through Net Zero 2030 reporting.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	More collected litter and fly-tipping waste.	No increase in total borough waste.	Follow waste protocols and segregation	Waste is managed as part of the Council's scope 3 emissions annually.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

N/A

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

Grounds maintenance and cleansing activities may be affected in future by increasing incidences of extreme weather such as heatwaves, freezing conditions, and flooding. These will be managed through the service's existing risk assessments, weather-related protocols and safe working practices.

There are no identified risks to residents regarding climate impacts in relation to this report.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

1. **Vehicle emissions:**
   Additional travel across rural verge and gateway sites increases operational emissions.
2. **Energy use in buildings:**
   Slight increase from staffing levels associated with the second RVGC team.
3. **Waste volumes collected:**
   Increased collection of roadside litter and fly-tipping results in more waste processing.
4. **Climate resilience:**
   Outdoor working conditions increasingly affected by climate-related weather patterns.

Mitigation

- Route optimisation and reduction of unnecessary travel.
- Transition to hybrid/electric vehicles when practical.
- Energy-efficient practices within depots.
- Strict adherence to Council waste management protocols.
- Staff training on sustainable operations.
- Use of existing severe weather and climate-related risk management procedures.

Monitoring

- Annual monitoring of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (aligned to RMBC Net Zero 2030 commitments).
- Waste tonnage and bag data captured through operational dashboards.
- Travel emissions captured via corporate reporting systems.
- Ongoing review through the Cleaner Streets programme performance cycle.

The implementation of the changes proposed within this report may slightly increase service level carbon emissions, but this is likely to be small and as a result of increased staffing and travel throughout the Borough. Mitigations include encouraging more sustainable travel and effective waste management. *As an outdoor focussed service, activities and staff may be impacted by future climate change impacts such as heat waves and flooding and these will be managed through the service's existing procedures.*

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Barry Connolly Head of Environmental Services Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	*None*
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 602 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Climate Emergency Annual Report 2026

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager
louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer
Arthur.king@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

On 30 October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set out its action plan covering seven policy themes of Monitoring and Measurement; Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; and Influence and Engagement. An Adaptation theme has been included since the 2022 annual report, to recognise work to prepare for the effects of climate change impacts and to mitigate those already being felt throughout the Borough of Rotherham.

At its meeting on 23 March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the following targets:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.

3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Climate Change Progress Report
Appendix 2 Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27
Appendix 3 Corporate Property Decarbonisation Plan
Appendix 4 Solar Project Amendment Proposal
Appendix 5 Climate Data Summary
Appendix 6 Equalities Screening Part A
Appendix 7 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

- Rotherham Council (2020). Responding to the Climate Emergency. Cabinet 23 March 2020:
- Rotherham Council (2021). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:

- Rotherham Council (2021) Budget & Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update - Appendix 3 Proof of Concept Project

- Rotherham Council (2022). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 25th April 2022:
- Rotherham Council (2022) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. Cabinet 17th October 2022.
- Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 25th October 2022.
- Rotherham Council (2023) Climate Emergency Annual Report 20th March 2023
- Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 19 September 2023, 1.30 p.m. - Rotherham Council
- Rotherham Council (2023) Council Building Decarbonisation Programme Cabinet Report - Monday 18 September 2023
- Rotherham Council (2023) Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Expansion. Cabinet 16th October 2023
- Rotherham Council (2024) Cabinets Response to the Improving Places Scrutiny Review - Nature Recovery Monday 16 September 2024
- Rotherham Council (2024) Section 19 Report for Storm Babet, Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 22 October 2024.
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (2024) Net Zero Update. Audit, Standards and Risk Committee. Tuesday 26 November 2024.
- Rotherham Council (2023) Transport CO2 emissions in Rotherham
- Rotherham Council (2024) Waste Collections Policy. Cabinet 16th December 2024
- Rotherham Council (2025) Protecting Our Farmland and countryside by prioritising solar panel installations on roofs and car parks. Council Meeting 15th January 2025.Rotherham Council (2025) Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 10th February 2025.
- Climate Change Committee (2025) Progress in Adapting to Climate Change 30 April 2025.
- Rotherham Council (2025) Local Development Scheme. Cabinet 15th September 2025.
- Rotherham Council (2025) Rotherham (SYMCA) Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. Cabinet 15th December 2025.
- Rotherham Council (2026) Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 27 January 2026.

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2026

1. Background

1.1 In October 2019, at a full Council meeting, a motion was passed declaring a Climate Emergency in Rotherham. In March 2020, a report and policy statement 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' were approved by the Council's Cabinet and the following 'Net Zero' targets adopted:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

1.2 Since then, annual Climate Change Reports and Action Plans have sought to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own activity and across the Borough of Rotherham, to mitigate climate change. The Council's annual action plans focus on eight key themes including Monitoring, Energy, Transport, Housing, Waste, Built and Natural Environment, Influence and Engagement and Adaptation.

1.3 In 2022, Full Council resolved to declare a Nature Crisis, noting that approximately half of UK wildlife is in decline, with 15% of species at risk of extinction. It was also noted that the nature and climate crises are linked. Both nature and humanity are at risk from climate change, yet nature can provide some of the solutions which humanity needs to mitigate climate change: capturing and storing carbon, intercepting storm water flows, cooling and shading urban environments and mitigating air pollution. This report therefore aligns strategically with biodiversity action and provides a short summary of linked action, though an in-depth review is provided as part of the Council's Statutory Biodiversity Duty report, published in March 2026.

1.4 In 2024, Cabinet approved the Rotherham Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy which details the Council's commitment to secure a comprehensive future network so that all residents are included in the transition to electric vehicles.

1.5 This report therefore provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Council throughout 2025/26 (up to the end of quarter 3) and presents an action plan with associated recommendations for the delivery of the next phase of the Council's Decarbonisation Programme.

1.6 **National Policy Background**

1.7 There have been recent changes to the funding available for public sector building decarbonisation. In June 2025, it was announced that the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) would not continue after its latest iteration, Phase 4. This means that there is no obvious funding route for future schemes which do not provide a short-term return on investment, such as heating decarbonisation.

1.8 The Council has been successful in its application through the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for the Mayoral Renewables Fund to apply solar

panels to the new Outdoor Covered Market and Library in Rotherham Town Centre. Funding for renewables appears to be the primary available funding source at present, though the Council will continue to review opportunities as they arise to supplement its existing decarbonisation budgets.

1.9 At its meeting on 15 January 2025, full Council approved a motion regarding solar farms built on agricultural land. Council noted that an increased use of renewable energy sources is critical in meeting the UK's net zero commitments and tackling climate change but that agricultural land and green belt land provide a valuable natural resource for food security, biodiversity and the rural economy. Council resolved in favour of rooftop, brownfield and car park solar installations which will have implications for future schemes that the Council may bring forward, though will not affect the Council's determination of planning applications which must have due regard to the National Planning Policy Framework which supports the development of renewable energy.

2. Progress Report

2.1 The following sections provide an overview of the progress and activities undertaken throughout 2024/25.

2.2 Monitoring and measurement

2.3 The Council continues to monitor its emissions annually. The table below represents the Council's performance measures which measure progress against its Net Zero by 2030 targets. It should be noted that the data presented here relates to the 2024/25 period, to 31 March 2025. This is due to the way in which data is made available and subsequently internally validated through energy billing.

2.4

Net Zero by 2030 Performance Measures

KPI	UoM	Reporting Year					RAG
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Heating (Natural Gas, Biomass *etc*.)	tCO_2e	1,741	1,818	1,766	1,694	1,758	
Fleet Vehicles, Plant & Tools	tCO_2e	2,531	2,522	2,504	2,446	2,521	
On Site Diesel Generation	tCO_2e	3	4	0	0	-	
Fugitive Emissions from RACHP Plant	tCO_2e	138‡	138‡	138‡	90	54	
Electricity Use in Buildings	tCO_2e	2,077	1,930	1,810	1,945	1,904	
Street Lighting	tCO_2e	1,530	1,384	1,267	1,356	1,343	
Grey Fleet Mileage & Business Travel	tCO_2e	221	273	384	396	413	
Total NZ30 Emissions	**tCO_2e**	**8,242**	**8,068**	**7,869**	**7,927**	**7,993**	
Annual Percentage Change*	%	-	-2.11	-2.47	0.74	0.83	
Cumulative Percentage Change†	%	-	-2.11	-4.53	-3.82	-3.02	

** Change in total, annual NZ30 emissions compared with the previous year.*

† Change in emissions compared with 2020/21. The NZ30 target was adopted in March 2020.
‡ In the first three reporting years from 2020, fugitive emissions were estimated from an inventory of air conditioning plant. Since 2023/24 inclusive, a material balance method has been applied, using data supplied by the Council's repair and maintenance contractor.

Table 1. NZ30 Emissions Performance measures 2024/25. *Blue indicates complete; Green indicates on track; amber indicates progress but delayed; red indicates off-track; and grey indicates that no target has been set.*

2.5 Annual greenhouse gas emissions within scope of the Council's Net Zero by 2030 climate change target (scope 1 and scope 2 emissions and scope 3 emissions from official business travel) were equivalent to 7,993 tonnes CO_2, in the 2024/25 municipal year: approximately 3% less than emissions in the 2020/21 baseline year, but a marginal increase year on year, from the previous annual reporting period. Compared with 2022/23, when annual greenhouse gas emissions were at their lowest level in five years of emissions accounting, emissions from heating and vehicles, plant and tools were almost unchanged. Emissions from business travel (grey fleet mileage) account for some of the increase, having increased year-on-year, every year, since 2020/21.

2.6 The Council's 'NZ30' scope boundary was determined with reference to government departments' minimum sustainability reporting criteria. As of the 2025/26 reporting year, government departments are no longer required to report scope 3 (indirect) emissions from business travel. Removing these emissions from the Council's carbon accounting of the last five years, emissions in 2024/25 would be reported at 120 tCO_2e or 1.27% greater in 2024/25 than at their lowest point, in 2022/23. The decrease observed in 'fugitive emissions from RACHP plant' (leaks from refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps) is in fact due to a change in methodology: whereas previously these emissions were estimated by applying standard factors to an inventory of air conditioning plant, they are now calculated by applying a material balance method to data supplied by the Council's repair and maintenance contractor. If these emissions had been excluded from the Council's reporting process an increase in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from 2022/23 to 2024/25 closer to 180 tCO_2e, or 2.45% would have been reported.

2.7 94% of the observed increase is due to increased greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use, in Council buildings and for streetlighting. The Council's electricity use actually decreased over the two years from 2022/23 to 2024/25, by 1.44%; however, the greenhouse gas conversion factor for UK electricity increased by 7.07%, over the same period. Greenhouse gas conversion factors, which reference the carbon intensity of the UK's energy systems and enable the Council to assess the carbon impact of the energy it uses, are determined two years in arrears, such that factors for the 2022/23 and 2024/25 reporting periods are calculated from 2020 and 2022 data years, respectively. A 2025/26 conversion factor 14.5% less than in 2024/25, reflecting the relative carbon intensity of the UK electricity system in 2023, has already been published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and will be reflected in the February 2027 report.

2.8 Based on the conversion factor for UK electricity alone, the Council's NZ30 emissions can be expected to fall 5-6% year-on-year in 2025/26, or 8-9% compared with a 2020/21 baseline. This underlines the extent to which progress towards the Council's climate change target has been driven by this factor. By 2030/31, UK electricity system decarbonisation alone cannot be expected to cut the Council's annual emissions to a level much less than 5,650 tCO_2e.

2.9 Projects which could have materially decreased the carbon intensity of Council operations in 2024/25 have not yet been implemented, with the consequences reflected in annual carbon accounts. It should be noted that work is underway to progress these but there is a lag between approval, procurement and delivery, especially in the case of building decarbonisation.

2.10 Of these key decarbonisation activities, as individual building projects result in generally small carbon reductions on a site by site basis, a significant carbon saving could be achieved by extending the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biodiesel to more of the Council's fleet. Notwithstanding a successful trial, extending HVO use to vehicles which have not yet been approved for replacement by electric models will be subject to feasibility assessment, especially with respect to financial implications, with a decision on investment expected in the 2026/27 municipal year (see also Appendix 2). Projects are underway which will materially decrease the Council's carbon emissions and these are detailed in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.45.

2.11 **Net Zero by 2040 Performance Measures**

2.12 The table below presents the 2024/25 performance measures relating to the Net Zero by 2040 target.

2.13

Net Zero by 2040 Performance Measures

KPI	UoM	Reporting Year*					Status
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Local Area Emissions	$ktCO_2e$	1630	1534	1440	1364	-	
Annual Percentage Change	%	-8.06	-5.88	-6.16	-5.23	-	
Percentage Change from 2005 Baseline	%	-44.33	-47.6	-50.83	-53.41	-	
Fossil Fuels as a Share of Energy Mix	%	80.41	79.81	79.21	78.88	-	
Renewable Generation Installed Capacity	MW	90.6	92.9	94.4	97.3	99.6	
Residences within 3.0mi of RMBC EVCP	%				90.0	99.7	

Residences within 1.5mi of RMBC EVCP	%				48.9	79.0	
Council Homes Rated at least EPC Band C	%		46.5†	50.9	53.9	55.7	
Household Recycling Rate	%	43.3	45.0	44.5	44.9	-	
Recycling Contamination Rate	%	7.70	6.70	6.40	7.00‡	-	
Residual Waste per Household	$kg \cdot yr^{-1}$	506.8	495.0	473.0	480.5	-	

** Local area greenhouse gas emissions and energy statistics are reported by calendar year. Calendar years are aligned with the Council's municipal year reporting periods according to which comprises the greater part of each e.g.,* ***2020*** *NZ40 emissions appear under* ***2020/21*** *in the above table. Local area emissions data is provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero two years in arrears. Therefore 2024/25 data will be available in June 2027.*

† *46.5% of Council homes rated EPC band C or above as of October 2021.*

‡ *Estimated rejects as a proportion of all household waste collected for recycling is no longer published as a standalone statistic since the closure of Oflog (Office for Local Government) and its data explorer. An equivalent metric is calculated from local authority collected waste management data published by Defra. Recycling material recovered from residual waste is factored into this and Oflog's previous metric, such that contamination of kerbside recycling bins may be under-reported.*

Table 2. **NZ40 Performance Measures to 2024/25***. EV data presented is to year end 2025. Blue indicates complete; green indicates on-track; amber indicates progress but delayed; red indicates off-track; and grey indicates that no target has been set.*

2.14 The Council continues to measure several Key Performance Indicators in relation to the Borough's performance. In general, emissions are declining, however the portion of fossil fuels in the Borough's energy mix remains high. UK-wide action to develop a net zero National Grid by 2030 will only affect approximately 20% of the Borough's energy emissions, which means that local action to transition to low carbon heating types, such as air source heat pumps or heat networks is key to reaching net zero.

2.15 It is expected that the above performance measures may evolve as work to develop the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy continues. Work with partners to co-create this Strategy has already commenced with workshops taking place throughout October and November 2025. Actions proposed in the 2026/27 action plan associated with this report will also support the development of these measures.

2.16 A more in-depth overview of the Council's emissions is provided in Appendix 5.

2.17 **Energy**

2.18 In January 2025, the Council was successfully awarded funds as part of the final iteration of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS 4) to deliver

decarbonisation works to three Council buildings - 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens Community Centre and Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library. The contract for these works has now been awarded, with final designs approved and works scheduled to commence in late March or early April. Decarbonisation works at these sites and at Peacock Lodge Children's Home all have expected completion dates in June 2026. It is expected that this project will reduce emissions by 35.35tCO_2e per annum.

2.19 In addition, the Council is also progressing with several solar projects which include solar panels as part of the Town Centre Markets and Library and a solar canopy over the visitor parking bays at Riverside House. The works at Riverside House are expected to commence in April 2026 with completion by early June, while the Markets solar project will be completed by May 2026, according to current contractor estimates. These projects align with the Council Motion to prioritise solar panels on rooftops and are estimated to provide a cumulative saving of 77.8tCO_2 per annum. The projects will also reduce revenue requirements for the lifetime of their use.

2.20 In 2021 Cabinet approved a scheme to develop and deliver a 1MW pilot solar farm project within the Borough on Council land. Unfortunately, the planned project site fell through due to legal complications relating to restrictive covenants held by the Coal Authority. Since then, the Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search and basic feasibility assessments Borough wide. There are currently no suitable sites available and given the recent increase in solar developments locally and the recent Council motion to focus on car parks and rooftops, it has been identified that this project will not be possible to deliver in its current form. It is therefore proposed that a similar scheme, focussed on an 'invest to save' rooftop and canopy project, is approved for delivery instead. The project proposes to deliver renewables, i.e., solar panels to a number of different property types across the Council's wider corporate property portfolio, specifically targeting properties that are not included within the Council's existing heat decarbonisation plan. More details relating to the proposed approach and property eligibility is provided in Appendix 4. The Local Area Energy Plan, the commissioning of which is a proposed action for 202/27, may also present further opportunities for renewable energy generation across the Borough and, if so, proposals will subsequently be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.

2.21 It is important to manage the acquisition, refurbishment and build of new corporate Council sites to ensure compliance with the Council's net zero ambitions. As such, a Decarbonisation Standard has been produced which will act as a client specification to ensure new build properties conform to the highest available efficiency and monitoring standards.

2.22 The Council continues to provide support to residents with energy advice and information relating to grants. As of end February 2026, the Community Energy Team have signed off 1,610 ECO4-Flex grants since the scheme started in 2022, supporting the most vulnerable residents to access home insulation and other energy efficiency measures. 206 were approved between March 2025 and end February 2026. On average these projects have saved residents £6,500 per installation, based on average installation costs.

2.23 In the Autumn budget, the Government announced its plans to close the ECO (Energy Company Obligation) scheme at the end of March 2026, without a direct replacement. A recent announcement in January 2026 confirmed an extension of this scheme until December 2026, but applications for this scheme are now tailing off with only two Rotherham FLEX approved installers having funding remaining. However, the government also announced a plan to provide an additional £1.5 billion capital investment to tackle fuel poverty through the Warm Homes Plan, in addition to the £13.2 billion of funding allocated at the Spending Review 2025. It is not clear at present whether the Council will administer this fund, which plans to focus on the delivery of air source heat pumps and solar, but it is hoped that this information will be made available when the detail around the delivery of the Warm Homes Plan is announced in coming months.

2.24 The cessation of the ECO scheme will result in a reduction in residents' energy bills as the scheme will no longer be funded as a levy on customers' bills, but it is not yet known what the impact will be on local trade organisations which have previously been mobilised to deliver the works associated with this fund. The scheme itself provided energy efficiency improvements to the most vulnerable residents throughout the Borough, particularly those vulnerable to living in cold homes. As in previous years, from 1 November, the Council also offered an Energy Crisis Support Scheme which can support residents in fuel poverty with a payment of up to £250. Whilst this does not directly contribute to decarbonisation, it is designed to support vulnerable residents to manage during the winter months. Links with the existing home grants schemes can also be made, supporting warmer, more efficient homes in future years.

2.25 **Transport**

2.26 **Fleet Transport**

2.27 The procurement of Electric Vehicles (EV) as part of the Fleet Replacement Programme has been subject to delays. The number of EVs to be included is still being finalised as part of the procurement activity, however as committed to Cabinet previously, the Council is seeking to replace 64 vehicles. Since the original Cabinet decision, at least two of those vehicles are no longer required for service delivery so will not be replaced. There have previously been challenges with electrical reliability at Hellaby Depot, relating to load balancing on site; vehicles which are currently taken home by employees due to their working arrangements must also be considered, while several other depot sites are being assessed for EV charger installation. Although maintenance of EVs is generally required less frequently than their ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) alternatives, the delivery of a training programme for workshop maintenance on EVs will also be considered when the final details are confirmed. These challenges are currently being worked through across Fleet, Climate and Facilities Services and the ambition remains to convert a greater proportion of the fleet to EVs in line with the original Cabinet decision. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in due course to confirm the outcome of this work.

2.28 For vehicles which are not planned to be EVs, or may not be suitable at this stage due to performance, the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) may be a feasible alternative which could reduce operational carbon emissions by up to 90% in the vehicles consuming this alternative fuel. The larger, heavier vehicles that form part of the Council's fleet would be an example of potential users due to low battery performance associated with heavy loads. However, HVO is more expensive than diesel and petrol and therefore requires careful consideration prior to any approval and roll out. A review of the costs of moving to greater reliance on HVO and the options around future EV charging infrastructure needs, will be undertaken early in the 2026/27 financial year. This will provide options for the roll out of further EVs in line with previous plans.

2.29 **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

2.30 In June 2023, Cabinet approved the delivery of a solar PV canopy and electric vehicle hub to be installed at Drummond Street Car Park and funded by the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. As part of this, the Council was awarded £1.29 million for the canopy and electrical infrastructure, requiring £300,000 minimum investment from a contractor to deliver the EV infrastructure and manage and maintain the hub as a concession.

2.31 This project experienced significant delays and, due to the complex nature of the scheme and the type of procurement, required additional external legal support to ensure a robust contract and procurement process. This has now completed and the company Wenea Ltd were awarded the project in December 2025. The project is now in the design and planning phase and is expected to be completed by September 2027. In order to ensure continued access and availability of the Drummond Street Car Park during this time, a phased approach to construction will be undertaken which may lengthen delivery timeframes.

