



CABINET

Monday 11 May 2026

10.00 a.m.

**Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall,
Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader & Children and Young People Portfolio
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio
Housing Portfolio
Finance & Community Safety Portfolio
Street Scene and Green Spaces Portfolio
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio

Councillor Chris Read
Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Councillor Linda Beresford
Councillor Saghir Alam OBE
Councillor Lynda Marshall
Councillor John Williams

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

CABINET

- Venue:** The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
S60 2TH
- Date and Time:** Monday 11 May 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 7 - 26)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 April 2026.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There is no exempt information.

FINANCE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

6. General Enforcement Policy (Pages 27 - 65)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approves the refreshed General Enforcement Policy (Appendix 1) for publication and implementation, having had due regard to the Regulators' Code and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

7. New Applications for Business Rates Relief - Lifeskills Yorkshire Ltd (Pages 67 - 88)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

HOUSING

8. Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 (Pages 89 - 165)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy consultation summary report.
2. Approves the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-31.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to approve:
 - a) Any minor data amendments to the Strategy prior to publication.
 - b) The Action Plan, following its development, including any amendments arising from annual reviews.

9. Selective Licensing Update (Pages 167 - 194)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the report and progress to date.
2. Approve the approach to the community liaison roles and stakeholder panels.
3. Approve the approach to establishing the capital programme, with stakeholder groups identifying local priorities and delegate agreement for the final governance arrangement to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Service Director for Legal Services.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

10. The Rotherham Together Partnership - Rotherham Plan (Pages 195 - 281)

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

Recommendation:

That Cabinet endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the four identified gamechangers.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

11. Rotherham Markets and Libraries

Report to follow.

12. Supporting High Streets (Pages 283 - 297)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the establishment of the new Supporting Our High Streets Team.
2. Approve the activities guiding the Supporting Our High Streets Team's programme of work in principal towns across the Borough.

13. Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27 (Pages 299 - 336)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet note the programme and delegate any amendments necessary for practical delivery or safety purposes to the Executive Director, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

14. 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 6 May 2026.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 8 June 2026 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

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THE CABINET
Monday 13 April 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alam.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

142. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions:

1. Chrissy Meleady asked questions on behalf of T, a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Survivor who was unable to attend. Referencing the ongoing tribunal relating to CSE in Rotherham, the Leader was asked to publicly disown the statement T had asked him to disown by email on 27th March. Ms Meleady also asked if the Council's Head of Legal Services understood her core responsibility was to stand up for victims and survivors of CSE and to respond to calls and emails. It was also stated that the tribunal was appalling legal expenditure.

The Leader stated that he had already informed T via email that he could not comment on matters that were subject to ongoing litigation or the subject of appeal. He also could not comment on circumstances surrounding individual members of staff.

2. Mr Ashraf asked a question in relation to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and the ongoing conflict in Gaza. He asked for a detailed table to be provided containing information relating to the Pensions Authority's financial operations and the Pension Authority's Members information. Mr Ashraf also asked for the expenses information for the Rotherham Members of the Pensions Authority.

The Leader stated that this was not a question for Cabinet, but if Mr Ashraf provided his question in writing, he would pass it on to South Yorkshire Pension's Authority for a written response.

In his supplementary question, Mr Ashraf asked for further information from South Yorkshire Pension's Authority, including emails received, petitions, signatories and divestment changes for a period of time, specifically related to the Gaza conflict.

The Leader again stated that, as a gesture of good will, the question

would be passed on to the Pensions Authority. However, he reiterated that the appropriate place to ask these questions was at South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, not Rotherham Council meetings.

143. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 March 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

144. 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.

145. EXTRA CARE HOUSING MODEL

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to formally consult on how care and support was delivered to tenants in Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing (ECH) was 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 offered an alternative to residential care for people needing support to live independently for longer. In Rotherham, there were two ECH schemes, known as Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court, offering a total of 87 tenancies and support to 92 people.

The current model offered tenants a multilayered approach to care and support, but this could be disjointed, intrusive and overcomplicated. Tenants received support from multiple organisations, which increased the number of professionals involved in a person's life. There were opportunities to strengthen the existing care and support to ensure person-focussed and strength-based approaches were embedded within the ECH model, ensuring a consistent approach across the schemes.

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. Essentially, there were two co-dependent systems within the ECH schemes, and neither could maximise delivery. This could compromise the type and amount of support tenants received. All Council-employed care enablers were level 2 qualified to deliver care and support. However, as the schemes were no longer registered with CQC, staff were not permitted to deliver personal care. This change to the care enabler role

had blurred the distinction between staff delivering housing related support and, over time, some duplication had emerged (for example, the provision of social contact and tenant activities, supporting emotional wellbeing and support with daily living tasks). The current model was inconsistent across the schemes in relation to access to support and was not delivering optimum outcomes or value for money. The costs of the schemes were £1.984m per year.

It was proposed that the schemes be registered with CQC (under one registration) so that Council employed staff could legally meet tenants' personal care and support needs. It was also 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 would ensure that people were supported proportionately, on a needs-led basis, accessible on a 24/7 basis. The staffing model would 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 maintained 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 was provided in readiness for CQC registration. A summary of what this would achieve was set out in paragraph 3.6.

Approval was sought to formally consult on the option set out above. A 90-day public consultation would be delivered, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to feed back on the proposal. This would 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.

Resolved:

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.

146. FAMILY HUB PROGRESS UPDATE AND EXTENSION

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the successful delivery of the Family Hubs programme and the future of the programme as confirmed by the Government. It also recommended 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

On 6 November 2025 Rotherham received a provisional allocation of £5,052,800 for financial years 2026-29. There was 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. 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.

The report provided updates on Family Hubs; Connect Family Hubs and Community Network Family Hubs. The seven dedicated workstreams under which the programme delivery would take place were set out in section 2.2 of the report. These were transformation (including digital connectivity); Parenting Support; Infant Feeding; Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships; Home Learning Environment; Start for Life Offer; and Parent Carer Panels.

Resolved:

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.

147. DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27 – 2028/29 for endorsement. The Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed through consultation with the Local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (DSAPG) which reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP.) The refreshed Strategy would 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, would be aligned with the revised strategic aims to ensure continuity and effectiveness in service provision. The current commissioned services had worked to align with the aims of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 – 2027, with provider organisations playing an active role in the DSAPG. The Council had a statutory duty to ensure a

Domestic Abuse Strategy was in place.

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

The 2022-2027 Strategy had provided a clear framework for coordinated efforts to tackle domestic abuse and had enhanced support for victims / survivors and their families. While the Strategy commitment was for a five-year period, the Safer Rotherham Partnership had agreed that there was a need to remain responsive to evolving local and national contexts and as a result, the partnership had undertaken a fundamental review, resulting in a refreshed strategy with additional or amended priority areas. The refreshed Strategy would span three years (2026/27 to 2028/29). This reduced period would allow for earlier reflection and adaptation to emerging trends and demands and reflected lessons learnt in the delivery of the current Strategy.

Resolved:

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.

148. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence a Boroughwide Community Governance Review. The Council had a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes, including town and community councils. Following initial consultation, a draft recommendations report would 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 would be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

A Community Governance Review (CGR) was the legal process that a principal council had to 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 meant making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, had a say in how

their local communities were represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission had produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

The last Boroughwide review in Rotherham took place in 2008. Since then, there had been significant new development and population movement across the Borough. The Borough had also been in dialogue with Ravenfield Parish Council who had expressed a desire to have a reconsideration of their Parish Boundaries. As set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it was considered good practice for a principal council to conduct a review every 10-15 years. 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.

The Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review were attached at Appendix 1. The timetable for the Review was summarised in Section 5 of the report and set out in detail in Appendix 2.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. They requested that the consultation findings and final proposals be taken back to Scrutiny.

Resolved:

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.

149. STREET SAFE TEAM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided 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 was designed to strengthen community safety and enhance public confidence in the town centres. Detail was provided on the progress achieved so far, and emphasised 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.

The aim of the Street Safe Team was 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 provided governance across varying partnership activities to maximise impact and track progress and performance, through the Safer Neighbourhoods Priority. The Street Safe Team aimed to improve feelings of safety and security in the Town Centres of Rotherham, Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby. The team provided a visible, uniformed Council presence, with a particular focus on hot spot areas.

To measure the effectiveness of the new Street Safe team, a combination of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators had been identified, aligned with community safety objectives. These included:

- 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.

Paragraph 2.3 detailed the work that had been completed by the Team up to February 2026. Overall, the Team had provided a high-profile community presence across Rotherham to challenge negative behaviours and help to minimise harm to communities. The Team had been through a

significant training and upskilling programme with the aim of meeting the requirements for initial deployment. The aim was to map out the further training requirements of the team to support an omnicompetent skill set that could support the wider enforcement opportunities held by the Council.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the progress to date.

150. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES RELIEF - THE ROTHERHAM HOSPICE TRUST

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the application for business rates relief from the Rotherham Hospice Trust. The Rotherham Hospice Trust was a registered charity and the only adult hospice serving the people of Rotherham and its surrounding towns and villages. The Hospice offered specialist palliative care through a range of holistic services aimed at supporting patients to live life as fully as they could to the end of their life.

The Charity ran retail and cafe outlets throughout the borough which were operated with the sole purpose of generating income to help fund the running costs of the Hospice. These were staffed and supported by a team of volunteers who gave their time to assist with daily operations, serve customers and help maintain a welcoming environment. The shops and cafes provided valuable social opportunities for the volunteers, many of whom were retired, socially isolated or looking to gain confidence and work experience. The shops promoted sustainability through the sale of donated goods, encouraging re-use and reducing waste. Overall, these retail premises played a vital role in supporting the Hospice's charitable aims, fostering local engagement and delivering lasting social impact throughout the borough.

The Charity 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 it was now seeking additional support for the new premises which they had taken on from 25 November 2025. The property would be used for the sorting and storage of donations. It would also be used to park the charity vans and provide additional office space.

The application for the award of discretionary relief was in line with the Council's qualifying criteria as set out in its Policy. The Charity provided access to facilities which were open to all sections of the community and worked to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery, volunteering, and staffing. The Charity was applying for discretionary relief with regards to their 2025/26 and 2026/27 rates liability. The cost to RMBC would be £441.59 for 25/26 and £1,248.91 for 2026/27.

Resolved:

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 of the report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial year.

151. COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE - YEAR AHEAD PLAN 2026/27

Consideration was given to the report which presented the 2026/27 Year Ahead Deliver Plan for approval. The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan was the second delivery plan that had been produced to deliver the Council Plan 2025-2030. It set out the key activities to be delivered over the upcoming financial year ending 31 March 2027.

The Plan included 81 priority actions and 35 performance measures, alongside a further 12 social care measures. Six-monthly progress reports would be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports would include progress and performance updates on the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The year-end progress report would include an update on the long-term measures of success. It was proposed that the mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, be reported to Cabinet in January 2027 and year-end report for the period October 2026 to March 2027 be reported to Cabinet in July 2027.

During the meeting the Leader confirmed that four changes were to be made to the Plan:

- Measure Reference P4 (Deliver at least 50 enforcement interventions, including formal warnings, FPNs and notices) – amended to include specific reference to the Street Safe Team.
- Measure Reference P31 (Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%) and P16 (Plant at least 500 trees across the borough) – amended the Cabinet Member from Finance and Community Safety to Street Scene and Green Spaces.
- Measure Reference SC1 (Proportion of adults with social care support, remaining at home) – amended the table to show that good is high, rather than not applicable and the target is 73% rather than not applicable.

Cabinet Members highlighted aspects of the Year Ahead Plan from their portfolio. Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, praised on the on-going work in Public Health which had been very successful.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy highlighted the commitment to deliver the first twelve Ward Road Safety Plans and to complete the designs for five pedestrian crossings. Regeneration work was continuing throughout the town centre with the new Central Library set to open along with the completion of

Phase one of the Town Centre Health Hub.

Councillor Cusworth, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, highlighted the Best Start Plan and the focus on improving development in the early years of a child's life. She spoke in support of the Families First Partnership and of the Best Start Family Hubs programme. Work would continue on the Neighbourhood Strategy and on delivering the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces, spoke about the commencement of works on the Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation scheme and the procurement of a contractor for the Treeton Lane/Catcliffe Bridge replacement scheme. Work would continue to development the Country Parks. Councillor Marshall encouraged everyone to attend the St George's Day celebrations in Clifton Park on 18 April 2026.

Councillor Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing, highlighted the work done to deliver new Council Homes across the last year and the work that would be done to continue the programme in the coming year. Work would also be done to improve the existing Council homes stock with refurbishments, repairs and energy efficiency works. Councillor Beresford also praised the work done to involve tenants in the Selective Licensing process.

The Leader spoke in support of the Delivery Plan, particularly the delivery of public realm improvements in Maltby and Swinton along with the work to be done on the Rotherham Gateway Station project. He highlighted the additional healthy holidays places that had been funded along with playground improvements and the in-house children's residential care programme. The Castleview Day Centre was also complete and over 65's would be able to access cheaper swimming at leisure centres.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Discussion had focussed on building programmes being off target, especially around the Dinnington area and HR issues.

Resolved:

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.

152. CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

Consideration was given to the report which set out the proposals for the use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) for 2026/27 and the broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years. The CRF was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It would initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The new fund had broader aims than the HSF. Instead of focusing primarily on crisis support to vulnerable households, it put more emphasis on building financial resilience and creating a more connected local support system. The CRF also incorporated Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs). Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 was £5.2m. This represented an increase of around £300,000 on the combined HSF and DHP allocation for 2025/26.

Funding had to 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 faced a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.
- Resilience services - funding for services that improved financial resilience.
- Community coordination - investment in activities that connected and enhanced the local support landscape.

Further details on how the funding would be allocated in accordance with these requirements was set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.14. The specific year one (2026/27) proposals were outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.14.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Debate had focussed on the impact of inflation and the impact of the ongoing conflict in Iran. Concerns were raised relating to the food parcels and voucher schemes.

Resolved:

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.

153. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Playing Pitch Strategy – Part 1 (PPS) for approval. The PPS provided an up-to-date, robust, Sport England compliant assessment of the supply, demand and future needs for outdoor sports facilities in Rotherham. It covered football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, hockey, tennis and padel. It was 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 identified significant current and future shortfalls in multiple sports, particularly football (youth formats), cricket, rugby union and 3G pitches. It provided a clear action plan for the next 3-5 years, with strategic direction to 2040.

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 had been updated and they no longer recognised the 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 had been possible to deliver a new strategy.

The PPS would be presented in two parts. Part 1 covered the needs assessment related to playing pitch provision in Rotherham. Subject to approval of Part 1, Part 2 would outline a clear vision, cover how the recommendations would be implemented and resourced, working in collaboration with the stakeholders on the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out the aims of the Strategy and detailed how the aims would be achieved. Paragraph 2.3 outlined the headline findings from the PPS for each individual sport. Paragraph 2.4 detailed the monitoring and delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The report was considered by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be supported. A report would be taken back to the Improving Places Select Commission once delivery of the Strategy was underway.

Resolved:

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.

154. STREET CLEANSING AND FLY TIPPING IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which provided a progress update on rural verge cleansing, outlined the forthcoming gateway maintenance programme, and noted the agreed development of a second Rural Verge & Principal Gateway Cleansing and Maintenance (RVGC) team. In March 2025, Council had approved a £307k investment to create the new team 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.

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.

From late March/early April the RVGC team would switch to the gateway programme, while the established verge team commenced its May–October cycle. The gateway work was a new scheduled activity covering several key routes in and out of the borough. The scope included detritus removal, weed treatment/clearance, litter-picking, removal of overhanging branches/hedges, grubbing out, and other tasks needed to improve gateway appearance. Officers would monitor progress, recognising that some locations might require a return visit to complete the full scope of works required. This programme was in addition to any routine jobs logged by residents in these areas.

In March 2026, Council approved a further revenue investment of £272k to create a second RVGC team. Recruitment commenced in mid-March 2026 and a full-year update on both teams' performance would be reported in April 2027.

Resolved:

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.

155. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the progress of the 2025/26 Climate Emergency Action Plan to the end of December 2025 and proposed an action plan for the 2026/27 municipal year. Programmes for corporate property decarbonisation and electric vehicle infrastructure (EVI) were presented at Appendix 3a and 3b, respectively. Climate change data and performance measures were also reported (Appendix 5) for the 2024/25 carbon accounting period. A high-level summary of progress to date on Nature Recovery in Rotherham was provided, recognising the links between the Nature Crisis and Climate Emergency.

The table at paragraph 2.4 outlined the Council's performance measures in relation to its Net Zero by 2030 targets. Paragraphs 2.5 to 2.10 provided more detail on the emissions targets and performance.

The table at paragraph 2.13 presented the 2024/25 performance measures relating to the Net Zero by 2040 target. The Council continued to measure several Key Performance Indicators in relation to the Borough's performance. In general, emissions were declining, however the portion of fossil fuels in the Borough's energy mix remained high. UK-wide action to develop a net zero National Grid by 2030 would only affect approximately 20% of the Borough's energy emissions, which meant that local action to transition to low carbon heating types, such as air source heat pumps or heat networks was key to reaching net zero. It was expected that the above performance measures could evolve as work to develop the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy continued. Work with partners to co-create this Strategy had already commenced with workshops taking place throughout October and November 2025. Actions proposed in the 2026/27 action plan associated with this report would also support the development of these measures. Appendix 5 provided more detail on the Council's emissions.

Paragraphs 2.17 to 2.24 detailed the work being done in relation to energy. 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 had 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 had expected completion dates in June 2026. It was expected that this project would reduce emissions by 35.35tCO₂e per annum.

The report also provided updates in relation to transport; housing; waste; built & natural environment; biodiversity; influence and engagement (Children's Capital of Culture); and adaptation.

The proposed action plan for 2026/27 was attached at Appendix 2. A critical piece of work would be the commissioning and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan. This work would 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 would also provide an opportunity for the development of investment proposals for renewables as part of the Council's wider estate.

A proposal for the delivery of actions to decarbonise the Council's estate over the next five-year period was also presented as detailed in paragraphs 2.70 to 2.75.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. Questions related to how realistic the 2030 net zero target was and the activity described within the report.

Resolved:

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.

156. DON VALLEY CORRIDOR

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the establishment of the 'Don Valley Corridor' as a strategic economic growth initiative and Regeneration Programme for South Yorkshire. It set out how the programme would be coordinated and how Rotherham Council would 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.

The Don Valley Corridor (DVC) had been identified in South Yorkshire's Local Growth Plan as a spatial priority for growth and regeneration. It was also identified as a focus for growth in the government's Northern Growth Strategy published on 19 March 2026. The Corridor, as seen in Appendix 1, stretched from Sheffield City Centre through the Lower Don Valley to the Liberty Steel site at Aldwarke. Within this geography sat key regeneration priorities, including Rotherham Town Centre, Bassingthorpe and Rotherham Gateway station. The geography included some of the Borough's most deprived wards as well as key employment areas at Aldwarke, Templeborough and the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

This geography combined the potential for inclusive housing and employment growth, alongside established innovation assets and existing infrastructure investment. Across the entire DVC geography, investment was 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.

In agreeing to partner on the DVC, the Council would move into the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone. A Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) was a non-statutory entity. It differed from a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) which was a statutory entity with special powers which needed to follow a specific legal process to designate. An MDZ did 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. It signalled to Government and potential public and private sector partners, that the partnership was committed to using its existing strategic economic development and regeneration powers, resources and relationship to progress this programme.

Commitment to this partnership and the scale of this programme required resourcing to co-ordinate activity across the geography and develop co-investment proposals. SYMCA would provide a core central co-ordinating team to drive strategic programme development across the Don Valley Corridor as a whole and would deliver any SYMCA-led projects or assist scheme delivery as required. The proposed model would see the establishment of a Don Valley Programme Board for co-ordination of cross border activities. This Board would report into SYMCA's Board and Investment Board as required.