2.32 The Council is also involved with a further regional LEVI scheme, designed to improve the South Yorkshire region's EV infrastructure, particularly for those without access to off street parking. In December 2025, Cabinet approved the Council's involvement in this scheme and work continues with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to deliver this procurement. This contract takes a similar, concessionary approach, where a contractor will be appointed across the region to utilise grant funding administered by SYMCA, supported by the Council's EVI Officer to approve site selections and design within the borough, but self-managed by the awarded contractor.

2.33 The following EV chargepoints have also been delivered during 2025/26 utilising the Council's allocated capital budget: Constable Lane, Dinnington; Mowbray Gardens, Greasbrough and Kiveton Park Libraries; Greenlands Park, North Anston; Laburnum Parade, Maltby. In addition, 6 twin fast and 1 twin rapid charger have been installed at Rother Valley; as of end February 2026 Rother Valley's 12 Fast chargers are now live and the Rapids are installed but currently awaiting commissioning. At Maltby, 2 Rapids (4 sockets) are now live and the remaining 22kW Fast chargers are pending final commissioning.

Groundworks are complete at Clifton Park which has experienced delays due to issues with the planned cable route and the charge points are now awaiting final electrical supply to install and commission.

2.34 This programme places 99.7% of Rotherham households within 3 miles of a Council operated EV Charger and 38,152 households (32%) within 0.5miles - approximately a 10-minute walk from a charger. The target for delivery of 95% of residents to be within 3 miles of a Council operated EV Charger by 2025 has now been met. Further metrics are available in Appendix 5 and in section 2.12 above.

2.35 **Mode Shift**

2.36 Schemes to improve residents' ability to walk, wheel and cycle continue to be considered and will be brought forward as feasibility studies are completed.

2.37 The Council also commissions several cycling schemes to encourage users across all age groups to become more confident to cycle and switch to cycling as a more frequent mode of travel.

2.38 This includes the Bikeability scheme which works with Rotherham's schools to improve access to cycling proficiency and the Journey Matters Hub which provides a number of services including adult cycle training, Dr Bike sessions and cycle trials and loans.

2.39 A bid has also been submitted by Sheffield Cycling 4 All to Active Travel England's Active Travel Innovation Fund following their successful trial of six Inclusive Cycling Sessions in Herringthorpe Playing Fields between April and July 2025. These sessions provided opportunities for disabled people and those with long term health conditions to access cycling in a safe, supportive and social environment. 99 cyclists engaged with this scheme, plus 44 supporters, 32% of whom attended more than one session. Participants reported joy, pride and increased confidence in their ability to cycle. The sessions provided not only physical activity, but vital social connection and a sense of freedom for those who face barriers to sport and mobility. If the bid is successful, further sessions may be available for Rotherham residents to access Inclusive Cycling in the future.

2.40 **Housing**

2.41 The Council's commitment to achieve EPC Band C by 2030 has been recently supported by a successful bid to the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund. The Council was awarded £8.8 million from the Department for Energy and Net Zero, to be used alongside Council match funding to deliver energy efficiency measures to 996 homes.

2.42 However, in June 2025 changes to the method for assessing EPC bands, known as RdSAP 9 (Reduced data Standard Assessment Procedure) were announced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The transition from RdSAP 9 to RdSAP 10 represents a fundamental shift in the methodology used to calculate Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. This updated

approach incorporates more stringent criteria and revised assumptions about property characteristics and energy use. As a result, as the Council has re-evaluated its housing stock using the new RdSAP 10 framework, 1,941 homes were downgraded from an EPC Band C or above to EPC Band D or below. This widespread reclassification lowers the Council's baseline for energy performance and significantly increases the scale of intervention required to achieve the 2030 Band C target. Consequently, more homes will require comprehensive retrofitting and energy efficiency improvements, increasing both the scope and cost of the decarbonisation program. Accurate data and adaptive planning are required to ensure the best retrofitting strategy is adopted per property and as such this change is being addressed as part of the wider housing stock retrofitting plan. This information and its impact on the Council's target, will be presented in future Climate Emergency Annual Reports as the data affected is after June 2025.

2.43 The Rotherham Housing Strategy 2025 -2030 was published in December 2025. Priority 2 of the strategy is "Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes". The Strategy re-iterates the Council's target of all Council properties achieving Band C by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty. The Strategy states the Council's continued support to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency across the Borough's housing stock, develop the council housing decarbonisation plan and hold landlords accountable for the condition of their properties, including energy efficiency.

2.44 **Waste**

2.45 The implementation of Simpler Recycling in the Business Waste Service is currently underway. Contracts are currently being procured to cover dry mixed recycling and food waste. At present Simpler Recycling only applies to businesses with 10 or more employees. However, from 1 April 2027 this will be extended to all businesses. Rotherham Business Waste, the Council's waste service which provides waste disposal to commercial organisations, will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Simpler Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review its corporate building portfolio with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.

2.46 **Built & Natural Environment**

2.47 The Council is now progressing with the making of a new Local Plan and as such the action to update the Core Strategy with a view to improving climate change policy cannot be completed. A Local Development Strategy for preparation of a complete new Local Plan was approved at Cabinet on 15 September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change mitigation: an action to this effect is proposed in the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan.

2.48 The Council continues to progress its Tree Planting Programme, with a cumulative total of 53,119 trees planted since 2021. The tree planting season

falls between November and April and as such work was still in progress at the time of preparing this report. As of February 2026, 10,120 trees and hedgerows had been planted this season, of which 672 were in urban areas.

2.49 **Biodiversity**

2.50 A South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is currently being devised by SYMCA, supported by the four South Yorkshire local authorities. Council officers continue their contributions to this work, providing evidence and insight into the process including information relating to the Borough's habitats and proposed species of interest. Consultation on the LNRS can be expected in Spring 2026: publication is not expected before March 2027.

2.51 In 2024, the Improving Places Select Committee undertook a review of Nature Recovery In Rotherham and proposed 13 actions for delivery between 2024 and March 2027, 10 of which were subsequently approved by Cabinet, with the remaining 3 deferred subject to further trials. These actions cover a breadth of different topics and services and include actions such as member support, prioritising local wildlife sites and continuing work already underway such as community engagement, tree planting and verge management. The below provides a brief overview of some of the nature recovery progress to date, however the Council will publish a more in-depth report in March 2026 as part of its Statutory Biodiversity Duty reporting requirement.

2.52 An online training course on the Council's Virtual College is now available for all staff and Members which details information relating to the climate and nature emergencies and how staff can take their own action to reduce carbon emissions and encourage a nature recovery.

2.53 One deferred action proposed was to cease all use of glyphosate pesticides. Instead, the Council proposed to trial the use of glyphosate-free alternatives to reduce non-essential use of pesticides as part of the Council's maintenance programme prior to further consideration. The trial had been expected to be undertaken during 25/26 but as alternate methods of weed management require an increased resource requirement and a small seasonal window this was not possible and as such has been deferred to 2026/27. Alternatives have been researched by the Climate Team to be used as part of the trial when possible.

2.54 The Council's Green Spaces service has also worked closely with several partners including Butterfly Conservation, Water Life Recovery Trust, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Rotherham & Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Froglife and internal services, to undertake surveys, develop biodiversity schemes and Local Wildlife Site designations.

2.55 Influence And Engagement: Children's Capital of Culture

2.56 Children's Capital of Culture, Rotherham's year-long festival engaging, including and inspiring young people has led to many opportunities for Rotherham's young people to explore the climate and nature agendas, to became more active and to celebrate Rotherham's natural heritage through its

theme ‘A World Beneath our Feet’. Encouraging the uptake of active travel for health, the environment and more importantly for fun, has formed a key element of this festival.

2.57 Children’s Capital of Culture has led on play-based activities, creating opportunities for learning and interaction using the medium of play such as through street games and play streets. A primary school project utilised a dance company called Speedwell to create a show called ‘The Mountain Witch’. This show gently introduces themes around climate change in an engaging and creative way. As part of wider activity, Rotherham Symphony Orchestra delivered a ‘World Beneath Our Feet’ concert, taking inspiration from the natural world including writing and illustrations from young people to support. Rotherham also hosted The Royal Horticultural Show at Wentworth Woodhouse in July 2025, with young children producing two flagship gardens which have since been replanted into the primary school responsible afterwards. Care experienced young people supported by Affinity planted a ‘Young Designers’ Garden. The young people involved in this have since achieved horticultural roles showing the value of their experience gained through the Children’s Capital of Culture festival.

2.58 The project has also enabled community activity, through the provision of micro-grants to VCSE groups related to the natural world. Schemes funded include the Friends of Brampton Graveyard Community Day which included a general site clear up and the creation of bug hotels and other nature-based crafts. Youth drama work continues at the Civic Theatre, with a redramatising of ‘The Snowflake’ and large visual artworks have also been commissioned. Artist James Brunt has also been commissioned to create artwork with schools and community groups, utilising natural materials to be used in the Children’s Capital of Culture closing ceremony in March.

2.59 The Remade in Rotherham field at Rotherham Show 6-7 September 2025 showcased different ways in which residents and young people can get involved in environmental action. The Show featured a range of craft activities, re-use opportunities and environmentally-themed workshops including Junk Jodie, a storyteller and artist using recycled materials for artwork and the Made in Rotherham Horticultural Show. The Trees Service and Climate Change Team also attended, sharing information about the borough’s woodlands, low carbon home improvements and grant schemes alongside EV information, an EV Showcase by the Yorkshire EV Club and a multitude of performances such as Bamboo by NoFit State. There was also a focus on physical activity including Moving Rotherham and Journey Matters Dr Bike service.

2.60 Supported by Neighbourhoods Officers and Members, nature and climate themed engagement activity continues in Rotherham’s communities. Examples include tree planting and green space improvements, working with schools and using recycled rubbish or natural materials to create art, green themed library sessions such as at Mowbray Gardens Library and energy efficiency advice at events to support people living in cold homes.

2.61 Finally, three workshops have been undertaken with members of the Rotherham Together Partnership gathering insight from across a variety of

sectors and anchor institutions to begin the co-creation of the Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. This work aims to develop the Council's approach and priorities for achieving its Net Zero by 2040 target. Future actions to shape this Strategy further include technical analysis to identify routes to Net Zero in the transport and energy sectors throughout 2026/27.

2.62 **Adaptation**

2.63 Climate Change Adaptation refers to the ability of an organisation to respond to the expected impact of climate change by reducing vulnerability or risk by effective planning, but also by putting physical measures in place to manage buildings and infrastructure in the face of increasing risk of storms, flooding and excessive heat. A report by the Climate Change Committee to Parliament in April 2025 shared its concerns regarding the country's preparedness for future climate impacts. The effects of flooding and excessive heat on homes and livelihoods due to unchecked climate change could impact the UK economic output by up to 7% of GDP by 2050 impacting long term growth ambitions. It is therefore of greater importance that the Council continues to include adaptation and climate risk assessments as part of its climate change programme moving forward.

2.64 The Council's adaptation work builds on the regional pilot programme steered by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and aims to develop an understanding of the likely future impacts of a warming climate on the Council's services. A programme of training and risk assessment has been developed and is progressing to plan. In April 2025, the Council's earlier carbon impact assessment template was revised, to include consideration of adaptation and resilience to climate change in all Cabinet and Officer Decisions.

2.65 Furthermore, since the publication of the second National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) in January 2025 (after the last Climate Emergency Annual Report was compiled) risk of flooding from rivers and risk of flooding from surface water datasets published on the Rotherham Data Hub website have been updated to account for the effects of climate change, by mid-century. By 2040-60, the number of residential properties in Rotherham at high risk of flooding from rivers (defined as having at least a 1 in 30 annual probability of flooding) is predicted to increase by 11.36%.

2.66 An update on the Council's flood alleviation schemes is also provided in Appendix 1, to provide a holistic account of the Council's action on climate change and to recognise the increasing likelihood of flood risk as a result of climate change. This was reported separately and in more detail in a report to Improving Places Select Commission in January 2026.

2.67 **2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan**

2.68 A proposed climate change action plan for the 2026/27 period is presented in Appendix 2. The below section outlines some of the key activities proposed and their impacts.

2.69 A critical piece of work will be the commissioning and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan. This work will span the Rotherham Borough, provide proposed pipeline projects for the delivery of the Net Zero by 2040 target and directly feed into the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. It will also provide an opportunity for the development of investment proposals for renewables as part of the Council's wider estate.

2.70 A proposal for the delivery of actions to decarbonise the Council's estate over the next five-year period is also presented. 53 buildings are included, of which 17 smaller properties are proposed for delivery in 2026/27, with a forward plan for 36 remaining properties up to 2030. It is recommended that the plan as presented at Appendix 3a, associated procurement and delivery should be approved, alongside a recommendation to utilise funding from various sources such as SYMCA and DESNZ, should it become available. It is proposed that the 2026/27 works utilise approximately £2.5 million of the Council's allocated decarbonisation budget.

2.71 The original £6.4 million allocated capital decarbonisation budget was designed as a match funding contribution and is not sufficient to cover the remaining property works required to achieve net zero. As such a need to access alternative external funding sources has been identified now that the PSDS is closed. Based on the programme provided in Appendix 3a, it is expected that the Council's budget will be fully utilised part way through the 2027 proposed plan if further funding is not identified. The recommendation to pre-approve the full programme and its procurement subject to funding will enable a faster approval process to expedite delivery of individual building decarbonisation schemes given the short 4-year period remaining to deliver this programme.

2.72 It should also be noted that there is a risk that these works may result in an initial increased revenue requirement, based on current electricity prices. This is due to current market conditions, where electricity remains more expensive than gas. This presents a financial risk, though the carbon emissions of the sites will be reduced and the energy security of the sites where solar is feasible will be improved. Sites will also be subject to energy efficiency improvements such as building energy management systems and increased insulation, which will further mitigate the financial risk, alongside ongoing solar feasibility assessments across the Council's portfolio. Sites will be assessed on a case by case basis.

2.73 Works included within this plan include design work, insulation, LED lighting, solar panels, energy management system installation and heating system replacements - which for the most part is recommended to be air source heat pumps, though final designs will recommend the most appropriate and cost-effective measures available.

2.74 Three sites have been selected for the installation of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure; these are identified in Appendix 2. However, a number of other sites have also been put forward as potential sites should feasibility and internal demand allow. Due to the Council's successful installation programme to date, most Council-owned public car parks either meet current demand for

EV charging or pose challenges for delivery. These remaining sites are generally more complicated and may have shared occupancy or tenancy agreements. Assessments will be undertaken at each site to confirm the appropriate specification of charger delivered at each site based on expected dwell time at each location and likely use. Risk of anti-social behaviour and vandalism will also be assessed to determine most appropriate charger type installed. The Council is currently trialling cable protectors (known as Cable Guards) at its existing Rapid charge points to understand whether this prevents or deters against theft of Rapid charger cables. These devices are cut resistant and contain pressurised Smart Water dispersion if the Cable Guard is breached. If successful, this will enable further Rapids to be installed as part of the programme. It is also expected that the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme approved by Cabinet in December 2025 will further increase the Rapid provision throughout the Borough. The aim across both projects is to ensure a varied network of charge point types at suitable locations to complement the approximately 300 device private sector provision already in the Borough.

2.75 A full forward plan of proposed actions for 2026/27 is available in Appendix 2.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1. Do Nothing.

3.1.1 This option proposes that Cabinet notes the progress made so far but does not take any further action.

3.1.2 This option is not recommended as it is inconsistent with the Council's 2019 motion and committed policy statement on responding to the Climate Emergency.

3.2 Option 2. Approve the Climate Change Action Plan and associated recommendations.

3.2.1 This action proposes the following, that Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

2. Approves the Climate Change Action Delivery Plan proposed in Appendix 2.

3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from SYMCA, Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

3.2.2 This is the recommended option, enabling the Council to continue to make progress towards its net zero targets and providing improved authority to utilise funding for approved schemes.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Internal stakeholders have been consulted on the Council buildings which form part of the proposed corporate decarbonisation plan and the actions associated with the forward climate change action plan 2026/27 available in Appendix 2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report provides an update on past actions and presents an action plan for the 2026/27 financial year in Appendix 2. It is anticipated that the majority of actions will be completed in year but where this differs the 'Target Date' presented in Appendix 2 will indicate expected completion date.

5.2 The Climate Change Action plan collates action from across Council services and as such individual services are responsible for the delivery of the actions assigned to them. This information is also presented in Appendix 2 for accountability purposes.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report and its appendices outline numerous different workstreams which are working towards achieving the Council's net zero targets. These will have to be funded through existing and approved revenue and capital budgets. Where additional financial resource is required, this will have to be identified as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.

6.2 As Services prepare for the procurement of contracts, it will be imperative that appropriate consideration is given to climate change in the design and development of the specification. In relation to the procurement activity detailed in this report, this must be undertaken in compliance with relevant

procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market selected as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Services must ensure early engagement and preparation of all procurement related activity.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target on the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2050. The 80% target was increased to a 100% target in 2019 (the net zero target) by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. Although there are currently no net zero statutory targets for local authorities, many (including the Council as set out in this report), have adopted commitments to reduce Carbon emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.

7.2 The Council's commitment to net zero and the actions towards this as set out in the report are consistent with the Government's Net Zero Strategy and are indicative of the important role local authorities play in achieving net zero.

7.3 There will be legal implications for each of the projects referred to within the Climate Change Action Plan, which will include compliant procurement, appropriate contractual arrangements and adherence to funding requirements. These matters will be addressed within the governance and decision-making processes for each project.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications as a result of this report. It is expected that the proposed plan can be undertaken using the current resource.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Children, young people and vulnerable adults may be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change. As such, the services directly interacting with vulnerable groups are prioritised in the Council's adaptation plan for earlier review.

9.2 The Council will continue to seek the viewpoints of young people though the various groups it has access to via representatives within Children and Young People's services.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 As this report is largely administrative in nature, there are minimal direct impacts on equalities and human rights.

10.2 Equality impacts may arise as the programme of works develops and as such consideration of equalities and human rights at the project level should continue throughout development, consultation and engagement to understand the potential impacts. Equality Screening and if required an assessment will be

undertaken before implementation of change or significant programmes of work particularly when planning adaptive measures for Council services or buildings in relation to climate change impacts. Programmes will therefore be managed to reduce service user impact.

10.3 Equalities implications might arise as part of future EV Infrastructure installations and are likely to be site specific. As per the Council's Public EV Strategy, the Council will continue to install EV charge points with PAS1899:2022 standard in mind to reduce impacts and ensure equitable access for all, where reasonably practicable.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The corporate property decarbonisation actions proposed for 2026/27 will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 183.12 tCO_2e, with a total expected reduction of 1,042 tCO_2e by 2030. The works to decarbonise the Council's estate and assess the Council's readiness for climate impacts will also improve resilience and knowledge surrounding the likely impacts of climate change on the Borough and Council services.

11.2 A Climate Change Impact Assessment is available in Appendix 7 and a summary of the Council's carbon emissions reporting is available within Appendix 5.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 To date, partners from across the Rotherham Together Partnership have been involved in several workshops to identify priorities, challenges and opportunities for the delivery of a Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. There will be further opportunities for the Council's partners to continue involvement in the co-creation of the Council's Sustainability Strategy as well as input into engagement relating to the Local Area Energy Plan.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The changing political and financial landscape poses a risk to the delivery of the Programme, in particular with regards to the availability of public sector funding for delivery of schemes where return on investment is not as favourable. The purpose of recommendation 4 is to mitigate this risk, enabling the council to utilise available funding sources as they arise.

13.2 The scale of change and costs associated with delivery may impact on the deliverability of the Council's net zero targets, in particular the target for Council operations to be Net Zero by 2030. This risk cannot be fully mitigated at this time.

13.3 The action plan proposed in Appendix 2 does not contain the full scope of actions required by the Council to achieve its net zero targets. As feasible emissions are reduced and as the 2030 target date draws nearer, consideration may also need to be given to budgets related to offsetting and funding for projects which may not have short returns on investment.

13.4 Similarly, the full scope of interventions to achieve the Borough's 'Net Zero by 2040' target is not currently identified. Actions to develop a Local Area Energy Plan and transport decarbonisation research will improve this and will focus future action within the Council's control. At this stage, the full investment requirement for this target is not yet identified and therefore remains a risk.

14. Accountable Officers

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/03/26

Report Author: *Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager*
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This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

The action plan below details climate change actions undertaken during the 2025/2026 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

Legend - Status

	Complete
	On Track
	Delayed
	Will not be completed
	On hold

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**Status**	**COMMENTS**
Monitoring and Reporting	**Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting.**	Ongoing	Climate		Scope 3 emissions have been enhanced to include emissions from the procurement of goods and services. See appendix 4 for further information.
	Review progress against the Council's net zero targets.	December 2025	Climate		This work has been completed. A report has been produced which identifies that although reaching net zero operations is possible within the next 5 years, the current uncertainty around government funding means that delivery is uncertain, particularly for the Council's corporate estate. Further detail about the Council's current emissions is also available in Appendix 4.
	Working with finance, policy and governance	March 2026	Climate		Stronger delegations have been discussed with finance, and governance and as such have been

	teams to improve the pace at which decarbonisation can be achieved through effective governance.				included within this report for Cabinet's consideration. The delegations included within this report will enable the climate change team to set in place an overarching procurement for delivery of the full scheme and enable action as soon as funding becomes available.