Together the partnership would create a comprehensive funding and delivery strategy by summer 2026. Behind this was the development of a co-investment model which would see local commitment of Gainshare in order to leverage in regional, national and private investment. Gainshare was funding provided by SYMCA which originated as part of the devolution deal with central government. Each Local Authority in South Yorkshire had been allocated an amount per year for 30 years, starting in 2020/21. Both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils would look to utilise some Gainshare funding to develop the Don Valley Corridor and thoughts on this would be developed as part of the funding strategy referred to in paragraph 2.5.1. Any specific propositions for the use of Gainshare funding would be subject to future Cabinet approval. Each authority would 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.

Resolved:

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 and 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 and 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.

157. 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.

158. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 11 May 2026, commencing at 10.00am.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

General Enforcement Policy

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)

Lewis Coates / Craig Cornwall

01709 823118 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk / craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

All Wards

Report Summary

This report seeks Cabinet approval to adopt a refreshed General Enforcement Policy. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 requires the Council to have regard to the Regulators' Code when setting policies and procedures that guide regulatory activity. A 30-day public consultation was conducted from 1 January 2026, followed by internal consultation in February 2026. The refreshed General Enforcement Policy is more strategic in content, with operational detail signposted to service-specific procedures. Material changes include clearer references to the Council's role as a landlord, updated legislative references, strengthened statements on delegation and emergency arrangements, an expanded partnership-working section, and refined enforcement options. The proposed General Enforcement Policy is attached at Appendix 1, with consultation analysis at Appendix 2.

Recommendations

That Cabinet Approves the refreshed General Enforcement Policy (Appendix 1) for publication and implementation, having had due regard to the Regulators' Code and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 General Enforcement Policy– revised March 2026

Appendix 2 Analysis of Consultation Responses

Appendix 3 Equalities Screening Assessment

Appendix 4 Carbon and Climate Change Assessment

Background Papers

- General Enforcement Policy– Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006
- Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007
- Department for Business Innovation and Skills: Better Regulation Delivery Office, Regulators’ Code (April 2014)
- Renters’ Rights Act 2025 (primary legislation) and statutory guidance on: Civil penalties under the Renters’ Rights Act 2025 and other housing legislation; Rent repayment orders: guidance for local authorities.
- [Cabinet Report, 17th November 2025 – Report title – General Enforcement Policy Consultation](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

General Enforcement Policy

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 to have regard to the *Regulators' Code* when developing policies and operational procedures that guide its regulatory activities. This applies to the Council's General Enforcement Policy (The Policy) and any revisions it wishes to make to that Policy. The Regulators' Code is statutory guidance published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- 1.2 The Policy is underpinned by the statutory principles of good regulation, with its primary purpose being to protect the public.
- 1.3 The Policy sets out the principles of transparency, consistency, and proportionality to which the Council will adhere in its discharge of enforcement and regulatory functions.
- 1.4 The proposed Policy will apply to all council services exercising regulatory functions that are subject to the Regulators' Code under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and the Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007 (as amended). This includes regulatory and enforcement activity affecting businesses and other regulated persons undertaken by services such as:
 - Environmental Protection
 - Public Health
 - Food Safety and Hygiene
 - Health and Safety
 - Animal Health
 - Waste Management
 - Trading Standards
 - Licensing
 - Parking Enforcement
 - Dog Control
 - Environmental Crime
 - Safety at Sports Grounds
 - Private Sector Housing
 - Highways
 - Green Spaces
 - Street Cleansing

This Policy also applies to the Council in its capacity as a landlord, where enforcement relates to tenancy conditions. The Policy will not apply to non-regulatory functions or services that do not involve the enforcement of regulatory requirements on businesses or regulated entities, including social care, education, benefits administration, council tax, housing needs or allocation functions, or other purely service delivery or support roles.

- 1.5 The current Policy has been reviewed, engaging both internal and external stakeholders. This was done by a peer-to-peer service review with affected Service Managers and Legal Services, and via a public consultation open for 30 days from 1 January 2026 on the Council's website.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council's Policy details how the Council will exercise its regulatory obligations in a way that is:
- Proportionate
 - Accountable
 - Consistent
 - Transparent
 - Targeted
- 2.2 It is important for the Council to ensure that its Policy is regularly reviewed ensuring that regulatory activities are transparent and accurate. The previous review took place in 2023.
- 2.3 The principles underpinning the Policy remain unchanged. The revised Policy is shorter and more high-level, keeping only strategic policy content and moving away from detailed operational guidance, which should be found within service-specific documentation including procedures.
- 2.4 It is also important to consider how the Council's services, impacted by the Policy, can perform against the Policy's main values. This formed part of the consultation process, with external stakeholders invited to comment on their experience of engagement with services impacted by the Policy. Relevant responses have been analysed and form part of the document in Appendix 2. This information has been shared with relevant service managers.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option A – Retain the existing General Enforcement Policy (**not recommended**): This would not reflect updated legislation, guidance and local practice, and would be inconsistent with the requirement to keep the Policy under review.
- 3.2 Option B – Approve the refreshed General Enforcement Policy (**recommended**): This aligns the Policy with current statutory guidance, strengthens clarity on roles and enforcement options, and improves signposting to service-specific procedures.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Internal engagement included affected services and Legal Services.
- 4.2 External consultation ran for 30 days from 1 January 2026 via the Council's website, supported by social media signposting. There were 53 responses

(compared to 24 in the 2023 consultation), and the analysis is set out at Appendix 2.

4.3 The consultation also invited feedback on how effectively services deliver against the General Enforcement Policy's commitments, in line with best practice under the Regulators' Code.

4.4 Material changes made following consultation include:

- Clarifying that the Policy also applies when the Council acts as a landlord, with reference to the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards.
- Referencing strengthened civil penalty powers under the Renters' Rights Act 2025, including signposting to remedial training as potential mitigation and discharge of the offence(s) made.
- Updating statutory references.
- Refining emergency provisions enabling the Chief Executive to suspend elements of the Policy during emergencies.
- Adding a partnership-working section to clarify key partners and joint objectives.
- Strengthening statements on the Council's scheme of delegation.
- Referencing action under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 within Appendix B (Enforcement Options).
- Adding flexibility for the Council to agree payment plans for high value penalties (i.e. Monetary Civil penalties over £2,000), under a new "Terms of Payment" section in Appendix B. This does not include Fixed Penalty Notices as they are of lower financial value.
- Clarifying that "no action" or an incremental formal warning approach may be proportionate in some circumstances.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services and the Service Manager, Regulation and Enforcement Services, will oversee implementation of the refreshed General Enforcement Policy and schedule its next review within the Council's policy review cycle.

5.2 Should Cabinet approve this new Policy, it will become active and enabled subject to call-in procedures.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The General Enforcement Policy will be delivered within the approved revenue budgets for the affected Services.

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

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council is required by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 to have regard to the principles set out within section 21(2) of the Act and also the Regulators' Code when developing policies and operational procedures that guide its regulatory activities. This applies to the Council's General Enforcement Policy and any revisions its wishes to make to that Policy.
- 7.2 The Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007 details the regulatory and enforcement functions of the Council that are subject to the Regulator's Code and consequently the General Enforcement Policy. This covers a significant number of functions including for example Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Highways, Housing, Licensing, Parking and Transport; however, it should be noted that the provisions do not extend to Planning and Social Services or to the new enforcement provisions within the Renters' Rights Act 2025.
- 7.3 Both the Act and the Regulators' Code detail standards of function delivery that must be adhered to, establishing the following as legal obligations for the delivery of the Council's regulatory and enforcement functions subject to the Regulators' Code:
- Proportionate
 - Accountable
 - Consistent
 - Transparent
 - Targeted
- 7.4 The Government will monitor those subject to the Regulators' Code and their published policies and standards and will challenge Authorities where there is evidence that policies and standards are not in line with the Code or are not followed.
- 7.5 In approving Option B, the Council will ensure that it remains compliant with the statutory requirements set out within this report and this in turn will minimise the risk of legal challenge in relation to not only the policy itself but also any enforcement decisions made in accordance with the General Enforcement Policy.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for Human Resources arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
- 9.2 The Policy provides reassurance for children, young people and vulnerable

adults around regulatory functions being carried out in a transparent, consistent, accountable and proportionate manner.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Policy reinforces the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 by setting expectations for fair, transparent and proportionate enforcement. A screening assessment (Appendix 3) confirms no adverse impacts are anticipated.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are implications in relation to vehicle use emissions to conduct regulatory and enforcement visits however the impact is assessed as minimal in the context of wider environmental benefits from enforcement, especially in three key areas of waste, transport and housing. Appendix 4 covers these considerations.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Partners have been included in the consultation process however their own policies and procedures are unaffected.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Failure to have due regard to the provisions of the Regulators' Code presents a risk of enforcement decisions or actions being successfully challenged. There is also a risk that evidence gathered during a criminal investigation is ruled inadmissible by the Court and in addition, that prosecution proceedings cannot be instigated at all.

13.2 Failures to comply with the Regulators' Code can result in reputational damage to the Council through not complying with its legal obligations.

13.3 Approval and adoption of the refreshed Policy mitigates these risks by updating statutory references, improving clarity, and strengthening governance arrangements.

14. Accountable Officers

14.1 Emma Ellis, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

Report Author: Craig Cornwall, Community Protection Manager
01709 823118 or craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

General Enforcement Policy

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Purpose of this Policy
3. Application of the Policy
4. Approach to non-compliance
5. Advice and Guidance
6. Enforcement Decisions
7. Enforcement and Regulatory Services (Service Standards)
8. Review of the Policy
9. Comments and Complaints
10. Partnership Working

Appendix A Legislation, guidance and codes used in the preparation of the policy

Appendix B Enforcement Actions available to the Local Authority in respect of Criminal and Civil Breaches

Appendix C Reference to Service (function) specific policies and further reading

1. Introduction

This General Enforcement Policy outlines Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's approach to regulatory compliance and enforcement. It is designed to ensure transparency, consistency, and proportionality in all enforcement activities, in accordance with the Regulators' Code (Better Regulation Delivery Office, April 2014).

While specific service-level enforcement policies exist (see Appendix C), this document sets out the overarching principles that guide enforcement decisions across the Council. The primary aim is to protect the public, support legitimate businesses, and safeguard the environment through fair and effective regulation.