ENERGY					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**Status**	**COMMENTS**
Decarbonising Buildings	**Continue to deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan. Sites likely to be included in 2025 activity include:** • **115 Middle Lane South** • **Springwell Gardens** • **Swinton CSC & Library**	March 2027	Climate		The Council was successfully awarded PSDS Phase 4 funding to undertake these works. A contractor has been appointed, and the project is now in design phase in readiness for construction to begin in March/April 2026. In addition, a further site, Peacock Lodge Children's Home is also planned to be delivered during this time period following the successful completion of the first 3 sites. Full works are expected to be completed by June 2026.
	Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.	March 2027	Climate		This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council's more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. Following the closure of the Rotherham Town Centre Heat Network Project, the Council has since submitted a funding request to commission a feasibility study to confirm whether, given the challenges the previous project experienced, a town centre heat network remains a viable option for this location. Unfortunately, this bid

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

					was not successful, so other funding opportunities are being considered for this piece of work.
	Create a Decarbonisation Standard for the Council's corporate estate.	March 2024	Climate		This action was originally delayed due to staff turnover, however this is now complete. The Standard covers larger refurbishment and new builds which are intended to form a future part of the Council's corporate property portfolio. It does not cover Housing stock for which other standards are available.
	Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow a real-life assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes.	March 2026	Climate		This action is linked with the 2025/27 decarbonisation programme. It is likely that the initial modelling will be complete shortly after the above project is finalised, so a three-to-four-month delay is anticipated. Monitoring of the property will then continue thereafter to assess the longer-term implications of the decarbonisation project. To date, initial site surveys have been undertaken for 115 Middle Lane South and design is underway.
Community Energy Support Scheme	**Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost.**	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate		As at the end of February 2026, the Council has signed off 1610 ECO applications, which on average save residents £6,500 per installation covering insulation, upgraded boilers and other energy efficiency works. 206 applications were approved between April 2025 and February 2026.
Recycling Fund	**Trial use of internal Recycling fund sites to install solar PV on two Council owned buildings.**	March 2026	Climate		This is an invest to save scheme utilising existing Capital budget which is then paid back over time through savings on energy bills. This has been subject to delays due to confirmation of site selection. Commissioning of this project is now expected to be in Quarter 3 2026/27.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

Renewable Energy	**Review opportunities for improving uptake of rooftop solar PV throughout the Borough, and, if appropriate, draw up a business case for any resulting projects that arise from this work.**	March 2026	Climate		Rooftop Solar PV is becoming increasingly accessible and presents an opportunity to provide clean energy whilst reducing energy bills. Several options have been reviewed including a Solar Together type bulk buying model for those who are able to pay and increasing support for schools or community groups. A report has been created, and this work is being fed directly into the Net Zero 40 Strategy work to assess feasibility with likely partners. A business case will be drawn up thereafter.
	Renewable Energy Pilot Project	March 2026	Climate		In 2021 Cabinet approved a scheme to develop and deliver a 1MW pilot solar farm project within the Borough on Council land. Unfortunately, the planned project site fell through due to legal complications relating to restrictive covenants held by the Coal Authority. Since then, the Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search and basic feasibility assessments Borough wide. There are currently no suitable sites available and given the recent increase in solar developments locally, and the recent Council motion to focus on car parks and rooftops, it has been identified that this project will not be possible to deliver in its current form. It is therefore proposed in Recommendation 5 that a similar scheme, focussed on solar rooftop and canopy projects, is approved for delivery instead. More information regarding the proposed amendments to this project are available in section 2.20 of the report and Appendix 4.
Local Area Energy Plan	**Creation of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local**	March 2026	Climate		A LAEP is a plan which sets out the change required to transition Rotherham's energy system to net zero and will be instrumental in providing the project

	Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities.				pipeline to enable delivery of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 aspiration. This work is on track for completion by March 2026. A market engagement exercise has been undertaken to assess costs, and a business case is currently being drafted for approval.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

TRANSPORT					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**Status**	**COMMENTS**
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	**Identify and bring forward further locations for EV Charging Infrastructure in line with the Council's Public Charging Infrastructure Strategy.**	March 2026	Climate		A number of sites have been identified for feasibility across several wards. These sites are included within the proposed forward plan in Appendix 2 and more detail on these and future sites is presented in Appendix 3B.
	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Scheme	March 2026	Climate		Procurement of this project has now completed. It is likely that this project will be on site by March 2026, however it is not expected that the full scheme will be complete until July 2027. This will therefore be rolled over into 2026/27 action plan.
Fleet Transport	**Implement the fleet replacement plan including the procurement of 64 electric vehicles.**	March 2026	Fleet		The fleet replacement programme has been subject to delays due to challenges relating to unreliable electrical infrastructure at Hellaby Depot, a need to install further infrastructure at other sites and in house training for maintenance of this type of vehicle. There is also a requirement to develop a policy for home charging in relation to Fleet vehicles which is not yet in place. The Council is working to resolve these issues and a report will be brought to Cabinet with an update in due course.
	If approved extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder	As per project timelines	Fleet Services		HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023 and

	of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.				those vehicles continue to operate successfully with reduced maintenance required in winter periods due to the enhanced properties of the HVO versus petrol and diesel. Whilst this fuel offers up to 90% carbon emissions reduction, project timelines have not yet been set since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, and as such needs to be carefully considered prior to further action. Therefore a comprehensive review of options is planned for the 2026-27 financial year which will confirm whether HVO is a feasible alternative fuel for those vehicles which cannot yet be transitioned to Electric.
Transport Planning and Data	**Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.**	March 2026	Transport Planning		This project is currently delayed due to resource issues. A specification has been drafted but this has not yet been procured. It is estimated that following contract award, the project will take 6-12 months to deliver. This action will therefore be rolled over to 2026/27.
Transport Planning and Data	**Continued development of schemes funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS),** including monitoring and evaluation of completed projects.	March 2026	Transport Planning		All CRSTS projects must contribute to overarching objectives, which include transport decarbonisation and promoting a modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. Continued development of CRSTS schemes in the 2026/27 municipal year is expected to include ongoing consultation. Schemes are currently being drafted to business

					case, after which the relevant approvals will be sought. The work to monitor existing schemes is ongoing. Current data suggests schemes are underperforming relative to forecasts in respect of cycling - but note - • Performance appears good in respect of walking • Changes in background demand and growth of e-scooters thought to be confounding factors. • Full benefit not necessarily expected to be realised in year one.
	Embed the use of a new DfT (Department for Transport) carbon emissions appraisal tool to support future scheme design.	March 2026	Transport Planning		DfT has developed a new tool to support the design of transport schemes, to mitigate their potential 'embodied' carbon impact through options appraisal. While the tool will need to be used for schemes funded by the Department, there is an opportunity to add further value by embedding its use in other schemes' design. This is now considered business as usual as this is required for all relevant business cases but is delayed due to other issues with current schemes having not progressed to this stage yet.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

HOUSING					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Zero Carbon Housing	Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works and if successful utilise monies secured via Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. This should include performance measures to effectively track performance against 2030 target.	2030	Housing		The Council has been awarded £8.8m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. This will be match funded with Council capital to deliver a £18.4m project to decarbonise 996 social homes, to improve energy efficiency, and reach EPC band C.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

WASTE					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield councils.	July 2025	Planning Policy & Waste		The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. A Joint Waste Needs Assessment was completed in 2022, to provide supporting evidence for a Joint Waste Plan. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.
Business Waste	Continue to develop the Rotherham Business Waste service's paper and card, dry mixed recycling and food waste collections, ensuring compliance with Simpler Recycling regulations across the Council's corporate estate.	March 2026	Corporate Landlord & Waste		This is ongoing, with new bins ordered to improve existing facilities at Riverside with a view to roll out similar bins to its satellite sites after this. In addition, from 1 April 2027 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business

					Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Single Use Plastics	**Engage suppliers to address single use plastics in packaging materials.**	March 2026	Climate		Work is underway to engage suppliers and consider future options for replacements of the Council's remaining plastic products. This might include reducing packing or utilising products which come packaged in cardboard as an alternative to minimise impact.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Planning	**Depending on the NPPF update, continue with the update to the core strategy with the climate change policy updates or begin the process of developing a new local plan which will give more flexibility to focus on climate change**.	March 2026	Planning		The Council is now progressing with the delivery of a new Local Plan and as such this action to update the Core Strategy cannot be completed. A timetable for preparation of a complete new Local Plan was approved at Cabinet on 15th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion and an action to ensure this is considered will be put forward for inclusion in the 26/27 climate action plan.
Planning	**Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.**	March 2026	Planning		This is an ongoing action, but considered completed for this year given the actions undertaken. Best practice from other Councils is periodically reviewed to consider how this might apply to the Council. The Council has also been involved with work undertaken by the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre to review the planning implications for embodied carbon and recommendations have been shared which may be considered in line with the new Local Plan update above. It is recommended that this action is considered business as usual for future action plans.
Green spaces	**Plant 10,000 woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.**	April 2026	Green spaces		At the time of writing this report, tree planting season is underway and is therefore not complete.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

					The Council has delivered 53,119 trees since the start of the tree planting programme in 2021. 10,120 trees and hedgerows have been planted since April 2025 up to end February 2026, with tree planting having commenced in October. 672 of these have been planted in urban areas.
Biodiversity	**Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**	March 2026	Green spaces		The Council continues to collaborate with SYMCA on the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. At present, SYMCA estimate a delay until March 2027 for its delivery. Consultation is expected from Spring 2026 onwards.
	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the units from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	March 2026	Green spaces/Planning		This is subject to delays due to resource issues. It is estimated that this will be delayed by 3 months. This project will require legal support to develop the agreements associated with the sale of the biodiversity units.
	Report upon and publish the Council's first report on Biodiversity Duty.	January 2026	Green spaces		This corporate report is currently being drafted and is expected to be published in March 2026. This is still in line with Statutory requirements. The next report will be due in 5 years' time, in 2031 though monitoring and measurement should be undertaken throughout this time.
	Continue to work towards the completion of the 11	March 2027	Various		The full actions approved as part of the IPSC review are considered separately though are complimentary to the action on

	actions agreed as part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.				climate change. Each individual action has its own deadline. A robust natural environment is likely to be more resilient to climate impact and better able to absorb any residual carbon emissions emitted. Background papers are available in the main report. There are some actions which are delayed due to resource issues across services. A detailed report of each action will be published in March 2026.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Children's Capital of Culture	**Continue to deliver a wide range of creative programming under the World Beneath Our Feet theme.** To include management of the Place Partnership Fund bid to enable partners' delivery of: • A grant of £105K to address creative health outcomes, including through engagement with nature	Dec 2025	Children's Capital of Culture Team		The World Beneath our Feet is a theme chosen by young people as part of the Children's Capital of Culture programme, which is a year-long festival to be delivered throughout Rotherham for and by children and young people during 2025. This theme incorporates nature and climate at its heart and has provided opportunities for young people to engage in nature and climate activities and to learn more about the world we live in through arts and culture. The Place Partnership Fund grant schemes are currently being administered by Wentworth Woodhouse and are expected to continue until the end of 2025.

	• Reduction of carbon emissions through activities that encourage physical activity and use of active transport, including a £105K grant supporting activity delivery around this.				Section 2.57 provides more information about the activities undertaken throughout the Children's Capital of Culture festival and how this links with climate change engagement and health.
Strategy	**Work with the Council's partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040.** Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	March 2027	Climate		The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. This work is on track for completion by March 2027. Three workshops have taken place with partners involved in the Rotherham Together Partnership to co-create this strategy including visioning, prioritisation and action planning activities. Key priorities have been drafted, and the Rotherham Together Climate and Nature Steering Group will continue to refine these ideas whilst the technical work to understand the requirements for a low carbon energy and transport system are considered.
Supporting local communities	**Continue to work with Members to support local communities to develop their action against climate**	Ongoing	Climate & Neighbourhoods		Work to support Members and Parish councillors is ongoing. The online training course is available for all staff and Members to raise awareness of climate activities. A Members session is planned

	change, particularly where Wards have identified climate or nature as a priority.				for March/April 2026 to share information on how Members can champion nature and climate action in their wards.
ADAPTATION					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Climate Adaptation	**Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios.** Delivery of the following actions: • Continuing to build on the public health pilot scheme to finalise outputs; • Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for adult services. • Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact	March 2026	Climate		Training for Property and Facilities Services Senior management Team and operational managers is scheduled for March 2026. This will include information relating to the Council building resilience and how adaptation activity can be embedded into corporate programmes of work. Work to produce a report on the outcome of the pilot, including challenges, gaps and opportunities is currently underway and is on track for completion prior to March 2026.

	review for Property & Facilities services.				
Climate Adaptation	**Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.**	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams		All six priority Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) are now designed to a shovel ready stage. The majority of planning pre-application submissions have been completed, including the most recent for a permanent pumping station at Catcliffe. This facility will enable the discharge of surface water into the River Rother during high water levels, eliminating the need for the Council's current temporary pumping operations. More advanced schemes are expected to progress to full planning prior to construction, with construction on Whiston Brook anticipated to commence within the 2025/26 financial year. A new scheme has also been included in the priority flood alleviation schemes list following devastating flooding of Storm Babet. The scheme will reduce impedance on the River Rother by making alterations to the existing bridge over Treeton Lane.

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 Progress Report

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE					
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2025/26**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**STATUS**	**COMMENTS**
Events	**Continue developing data capture of events carbon foot printing and building this into agreements and contracts with suppliers.** Develop baselines for Roots Rotherham Street Carnival and WOW events.	March 2026	Events		The Events Team has signed up to Greening Event Code of Practice (GeCOP) which aims to develop and utilise a new tool for this. Gathering insight from suppliers has proved challenging to enable this piece of work. As such this action is delayed. It is expected that Roots Carnival, planned for March 2026 will utilise the new process for monitoring of this type of data.
	Use Roots Street Carnival and other events to promote other council initiatives including tree planting and biodiversity.	March 2026	Events		This action is complete.
	Ask artists and performers we work with to use sustainable practices and materials where feasible – for example reused or recycled materials and avoiding single use plastics.	March 2026	Events		This action is complete. This is embedded within programmes, however it is difficult to manage and confirm how this has been carried out from the third party. Actions have been included within the 2026/27 Action plan to expand upon this.
	Develop the Rotherham Show food and drink offer to promote more smaller local supplies and vendors who offer plant-based meals.	September 2025	Events		Additional vendors were invited to the Rotherham Show, and plant-based food were encouraged across non-vegan food vendors. Demand management was challenging for food vendors however and were often quickly out of stock.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2026/2027 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Monitoring and Reporting	**Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting.** Trial carbon reporting with a willing contractor to understand better the challenges faced.	Ongoing	Climate	Scope 3 emissions reporting is challenging, as many of the organisations the Council works with do not have the capacity to undertake accurate carbon accounting. This action will enable the Council to identify what can feasibly be asked of contractors and how this requirement can be incorporated into carbon related KPIs in future contracts.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

ENERGY				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Decarbonising Buildings	**Continue to deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan.** **16 sites are proposed to be delivered during the 26/27 period and are identified in Appendix 3.**	2030	Climate	Proposed heat decarbonisation plan is available in Appendix 3. A budget of £2.5m is proposed to deliver these works, utilising the Council's allocated decarbonisation budget.
	Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre. Identify a funding source for a heat network feasibility study.	March 2027	Climate	This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council's more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. At present, following the closure of the Rotherham Heat network project, it is not currently clear whether a heat network is now feasible within the Borough.
	Continue delivery of Markets and Library solar project.	September 2026	FM	Utilising funding from the Mayoral Renewables Fund and Council match funding to deliver 297kwp solar. This project is dependent on the delivery of the Markets and Library Project.
Community Energy Support Scheme	**Continue to support residents to reduce energy and costs and promote any funding opportunities as they are made available.**	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate	The latest Budget announcements indicate that ECO4 will not continue past December 2026. Though it is indicated that further funding may be available through the Warm Homes Plan it is not yet confirmed how this will be administered and how Local Authorities can contribute.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

Schools Solar	**Trial a school's solar project with one Local Authority maintained school to understand the challenges and scope of future projects.**	March 2027	Climate	The scheme will be subject to school agreements and payback through reduced energy bills. This will require support from Legal and Procurement for delivery and will utilise the Council's existing Invest to Save Budget for delivery.
Local Area Energy Plan	**Commission a Local Area Energy Plan**	December 2027	Climate	This project will be delivered in a phased way so that data will become available throughout the process. Delivery is expected to take 6-12 months post procurement.
Renewables Invest to Save	**Set up Renewables Invest to Save Project including Year 1 deliverables of**	March 2027	Climate	Subject to approval as part of this Cabinet report, this scheme plans to deliver the key administrative outputs alongside project selection and at least 1 solar installation in year 1. See Appendix 4 for further information.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

TRANSPORT				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	**Work with regional partners to complete procurement of the LEVI concession arrangement.**	March 2027	Climate	This programme, approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 will replace the Council's EV Infrastructure delivery programme and will see installations Borough-wide through a mixture of LEVI grant funding and private sector investment.
	Install the following sites utilising existing EVI Council Capital to a budget value of £70K including any security measures such as CCTV and contingency. • **Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, S65 2HR** • **Rosehill Victoria Park, S62 7HJ** • **Parking on Highway, Wickersley, S66 3ZL**	March 2027	Climate	These are expected to be ruggedised Fast chargers of approximately 22kW with contactless payment inbuilt. Affects the following wards: • Boston Castle/Rotherham East • Rawmarsh West • Wickersley North
	Investigate the identified Highways, Housing and Non-Council Land locations as presented in Appendix 3B for EV Infrastructure feasibility and if appropriate, install utilising the remaining allocated EVI capital funds.	March 2027	Climate	Will require consultation with and support from Housing and Highways to complete and in some cases is dependent on landowner approval via lease agreement. At the time of writing this report it is not confirmed whether the sites proposed are identified for other priorities and further work is required to progress these schemes. However, spatial mapping indicates that the inclusion of these and the above sites will allow the Council to achieve 94% properties within 1.5m of a Council EV charger.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Solar PV and EVI Scheme.	September 2027	Climate	This is a rolled over action due to procurement delays. A new expected completion date has been provided.
Fleet Transport	**To extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.**	As per project timelines	Fleet Services	HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023. Since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, the decision to invest further needs to be carefully considered and is therefore likely to be made during the 2026-27 financial year.
	Assess the infrastructure requirements associated with a fleet transition to electric vehicles.	March 2027	Fleet Services & Facilities Management.	In future, the Council may not be able to procure vehicles with Internal Combustion Engines. A programme of infrastructure upgrades will be required to accommodate future changes and it should therefore be a priority to better understand the financial and delivery implications.
Transport Planning and Data	**Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.**	March 2027	Transport Planning	This is a rolled over action due to resource challenges. Transport emissions pose a challenge for decarbonisation due to the mismatch between UK and local targets and because an estimated 43% of emissions from road transport are from trips produced outside South Yorkshire. The commissioned study will make recommendations regarding the scope of the Council's NZ40 target as it applies to emissions from transport and will recommend priority actions to cut emissions, minimising cumulative emissions while seeking to deliver other local economic, social and environmental benefits. A new deadline of March 2027 is therefore proposed.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

HOUSING				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Zero Carbon Housing	**Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works to 9308 properties that fall below Band C.**	2030	Housing	This will be tracked by percentage EPC Band C delivery.
	Install Warm Homes measures to 996 homes.	2029	Housing	This project is funded by Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. Progress will be tracked via project delivery metrics against the plan.
	Undertake optimisation studies on the Council's remaining 12 domestic heat networks.	March 2027	Housing	The study will result in a work package for all systems and ensure efficiency and compliance.
	South Yorkshire Energy Wellbeing Network. Work with regional partners to develop a retrofit one stop shop for access by residents as part of the SY Energy Wellbeing Network project.	TBC	Climate	The delivery of this scheme will depend on a successful regional funding bid to the Climate Action Fund. Rotherham Council's role will be to integrate existing fuel poverty and low carbon schemes into the wider project as well as to provide local input. Other partners include SYMCA, NEA, Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley Councils and South Yorkshire Climate Alliance.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

WASTE				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Waste from Households	**Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Councils.**	Timetable to be agreed with SY authorities and SYMCA	Planning Policy & Waste	The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.
Business Waste	**Engage smaller businesses now subject to the Simpler Recycling legislation to ensure understanding and provide support. Also ensure compliance within the Council's own estate.**	March 2027	Corporate Landlord & Waste	From 1 April 2027 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Sustainable Food	**Continue to further expand the Food Works, 'Just Meals' hub model to**	March 2027	Public Health,	It is expected that by March 2026, there will be ten sites across Rotherham where

	increase the availability of low cost, healthy meals and sustainable meals.		Neighbourhoods	Community Fridges are available for use by the local community to access good quality, sustainable, locally produced, healthy meals. This action builds on this work and expands to other sites and may include further place based local action including cookery classes, community growing and meals for children during the school holidays.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Planning	**Consider how more robust climate and adaptation policy could be included within the new Local Plan.**	March 2027	Planning	The Council is now proceeding with the preparation of a complete new Local Plan, and a timetable was approved at Cabinet on 15th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion.
Green spaces	**Plant 10,000 woodland trees and hedgerows and 500 new urban trees.**	March 2027	Green spaces	This is an annual target. Challenges with land availability may have implications for the delivery of this target. Planting season extends to March.
Biodiversity	**Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**	March 2027	Green spaces, Planning	This is a delayed action from 2025/26. RMBC has continued to work with SYMCA throughout this period and delays are as a result of consultant timelines.
Biodiversity	**Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the credits from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.**	August 2026	Green spaces	This is a rolled over action.
	Creation of a biodiversity focussed webpage on the Council's website to raise public awareness of the actions being undertaken.	March 2027	Green Spaces, Climate	This can also be utilised as a platform for publishing the Council's biodiversity duty report.
	Commission and deliver an updated Tree Strategy considering the latest information regarding the Council's tree cover and longer-term maintenance.	March 2027	Green Spaces	It is important to consider the longer-term climate implications as well as delivery and maintenance factors.
	Provide an annual summary of biodiversity related actions. This includes working towards the completion of the 11 actions agreed as	March 2027	Green Spaces and Planning.	A full review and update on these actions is expected to be published in March 2026 as part of the Council's statutory biodiversity duty report, after which the next report will

	part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.			be due in five years afterwards. This action proposes an annual review to encourage continued momentum.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Strategy	**Work with the Council's partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040.** Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	March 2027	Climate	The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. Initial work has been undertaken during 2025 to engage stakeholders in this work. The LAEP and Transport studies described above will now support this work, with a view to a proposed Strategy completion date by March 2027.
Supporting local communities	**Supporting Members to develop their Ward priorities with the climate and nature in mind.**	Annual	Climate & Neighbourhoods	This might take various forms dependent on local need.
Children and Young People	**Engage young people in discussions and activities around climate and nature topics.**	March 2027	CYPS	This action utilises local groups already in establishment to ensure that young people have a voice in the climate and nature action undertaken throughout the borough.
Supporting education establishments	**Support education establishments to continue making progress with climate and nature action plans.**	March 2027	Climate	By the end of 2025, it is expected that all education establishments will have appointed a sustainability lead and have created a Climate Action Plan. It is important that this work is not merely a one-off exercise and progress continues to be made into the future.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Events	**Continue to commission events with environmental themes in mind.**	Ongoing	CST, Events	
	Create an artist agreement pack to include sustainable practice and information capture.	March 2027	Events	This pack will provide an opportunity to engage up front with artists, set expectations and share best practice. It will also enable an awareness of the data required to better capture the carbon emissions of events.
	Take part in the Green Events Code of Practice and pilot proposed process. Seeking alternative advice and sharing best practice to develop the events programme moving forwards.	March 2027	Events	Involvement in this project provides opportunities for shared learning and collaboration on environmental projects.