The Council is committed to:

- Delivering enforcement based on risk assessment and local priorities.
- Supporting economic growth by avoiding unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- Ensuring officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to apply enforcement principles effectively.

This policy will be published online, and service-specific enforcement standards will be available upon request in electronic or paper format.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish a clear framework for enforcement decisions.
- Promote public protection and legal compliance.
- Ensure that enforcement actions are proportionate, consistent, and transparent.

All officers must adhere to this policy when making enforcement decisions. Any departure from the policy must be exceptional, justified, and approved by the relevant Director. In emergency situations, the Chief Executive may suspend parts of the policy to protect public health or ensure effective service delivery.

The Council will maintain procedures to ensure officers follow published service standards, as required by the Regulators' Code.

3. Application of the Policy

This policy applies to enforcement and regulatory functions carried out by the Community Safety and Streetscene Department within the Regeneration and Environment Directorate, including Environmental Health and Licensing functions.

The Council is committed to delivering enforcement services that are efficient, courteous, and professional. These services are guided by the principles of the Regulators' Code and are delivered across a range of areas, including:

- Environmental Protection
- Public Health
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Health and Safety
- Animal Health
- Waste Management
- Trading Standards
- Licensing
- Parking Enforcement
- Dog Control
- Environmental Crime
- Safety at Sports Grounds
- Private Sector Housing
- Highways
- Green Spaces
- Street Cleansing

This policy also applies to the Council in its capacity as a landlord, where enforcement relates to tenancy conditions. Where the Council delivers functions relating to its role as a social housing landlord, enforcement and regulatory activity will also have regard to the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards, including the Home Standard, Tenancy Standard, Neighbourhood and Community Standard and the Transparency, Influence & Accountability Standard. The Council will ensure that decisions, investigations and advice align with the expectations set out in the Regulator's accompanying Code of Practice, particularly in relation to fairness in tenancy management, complaint handling and respect for residents' voices.

The policy does not apply to enforcement functions delivered by Planning and Building Control Services, or Landlord Legislation described under S107 of the Renters Rights Act 2025, as these statutory powers are not included in the Schedule, Part 3 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007.

The Council aims to standardise enforcement through effective procedures and clear policies. The primary goal is to achieve compliance through education and support, while reserving the right to take enforcement action when necessary—even after initial compliance is achieved.

Where offences fall outside the scope of this policy, officers will refer the matter to the appropriate agency and ensure thorough investigation and feedback to the complainant.

All investigations will be carried out under the following legislation:

- the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- Criminal Justice Act 2003
- the Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010

These Acts and associated guidance control how evidence is collected. It is used to give a range of protections to residents and potential defendants. The Council's authorised officers will also comply with the requirements of the particular legislation under which they are acting, and with any associated guidance, procedures or Codes of Practice.

4. Approach to Non-Compliance

The Council recognises that most individuals and businesses aim to comply with the law. However, firm action will be taken against those who deliberately or persistently fail to meet legal requirements, especially where public safety is at risk.

Where appropriate, individuals and businesses may seek advice on non-compliance without triggering enforcement action—provided they demonstrate a genuine willingness to resolve the issue. Exceptions apply where the matter is serious enough to warrant immediate enforcement, in line with Section 5.4 of the Regulators' Code.

All complaints and notifications of non-compliance will be reviewed. Investigations will be prioritised based on risk and available resources. Where prior advice has been given, follow-up visits may be conducted to assess compliance before further action is considered.

Council officers will carry out enforcement duties fairly and consistently, with arrangements in place to promote uniformity across cases and collaboration with other agencies.

Where the Council secures the conviction of an individual or business through Court proceedings or where the Council has made an enforcement decision relating to licensed premises, vehicles, drivers and/or operators it may publish details of the offence, perpetrators and convictions in both electronic and paper publications. The purpose of this is to act as a deterrent and also to make the public aware that the Council is taking effective enforcement action where it is necessary and appropriate to do so.

5. Advice and Guidance

The Council promotes a proactive approach to compliance, recognising that prevention is better than cure. Officers will work with businesses and residents to provide clear, accessible advice that supports legal compliance.

Key principles:

- Information will be provided in plain language and confirmed in writing where necessary.
- Legal requirements will be clearly distinguished from best practice recommendations.
- Advice will be reliable and tailored to support compliance.
- Collaboration with other regulators will ensure consistency, especially where multiple agencies are involved.

The Council's Scheme of Delegation, detailing investigation responsibilities, is available upon request. The Service Director (and nominated officers) authorise officers to take regulatory and enforcement action under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. Authorised officers will be appropriately trained and will have due regard to this Policy and documented procedures when exercising powers. In exceptional circumstances and where it is in the public interest, the Council may depart from this Policy. Any departure will be properly reasoned, based on material evidence, documented, and approved by an appropriate manager.

6. Enforcement Decisions

Enforcement decisions will be guided by a range of factors, including but not limited to:

- Risk to public safety
- Severity of the breach
- Compliance history
- Obstruction by the offender
- Statutory guidance and codes of practice
- Legal advice
- Council and Government priorities
- Individual circumstances
- Primary Authority agreements

In addition to the Regulators' Code, the Council will have regard to the Macrory principles:

- (a) change offender behaviour;
- (b) remove any financial gain from non-compliance;
- (c) be responsive to the offender and issue;
- (d) be proportionate to the offence and harm;
- (e) restore harm where appropriate; and
- (f) deter future non-compliance

7. Enforcement and Regulatory Services - Service Standards

Each service area maintains robust service standards that define expectations for stakeholders, including the public. Officers will:

- Be courteous and polite
- Identify themselves by name and provide contact details (except Civil Enforcement Officers, who are identified by officer number)
- Understand how businesses operate and tailor advice accordingly
- Communicate clearly about expectations, timescales, and progress
- Provide written records of visits and interactions

The Council encourages businesses and individuals to seek advice without fear of automatic enforcement. Information and guidance are available upon request in electronic or paper format.

8. Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains relevant and effective. Reviews will be triggered by:

- Legislative changes
- Feedback from stakeholders
- Identified areas for improvement
- Statutory requirements

Before implementing changes that may significantly impact businesses, the Council will consult with affected parties and business representatives, in accordance with Section 2.1 of the Regulators' Code.

9. Comments and Complaints

Feedback is essential to improving Council services. The Council welcomes all comments—positive or critical—and uses them to enhance service delivery.

Complaints about enforcement conduct or service standards will be handled through the Council's formal complaints procedure. Information about this process is available at Council offices and upon request in electronic or paper format.

Individuals may contact the officer handling their case or request to speak with a line manager to discuss concerns or decisions. The Council is committed to openness and transparency in all enforcement matters.

10. Partnership Working

The Council works with the Police, Fire & Rescue, Crown Prosecution Service, Health and Safety Executive, Food Standards Agency, Environment Agency, housing providers and other council services to deliver joint operations, share intelligence and coordinate interventions that reduce anti-social behaviour and crime, safeguard vulnerable residents, and improve housing and neighbourhood conditions across the borough.

Appendix A: Legislation, Guidance and Codes Used In The Preparation of the Enforcement Policy

The Council will exercise its regulatory activities in a way which is:

- Proportionate – our activities will reflect the level of risk to the public and enforcement action taken will relate to the seriousness of the offence.
- Accountable – our activities will be open to public scrutiny, with clear and accessible policies, and fair and efficient complaints procedures.
- Consistent – our advice to those regulated will be robust, reliable and similarly advice provided by others will be respected. Where circumstances are similar, a consistent, if possible, approach/action to other local authorities will be followed.
- Transparent – those regulated will be advised appropriately so as to understand what is expected of them and what they can anticipate in return.
- Targeted – resources will be focused on higher risk enterprises and activities, reflecting local need and national priorities.

Regulators' Code

The Council has had regard to the Regulators' Code in the preparation of this policy. In certain instances, it may be concluded that a provision in the Code is either not relevant or is outweighed by another provision. The Council will ensure that any decision to depart from the Code will be properly reasoned, based on material evidence and documented.

Human Rights Act 1998

The Council is a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998. The principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms will be applied. This Policy and all associated enforcement decisions take account of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. In particular, due regard is had to the right to a fair trial and the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

Data Protection Act 2018

Where there is a need for the Council to share enforcement information with other agencies, the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 will be followed.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors

When deciding whether to prosecute, the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors is a public document that sets out the general principles to follow when decisions are made in respect of prosecuting cases. The Code sets out two tests that must be satisfied commonly referred to as the 'Evidential Test' and the 'Public Interest Test':

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 provides the statutory framework for protecting individuals from unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation in the exercise of public functions. As such, it is essential that all enforcement decision-making, actions and outcomes are compliant with the Act.

Evidential Test - is there enough evidence against the defendant?

When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, the Council will consider what evidence can be used in court and is reliable. There must be enough evidence to provide a 'realistic prospect of conviction' against each alleged offender.

Public Interest Test - is it in the public interest for the case to be brought to court?

The Council will balance factors for and against prosecution carefully and fairly, considering each case on its merits.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 ('the RES Act')

The Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, as amended, established the Primary Authority scheme. The requirements of the Act will be complied with when enforcement action against any business or organisation that has a primary authority is being considered and will have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State in relation to Primary Authority.

Appendix B: Enforcement Actions available to the Council in Respect of Criminal and Civil breaches

No formal action

There may be cases where legislation allows discretion (i.e. Not a statutory requirement to act), as to when contraventions of the law may not warrant any action. This could be where the costs outweigh the benefits. For example, where an offender is elderly and frail and formal action would seriously damage their health. Also, if it is considered that the breach is minor or trivial and causes no harm or risk to health or the environment, under the public interest test.

Compliance Advice, Guidance and Support

The Council uses compliance advice, guidance and support as a first response in the case of many breaches of legislation that are identified. Advice is provided, sometimes in the form of a warning letter, to assist individuals and businesses in rectifying breaches as quickly and efficiently as possible, avoiding the need for further enforcement action. A warning letter will set out what should be done to rectify the breach and to prevent re-occurrence. If a similar breach is identified in the future, this letter will be persuasive in considering the most appropriate enforcement action to take on that occasion. Such a letter cannot be cited in court as a previous conviction but it may be presented in evidence.