ADAPTATION				
PRIORITY AREA	**KEY ACTIONS 2026/27**	**TARGET DATE**	**SERVICE**	**COMMENTS**
Climate Adaptation	**Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios.** Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for Housing service.	March 2027	Climate, Housing	Service input will be required from Housing. This is likely to require a multifaceted exploration of the climate impacts on the councils housing stock and community impacts.
Climate Adaptation	**Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.**	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams	Work managed separately through the Drainage & Flood Risk Teams and reported annually through the Improving Places Selected Commission.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

Climate Adaptation	**Review opportunities for a Borough level Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CCRVA).**	March 2027	Climate	It is not expected that the CCRVA will be delivered during this period, but costs, funding opportunities and content coverage will be explored.

Appendix 3A. Decarbonisation Plan

							Capital					Revenue Cost		Gas/LPG	Heat	Elect	0.1829	0.0590	0.2071	
Site Name	Delivery Year	Boiler Age	Survey Cost	Design Cost	Projected Decarb	Internal Fees (16%)	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Existing (£)	New (£)	Energy Change (kWh)			Gas CO_2e	Heat CO_2e	Elect CO_2e	Cost T/CO_2 eLT
115 Middle Lane South (Community Support Services)	2025	2014		£2,316	£54,051	£9,019						£1,125	£1,232	-12,500	2,521	-793	-2.29	-	0.36	
Children's Home - Peacock Lodge	2025	2020		£2,244	£51,717	£8,634	£488,407					£1,688	£2,112	-24,357	11,539	-6,171	-4.45	-	1.11	-42.08
Springwell Gardens Community Centre	2025	20years +		£7,161	£171,059	£28,515						£9,333	£3,605	-122,079	19,710	-18,206	-22.33	-	0.31	
Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library	2025	20years +		£5,428	£127,065	£21,199						£10,108	£3,535	-66,066	8,575	-21,652	-12.08	-	- 2.71	
							£561,668													
Broom Valley Clubroom	2026	2018		£4,500	£40,167	£7,147						£1,769	£3,605	-24,290	15,269	-3,066	-4.44	-	2.53	
Children's Home - Beech Tree Lodge	2026	2022		£4,500	£43,919	£7,747						£2,999	£5,359	-32,170	20,223	-4,348	-5.88	-	3.29	
Children's Home - Dragonfly House	2026	2022		£4,500	£28,777	£5,324						£2,164	£3,692	-15,000	9,429	-1,513	-2.74	-	1.64	
Children's Home - Pegasus House	2026	2018		£4,500	£62,411	£10,706						£3,494	£5,592	-30,487	19,165	-4,675	-5.58	-	3.00	
Children's Home - Phoenix House	2026	2018		£4,500	£28,408	£5,265						£931	-£1,288	-4,284	2,693	-10,715	-0.78	-	- 1.66	
Children's Home - Quarry House	2026	2022		£4,500	£43,416	£7,667						£3,190	£6,825	-35,260	22,165	-571	-6.45	-	4.47	
Children's Home - The Paddocks	2026	2018		£4,500	£50,401	£8,784						£1,790	£2,218	-9,640	6,060	-2,419	-1.76	-	0.75	
Conway Crescent (Learning Disability Respite Service)	2026	2021		£9,000	£71,121	£12,819						£3,717	£3,300	-28,758	18,078	-13,994	-5.26	-	0.85	
Conway Crescent (Learning Disability Respite Service)	2026	2021		£9,000	£71,121	£12,819		£2,263,948				£4,459	£4,325	-31,312	19,683	-13,955	-5.73	-	1.19	-96.82
Cranworth Centre	2026	2018		£9,000	£210,411	£35,106						£10,720	£21,350	-119,136	74,891	-8,541	-21.79	-	13.74	
Dalton Youth & Community Centre	2026	2020		£9,000	£303,189	£49,950						£6,486	£7,470	-52,591	33,060	-18,607	-9.62	-	2.99	
Greasbrough District Offices	2026	2018		£4,500	£52,361	£9,098						£2,453	£3,437	-27,873	17,521	-8,008	-5.10	-	1.97	
Kiveton Park Library	2026	2020		£9,000	£191,861	£32,138						£5,356	£9,344	-61,464	38,637	-10,393	-11.24	-	5.85	
Swinton Brookfield Centre	2026	2022		£9,000	£169,343	£28,535						£9,871	£9,648	-58,367	36,691	-25,912	-10.68	-	2.23	
Swinton Civic Hall	2026	2011		£13,500	£279,016	£46,803						£9,682	£8,633	-67,118	42,192	-32,961	-12.28	-	1.91	
Waleswood Caravan Park	2026	2020		£22,500	£179,761	£32,362						£110,942	£134,385	-365,000	229,445	-62,673	-66.76	-	34.53	
Aston Customer Service Centre	2027	2009		£22,500	£1,623,905	£263,425						£82,507	£91,485	-142,266	129,668	-64,910	-26.02	-	13.41	
Boston Castle	2027	2012		£9,000	£187,027	£31,364						£3,297	£4,730	-17,832	11,210	-1,910	-3.26	-	1.93	
Chatham Villas - Doncaster Gate	2027	2016		£9,000	£311,773	£51,324						£7,787	£14,052	-77,386	48,646	-8,108	-14.15	-	8.39	
Crowden Outdoor Education Centre	2027	2017	£5,688	£13,500	£227,063	£38,490						£12,653	£21,145	-110,239	69,298	-13,285	-20.16	-	11.60	
Greasbrough Library	2027	2022		£9,000	£304,354	£50,137						£4,026	£2,415	-23,036	14,481	-16,318	-4.21	-	- 0.38	
Hellaby Depot (Deby)	2027	2010		£9,000	£231,699	£38,512			£7,450,733			£25,182	£35,421	-113,749	71,505	-7,798	-20.80	-	13.19	-119.88
Hellaby Depot (Sandbech)	2027	Various <2011		£22,500	£1,024,653	£167,544						£33,058	£58,210	-422,790	265,773	-80,607	-77.33	-	38.34	
Oaks Lane GMD	2027	Various <2011		£9,000	£206,254	£34,441						£6,283	£6,675	-54,532	34,280	-21,805	-9.97	-	2.58	
Rawmarsh Joint Customer Service Centre	2027	2010		£18,000	£1,007,805	£164,129						£20,936	£25,851	-62,488	39,281	-7,125	-11.43	-	6.66	
The Place & Welcome Centre(Old Kimberworth Comp)	2027	20052023		£31,500	£1,145,513	£188,322						£51,940	£62,463	-261,225	164,211	-69,872	-47.78	-	19.53	
48 Aldred Street (HMO)	2028	2023	£4,875	£4,500	£53,600	£9,296						£2,352	£2,940	-11,150	7,009	-2,424	-2.04	-	0.95	
Canklow Sports Pavilion	2028	2024	£5,688	£9,000	£70,015	£12,642						£1,463	£514	-12,916	8,119	-9,333	-2.36	-	- 0.25	
Cen2ury Business Centre	2028	2023	£9,813	£22,500	£764,091	£125,855						£39,559	£31,818	-177,567	111,622	-107,072	-32.48	-	0.94	
Century Business Centre	2028	2000		£22,500	£1,257,320	£204,771						£36,718	£64,047	-470,404	295,704	-92,306	-86.04	-	42.11	
Children's Home - Hazelwood House	2028	2022		£4,500	£69,010	£11,762						£2,125	£2,884	-15,000	9,429	-3,394	-2.74	-	1.25	
Davies Court Residential Care Home	2028	2022	£9,813	£27,000	£896,801	£147,808				£5,088,429		£107,371	£171,129	-738,181	464,034	-61,365	-135.01	-	83.37	-199.87
Dinnington Old Library Project	2028	2023		£4,500	£49,982	£8,717						£1,952	-£160	-28,337	17,813	-20,596	-5.18	-	- 0.58	
Fir Close Meeting Room	2028	2022	£5,688	£9,000	£71,322	£12,851						£5,803	£7,969	-65,064	40,900	-19,221	-11.90	-	4.49	
Lord Hardy Residential Care Home	2028	2023	£9,813	£27,000	£850,149	£140,344						£95,122	£146,104	-613,345	385,559	-58,962	-112.18	-	67.62	
Stepping Stones Children's Centre	2028	2023		£9,000	£164,787	£27,806						£12,682	£14,450	-79,904	50,229	-27,175	-14.61	-	4.77	
Bailey House	2029	2019		£31,500	£724,100	£120,896						£140,658	£140,022	-166,774	150,097	-119,288	-30.50	8.86	- 24.70	
Civic Theatre	2029	Various<2018		N/A	£588,603	£94,176						£42,392	£40,897	-334,483	277,617	-27,921	-61.18	16.38	- 5.78	
Eldon Road (Learning Disability Respite Service) - 54	2029	2011	£5,688	£4,500	£59,754	£10,281						£1,265	£2,158	-13,317	8,371	-2,136	-2.44	-	1.29	
Eldon Road (Learning Disability Respite Service) - 56	2029	2024	£5,688	£4,500	£59,754	£10,281						£1,322	£2,020	-11,632	7,312	-2,192	-2.13	-	1.06	
Eric Manns Building	2029	2024	£7,313	£13,500	£424,606	£70,097						£8,697	£7,867	-62,369	56,132	-46,977	-11.41	3.31	- 9.73	
Fusion - Magna BIC	2029	Various <2011	£7,313	£18,000	£477,164	£79,226					£6,922,613	£40,315	£68,566	-193,830	174,447	-22,677	-35.45	10.29	- 4.70	-574.83
Matrix Dinnington Business Centre	2029	2008		£18,000	£555,815	£91,810						£28,978	£42,004	-311,029	195,518	-81,211	-56.89	-	23.67	
Museum	2029	2008		N/A	£650,145	£104,023						£35,271	£23,890	-165,351	140,620	-57,451	-30.24	8.30	- 11.90	
Orchard Centre (Children's Respite)	2029	2022		N/A	£488,455	£78,153						£41,036	£47,241	-434,363	420,663	-22,922	-79.44	24.82	- 4.75	
Riverside House	2029	2010		N/A	£1,175,388	£188,062						£756,113	£771,456	-1,804,189	1,721,264	-128,597	-329.99	101.55	- 26.63	
Town Hall	2029	2005		N/A	£673,986	£107,838						£43,269	£49,472	-348,130	331,200	-11,546	-63.67	19.54	- 2.39	
																				-931.4
1		Total	£77,375	£508,500	£18,220,571	£2,996,651	£2,263,948	£7,450,733	£5,088,429	£6,922,613		**£1,894,405**	**£2,198,114**	**- 8,530,630**	**6,369,559**	**- 1,485,674**	**-1560.3**	**193.1**	**333.7**	
	Inc. Contingency (15%)				**£20,953,657**		**£2,490,342**	**£8,195,806**	**£5,597,272**	**£7,614,874**			**£303,709**			**- 3,646,745**	66.24%		**-1033.5**	
					£24,536,183														**£23,742**	

The above includes all currently proposed heat decarbonisation measures across the operational estate. This is based on a strategic, portfolio-level assessment and some detailed site-by-site surveys. Measures include replacement of fossil fuel heating systems with air source heat pumps where buildings are not highlighted as potential heat network connections (pale blue), alongside fabric improvements, building management systems, LED lighting, and on-site solar and battery storage where appropriate. The programme has been sequenced to reflect asset condition, system end-of-life, delivery, grid capacity, and value for money. Costs and savings remain indicative at this stage and will be refined through feasibility studies, heat loss assessments, electrical capacity surveys and engagement with stakeholders as the project moves forward. Alongside ongoing checks to ensure buildings remain operational and are planned to remain part of the Council's portfolio, work will also be undertaken to align with other Capital works as they arise across the Council so that disruption and costs are minimised. This may mean that buildings are removed from the Plan or moved to an alternative delivery date from time to time.

Appendix 3b. EV Locations Presented for Delivery and Feasibility Assessments.

*Sites highlighted in green are proposed for delivery in 2026/27 subject to National Grid considerations; all other sites are for feasibility assessment and internal consultation and, if suitable, for delivery thereafter. Costs provided are estimates and will be subject to finalisation, programme will then be contracted to meet budget requirements. Sites proposed not considered suitable or surplus to budget allocation at present may be re-reviewed at a later date as part of the regional LEVI Mainfund Programme.

Area	Site	Post Code	Ownership / Service	Ward	Bays	Estimated Cost
Priority 1 (90% Res within 1.5ml)						
Thurcroft	Garage Plot, Arbour Dr, Thurcroft, **OR** Cedric Crescent	S66 9DU, S66 9PA	Council / Housing	Thurcroft & Wickersley South	2	£20,000
Wickersley	Highway, Adjacent to The Woodman, Rotherham S66 3ZL	S66 3ZL	Highways	Wickersley North	4	£25,000
Brinsworth / Catcliffe	Pike Road / Ellis street	S60 5DJ	Housing	Brinsworth	2	£22,000
Herringthorpe	Stadium Car Park	S65 2HR	Council / Leisure & Culture	Boston Castle / Rotherham East	2	£18,000
Kimberworth	Burgen Road Parking Area	S61 3JN	Council / Housing	Keppel	2	£25,000
Rawmarsh	Rosehill Victoria Park	S62 7HJ	Council / Parks	Rawmarsh West	4	£20,000
Thrybergh	Warrener Dr NC	S65 4DB	Council / Housing	Dalton & Thrybergh	2	£18,000
Blackburn	Garage Site, Thundercliffe Rd	S61 2BX	Council / Housing	Rotherham West	2/4	£25,000
Priority 2 (99% Res within 1.5ml)						
Brampton Bierlow	Wynmoor Cres 2 options or Parish Hall	S73 0UB, S73 0TX	Council / Housing, Parish Council	Hoober	2	£20,000
Laughton en le Morthen	Village Hall, Firbeck Ave	S25 1YD	Parish Council	Dinnington	2	£20,000
Kiveton Park	Viking Way NC	S26 6RX	Council / Housing	Wales	2	£18,000
Harthill	Leisure Centre Car Park **or** Car Park by Sports Pitch (currently tenanted)	S26 7SG, S25 5AE	Parish Council (TBC), Tenanted	Wales, Aston & Woodsetts	2	£19,000
Deepdale	Highway, Thornton St	S61 2LQ	Highway	Rotherham West	2	£18,000
Thorpe Hesley	Residents parking, Sough Hall Rd **or** New Street	S61 2QL, S61 2QR	Council / Housing	Keppel	4	£30,000
Whiston	Residents Parking, Stringers Croft **or** Garage Site, Hunger Hill Lane	S60 4DE, S60 4BD	Council / Housing	Sitwell	2	£20,000
Harley	Garage Site, 95 Occupation Rd **or** 1 of 2 identified non-Council sites in Wentworth	S62 7UQ	Council / Housing	Hoober	2	£25,000
Treeton	Holmes Cres	S60 5QH	Council / Housing	Rother Vale	2	£25,000
					Total	£368,000
					Contingency (20%) and internal fees (1%)	£77,280
					Totals **40 bays**	**£445,280**

The above delivery plan is subject to internal approvals and partnerships with external organisations as well as finalised feasibility studies and therefore actual delivery may differ. Charger type will be determined following site assessments including likely dwell time, risk of vandalism and grid capacity.

Appendix 4: Solar Project Amendment Proposal

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	Total
Invest-to-Save Renewables Pilot	Capital Expenditure	0.200	0.400	0.400	0.000	1.000
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources ask)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Finance and Customer Services	**Net (Corporate Resources)**	**0.200**	**0.400**	**0.400**	**0.000**	**1.000**

Project Description

It is proposed that the £1.0m capital budget, currently allocated to the Council's solar farm project, is repurposed to establish an internal renewable invest to save pilot, focused on renewable energy and carbon reduction projects across a broader range of assets. Rather than being tied to a single large-scale generation site, this model would enable the Council to invest capital across multiple buildings and services, recycling the savings from energy bills to support further investment over time. In this format, renewables will be installed at selected sites and the occupying service will be charged a lower fee for power utilised to cover any maintenance and upkeep required, reducing energy bills and reducing carbon emissions. The Council will also benefit from any overspill which can contribute to the Council's carbon reduction through offsetting. The scheme is designed to provide energy bills savings for the Council whilst also proving the concept for a wider roll out should it be successful in line with the original 'proof of concept' approach.

This project will directly reduce the carbon emissions of the properties involved, supporting the Council's ambition to deliver a net zero Borough by 2040 and the decarbonisation of its corporate estate by 2030.

Scope of the Proposal

The proposal focusses on delivery of renewable energy measures across the rooftops and potentially car park canopies of the following asset types:

- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties landlord supplies (staircase lighting, lifts, and shared services).
- District Heating boiler houses.
- Non-Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) Council assets. E.g., properties that are already electrically heated and are therefore net zero ready.
- Council owned properties that are not used for core Council services but remain within the authority's asset base (rental units).
- Schools where not eligible for Government or other funding routes
- Leisure centres under PFI arrangements
- Community buildings, subject to further consideration and feasibility assessments.
- Car parks if feasible

The proposal explicitly excludes investment in individual homes or tenant electricity supplies and is restricted to the communal landlord-controlled systems only. These property types are excluded as the Council would be required to formally operate as an energy supplier and re-bill tenants for their usage which is not considered feasible at this time.

Outputs and Outcomes

This project will provide a blueprint for future potential schemes and roll out. It is hoped that a future business case can be brought forward for a more comprehensive solar programme following this trial, with the potential for a lager reaching scheme.

The use across different property types and ownership models will allow for the key challenges associated to be identified and worked through.

The scheme will reduce energy bills for the properties included within the pilot, provide a low-cost mechanism for accessing renewable power, improving resilience and reducing carbon emissions.

In addition to the carbon reductions and monetary savings, where the scheme is utilised to supply school-based renewables, the scheme has benefits for education with the use of an on-site visual example of sustainability that can be linked to the curriculum.

The pilot will be designed to position the projects to access any funding streams if they become available, to maximise the availability of the Council's initial investment. It is proposed that if grants become available from Great British Energy, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Department for Education or from regional sources such as SYMCA, the Council will provide support to apply for these grants, and the funding reallocated to another property instead. This will reduce the financial burden on the property and the Council and still result in carbon emissions reductions within the relevant timeline.

The proposed project is spread across 3 years with the following outcomes:

Year 1: Economic model and legal SLA's collated, sites identified plus 1 initial trial site delivered: £200,000
Year 2: Delivery of phase 1 projects: £400,000
Year 3: Delivery of Phase 2 projects: £400,000
Year 4: Project Evaluation and phase 2 business case if appropriate.

Solar panels are expected to be in operation for approximately 25 years. Many remain in operation longer than this. It is estimated that this investment will result in approximately 450-550kWp depending on the sites selected, which will generate in the region of 355,000 –

435,000kWh per year, saving £75,000 - £90,000 on energy bills annually based on current contract rates following payback. This will save approximately 70-80tCO_2e per annum.

Financial Implications

Until the locations are confirmed, and the technical site assessments are carried out, it is not clear what the exact expenditure per installation will be.

It is proposed that the following costs are assigned, across the sites to be delivered:

- £690,000 for installation, including DNO and planning costs.
- £150,000 contingency (15%)
- £150,000 for project management (15%)
- £10,000 capital fee (1%)

The payback mechanism associated with this scheme will include maintenance and checks associated with electrical safety as well as an element of ongoing project management. The scheme is not intended as an income generating project but will reduce energy bills and aims to pay for the resources it uses such as staff time, cost of loan, and maintenance.

The size of the solar installations can be scaled back to account for the budget available and projects will be chosen based on value for money, return on investment, existing grant funding eligibility and feasibility.

The scheme proposed operates as a ring-fenced recycling invest to save scheme, with the repayments to be invested again on additional PV projects and any potential periodic capital upgrades which may be required such as inverter replacement after a set number of years.

The asset life span of Solar PV is +25years, so once the investment has been paid off there will still be a benefit to the site for an additional 10-15 years.

Risks

It is important that projects are selected to reduce risk, and that effective project management is undertaken, therefore this will be assessed to minimise project risk through the expression of interest stage. Previous experience managing a previous scheme focussed on savings as a result of LED lighting enhancements demonstrates the team’s ability to effectively manage this type of scheme and its associated risks.

Key risks include timely procurement, on site challenges and Distribution Network Operator (DNO – e.g., Northern Powergrid) connections which can result in cost escalation and slippage, early engagement with the DNO and careful project selection will reduce this risk exposure. The complications relating to any PFI arrangements may pose added challenges resulting in slippage or non-delivery for this type of

establishment. There will also be additional costs linked to the required approvals from the PFI funders and any hand over requirements which will require further analysis before a PFI related project can continue.

The project will also need to consider site specific risks and mitigate accordingly, for example installation is likely required to be undertaken during the school holidays for school projects or around key dates for other operational buildings. Project Managers will need to be aware of conflicting priorities during this time including other construction projects being undertaken and key staff absences.

Financial risk from repayment default by the property, due to budget constraints, academisation or generation utilisation lower than expected, this will be offset by a loan agreement and repayment schedule. This will require legal input.

Technical performance of the system is a risk if they are not designed effectively for the site, which would result in lower output performance, therefore this will be covered by robust procurement evaluation, ongoing performance assessment, warranties and Operation and Maintenance agreements.

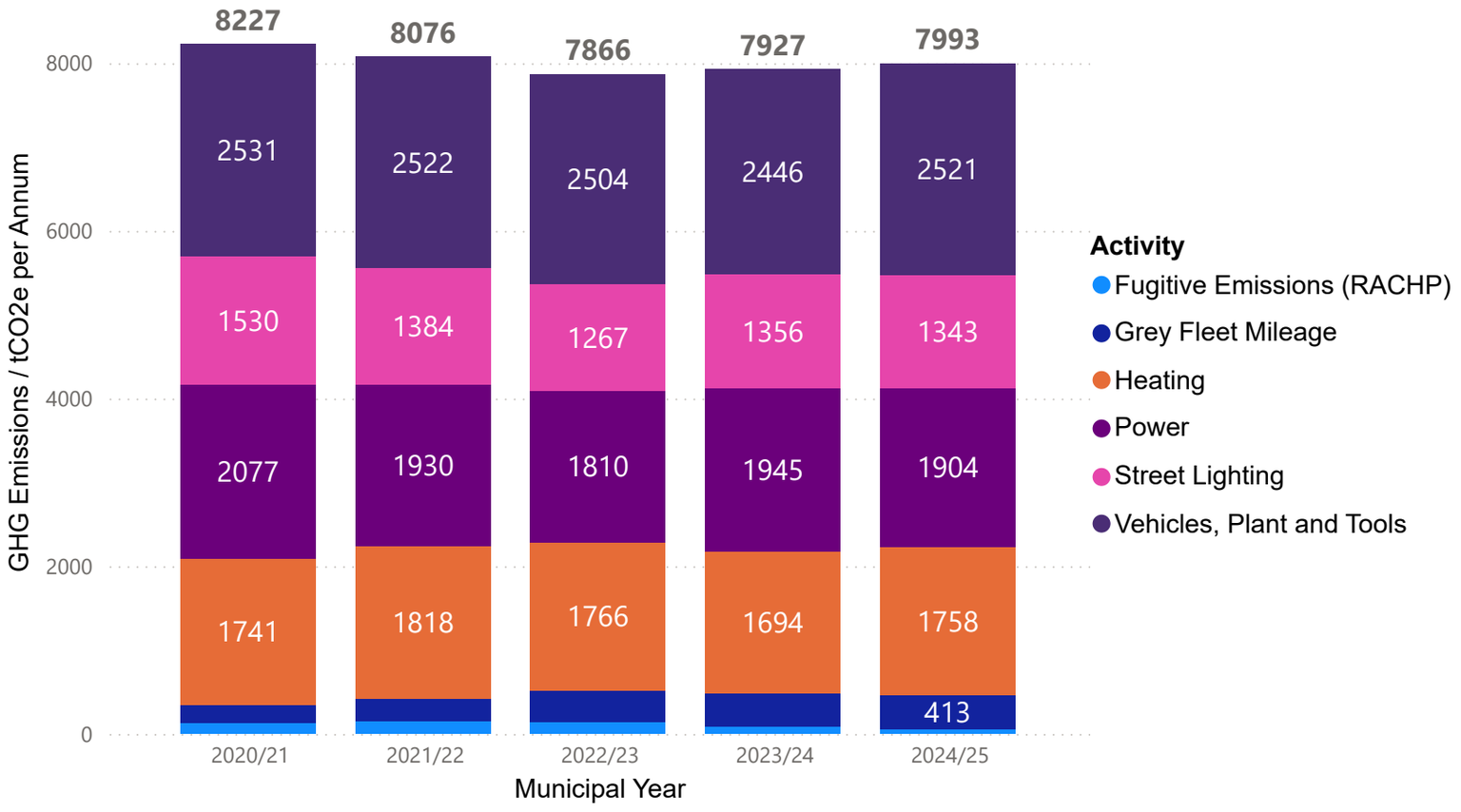
Overall project failure could result in a reputation risk for the Council, which would undermine the further roll-out and uptake of the scheme, therefore thorough project management due diligence will be undertaken, and careful monitoring and reporting of the scheme outputs are required. The pilot nature of the scheme allows this to be carefully considered and controlled prior to future larger scale programmes being brought forward.

Appendix 5

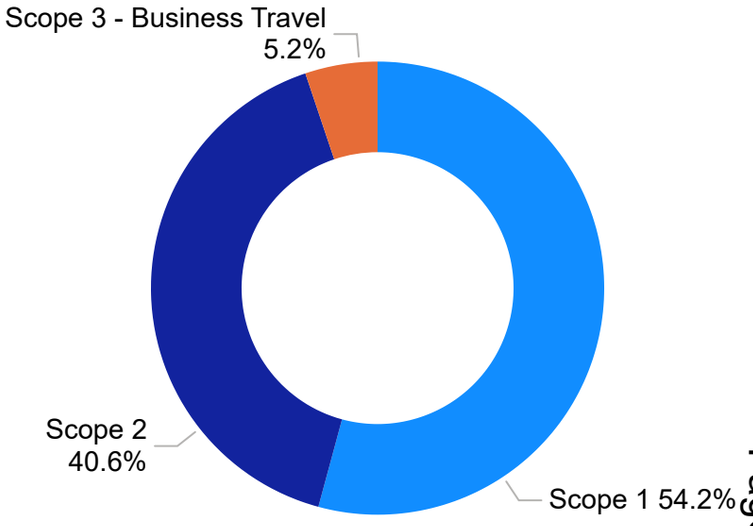
Rotherham MBC *NZ30* Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Municipal Years **2020 - 2025**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions within Scope of the Council's 'NZ30' Climate Change Target

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2024, DESNZ.



Emissions by Scope, 2024/25 Municipal Year



7993

2024/25 NZ30 Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

- Scopes 1 and 2 and scope 3 emissions from business travel are the emissions considered within scope of the Council's 'Net Zero by 2030' climate change target, which emulates the scope boundary previously applied to government departments' mandatory emissions reporting. From the 2025/26 municipal year, departments no longer have to report their scope 3 emissions from business travel.
- Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions are emitted directly by the Council's operational activity e.g., as flue or exhaust gases from heating Council buildings or driving Council fleet vehicles; they may also be released by accident e.g., as leaks of refrigerant gases from Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pump (RACHP) equipment, in which case they are described as 'fugitive' emissions.
- Scope 2 emissions are from purchased energy: in the context of the Council's present emissions inventory, this refers exclusively to purchased electricity, principally for street lighting and diverse applications at Council sites, labelled 'Power' in the above chart.

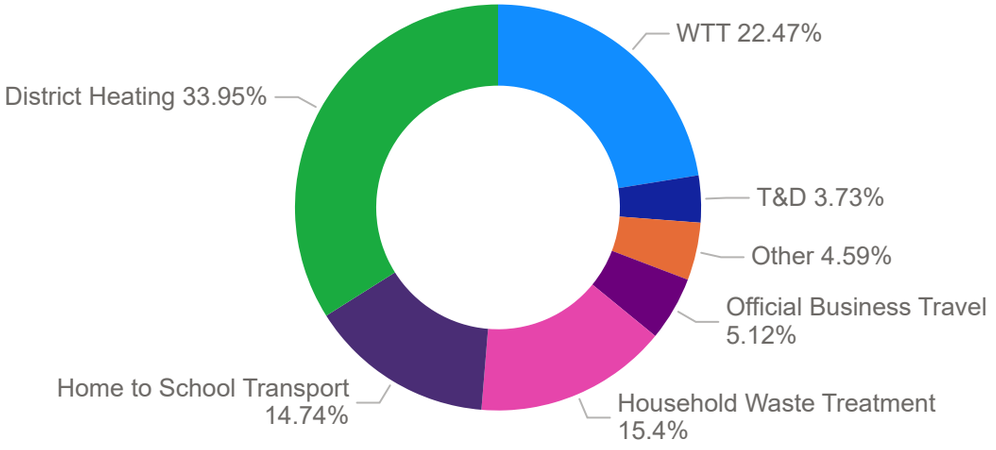
Appendix 5

Rotherham MBC *Scope 3* Greenhouse Gas Emissions: **2024/25** Municipal Year

Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are from sources which the Council neither owns nor controls, but which are a consequence of its activity e.g., business travel in employees' own vehicles, work done on the Council's behalf by a supplier or embodied in the production and transport of materials.

Share of 2024/25 Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source

Activity-based scope 3 emissions only: excludes the majority of emissions under contract. Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2024, DESNZ.



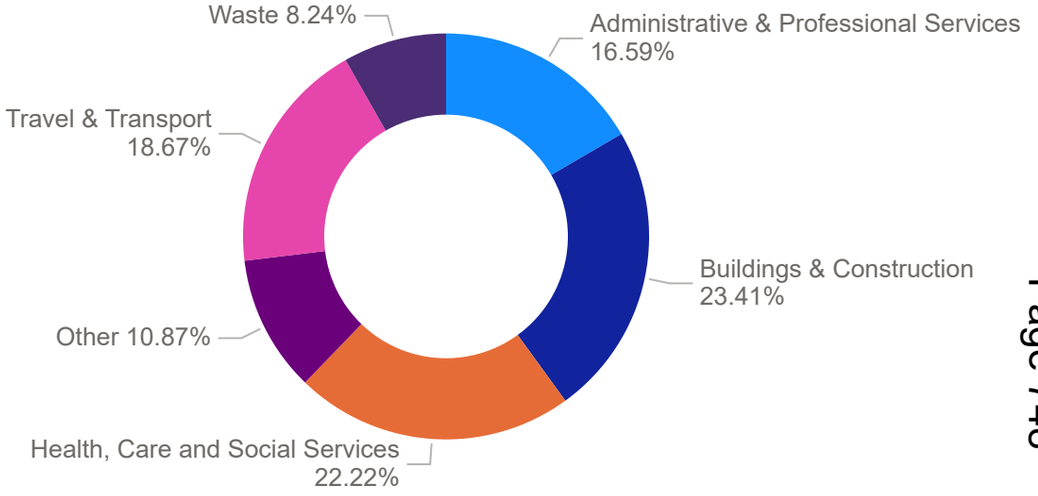
8,066

2024/25 Annual, Activity-Based Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

- **WTT** indicates **well to tank** *i.e.*, greenhouse gas emissions from the production and supply of fuels. **T&D** indicates the greenhouse gas emissions associated with losses in the **transmission and distribution** of electricity.
- Where the Council holds sufficient data from its suppliers, it is possible to estimate scope 3 emissions from units of **activity** (e.g., units of energy, distance travelled, tonnes of material) in the same way as scope 1 and 2 emissions are calculated, by applying standard conversion factors.

Share of 2024/25 Consumption-Based Emissions by SIC Code

Suppliers' SIC codes are grouped into broad categories to aid interpretation. Conversion factors: Defra, 2025. UK and England's carbon footprint to 2022.



85,033

2024/25 Annual, Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

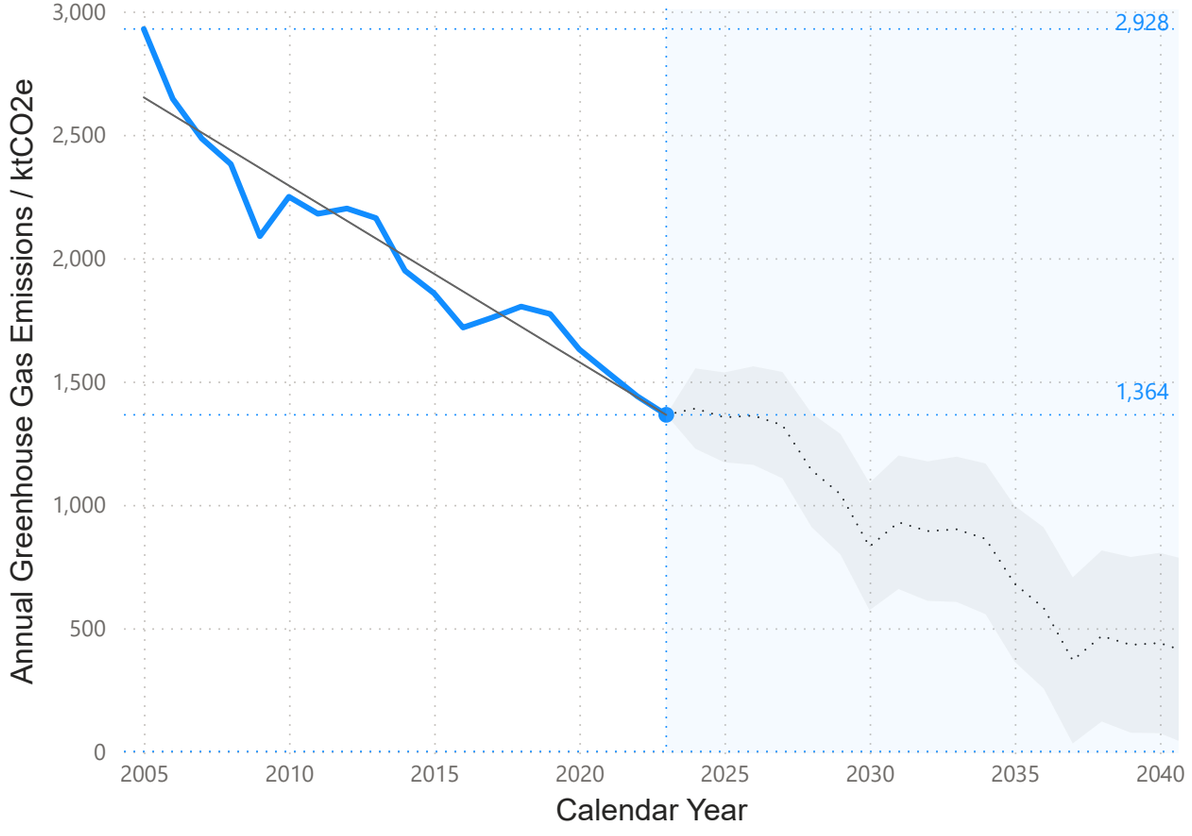
- Activity data are not available to estimate scope 3 emissions from the majority of the Council's procurement and commissioning activity. **Spend-based** conversion factors yield indicative estimates, which can help to prioritise data collection in carbon-intensive or high-spending sectors, for more accurate monitoring.
- Spend-based conversion factors for different sectors, as classed by SIC (standard industrial classification) codes, are published by Defra alongside *UK and England consumption accounts* and applied to the Council's annual procurement spend.

Appendix 5

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Rotherham Local Area Emissions, 2005 - 2023

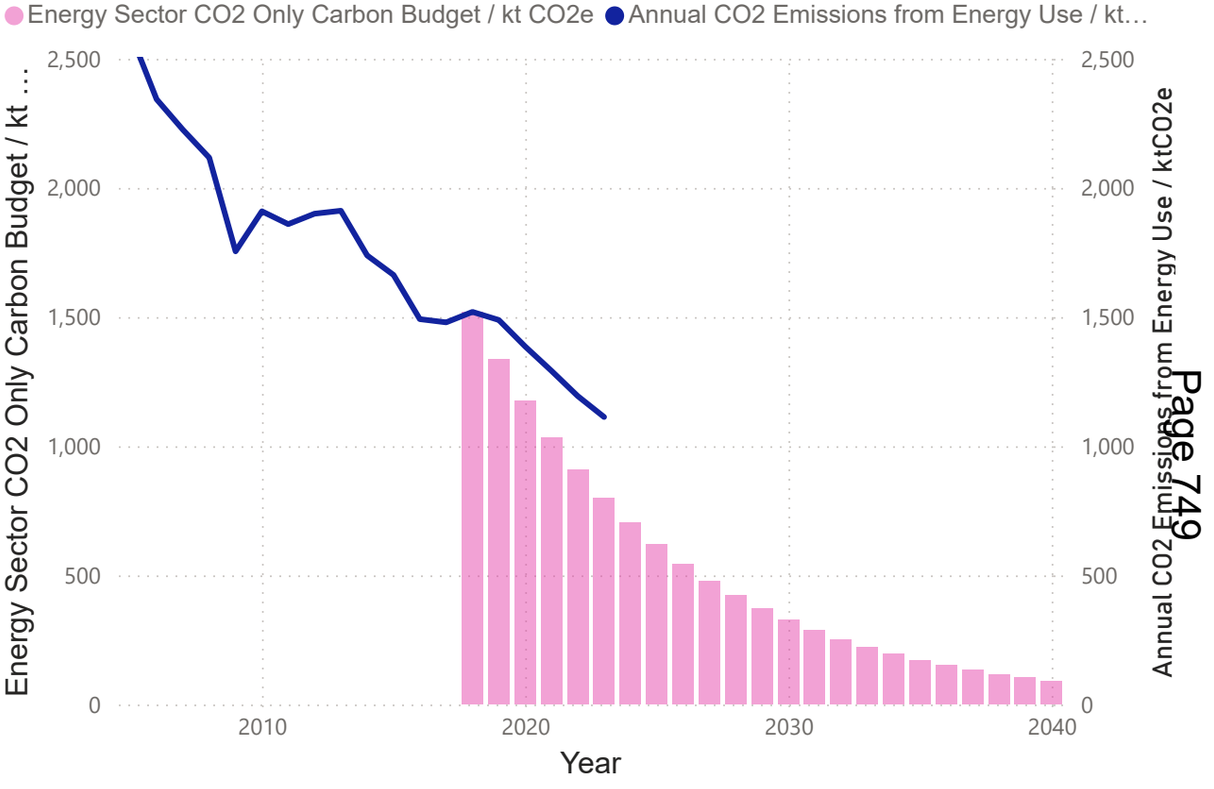
Source: DESNZ, 2025. UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023.



Greenhouse gas emissions from sources and processes within Rotherham - including *e.g.*, surface transport which may only pass through the Borough - have fallen **53.4%** over the last two decades. In its March 2020 policy statement *Responding to the Climate Emergency*, the Council declared its ambition for Rotherham to be a 'Net Zero Borough' by 2040. **2023** is the latest year for which local authority greenhouse gas emissions statistics are available - but it also marks the halfway point between 2005, the first year in the data series and 2040, when the Council's 'NZ40' target matures. *An indicative forecast, based solely on local area emissions to date, is also presented.*

Rotherham Energy-Only Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2005 - 2023, versus an Annualised, Recommended Carbon Budget

Source: DESNZ, 2025. UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023.