The Council recognises that where a business has entered into a partnership with a primary authority, the primary authority will provide compliance advice and support, and the Council will take such advice into account when considering the most appropriate enforcement action for it to take. It may discuss any need for compliance advice and support with the primary authority.

Where more formal enforcement action, such as a simple caution or prosecution, is taken, the Council recognises that there is likely to be an ongoing need for compliance advice and support, to prevent further breaches.

Voluntary Undertakings

The Council may accept voluntary undertakings that breaches will be rectified and/or recurrences prevented. The Council will take any failure to honour voluntary undertakings very seriously, and enforcement action is likely to result.

Statutory (Legal) Notices

In respect of many breaches of legal requirements the Council has powers to issue statutory notices. These include: 'Abatement Notices', 'Prohibition Notices',

'Emergency Prohibition Notices', and 'Improvement Notices'. Such notices are legally binding. Failure to comply with a statutory notice can be a criminal offence and may lead to prosecution and/ or, where appropriate, the carrying out of work in default.

A statutory notice will clearly set out actions which must be taken and the timescale within which they must be taken. It is likely to require that any breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. It may also prohibit specified activities until the breach has been rectified, and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches. Where a statutory notice is issued, an explanation of the appeals process will be provided to the recipient.

Some notices issued in respect of premises may be affixed to the premises and/or registered as local land charges.

Financial penalties

The Council has powers to issue fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and civil monetary penalties in respect of some breaches of legislation. A fixed penalty notice, penalty charge notice or civil monetary penalty is not a conviction criminal fine, and does not appear on an individual's criminal record. If a fixed penalty, penalty charge notice or civil monetary penalty is not paid, the Council may, however, commence criminal proceedings or take civil enforcement action to recover the value of the the penalty charge or civil monetary penalty subject to the provisions of the relevant legislation. The Council may also take other enforcement action such as works in default and then take action to recover the costs of such work.

If a fixed penalty, penalty charge notice or civil monetary penalty is paid in respect of a breach, the Council will not take any further enforcement action in respect of that specific breach. Payment of the penalty does not provide immunity from prosecution in respect of similar continuing or recurrent breaches.

The Council is only able to issue fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and civil monetary penalties where it has specific powers to do so. If fixed penalty notices are available, their issue is at the Council's discretion. In some circumstances, in particular where breaches are serious or recurrent, it may be that instigating a prosecution is more appropriate than the issue of a fixed penalty notice.

The Council will exercise its civil penalty powers in accordance with the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and also in accordance with the strengthened enforcement provisions introduced through the Renters Rights Act 2025, which

expands the range of offences eligible for civil penalties and increases maximum penalty thresholds. Civil penalties may be used as an alternative to prosecution where appropriate and proportionate, and the Council will consider aggravating and mitigating factors in determining penalty levels, in line with statutory guidance.

In instances where an offence has been established and a Civil Monetary penalty is deemed appropriate, the Council may, at its discretion, offer a remedial training programme as a means of full or partial resolution. Where such an offer is extended and accepted, it may serve as a mitigating factor, resulting in a reduction of civil penalties or the mitigation of criminal proceedings. Conversely, should the offer be declined or the training not be completed, the Council will pursue the original offence to its full extent through the relevant civil or criminal jurisdictions.

If the Council deems fit it may confirm, vary or quash a monetary penalty.

Terms of payment (fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and civil monetary penalties)

i. Payment information

The terms of payment for any fixed penalty notice, penalty charge notice or monetary penalty will be set out in the documents we issue.

ii. Instalments under £2,000

The Council does not accept instalment payments for financial penalties under £2,000 or in relation to fixed penalty notices.

iii. Payment plans for £2,000 or more

Where a penalty charge notice or other civil monetary penalty is £2,000 or more, the Council may, at its discretion, consider a payment plan ("Payment Plan"). Payment plans are not available in relation to fixed penalty notices.

iv. How to request a Payment Plan

Any request must be made in writing. It must:

- explain why the penalty cannot be paid in full by the due date; and
- include evidence of how the proposed instalments will be funded (for example, recent bank statements, income/expense details and any relevant liabilities).

v. Decision and conditions

If satisfied that the proposed Payment Plan will result in full settlement within a reasonable period, the Council may accept it at its discretion. Any accepted plan will set out:

- the instalment amounts and schedule;
- the final date by which the penalty must be paid in full; and
- the consequences of missed or late payments (including immediate cancellation of the plan and the full balance becoming due).

vi. Effect on enforcement and rights of appeal

Agreeing a Payment Plan does not affect any statutory rights of representation or appeal (where applicable), nor does it prevent the Council from taking recovery action if the plan terms are not met.

vii. Default

If an instalment is missed or otherwise breaches the plan, the plan may be withdrawn, and the outstanding balance will become immediately due. The Council may then commence or continue recovery action without further notice.

Injunctive Actions, Enforcement Orders etc.

In some circumstances the Council may seek a direction from the court (in the form of an order or an injunction) that a breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. The court may also direct that specified activities be suspended until the breach has been rectified and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches.

Failure to comply with a court order constitutes contempt of court, a serious offence which may lead to imprisonment.

The Council is required to seek enforcement orders after issuing some enforcement notices, providing the court with an opportunity to confirm the restrictions imposed by the notice. Otherwise, the Council will usually only seek a court order if it has serious concerns about compliance with voluntary undertakings or a notice.

The Council may seek Banning Orders where relevant convictions exist and it is appropriate and proportionate to do so.

The Council will, where appropriate seek to use Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), to specify an area where activities taking place that are considered

detrimental to the local community are prohibited for example the provision of the dogs and dog control. The PSPO will follow the governance process and will be subject to a consultation, ensuring the process and outcome are legally compliant.

The local authority will consider the use of a closure order to close premises associated with persistent disorder or serious anti-social behaviour. This includes, excessive noise, illicit tobacco/alcohol, or where any anti-social residents are intimidating and threatening people. The decision to close premises will not be taken lightly and will be done so in consultation with South Yorkshire Police and other partner agencies/services.

In some circumstances where offenders are repeatedly convicted of similar environmental health /trading standards offences, where considered appropriate, a Criminal Behaviour Order will be considered and application submitted to the Court to stop the activity.

Prosecution

When deciding whether to prosecute, the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Prosecution proceedings will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that it has sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against the defendant(s).

Before deciding that instigating a prosecution is appropriate, the Council will consider all relevant circumstances carefully and will have due regard to the following public interest criteria:

- Seriousness of the offence committed
- The level of culpability of the suspect
- The circumstances of, and the harm caused to the victim?
- Was the suspect under the age of 18 at the time of the offence?
- What is the impact on the community?
- Is prosecution a proportionate response?
- Do sources of information require protecting?

A successful prosecution will result in a conviction and criminal record. The court may impose a fine and in respect of particularly serious offences a prison sentence. The court may order the forfeiture and disposal of non-compliant goods and/or the confiscation of any profits which have resulted from the breach.

Prosecution may also lead, in some circumstances, to the disqualification of individuals from acting as company directors.

Refusal/Suspension/Revocation of Licences

The Council issues a number of licences and permits. The Council also has a role to play in ensuring that appropriate standards are met in relation to licences issued by other agencies. Most licences include conditions which require the licence holder to take steps to ensure that, for example, a business is properly operated and public safety is assured. Breach of these conditions may lead to a review of the licence which may result in its revocation or amendment.

When considering future licence applications, the Council may take previous breaches and enforcement action into account and also other matters which, on the balance of probability, may influence the assessment of a person to be a fit and proper person.

Prohibitions

The Council has a range of powers that allow for the prohibition of activities, structures, or use of facilities such as sports grounds.

The Council has a role to ensure the safety of the public and will exercise prohibition powers only where it is essential to protect health, and there is sufficient evidence available to demonstrate that a risk to health exists.

Proceeds of Crime

Upon conviction of a crime, the Council may consider making an application under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 for the purpose of denying those convicted of offences the use of their assets, recover the proceeds of crime and disrupt and deter criminality.

Appendix C - Reference to Service (function) specific policies and further reading

While this document acts as an over-arching policy for the Council, reference must also be given to service function specific policies, including but not limited to:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Banning Order Policy
- Food Safety Enforcement Policy
- Food Standards Agency Code of Practice
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Brand Standard
- Health & Safety Executive Enforcement Policy Statement
- Overt CCTV Policy
- Policy for the Use of Civil Penalty and Rent Repayment Orders under the Housing Act 2004
- Rotherham Council RIPA Policy
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Information Sharing Protocol

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Summary of Consultation Findings – General Enforcement Policy (January 2026)

A total of **53 responses** were received to the public consultation on the Council's General Enforcement Policy. Responses were primarily from residents, with a small number from landlords and other stakeholders. The consultation invited views on proportionality, clarity and accessibility of enforcement, experience of complaints processes, and general perceptions of council services.

1. Quantitative Feedback (Closed Questions)

Overall, the data indicates a high proportion of neutral to negative responses across most areas, particularly concerning clarity of expectations and the targeting of service resources. Agreement levels were generally lower, with some positive responses but not enough to shift the overall trend. The findings suggest that service users may benefit from clearer communication, more accessible policies, and improved confidence in how resources are deployed to meet local needs

Have any known actions taken been proportionate?

Response Option	Count
Neither agree nor disagree	15
Agree	12
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	9
Strongly agree	4

Do our services have clear and accessible policies?

Response Option	Count
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	12
Agree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	10
Strongly agree	4

Was the service clear about what to expect and actions needed?

Response Option	Count
Strongly disagree	15
Agree	11
Disagree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Strongly agree	5

Are service resources targeted to local need?

Response Option	Count
Strongly disagree	17
Disagree	15
Agree	11

Neither agree nor disagree	4
Strongly agree	3

2. Qualitative Themes (Open Comments)

a) Communication and Responsiveness

The most consistent theme was dissatisfaction with communication across enforcement services. Commenters cited:

- No response or delayed responses to reports
- Lack of updates or closure to cases
- Conflicting or unclear advice across departments

b) Consistency of Enforcement

Respondents reported:

- Inconsistent decision making- depending on case officer
- Policies applied unevenly across areas and service types
- Requests for greater visibility and transparency of enforcement activity

c) Housing Related- Concerns

A significant number of comments focused on:

- Anti-social behaviour and perceived inaction
- Disputes between neighbours
- Concerns about allocations and community impacts
- Perception that enforcement is “on the side of the offender” rather than victims

d) Parking Enforcement

Themes included:

- Blocked drives and insufficient enforcement presence
- High parking charges in the town centre
- Lack of action on pavement parking and parking around schools

e) Environmental Health

Several comments described:

- Frustration with fly-tipping, waste, and pollution issues
- Inconsistent licensing inspections (e.g., animal breeders)
- Desire for more frequent or robust intervention

f) Staffing and Capacity

Some respondents attributed delays and lack of action to:

- Under resourcing
- High workloads
- Staff shortages across departments

g) Positive Feedback

A minority of comments praised:

- Fly-tipping responses
- Specific enforcement teams
- Dedicated officers who had been helpful

3. Equalities Information

Equalities data was submitted by many but not all. Respondents represented a broad range of:

- Ages
- Disabilities and long-term conditions
- Ethnic backgrounds
- Religions
- Sexual orientation

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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: General Enforcement Policy – 2026	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Regulation and Enforcement
Lead person: Craig Cornwall Community Protection Manager	Contact number: craig.cornwall@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report recommends adoption on refreshed General Enforcement Policy following consultation with internal and external stakeholders. The review of the Policy is in accordance with legislative requirements and in line with the <i>Regulators' Code</i> .

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?		√
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

The requirement to abide by the Regulators' Code is a statutory obligation covered by national legislation and guidance.

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).

Appendix 3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you considered equality and diversity? <p>The General Enforcement Policy sets out the Council will comply with the Regulators' Code. The services recognise the importance of equality and diversity, ensuring that regulatory and enforcement functions delivered are available for all residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough in a way that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportionate • Accountable • Consistent • Transparent • Targeted 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings <p>The report details findings from the consultation with key stakeholders including the public and businesses, and the revised General Enforcement Policy has considered all comments received and made the necessary changes.</p> <p>The regulators' Code and subsequently the General Enforcement Policy ensures standards are established in relation to most of the Council's regulatory and enforcement functions. These standards are legal obligations based on national legislation and guidance</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions 	
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
Craig Cornwall	Community Protection Manager Regulation and Enforcement	19/02/2026
Sam Barstow	Service Director Community Safety and Street Scene	3rd March 2026
Councillor Saghir Alam	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety	16 th 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	19/02/2026
Report title and date	General enforcement Policy Review 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	Cabinet – 11 th May 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	19/02/2026

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?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	Travel to carry out regulatory and enforcement functions is generally by car or van, contributing to carbon emissions from the Council's fleet vehicles.	As a service within scope of the General Enforcement Policy, licensing of taxi and private hire vehicles influences carbon emissions from transport.		Diesel supplied to fleet vehicles at the Council's fuelled sites and petrol purchased by fuel card are monitored and reported annually in carbon accounts, published with the Climate Change annual report.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown		As service areas within scope of the General Enforcement Policy, Waste Management (e.g., enforcement against householders who persistently and wantonly contaminate their household recycling) and Environmental Crime (e.g., enforcement against fly tipping and other waste crime) influence carbon emissions from waste.		

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Unknown		As a service area within scope of the General Enforcement Policy, Private Sector Housing enforcement (which includes <i>e.g.</i> , MEES, Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for private rented accommodation) influences carbon emissions from housing.		Compliance and/or remediation of private rented accommodation to comply with MEES has been monitored in previously designated Selective Licensing Areas, but these data are not routinely monitored or reported in the context of local area greenhouse gas emissions, which are reported at the sector level <i>e.g.</i> , total annual emissions from domestic gas heating.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None		Planning enforcement and Building Control Services are outside the scope of the General Enforcement Policy.		
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?

Enforcement of minimum standards for private rented accommodation and other enforcement action *e.g.*, against environmental crime, to protect green spaces, within the General Enforcement Policy framework could mitigate some residents' exposure and vulnerability to climate change risks and support nature recovery in Rotherham, with benefits for climate change adaptation.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

There are few direct carbon impacts arising from the Council's General Enforcement Policy; however, by establishing the framework for enforcement and promoting compliance, the policy supports multiple Council regulatory services which influence carbon emissions throughout Rotherham. This and other 'levers of influence' – e.g., Development Control and Building Control services, which are excluded from the General Enforcement Policy – increase the scope of the Council's influence from its contractors' and its own scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, to a greater share of all local area emissions. Enforcement of minimum emissions standards for taxi and private hire vehicles, minimum energy efficiency standards in private rented homes and enforcement action against waste criminals, all within the framework of the General Enforcement Policy, are key examples of its beneficial, but nevertheless uncertain carbon impact. This uncertainty is due to practical challenges measuring and reporting 'avoided' carbon emissions, especially where a proactive approach to enforcement provides effective deterrence. The carbon impact from transport associated with enforcement activity should be understood in the context of these wider environmental benefits and the Council's programme to decarbonise its fleet transport.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Craig Cornwall Community Protection Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Committee. 2020. <i>Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget</i>. [Online]. [Accessed 27 February 2026]. Available from: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/.
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 605 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

New Application for Business Rates Discretionary Relief for Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd

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, 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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd. This is in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd

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

Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd for Unit 1 To 2, Derwent Way, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 6EX

1.3.1 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation which is registered with Companies House as a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The organisation aims to equip adults with learning difficulties and/or autism to gain education, employment skills and other skills to develop their independence and social confidence.

- 1.3.2 The service users are funded, in the main, via a direct payment award from RMBC Learning Disability and Autism Team. The organisation provides training on functional maths and English, internet safety, keeping well in hot/cold weather, employment skills and money handling/budgeting to attendees. Attendance is on either one or two days each week with the majority attending twice weekly.
- 1.3.3 The building is open on weekends to the general public as a family activity centre run by an associated company. This partnership with the associated company forms part of Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd's offer to RMBC Learning Disability and Autism Team by guaranteeing the availability of work experience and volunteering opportunities and facilitating the development of employment skills in accordance with the care plans in place.
- 1.3.4 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd is seeking an award for discretionary rate relief to assist them in continuing to provide this service. The company was incorporated in August 2024 and has therefore not yet filed any accounts with Companies House to date. Accounts are available in draft form for the first year of trading and have been provided in support of this application.
- 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 organisation provides access to facilities which are open to all sections of the community with attendance based on needs and on the organisation's ability to support those needs. The organisation works to reflect the diversity of local communities in service delivery with staff undertaking training to ensure they are compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.3.6 The organisation 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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd 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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd.

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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd 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 application 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

Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd for Unit 1 To 2, Derwent Way, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 6EX

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Amount of Relief</u>	<u>Cost to RMBC</u>
2025/26	£20,708.50	£10,147.17
2026/27	£17,542.00	£8,595.58

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 application 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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd supports adults with learning difficulties and/or autism in developing the skills they need to maximise their independence.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommendation in the report is to grant discretionary relief to Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd 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, Corporate Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

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, rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk Rachel Humphries - Operational Manager, Local Taxation, Revenues, Benefits and Payments, rachel.humphries@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd.

Directorate: Corporate 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 overall Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy on 21/05/2025 covering all equalities implications. This equality analysis considers any implications arising from the policy and no other equality implications derive from this specific report.

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 Lifeskills (Yorkshire) Ltd which will positively impact the organisation ensuring continuity of service and will ensure service users with protected characteristics can continue to access this service.

- **Key findings**

The applicant has an equal opportunities policy and staff complete training to ensure they are delivering services in line with the equality Act 2010.

- **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	07/04/2026

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 March 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	18 March 2026



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: Corporate Services	Service area: Revenues, Benefits and Payments
Lead Manager: Rachel Humphries	Contact number: 01709 255119
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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:
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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,S O,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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Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 3, New Applications for Business Rates Discretionary Relief

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.

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.

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 617

Arthur King
Principal Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031

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)

Helen Caulfield-Browne, Housing Options Operational Manager

Helen.caulfield-browne@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report presents the findings from the review of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023–2026 and seeks Cabinet approval for the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031. It sets out the Council's statutory duties under the Homelessness Act 2002, which requires local authorities to carry out a homelessness review, to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on that review, and to publish a new strategy at least once every five years. The report describes how these duties have been fulfilled through the completion of the latest review and the development of the new Strategy.

The report outlines the eight-week consultation and engagement process undertaken with residents, people with lived experience, officers, and key stakeholders. Feedback from this process, alongside national policy, local evidence, and wider housing and homelessness intelligence, has informed the development of the new Strategy.

The Strategy is structured around four strategic priorities and sets out the Council's approach to preventing homelessness and rough sleeping over the next five years. It highlights the key issues affecting households experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Rotherham, details how the Council will work collaboratively with partners to respond to these challenges and demonstrates alignment with wider Council strategies and plans.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy consultation summary report.
2. Approves the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-31.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to approve:
 - (a) Any minor data amendments to the Strategy prior to publication.
 - (b) The Action Plan, following its development, including any amendments arising from annual reviews.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031

Appendix 2 - Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Consultation Summary Report

Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment (Part A) and (Part B)

Appendix 4 - Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026](#)

[Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government- A National Plan to End Homelessness \(December 2025\)](#)

[Rotherham's Housing Strategy 2025-2030](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031

1. Background

1.1 The current Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy (2023–2026) has reached the end of its term, prompting a review. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, the Council must review homelessness in the borough and publish a new strategy at least every five years. The Homelessness Code of Guidance requires the review and strategy to:

- Assess current and future homelessness levels.
- Review trends and projections.
- Review existing activities and resources.
- Identify gaps and opportunities to prevent and resolve homelessness.
- Engage relevant agencies and consult the public, voluntary sector, and people with lived experience.
- Consider how all relevant agencies can contribute towards addressing identified needs to prevent and resolve homelessness.