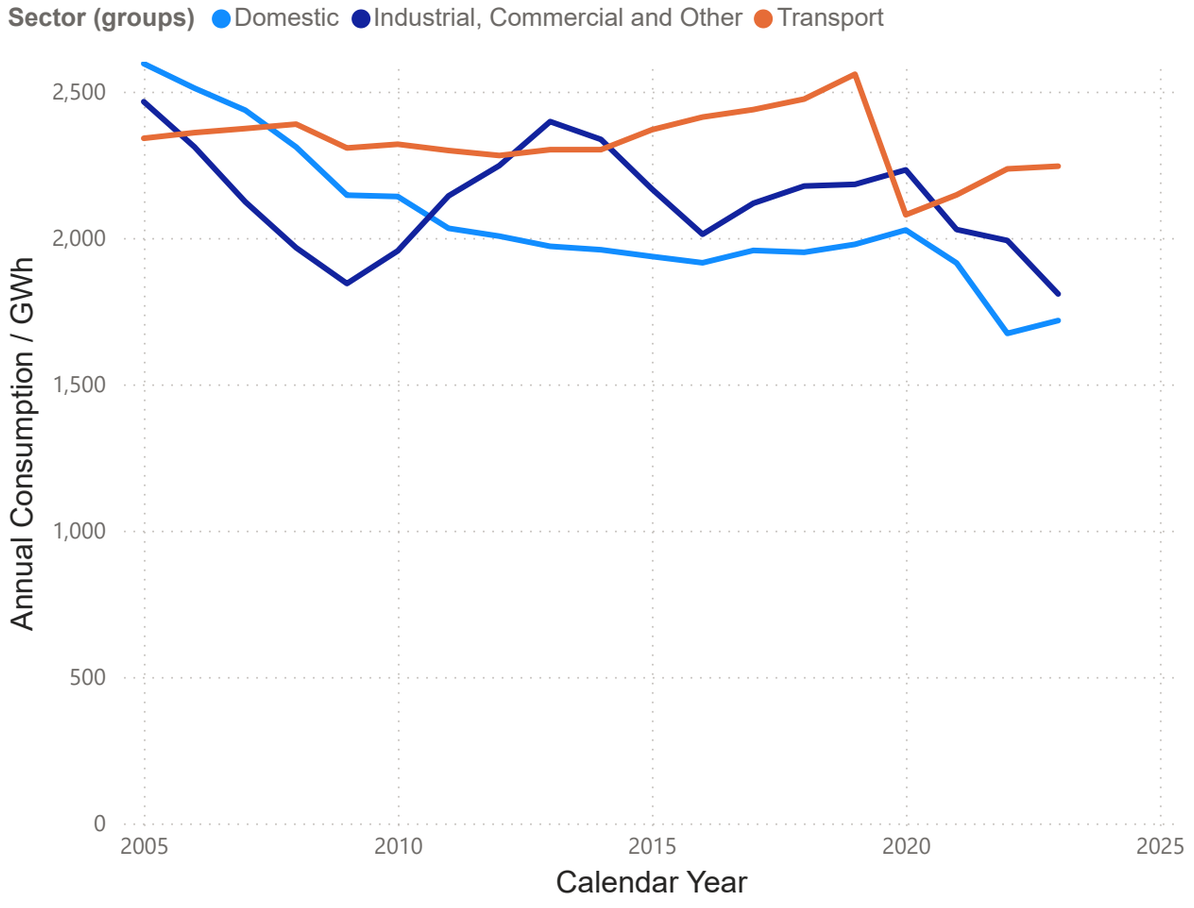
Recommended carbon budgets for local authorities, originally published by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (Kuriakose *et al*., 2019), were a key reference for the Council as it adopted a 'Net Zero by 2040' (NZ40) climate change target for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough. Recommended carbon budgets were determined with reference to the Paris Agreement, by which 195 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are committed to 'holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels', translating this international commitment into climate action at the local scale.

Appendix 5

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Total Energy Consumption

Local Energy Consumption by Sector

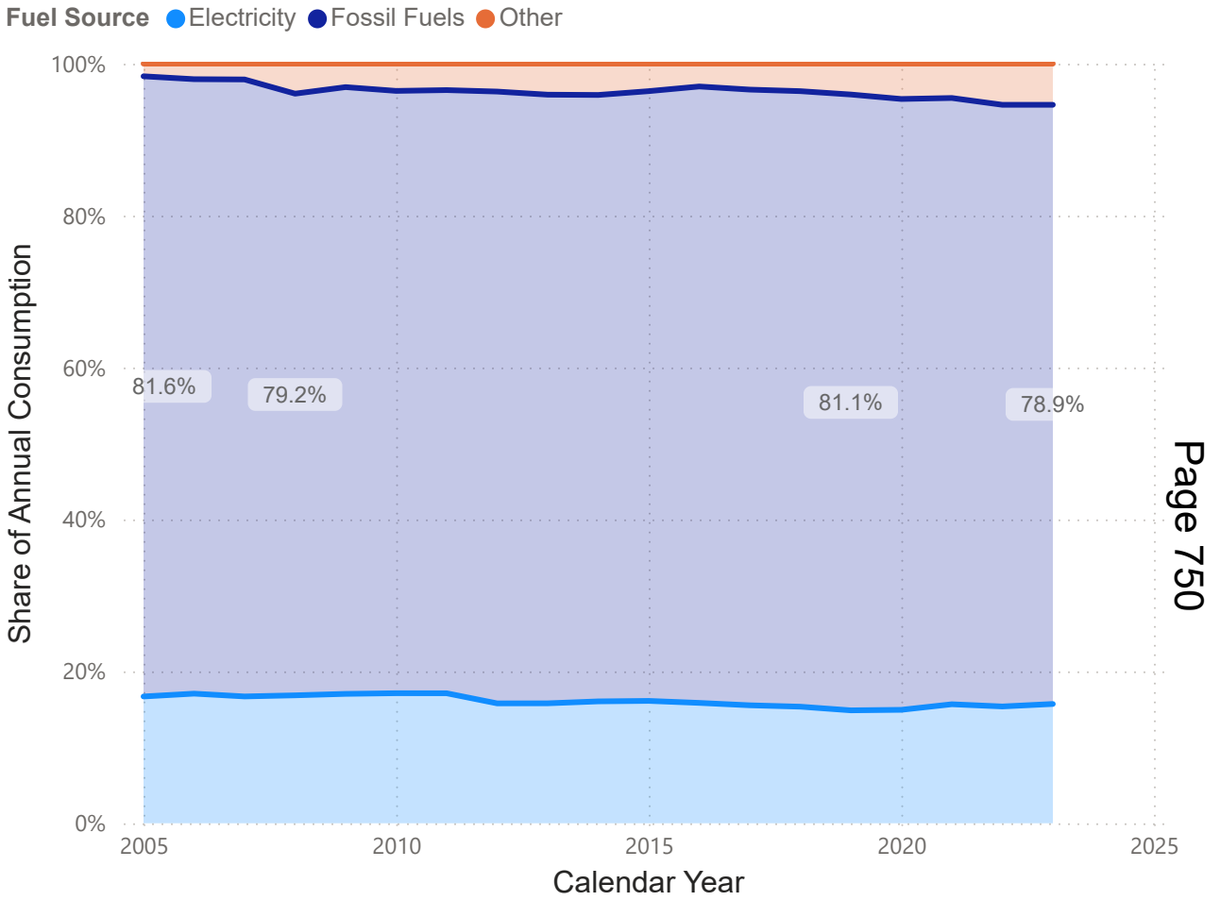
Source: DESNZ, 2025. Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2023.



- Local authority energy consumption statistics have been amended for 2005, to enable comparison between all years of the dataset: in 2005, energy consumption by a 'single large industrial consumer' was assigned to the Rotherham local authority area, only to be excluded from every subsequent statistical release. Standard conversion factors were applied to NAEI (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory) point source emissions data, to attribute a share of annual energy consumption to this single consumer, as imputed from the NAEI dataset.

Share of Local Energy Consumption by Fuel Source

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2023.



- For the last two decades, the share of local energy demand from fossil fuels has been consistent at **79-81%**: emphasising not only the twin challenges of electrification and electricity decarbonisation, but also the continuing importance of energy saving and energy efficiency as drivers of carbon reduction.

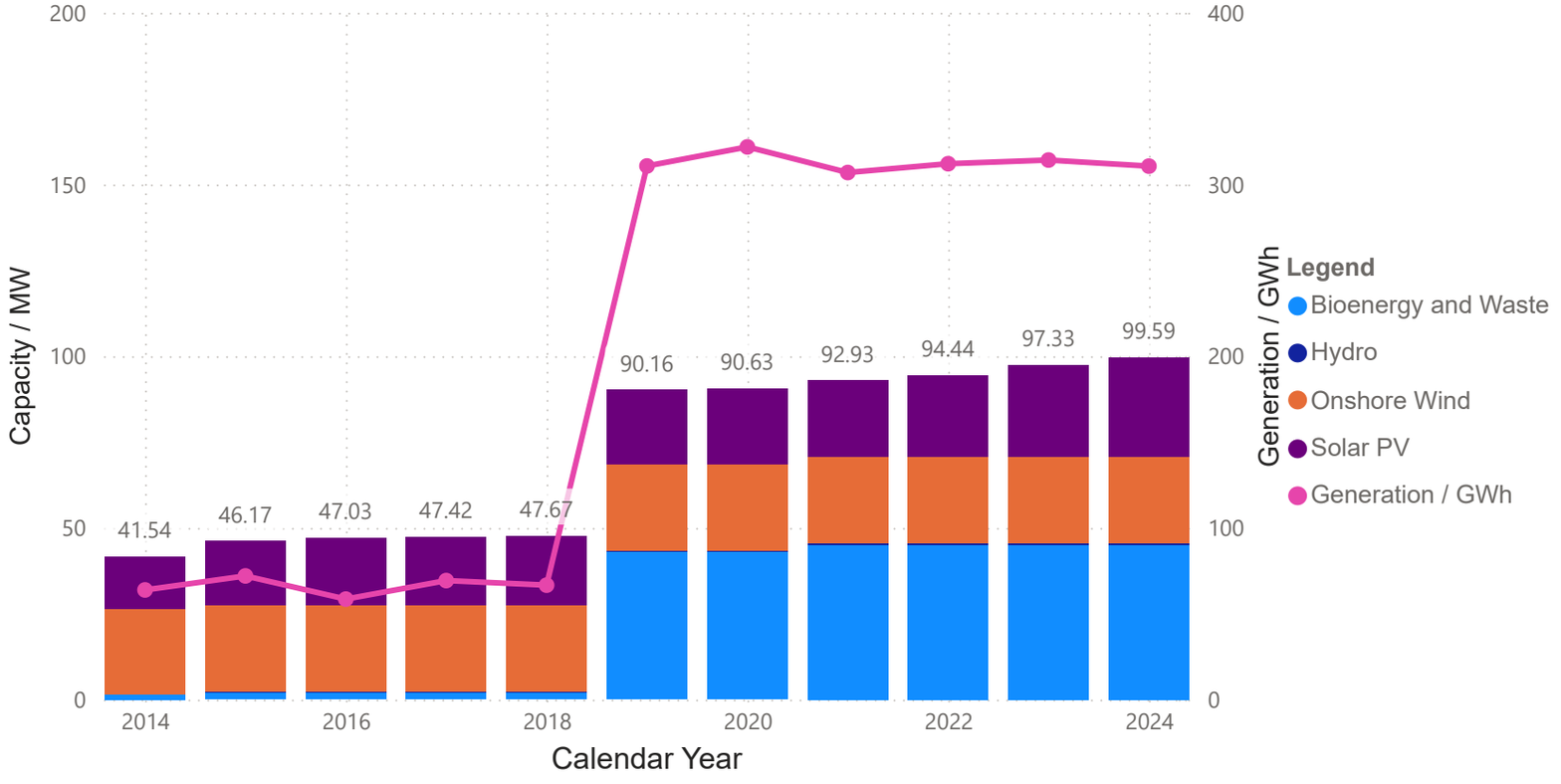
- Total energy demand in Rotherham was *ca*. 22% less in 2023 than at the beginning of the data series; in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was 9.2% less.

Appendix 5

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Renewable Energy Generation and Installed Capacity

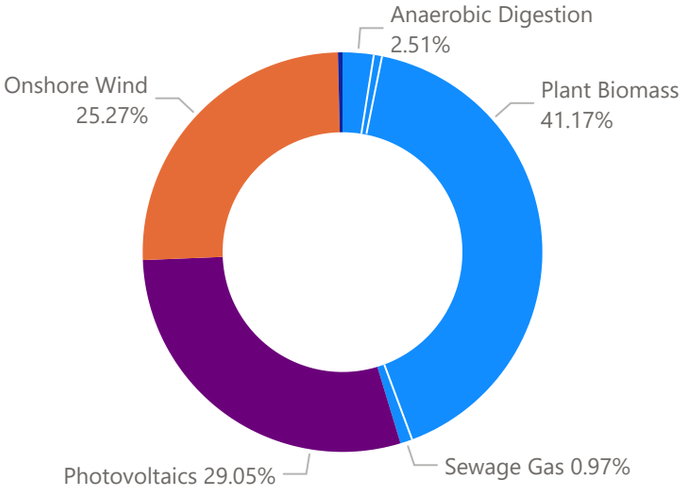
Renewable Generation and Installed Capacity, 2014 - 2024

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Regional Renewable Statistics.

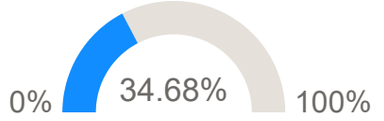


2024 Installed Renewable Capacity by Type

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Regional Renewable Statistics.



Local Renewable Generation as a Share of Electricity Consumption, 2023



- Comparing *estimated* local renewable energy generation with consumption statistics for 2023 (the latest year for which both datasets are available) suggests that renewable energy generated in Rotherham was equivalent to approximately **one third** of all local electricity demand. Rotherham may not need to generate all its own renewable energy to achieve local climate change goals, but local generation has multiple advantages: transmitting and distributing renewable, low carbon electricity to where it is needed, is one of the severest constraints affecting electricity system decarbonisation. As of October 2025, renewable energy generating projects [*not including battery energy storage systems*] in Rotherham which were either awaiting construction or the determination of a planning application, had a combined, declared capacity of **180MW**.

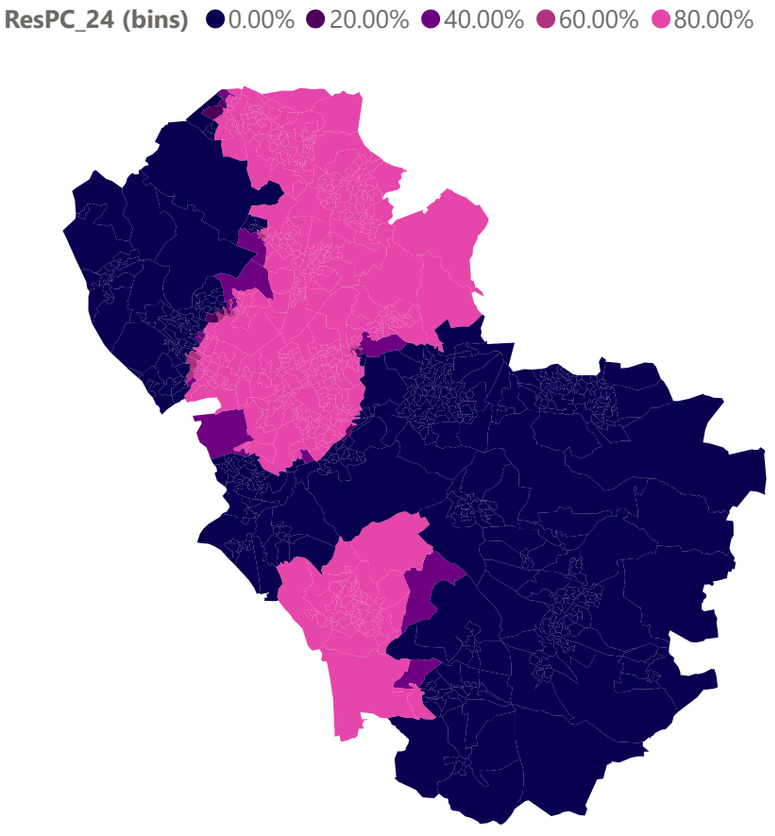
- In 2024, there were 7,638 solar PV installations in Rotherham, with an average installed capacity and generated output of 3.79kW and 2.8MWh, respectively. Sites of this scale are typical of arrays sited on domestic rooftops. Such installations offer a direct saving on consumers' energy bills and can unlock other low carbon technologies, notably electric vehicles and air source heat pumps for home heating. Modelled datasets of domestic and non-domestic potential for rooftop solar PV in Rotherham, made available to the Council by Northern Powergrid through *Advanced Infrastructure*'s LAEP+ Net Zero planning tool, suggest a theoretical maximum, combined annual generation output of 721.6 GWh from all suitable sites: equivalent to *ca*. 80% of local electricity demand in 2023.

Appendix 5

Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Charging Provision

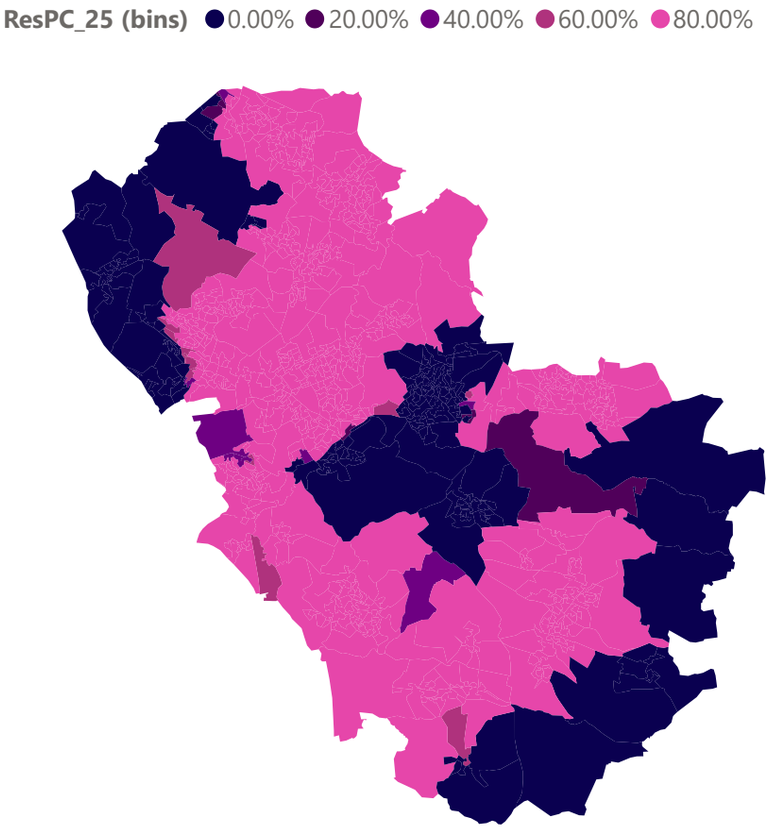
2024 Year End

Share of Residences per Census 2021 Output Area within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC EV charger

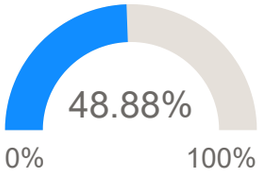


2025 Year End

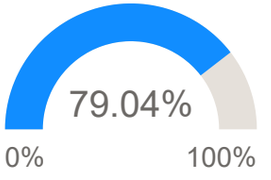
Share of Residences per Census 2021 Output Area within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC EV charger



2024 Year End



2025 Year End



Above: Share of residences within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC electric vehicle charge point: change year on year.

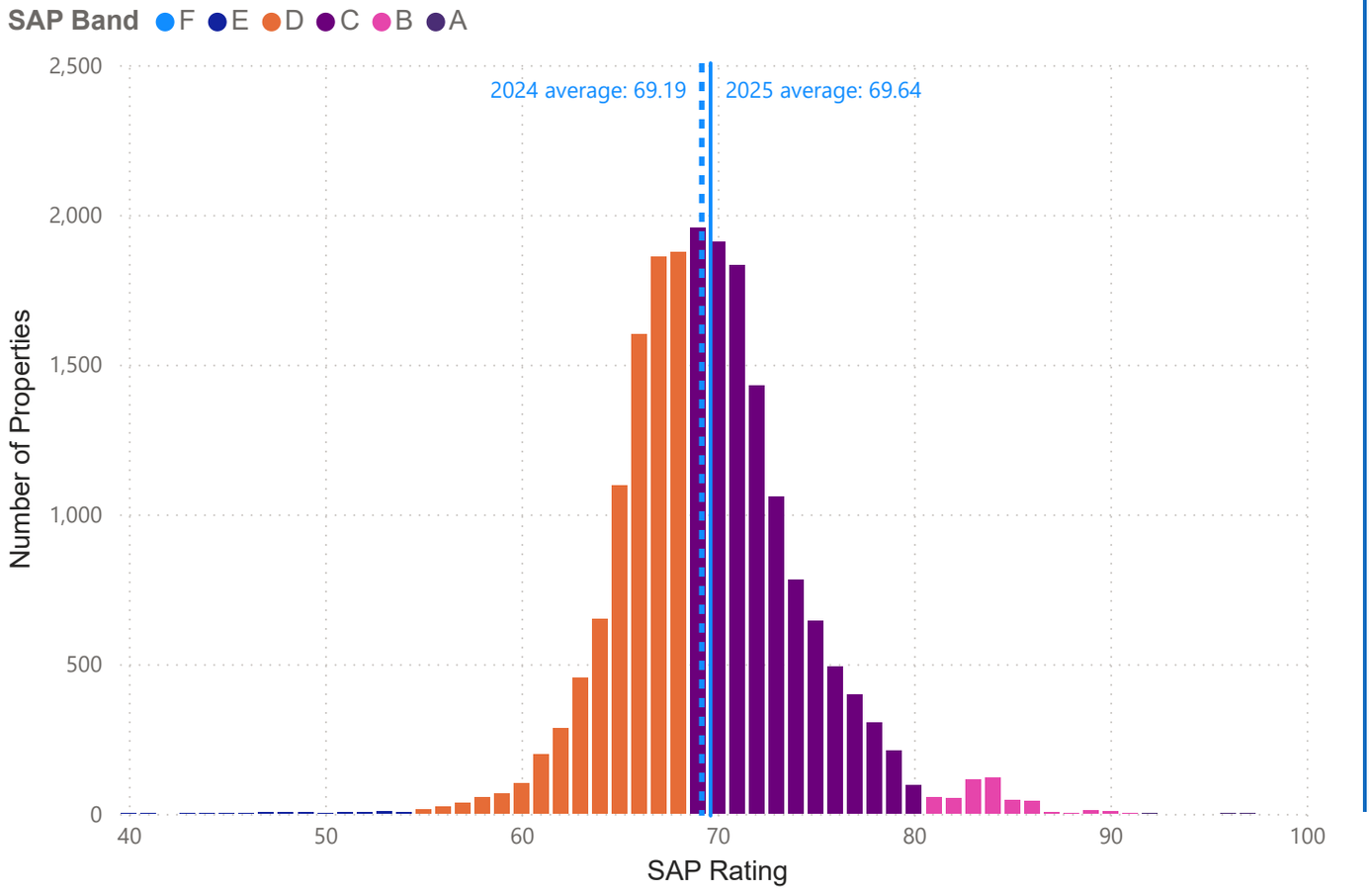
Left: By Census 2021 Output Area (OA). There are 877 OAs in Rotherham, which may comprise between 40 and 250 households. OAs are classed in equal intervals of 0 - 20% of residences, 20 - 40% *etc*. - only the interval's lower bound is displayed in the legend.