1.2 Homelessness remains a significant challenge across the UK, with local authorities facing sustained increases in demand for support against the backdrop of rising housing costs, welfare reform, and ongoing cost of living pressures. Nationally, levels of homelessness continue to rise, with latest estimates (December 2025) reporting that 382,618 people in England are homeless, the highest figure recorded representing an 8% increase in just one year. These national pressures are reflected locally in Rotherham, where the number of people approaching the Council for homelessness assistance increased by 25.6% between 2023/24 and 2024/25, rising from 1,448 to 1,818.

1.3 The Council recognises that providing a home is only the first step in resolving homelessness, as many individuals face complex and overlapping issues that housing alone cannot address. The ongoing cost of living crisis continues to heighten vulnerability by widening the gap between income and essential living costs. The Strategy therefore aligns with the Council Plan, which prioritises helping residents to live safe, healthy, and independent lives, supported by significant investment in cost of living measures that reflect the crucial link between financial stability and sustaining a home.

1.4 In addition, the Council's wider focus on improving health and wellbeing, strengthening communities, and supporting vulnerable residents highlights the need for a whole-system, multi-agency response. This requires coordinated action across health, social care, community safety and voluntary sector partners to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness.

1.5 Rotherham's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031, attached at Appendix 1, places emphasis on strengthening multi-agency approaches to early intervention and prevention. This includes ensuring services are responsive to local needs, improving coordination and

timeliness of support, and enabling more sustainable, long-term solutions to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough.

1.6 To meet these aims the vision of the refreshed Strategy is:

“We will work in partnership to prevent homelessness wherever possible, because everyone deserves a safe, affordable home. Where prevention isn’t possible, homelessness will be rare, brief, and not repeated. With the right support at the right time, people can regain stability, rebuild and thrive.”

1.7 A comprehensive review of homelessness in Rotherham has been completed, and a new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy proposing a five-year plan has been developed following an eight-week public consultation.

1.8 The proposed Strategy provides both national and local context on homelessness, highlighting the key trends influencing demand and service pressures. It sets out a coordinated, compassionate, and proactive approach, with high-level aims and actions designed to improve outcomes for residents who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. It also defines four key priorities for delivery over the next five years.

The proposed four key priorities are:

- Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention
- Increase the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing
- Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time
- Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response

1.9 It is proposed to move from a three year to a five year strategy. This enables the Council and partners to establish a longer term, more stable framework for planning, investment, and partnership working. This extended timeframe reflects the increasing complexity of homelessness pressures, the need for sustained prevention activity, and the importance of aligning with wider strategic plans and multi-year national policy commitments. A five year strategy therefore enables a more strategic, coordinated, and forward looking approach to tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.

1.10 The Strategy builds on the achievements of the previous three year Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-26, during which the Council and its partners delivered targeted interventions that helped prevent homelessness and supported individuals and families across the Borough. Initiatives such as early intervention, improved quality and quantity of council-owned temporary accommodation, and strengthened partnerships with community organisations have already made a measurable difference and provide a strong foundation for future delivery.

1.11 Summary of key achievements (2023–2026)

Over the lifetime of the previous strategy, significant progress has been made in preventing homelessness, improving service delivery, and expanding housing options. Key achievements include:

- Strengthened homelessness prevention, with a 65.4% increase in successful prevention outcomes within 56 days between 2022-23 and 2024-25.
- Completion and publication of the Housing Strategy 2025–2030, reaffirming the Council’s commitment to prevention and increasing access to affordable homes through new developments and acquisitions.
- Continued progress towards the Council’s target of 1,000 new council homes by summer 2027, with 791 delivered as of 20th April 2026 and with planning underway for the next programme cycle.
- Publication of an updated Housing Allocation Policy, improving fairness by refining eligibility and banding to prioritise those in greatest need.
- Expansion of temporary furnished homes from 127 to 173, improving quality and significantly reducing reliance on and cost of hotel accommodation.
- Strong employment support outcomes through the Council’s Employment Hub.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Consultation

Between July and September 2025, an eight-week consultation was undertaken, supported by a comprehensive programme of engagement. This included an online public survey and a series of in-person sessions. These involved focus groups and drop-in events, delivered across the borough to ensure wide representation. Engagement involved local residents, some of whom had lived experience of homelessness, Council staff, and partners, including health and voluntary sector organisations.

2.2 Partnership working was central to the consultation approach, with voluntary sector homelessness providers supporting engagement with service users and frontline staff. Partners also contributed through the Homelessness Forum, providing a structured opportunity for collaborative discussion, shared expertise, and insight.

2.3 The consultation process generated over 415 consultation interactions, including 203 responses to the public online survey. Notably, 47% of respondents reported having lived experience of homelessness, providing valuable contributions to inform the development of the Strategy.

2.4 Feedback from the consultation informed a refreshed shared vision to end homelessness, strengthened the Council's values-led approach, and shaped the key priorities within the proposed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–31. A summary of the consultation is provided in Appendix 2, Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Consultation Summary Report.

2.5 The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy reflects the key challenges that have persisted or emerged since the previous strategy was published. These include rising demand for homelessness services, growing complexity of support needs among some households and individuals and limited access to suitable and affordable housing options. These pressures have been exacerbated by the ongoing cost of living crisis and wider financial pressures on households.

2.6 A summary of the four priorities is set out below.

2.7 **Priority 1 – Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention**

Homelessness is rising nationally due to the cost of living crisis, increasing rents, and a shortage of affordable homes, and Rotherham mirrors these trends. Households approaching the Council for homelessness assistance who were owed a prevention duty (where the Council is required to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness) or relief duty (where the Council must take reasonable steps to help secure accommodation for households who are already homeless increased from 1,229 in 2022-2023 to 1,596 households in 2024-2025, an overall increase of 29.9% since 2022.

2.8 This priority aligns with the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness (December 2025), which places early intervention and prevention at the forefront of tackling homelessness. Early identification of risks such as financial pressure, relationship breakdown, or declining mental health enables the Council and partners to help residents remain safely housed and avoid crisis. The priority strengthens both universal and targeted prevention for groups including care leavers, survivors of domestic abuse, people leaving institutions, armed forces personnel, and those with multiple support needs. It also emphasises community-based support, ensuring residents receive timely advice, practical help and access to trusted local networks. By improving access to clear information and enhancing collaborative working across statutory and voluntary services, the Strategy promotes coordinated action well before anyone reaches a crisis point.

2.9 Actions in the Strategy contribute to the above elements by:

- Increasing the rate of successful homelessness prevention and relief through timely, effective interventions, reducing the number of individuals who go on to require the main homelessness duty.
- Reducing repeat homelessness amongst homeless households.
- Reducing the number of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation.

- Increasing joint multi-agency working and earlier identification of risks of homelessness.

2.10 **Priority 2 - Increase the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing**

Rotherham faces growing housing pressures that mirror national trends, including limited social housing, rising private rents, and the continued national freeze on Local Housing Allowance, which leaves many low income households unable to afford private rented homes. These challenges are compounded by the cost of living crisis.

2.11 This priority aligns strongly with the Council's Housing Strategy 2025–2030, which places increasing the supply of affordable, high-quality homes at its core. The Council's commitment to deliver 1,000 new homes by summer 2027, alongside strengthening partnerships with housing associations and private landlords, is central to increasing local housing capacity.

2.12 This priority aligns with and supports the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness, which seeks to expand access to affordable housing, improve housing pathways, and eliminate the use of hotel accommodation, particularly for families with children. The Council already exceeds statutory expectations by ensuring families are not placed in hotel accommodation for longer than six weeks and, where temporary accommodation is required, prioritises the use of its own furnished temporary accommodation housing to better meet household needs. Through the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy, the Council will further reduce the time households spend in all forms of temporary accommodation, enabling faster move-on into settled housing and contributing to more sustainable and stable housing outcomes in line with national ambitions.

2.13 Actions in the Strategy contribute to the above elements by:

- Increasing the number of council and affordable homes available, including through new build and acquisitions.
- Increasing the number of homeless households rehoused into settled affordable housing.
- Increasing the number of partnerships with private landlords.
- Reducing the number of households with children placed into temporary accommodation, particularly hotel or bed and breakfast placements.
- Reducing the average length of stay across all forms of temporary accommodation for all household types.

2.14 **Priority 3 - Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time**

This priority recognises the growing number of people in Rotherham who are homeless or at risk, and the increasing complexity of the support they require. The rising number of households presenting with multiple disadvantages reflects both national trends and the urgent need for timely,

integrated support. Between 2022/23 and 2024/25, 4,254 households were owed a homelessness duty, with 587 households presenting with two support needs and 715 households presenting with three or more. Data shows the most common needs (mental health, physical disabilities, substance dependency, domestic abuse, and offending behaviours) highlighting the importance of trauma informed, person centred approaches that respond to multiple challenges simultaneously.

2.15 Ensuring residents can access the right support at the right time is central to preventing crisis. This priority strengthens pathways to advice, health services, financial support, employment, education, and training. By addressing gaps in provisions, the aim is to reduce repeat homelessness and support long-term stability and independence.

2.16 This approach aligns closely with the Government's *A National Plan to End Homelessness*, which places strong emphasis on coordinated public services, and earlier intervention. It also calls for person-centred models. By adopting these principles locally, the Strategy supports the shared ambition to make homelessness rare, brief, and not to be repeated, ensuring every individual receives timely and effective support.

2.17 Actions in the Strategy contribute to the above elements by:

- Increasing the number of people who are supported to access employment, training and education.
- Delivering successful outcomes at prevention or relief for households particularly those with multiple support needs.
- Decreasing the use of all forms of temporary accommodation, due to more households accessing support early and avoiding homelessness crisis.
- Increasing the number of households assisted to remain in their existing home.

2.18 **Priority 4 - Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response**

Rough sleeping is the most acute and visible form of homelessness, posing serious risks to rough sleepers' health, safety and wellbeing. Preventing people from reaching this point is essential to avoid these risk, and where rough sleeping does occur, rapid intervention is critical to safeguarding individuals and supporting recovery.