As a result of new electric vehicle charge points (EVCP) installed in 2025, the Council has increased it's coverage - as defined by the share of residences within 1.5 miles of their nearest Council charge point - from less than half of all residences in the Borough of Rotherham, to almost 80%. An objective of the Council's 2024-2027 Rotherham Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy is to increase coverage at the 1.5-mile-level to 95% of residences, by 2030. Since **99.66% of residences are within 3.0 miles** of the Council's EV charging network as extended in 2025, the Council has achieved its earlier strategic objective, that 95% of all residences should be covered at the 3.0-miles-level, by 2025.

Appendix 5

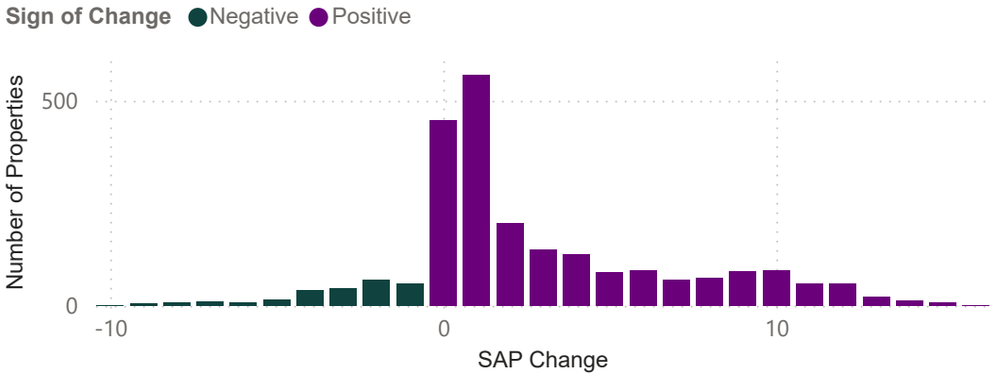
Energy Performance of Rotherham Council Homes

Profile of Rotherham Council Homes SAP Ratings as at 31 March 2025



Change of SAP in Existing Properties, 2024-2025

Excludes changes in SAP rating between -0.5 and 0.5



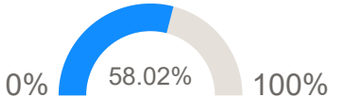
Share of Council Homes by SAP Band

SAP Band	2024	2025
A	0.01%	0.07%
B	1.91%	2.27%
C	51.98%	55.69%
D	45.77%	41.69%
E	0.30%	0.27%
F	0.04%	0.02%

Acquisitions and Disposals, 2024 - 2025

Acquisition or Disposal	Average of SAP
Acquisition	80.62
Disposal	69.13

Council Homes Band C or Above (RdSAP9)



From 31 March 2024 to **31 March 2025**, the share of Council homes whose energy performance was rated **band C or above** increased from 53.90% to **58.02%**. Over the same period, there was a net increase in the Council's housing stock of 63 properties: acquired properties' average SAP rating was 80.62, with the Council's housing acquisitions policy reflecting its target for all Council homes to be band C or above by 2030. Discounting acquisitions and disposals, an increase in SAP rating of more than 5 was recorded for *ca.* 550 properties. As of 31 March 2025, there remained 8,371 Council owned homes with energy performance less than band C.

These figures do not account for changes in methodology from RdSAP9 to RdSAP10, which have depressed the energy performance band of some of the Council's housing stock. The Council's 2026-27 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Plan notes the award of £8.8 million Warm Homes funding to improve energy performance of *ca.* 1,000 properties to at least EPC band C. An additional £41 million HRA funding is earmarked to improve the energy performance of *ca.* 9,300 remaining properties to at least band C, by 2030.

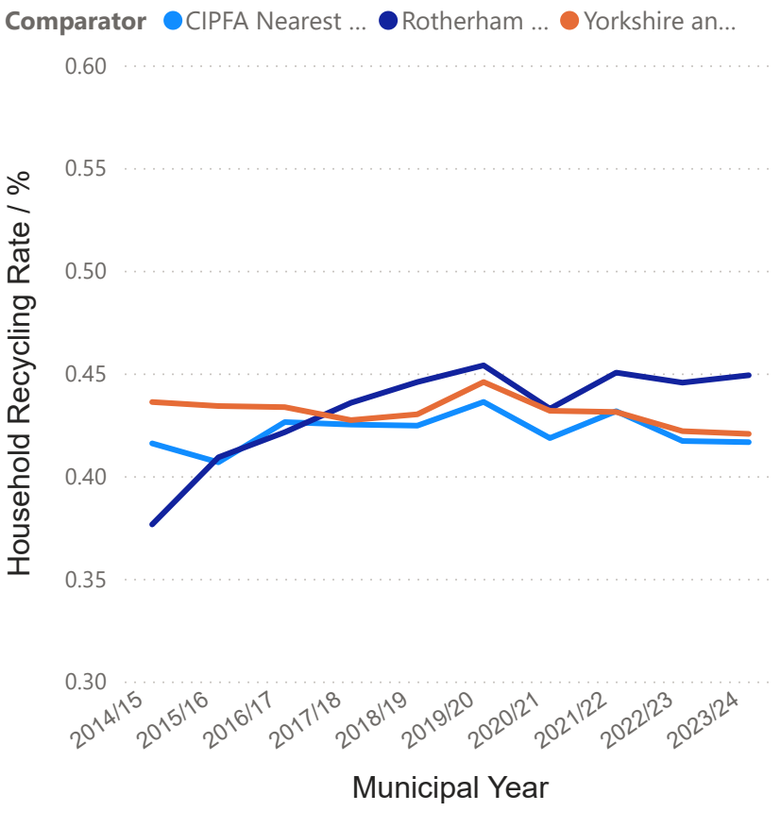
Appendix 5

Rotherham Household Waste

Comparing Rotherham with Yorkshire and the Humber Local Authorities and CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

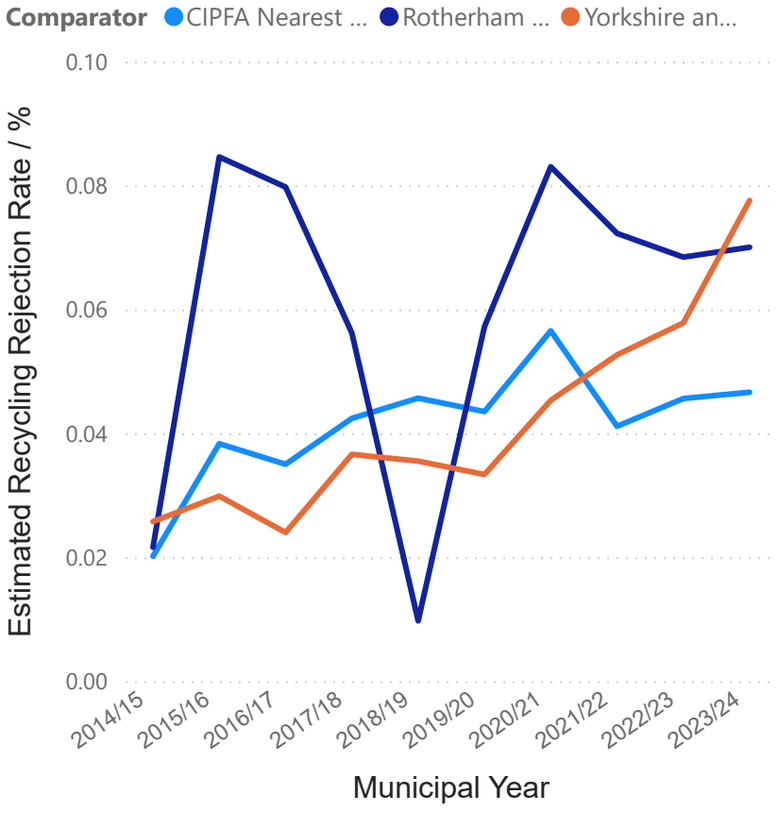
Household Recycling Rate

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.



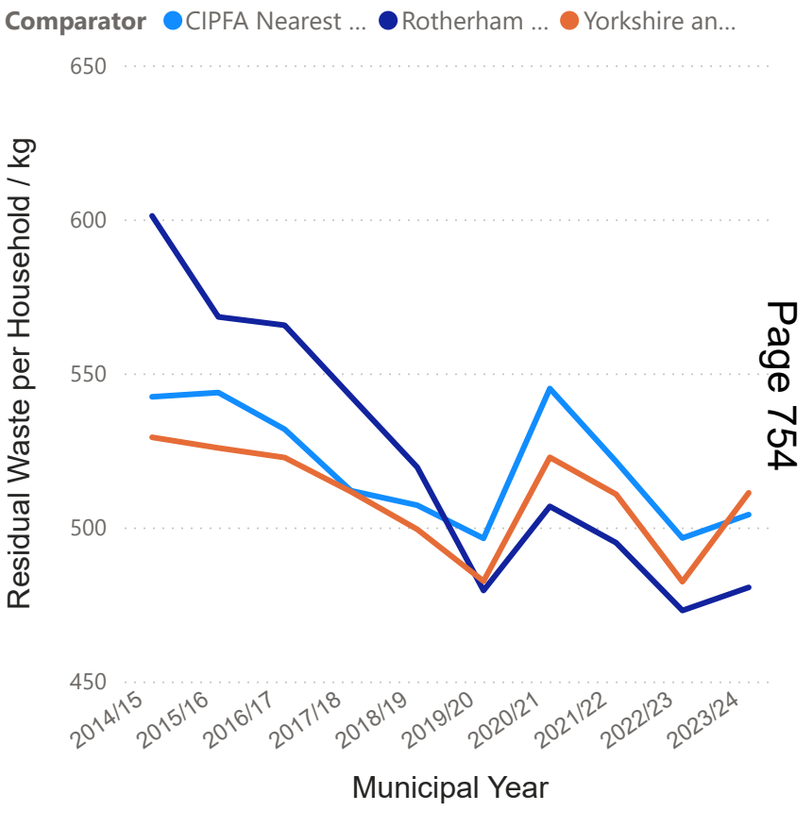
Household Recycling Contamination Rate: Rate of Estimated Rejects as a Share of Household Recycling

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.



Household Residual Waste

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.



The above measures of household recycling rate; household recycling contamination rate, calculated as the rate of estimated rejects as a share of household recycling; and amount of residual waste per household, were used by the former Office for Local Government ('Oflog') to measure the performance of local authorities' household waste collection services and were co-opted as performance measures within the Council's climate change monitoring framework. Estimates of material rejected for recycling are adjusted to reflect recycling material which has been recovered from material disposed as residual waste, so may not accurately reflect the rate of household recycling contamination as it is collected from the kerbside, which has been a persistent issue affecting the performance of the Council's downstream recycling contracts.

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Appendix 6

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Climate Emergency Annual Report	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	**Service area:** Climate Change
Lead person: Louise Preston	**Contact:** Louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [x] **Other** **If other, please specify: Annual report on climate activities undertaken by the Council.**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Climate Emergency Annual Report provides a report on progress in the last year and presents actions for the 2026/27 year. The report also recommends the approval of the corporate property decarbonisation plan and a number of new sites for the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure.

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

relevance to equality and diversity.

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The majority of this report relates to past activity which have had no reported impacts to date. With regards to the decarbonisation plan, it is not expected that service users will be affected from the information available at present. It is expected that the works will be undertaken whilst the building is in use and heating systems will be replaced during low use periods. However, following procurement and design stages a full equalities assessment will be undertaken to ensure minimal impact. The works are either external, in non-service user accessible locations or can be undertaken at low impact times. There is the possibility that some sites, due to layout may impact access and egress but these will be assessed on a site basis as the works are procured. Any disruption will be short term and planned during off peak times.
A full equalities assessment has already been undertaken as part of the full programme of EV infrastructure installation and the actions included seek to minimise any impacts on service users. There is therefore no change to the equalities assessment in relation to this as it is just a continuation of the same works at different locations throughout the Borough. The content is amalgamated into the overarching annual report.

The continued Equalities actions for the EVI & decarbonisation programme as previously reported which still apply are as follows:

1. Ensure an Equalities Impact Assessment is undertaken for each property and EVI site.

2. Assessment of each EVI site and development to PAS1899:2022 standard.
3. Ensure consultation form remains open for the duration of the scheme to allow for resident feedback.
4. Continue to review the full programme for equalities impacts as part of the quarterly review of each action on the 2026/27 climate change action plan.
5. Ensure any staff accessing sites where vulnerable residents may be present meet safeguarding requirements such as DBS checks and contractor safeguarding protocols. This will be included as a requirement as part of any procurement.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**
- **Key findings**
- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	06/12/25
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	06/12/25
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Kevin Fisher	Assistant Director, Property & Facilities Services	19/12/25
Andrew Bramidge	Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment	22/12/25

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	06/12/25
Report title and date	Climate Emergency Annual Report 13/04/26
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	13/04/26
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/12/25

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Decrease	Actions identified in the forward plan of this report will directly reduce the carbon emissions associated with the Council's corporate estate by approximately 183.2 tCO_2e, as a result of works to be completed in 2026/27. Total carbon savings from the full corporate decarbonisation programme as presented in Appendix 3 are 1,042 tCO_2e by 2030, based on the present carbon intensity of mains electricity: there will be further carbon savings from low carbon heating, as the UK electricity system is further decarbonised.	There will also be impacts on the Borough's emissions through delivery of this programme, enabling Rotherham Markets traders to access cheaper, lower carbon electricity.	Not applicable.	The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reported annually as per Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	It should also be noted that the delivery of the decarbonisation programme will require travel across the Borough	The Council's EV Infrastructure programme will provide increased access to EV charging, encouraging the uptake	Emissions management and reporting will be included within contracts associated with the	Fleet emissions and usage of the Council's EVI are reviewed annually.

		which may increase emissions associated with the Council's scope 3 emissions, but planned reductions to the Council's fleet emissions will outweigh this change.	of EV's Borough wide. It is therefore expected that this programme will reduce emissions from transport.	actions identified in the forward plan.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	It is likely that some waste will be produced as part of the Council's decarbonisation programme through replacement equipment and build outs	N/A	Utilisation of the waste hierarchy will be included as part of contracts relating to this report.	Greenhouse gas conversion factors for waste are determined from the amount of fuel used to transport it: to avoid double counting, the carbon impact of waste collected from Council premises by Rotherham Business Waste is included with the carbon impact from fuel use in refuse collection vehicles, within 'vehicles, plant and tools'. Waste produced by contractors is factored into spend-based conversion factors, used to estimate the Council's consumption-based scope 3 emissions (see Appendix 4). See also para. 12.27-29, pp.125-126, *Methodology Paper for Conversion Factors Final Report* (DESNZ, 2025)

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease		Emissions associated with the social housing stock to be decarbonised from 2026 will decrease through energy efficiency measures installed. Warm Homes match funding awarded to the Council for retrofit works to 996 properties will deliver an estimated carbon saving of 1,169 tCO_2e per annum.	N/A	Housing stock efficiency is monitored annually using EPC data. The Council cannot control how tenants utilise their energy in their homes and has no access to energy billing information but can improve properties' energy efficiency.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	An increase in emissions is to be expected due to construction works in the EVI and property decarbonisation programmes: in the longer term, carbon savings outweigh the initial, embodied carbon intensity of materials and components.	N/A	Emissions reporting and reduction will be specified in contracts relating to the heat decarbonisation programme. An existing contract for EVI installation is managed by Barnsley Council on behalf of the four South Yorkshire local authorities.	The climate change team will work with contractors under to improve the Council's understanding of carbon emissions from construction. Construction, buildings and related services were the biggest source of consumption-based emissions throughout all the Council's procurement and commissioning activity at 23.4%, according to a spend-based estimate.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	The Council's tree planting programme will reduce emissions through carbon capture as trees planted mature. To the end of November 2025, 1,948 trees have been planted.	This programme will also benefit the Borough's emissions, as 45 hectares of new woodland are created from 2021 to 2031.	N/A	This programme is currently monitored by the Tree Service and numbers of trees planted are presented annually.

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:
Large scale deployment of heat pumps to Council properties may increase fugitive emissions from RACHP (Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and *Heat Pump*) plant/equipment. A 2014 analysis cited in the Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget report on F-gases (Box M11.2, 2020) estimated that for every '1 tCO_2e of additional HFC emissions from refrigerant leakage in heat pumps, there [*will be*] 161 tCO_2e of CO_2 savings due to avoided emissions from gas boilers and efficiency improvements'. Any increase in fugitive emissions is likely to be outweighed by the carbon saving from heat decarbonisation, by orders of magnitude. Timely repair and maintenance will mitigate fugitive emissions.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?
The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. Activity in the Climate Emergency Annual Report reflect this, with adaptation a key theme for Council services which residents rely on. Building resilience is considered as part of the corporate decarbonisation programme. A better insulated, energy efficient property portfolio will enable the Council to better manage the future impacts of climate change. The same applies to the social housing stock also undergoing similar works. The report also details action to reduce the impact of flooding on the Borough. Overall, the report's content contribute both to mitigation of climate change and adaptation of Council services to expected impacts.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
In summary the actions included within the 2026/27 forward plan will reduce the Council's emissions and ensure the Council is prepared for the impacts of climate change. It is expected that measures proposed will reduce emissions by 183 tCO_2e from Council properties. As an approach to fleet decarbonisation has yet to be agreed, no potential carbon saving can be provided with this impact assessment.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Louise Preston Climate Change Manager Property & Facilities Services Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Data taken from the Corporate Decarbonisation Programme as outlined in Appendix 3 and information from surveys relating to the solar installations proposed in Appendix 2. Appendix 4 provides a summary of the Council's emissions.

	• Climate Change Committee. 2020. *The Sixth Carbon Budget Report: F-gases*. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Sector-summary-F-gases.pdf. • Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. 2025. *2025 Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting: Methodology Paper for Conversion Factors Final Report*. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6846b0870392ed9b784c0187/2025-GHG-CF-methodology-paper.pdf. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2024. *Tree Planting Plan 2021 - 2031.* [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s146325/Appendix%201%20-%20Tree%20planting%20plan%202021%20-%202031.pdf. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2025. *HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27.* Cabinet 15 December 2025. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1103&MId=16412&Ver=4.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	See Appendix 5 and references therein (p9).
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 573 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title
Don Valley Corridor

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

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Boston Castle
Brinsworth
Rawmarsh East
Rawmarsh West
Rotherham East
Rother Vale

Report Summary

This report provides detail to Cabinet on the establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. It sets out how the programme will be coordinated and how Rotherham Council will work with its partners, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council (SCC), to jointly resource, collaborate and use a shared framework to prioritise, deliver and monitor activity within this Regeneration Programme.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Endorse the establishment of a Don Valley Corridor programme and partnership with SYMCA and SCC.

2. Endorse the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone for the Don Valley Corridor with delegation to the Executive Director of Regeneration &

Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy to agree the governance principles and implement the preferred model.

3. Agree to: allocate £400,000 of Gainshare revenue to the resourcing of the programme and project feasibility for its first 3 years, this being subject to SYMCA's formal approval; and delegate to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, the allocation of this £400,000 to specific activities.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Don Valley Corridor Spatial Plan
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment Part A
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
South Yorkshire Growth Plan

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Don Valley Corridor

1. Background

1.1 The Don Valley Corridor (DVC) has been identified in South Yorkshire's Local Growth Plan as a spatial priority for growth and regeneration. It is also identified as a focus for growth in the government's Northern Growth Strategy published on 19 March 2026.

1.2 The Corridor, as seen in Appendix 1, stretches from Sheffield City Centre through the Lower Don Valley to the Liberty Steel site at Aldwarke. Within this geography sit key regeneration priorities, including Rotherham Town Centre, Bassingthorpe and Rotherham Gateway station. The geography includes some of the Borough's most deprived wards as well as key employment areas at Aldwarke, Templeborough and the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

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

1.4 Regeneration of this scale is a major undertaking, with benefits likely to be delivered over several decades. Challenges around this scale of transformation are well known:

- Short term funding cycles
- Lack of private sector confidence
- Ensuring inclusive growth
- Lack of shared or consistent vision
- Lack of co-ordination within and across geographies

1.5 To tackle these issues and create the best chance of success, the Council has been working with SYMCA and SCC to create a strategic partnership which aims to:

- Address a core economic challenge of coordinating growth across fragmented geographies to deliver genuine transformation at scale.
- Create a unified investment environment with clear infrastructure planning, reduced fragmentation, and access to a pipeline of competitively positioned sites for national and private investment.
- Create employment pathways across the region, enhanced housing options and improved transport connectivity that reduces commuting challenges.
- Anchor investments that will make communities more resilient and attractive.
- Deliver the biggest single project in the Corridor – Rotherham Gateway Station.

1.6 To date, the partnership has established a spatial vision, economic assessment, investment framework and an emerging project pipeline. The next step is to formalise the programme through a clear governance structure and resourcing model. This is now the right time to be doing this with momentum on Rotherham Gateway station and with the Don Valley Corridor now being recognised within Government as being of national significance.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Rotherham's Priority Schemes

2.1.1 The Don Valley Corridor encompasses some of Rotherham's major regeneration projects.

- Rotherham Gateway: A new mainline rail and tram/train station surrounded by commercial space and the potential for 300 new homes with transformational potential for connectivity and economic growth.
- Rotherham Town Centre: Continuing regeneration opportunity following the adoption of the Town Centre Masterplan in 2017. Regeneration work in the town centre includes Forge Island, Central Markets & Library and the Health Hub with the development of c300 new homes over the next 5 years.
- Bassingthorpe Farm: A new community of c2,000 new homes, situated close to Rotherham Gateway and the town centre.
- Templeborough: Building on this thriving industrial hub through works to Magna and seeking available land to continue supporting new and existing businesses.

2.2 Establishing a Mayoral Development Zone

2.2.1 In agreeing to partner on the DVC, the Council will move into the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone.

2.2.2 A Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) is a non-statutory entity. It differs from a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) which is a statutory entity with special powers which needs to follow a specific legal process to designate. Examples of the MDZ approach include Newcastle-Gateway Mayoral Development Zone, Atom Valley Greater Manchester and Ashton, Tameside.

2.2.3 An MDZ does not confer statutory powers, change planning authority functions, alter land ownership or governance, create new administrative bodies, predetermine future delivery vehicles, or commit the partners to statutory or other intervention.

2.2.4 The creation of an MDZ signals to Government, and potential public and private sector partners, that the partnership is committed in using its existing

strategic economic development and regeneration powers, resources and relationships to progress this integrated place-based programme.

2.2.5 For those reasons, an MDZ is a preferred model for the partnership. Cabinet is asked to endorse the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone for the Don Valley Corridor with delegation to agree the governance principles and implement this model.

2.3 Resourcing

2.3.1 Commitment to this partnership and the scale of this programme requires resourcing to co-ordinate activity across the geography and develop co-investment proposals. SYMCA will provide a core central co-ordinating team to drive strategic programme development across the Don Valley Corridor as a whole, and will deliver any SYMCA-led projects or assist scheme delivery as required.

2.3.2 For Rotherham's schemes, project development will be led by the Council. While much of the existing Regeneration programme is focussed within this geography, the establishment of the MDZ will drive a greater scale of activity and will require pace.

2.2.3 The scale of this expanded programme will require prioritisation of resources within the Council. Overseeing the development of all DVC related projects, including Rotherham Gateway, will impact across Directorates, in particular the Regeneration team, and Council wide services, such as Communications, Procurement, Legal, Planning and Finance.

2.3.4 Where appropriate, shared commissioning routes such as joint procurement between regional partners, will be considered for feasibility, masterplanning, viability, land and infrastructure studies so that technical work is delivered once and applied many times, with procurement efficiencies and consistent standards.

2.4 Governance

2.4.1 The Don Valley Corridor's complexity, multiple landowners, cross-boundary coordination, significant infrastructure requirements, and diverse funding sources requires formal governance structures that prevent fragmentation. This approach will identify overlaps and gaps, ensuring programme-level issues are escalated consistently.

2.4.2 Governance will be proportionate, transparent and grounded in the principles of subsidiarity. No additional assurance barriers will be created and funding allocation will continue to progress through the SYMCA Assurance Framework.

2.4.3 The proposed model will see the establishment of a Don Valley Programme Board for co-ordination of cross border activities. This Board will report into SYMCA's Board and Investment Board as required.

2.4.4 Decision-making on Rotherham schemes will remain with Rotherham's own assurance and governance processes.

2.5 Funding and Delivery Strategy

2.5.1 Together the partnership will create a comprehensive funding and delivery strategy by summer 2026. Behind this is the development of a co-investment model which will see local commitment of Gainshare in order to leverage in regional, national and private investment.

2.5.2 Gainshare is funding provided by SYMCA which originated as part of the devolution deal with central government. Each Local Authority in South Yorkshire has been allocated an amount per year for 30 years, starting in 2020/21. Both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils will look to utilise some Gainshare funding to develop the Don Valley Corridor and thoughts on this will be developed as part of the funding strategy referred to in 2.5.1. Any specific propositions for the use of Gainshare funding will be subject to future Cabinet approval.

2.5.3 Each authority will commit £400,000 of its Gainshare revenue allocation toward programme resourcing and feasibility work for priority projects for the first three years of the programme.

2.5.4 SYMCA are currently identifying potential funding partners and exploring potential co-investment models. This approach is intended to raise the profile of DVC onto a national stage to leverage both public and private funding, maximising the impact and reach of the regional investment through Gainshare funding.

2.6 Communications

2.6.1 The Don Valley Corridor will require a coordinated communications plan, including engagement with Government, investors, and local communities.

2.6.2 A coherent joint narrative will be developed for the DVC that is accessible to the people and communities who will be affected by the programme, as well as attractive to investors, developers, and potential delivery partners. This narrative will articulate the long-term vision for the area, the opportunities the programme will unlock, and the benefits it will deliver for South Yorkshire’s economy and communities.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1**: Establish a strategic delivery programme with appropriate governance, resourcing, and a statement of intent for a Mayoral Development Zone.

3.2 This option formalises the Don Valley Corridor as a nationally significant regeneration programme with a dedicated governance structure,

programme leadership, and a coordinated approach to funding, delivery, and investment. Without coordination, opportunities scatter across isolated projects. With it, investors see credibility, residents see genuine opportunity, and places see sustained improvement rather than episodic development.

This option is recommended.

3.3 **Option 2:** Do not bring together a strategic delivery programme for the Don Valley Corridor.

3.4 Under this option, the Council would continue to develop projects in isolation without establishing a coordinated programme or governance structure. Delivery would proceed on a site-by-site basis, led by individual partners. Fragmented delivery could result in duplication, inefficiency, and failure to maximise the cumulative impact of investment resulting in the loss of strategic opportunity to build a compelling investment case to Government and investors.

This option is not recommended.

3.5 **Option 3:** Pursue a statutory delivery model such as a Mayoral Development Corporation

3.6 Under this option, SYMCA would move directly to preparing a formal proposal for establishing an MDC, including statutory consultation and submission to the Secretary of State. Premature establishment could create a costly and rigid structure before there is a fully developed programme or evidenced need. Potential misalignment with partners or insufficient readiness could weaken early delivery.

This option is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Due to the existing regeneration work within this geography, extensive consultation has been undertaken in relation to Rotherham's key projects. As schemes are developed the Council will continue to consult with residents on their needs and the design and delivery of schemes.

4.2 Communications around the launch of the partnership will highlight opportunities for residents, communities, and businesses and ensure clear messaging about what the Don Valley Corridor Programme aims to achieve.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 It is proposed that there is a DVC investor launch at the UK Real Estate, Investment and Infrastructure (UKREiiF) conference in Leeds on 19 May 2026. This will be aimed at communicating the long term vision and commitment to the DVC and marketing the investment opportunities in the corridor.

5.2 SYMCA, together with the two Councils, are in the process of establishing the draft Governance structure and then subsequently the first scheduled meeting of the Programme Board.

5.3 Resourcing is already being allocated to priority projects; however the escalating scale and pace of the programme is likely to require prioritisation of additional resources post Cabinet.

5.4 A joint funding strategy is due to be established by Summer 2026.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report seeks endorsement for establishing the Don Valley Corridor (DVC) partnership, exploring governance and allocating £400k of gainshare funding to do this as requested by SYMCA. Gainshare is a grant provided by SYMCA, for which there is further detail at 2.5.2. The £400k will be split indicatively between officer time (£230k) and feasibility for the Council's priority projects (£170k). The priorities need to be established. There is sufficient grant remaining to fund this, although it will be subject to an application to SYMCA.

6.2 A funding model for the Corridor itself has not yet been completed and is expected in Summer 2026.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in the report. However, it must be noted that where the engagement of third-party suppliers is required to support delivery of these actions, and the wider projects in the DVC programme, they must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) as well as the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Consideration will need to be given to the complexities of the requirements and the necessary timescales required.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 A Mayoral Development Zone is a strategic designation of a usually significant area. It is policy driven with a focus on investment, growth and collaboration. As stated in the body of the report, a Mayoral Development Zone is non-statutory, insofar as it is not established under any specific legislation. As such an MDZ does not confer statutory powers or establish a separate corporate entity as would the option of setting up a Mayoral Development Corporation as referred to above.

7.2 A Mayoral Development Corporation would be established under the Localism Act 2011, Chapter 2, involving the specific identification of a Mayoral Development Area, which would then lead to a prescribed process involving consultation, a submission to the Secretary of State and the making of an Order establishing a Mayoral Development Corporation.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The programme represents a significant uplift in activity and may require the prioritisation of additional posts and/or the reallocation of existing resources.

8.2 Any proposals to create, amend or recruit to posts will be subject to the Council's agreed HR and job evaluation processes, including workforce planning, consultation with recognised Trade Unions, and approval through the appropriate governance routes.

8.3 Where external specialist support is required to meet programme delivery timescales, the Council's procurement and commissioning procedures must be followed.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 No direct implications are anticipated. However, a core aim of the partnership is to deliver community-focused regeneration and revitalisation. By achieving this aim, the programme will create greater opportunities for children and young people across the Borough.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This report seeks approval to partner with SYMCA & Sheffield Council to develop a programme, funding and governance proposals to enable the progression of a series of projects within the economic growth corridor of Don Valley.

10.2 Key objectives of the partnership are:

- Growing Our Neighbourhoods and Communities
- Community-Focussed Regeneration and Revitalisation

Equalities will be explored in depth as projects develop to ensure no individuals are disadvantaged and opportunity is truly inclusive.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Projects within the programme will develop over the coming years and Carbon Impact Assessments will be developed as the project detail is developed. It is therefore difficult to assess the impact of the programme at this time. A general assumption is made that during the construction phases emissions will increase, however in the long run a positive impact will be generated.

11.2 The partnership has developed the following objectives to ensure the programme delivers the greatest impact.

- Transformational Re-Use of Land - Large, underused sites are available for redevelopment, opportunities for transformation reuse. Large-scale opportunities for new housing and employment-led mixed-use development.

- Deliver Opportunities for Climate Resilience - Transformational redevelopment from a legacy of heavy industry through a sustainable approach to place-making. Positive impacts on health and environment through a future-proofed approach to regeneration.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The success of the DVC is dependent on each of the three authorities working in partnership. SYMCA have confirmed their commitment to the proposals at MCA Board on 24 March. Sheffield City Council have made the same commitments as Rotherham.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Regeneration of this scale will increase pressure on delivery teams including Regeneration, Procurement, Legal, Finance and Communications services. Discussions are underway with each service to allocate dedicated resources to the progression of DVC; however this will take time and require additional funds.

13.2 The DVC contains some of Rotherham's most significant regeneration priorities and the Council is moving at pace to deliver against these schemes. It is essential partnering in this manner only seeks to accelerate and ensure delivery and does not slow down or dilute Rotherham's objectives. To mitigate this risk Council officers will continue to influence the DVC programme as a whole promoting Rotherham's projects as priorities which are achievable and well developed.

14. Accountable Officers

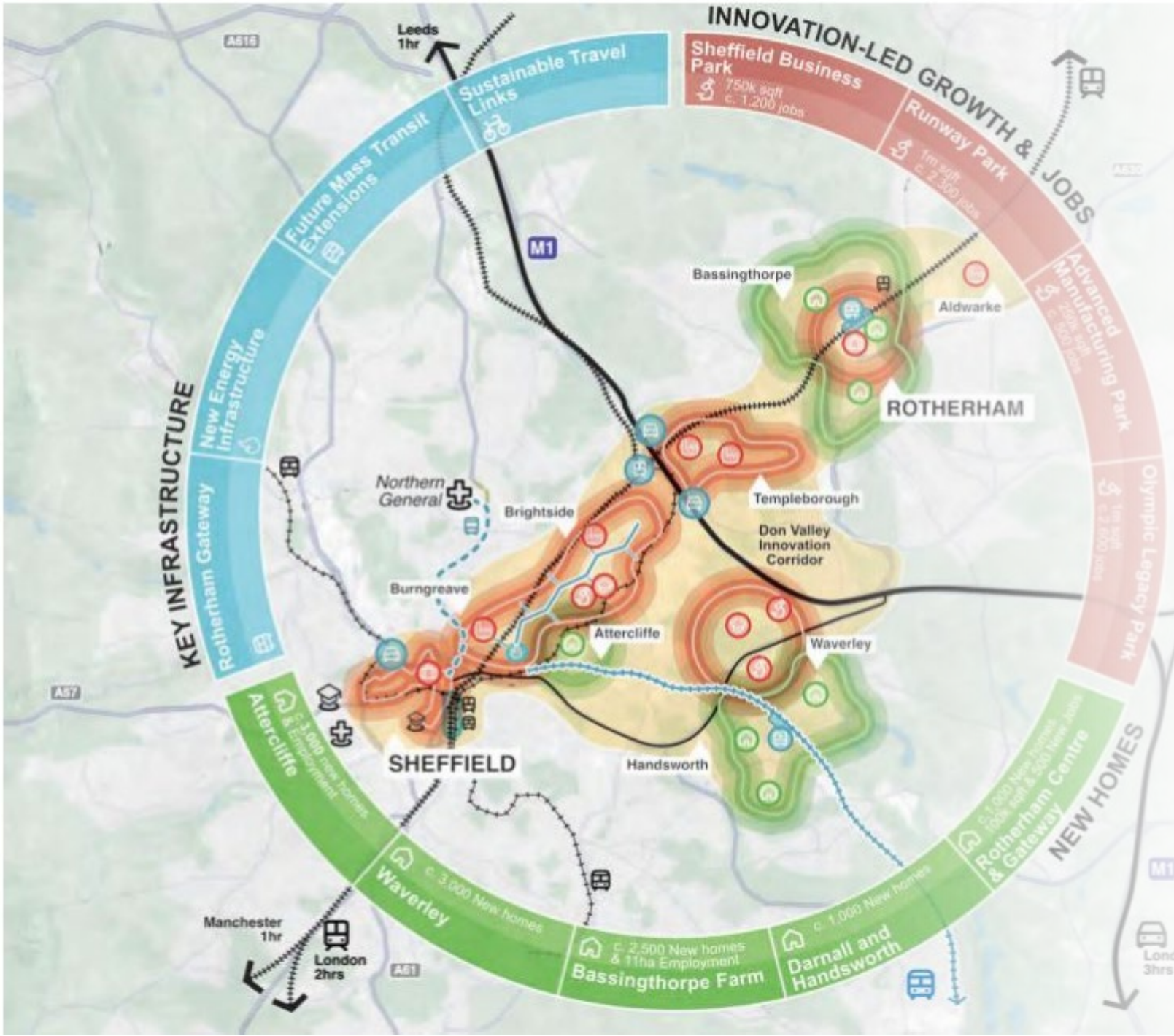
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director Regeneration & Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

Report Author: Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration.
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.



Don Valley Corridor Spatial Vision

Appendix 1

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Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Don Valley Corridor Regeneration Programme	
Directorate: R&E	**Service area:** Regeneration
Lead person: Lorna Vertigan	**Contact:** lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

	Strategy / Policy		**Service / Function**	x	**Other**

If other, please specify: Establishment of a regeneration programme for Don Valley Corridor Economic Growth Plan in partnership with SYMCA and Sheffield Council

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. The report sets out how the programme will be coordinated and how Rotherham Council will work with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council (SCC) to jointly resource, collaborate and use a shared framework to prioritise, sequence and monitor activity within this Regeneration Programme.

Appendix 2

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	x	
Could the proposal affect service users?	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	x	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

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

Appendix 2

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

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

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

This report seeks approval to partner with SYMCA & Sheffield Council to develop a programme, funding and governance proposals to enable the progression of a series of projects within the economic growth corridor of Don Valley.

To date there is limited work in relation to how this programme will impact individuals and detailed assessments will be carried out as projects develop.

- **Key findings**

In summary key objectives of the partnership are:

Growing Our Neighbourhoods and Communities - Opportunity for delivery of new well-integrated residential development at a large scale. New housing for existing and new communities, wider economic benefits.

Community-Focussed Regeneration and Revitalisation – Opportunity for social regeneration linked to community empowerment and ownership, enhanced skills, maximising localised benefits including job creation and ensuring economic and social impact.

The programme geographies encompass some of our most deprived and diverse neighbourhoods and therefore consultation and analysis at each stage will be essential.

- **Actions**

EQIAs will take place on an individual project basis. Some projects have EQIAs developed already, ie Rotherham Gateway OBC and others are in development eg Town Centre Strategic Sites.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Project dependent
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	Project dependent
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Individual Project Managers. Head of Regeneration to oversee.

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Lorna Vertigan	Head of Regeneration	3rd March 2026

Appendix 2

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	
Report title and date	Don Valley Corridor: Regeneration Programme
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Report date 13th April 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	6th March 2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown		The partner's objectives for the programme include providing opportunities for redevelopment which move away from traditional heavy industries. An impact of this would be a reduction in emissions.	Mitigations will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis	Local area greenhouse gas emissions and total final energy consumption statistics are available for industrial and commercial energy users: a baseline specific to the Don Valley corridor may be available from a subset of these data.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown		Within the partner's objectives to 'Deliver Opportunities for Climate Resilience' and the DVC are Rotherham's plans to introduce a new mainline railway station and tram/train stop. This scheme has to potential to significantly reduce emissions through the provision of improved public transport systems	Mitigations will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis	SYMCA is leading the procurement of a revised, updated regional transport model, to replace SCRTM1. The updated model may provide a baseline against which to measure the expected transport carbon impacts of schemes within the programme.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown				

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Unknown		The DVC has the potential to deliver an additional 3,000 new homes. Climate impact and the potential to reduce emissions will be explored with developer partners during design phases.	Mitigations will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis.	Emissions from domestic energy use are available from local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics. The Future Home Standard is expected to cut emissions from new build homes by 75%, from a 2013 baseline.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	The programme will generate a significant volume of construction and therefore emissions will likely increase	Procurement of contractors will include provision to reduce emissions during these significant construction works.	Mitigations will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis	Contractors will be expected to undertake their own monitoring during the construction phase.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Increase	The DVC is a significant programme of regeneration and key objectives are to reuse land and deliver climate resilience.	To comply with the partners aims carbon capture must be considered in the development of all projects.	Mitigations will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis	The Woodland Carbon Code may offer a template for estimating carbon captured by trees planted in connection with the programme.
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The partnership has agreed a number of strategic objectives in the development of the programme and in relation to climate change the following are relevant:

- Transformational Re-Use of Land - Large, underused sites are available for redevelopment, opportunities for transformation reuse. Large-scale opportunities for new housing and employment-led mixed-use development.
- Deliver Opportunities for Climate Resilience - Transformational redevelopment from a legacy of heavy industry through a sustainable approach to place-making. Positive impacts on health, environment through a future-proofed approach to regeneration.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
This report provides detail to Cabinet on the establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. It sets out how the programme will be coordinated and how Rotherham Council will work with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Sheffield City Council (SCC) to jointly resource, collaborate and use a shared framework to prioritise, sequence and monitor activity within this Regeneration Programme. Projects within the programme will be developed over the coming years: it is therefore difficult to assess the impact of the programme at this time and a general assumption is made that during the construction phases emissions will increase, however in the long run a positive impact will be generated. Climate Assessments will be undertaken during the development of each individual project. For Rotherham Gateway this initial assessment has been undertaken during the completion of the Outline Business Case.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Lorna Vertigan Head of Regeneration Regeneration Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	The MCS Foundation. 2024. *Future Homes Savings: Modelling the running costs of new homes with renewables*. [Online]. [Accessed 9 March 2026]. Available from: https://mcsfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/MCSF-Future-Homes-Savings-Report-FINAL.pdf.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 610 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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