2.19 This priority recognises that many people who experience rough sleeping face significant challenges, including mental ill health, trauma and multiple disadvantages. Those experiencing long-term rough sleeping often have multiple support needs that require a trauma-informed, person-centred and coordinated approach. This priority focuses on preventing rough sleeping wherever possible, supported by assertive outreach, swift access to safe and suitable accommodation, and clear pathways into health, support and welfare services.

2.20 Although rough sleeping levels in Rotherham have remained relatively low compared to some local authorities, recent increases highlight the need for continued efforts and strong multi-agency working. The Strategy strengthens collaboration with partners, enhances community outreach support and reinforces local safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults, and continues to explore new opportunities to provide evidence-based housing models such as the Rotherham Housing First model. These actions aim to ensure rough sleeping in Rotherham is prevented, or if it does occur it is rare, brief, and not repeated.

2.21 Actions in the Strategy contribute to the above elements by:

- Reducing the number of people sleeping rough long term.
- Reducing the number of new people sleeping rough.
- Reducing the number of people returning to rough sleeping.

2.22 **The homelessness prevention and rough sleeper action plan and publication**

A cross working action plan will be developed with key partners including health, social care, community safety and the voluntary sector, to monitor progress and delivery against the Strategy over the five year period. While the Council has a statutory obligation to lead on the development and publication of the Strategy, the action plan should be collectively owned by partners and stakeholders, reflecting that tackling homelessness is a shared responsibility across the whole system.

2.23 The action plan will set out the specific activities, milestones and performance measures. It will also be shaped in anticipation of the Government's forthcoming duty to collaborate, which will require public services to work together more closely to prevent homelessness. Embedding this duty into local partnership arrangements will strengthen shared accountability and ensure a coordinated, multi-agency approach to delivery.

2.24 Cabinet is asked to delegate approval of the action plan and any subsequent updates following its annual reviews to the relevant Executive Director. It is anticipated that minor data updates of the Strategy may be required prior to publication. Cabinet is therefore asked to delegate approval of any final amendments to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

2.25 The Improving Places Select Commission will receive annual updates on delivery against the published action plan, providing scrutiny of progress and identifying any areas requiring further attention.

2.26 **Governance of the Delivery of the Strategy and the Action Plan**

In line with the new National Plan to End Homelessness, Rotherham's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper action plan will be published no later than Autumn 2026, with annual reviews and updates to maintain transparency.

- 2.27 While this report identifies key indicative measures associated with each priority, detailed and measurable performance indicators will be finalised through the action planning phase, ensuring a robust, outcome-focused framework, supported by clear governance and accountability.
- 2.28 Delivery will be monitored through a tiered governance structure to track progress, manage risks, and ensure continuous improvement. Monitoring will focus on:
- Progress against the action plan.
 - Key milestones.
 - Performance indicators.
 - Emerging risks and opportunities.
 - Feedback from people with lived experience, staff, and partners.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1: (This is the recommended option)

That Cabinet approves the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031 and delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health to:

- Approve any minor data amendments to the strategy prior to publication.
- Approve the action plan, following its development, prior to publication.
- Approve any amendments in the action plan, arising from annual reviews.

3.2 Option 2:

That Cabinet does not approve the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031

- 3.3 This option is not recommended, as it would prevent the Council from meeting its statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to review and publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years and would fail to address the issues identified in this report or respond to consultation findings.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 As detailed in section 2.1 - 2.4 of this report and in **Appendix 2** - Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Consultation Summary Report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Service Director of Housing has overall accountability for delivering the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy commitments.

5.2 The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 will be implemented in May 2026.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The activity resulting from the implementation of the revised strategy will be managed within existing budgets and staffing resources. The General Fund Homelessness budgets have been strengthened in 2026/27 which has been partly supported by additional government grants.

6.2 There are key commitments in priority two that require resource, including council-provided temporary accommodation and increased supply of affordable housing.

6.3 There are adequate budgets and other resources in place within the General Fund in 2026-27 to manage and support the provision of 173 council temporary accommodation properties.

6.4 There are adequate resources within the Housing Revenue Account capital and revenue budgets to support the build or acquisition of additional properties from 2026-27 onwards. This will provide increased numbers of council homes available to rent.

6.5 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. However, if third party suppliers are required to support in the delivery of the strategy, these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015), 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 The Homelessness Act 2002 [the Act] places a statutory duty upon the Council as a local housing authority to carry out a homelessness review and to formulate and publish a strategy based on the results of that review.

7.2 The Act states that the Council must ensure that a new homelessness strategy is published within the period of five years beginning with the day on which the last homelessness strategy was published.

7.3 Section 3 of the Act sets out the meaning of a homelessness strategy as being a strategy formulated by the local housing authority for:

- (a) preventing homelessness in their district;
- (b) securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become homeless;
- (c) securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in their district—
 - (i) who are or may become homeless; or
 - (ii) who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.

- 7.4 The Council shall also keep their homelessness strategy under review and may modify it from time to time. This report sets out the proposal for such decisions to be made and requests that authority is delegated to the relevant Executive Director.
- 7.5 It is a statutory requirement under the Act to consult before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy. Consultation is to take place with the public, local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons considered to be appropriate.
- 7.6 A copy of the homelessness strategy published is to be made available at the Council's principal office for inspection by members of the public or by providing a copy if requested.
- 7.7 The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, published in February 2018 and updated in December 2025, provides detailed guidance around homelessness reviews and strategies.
- 7.8 There is no statutory timeframe for the consultation but the 8-week consultation which has taken place and the way in which the consultation has taken place is sufficient.
- 7.9 Adopting option 1 will ensure that the Council remains compliant with its statutory duties and significantly reduces the risk of legal challenge.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Children and Young People's and Adult Care Services have been consulted and contributed to the development of the strategy. The Strategy aligns with key priorities across both areas, including early intervention, safeguarding, and supporting vulnerable residents to live independently. Strengthened collaborative working through clearer joint pathways, improved information-sharing, and coordinated support planning will ensure children, young people, care leavers, and adults with complex needs receive timely, integrated support and assistance.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) attached at Appendix 3, has been completed in accordance with the Council's procedures. No additional Equalities or Human Rights implications have been identified beyond those set out in the analysis.
- 10.2 The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy is designed to be inclusive of all protected characteristics. Its central aim is to improve outcomes for all households in Rotherham affected by homelessness,

ensuring that support is accessible, fair, and responsive to the diverse needs of the local population.

- 10.3 By focusing on removing barriers, improving access to support, and ensuring timely intervention for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, the strategy is expected to have a positive impact on communities across the borough. This includes strengthened support for groups who may be disproportionately affected, ensuring that the Council continues to meet its equalities duties while improving fairness in service delivery.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on a local, national, and international scale. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040.
- 11.2 Anticipated implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change are detailed in the Carbon Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The aims set out in the Strategy will only be achieved through strong partnership working across local and regional systems. The Council works strategically with partners through the Rotherham Homelessness Strategic Board and collaborates closely with a wide range of stakeholders, including statutory agencies, Housing Associations, Private Rented Sector and voluntary and community sector organisations, to meet the diverse housing and support needs across the borough.
- 12.2 The Council is also committed to working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to maximise regional opportunities, including securing funding, aligning with wider housing and inclusion priorities, and developing a consistent regional approach to preventing and reducing homelessness. Strengthening these partnerships ensures that collective resources, expertise and influence are used effectively to improve outcomes for residents and support sustainable, long-term solutions.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The main risk in adopting the new Strategy is the potential failure to deliver its commitments. This will be mitigated through a detailed action plan, supported by strong partnership working, clear processes, and regular performance monitoring, including annual reporting through the agreed governance framework.
- 13.2 There is also a risk that the Strategy becomes outdated due to changing national policy or local needs. This will be addressed through routine management reviews, data analysis, and regular engagement with the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) regional advisers.

- 13.3 A further risk is misalignment across the wider system, including statutory and voluntary partners. This is mitigated through established partnership governance arrangements, including the Rotherham Homelessness Strategic Board, and ongoing collaboration with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to support coordinated delivery and maximise access to regional funding opportunities.

14. Accountable Officers

Sarah Clyde, Service Director of Housing

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

Report Author: Helen Caulfield-Browne, Housing Options Operational Manager Helen.caulfield-browne@rotherham.gov.uk

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

ROTHERHAM'S HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2026-2031



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FOREWORD

By Councillor Linda Beresford, Cabinet Member for Housing



I am pleased to introduce Rotherham’s Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031, building on the strong foundations of our previous work. Over the past three years, we’ve made real progress thanks to the collaborative working between partners and council colleagues. Together, we’ve strengthened an early prevention approach and improved access to support, helping more people achieve stability, security, and hope for the future.

Our new strategy builds on this momentum. It aims to deepen our impact, scales up proven approaches, and fosters innovation. It champions trauma-informed practice and cross-sector collaboration to improve health, reduce inequalities, boost employment, and build resilient communities. Guided by local needs, national policy, and lived experience, it sets out a coordinated, compassionate, and proactive approach to homelessness prevention and tackling rough sleeping. Developed through meaningful consultation with residents, communities, and partners, it reflects a shared ambition for lasting change.

In Rotherham, the aspiration for a safe, affordable home is a shared value. A secure home is more than bricks and mortar, it’s the foundation for health, education, employment, and wellbeing. For families with children, housing stability is critical, it provides the security they need for their children to attend school consistently, build friendships, and thrive in their development. Yet rising living costs, limited affordable housing, and pressures on support services continue to create barriers, especially for those facing complex circumstances.

Homelessness is a challenge that no single organisation can solve alone. In times of financial pressure, collaboration matters more than ever. By working in partnership and creating integrated services, we can share resources, cut duplication, and deliver the right support to those who need it most.

Our strategy aligns with the Government’s ambition: Together, we will make homelessness in Rotherham rare, brief, and not repeated.

Thank you to everyone who helped shape this strategy and for your ongoing commitment to tackling homelessness and supporting our communities.



INTRODUCTION

Our vision for tackling homelessness in Rotherham

This strategy sets out our vision for preventing and responding to homelessness and rough sleeping across Rotherham. It builds on our previous commitments and introduces a values led approach with clear priorities to address all forms of homelessness over the next five years.

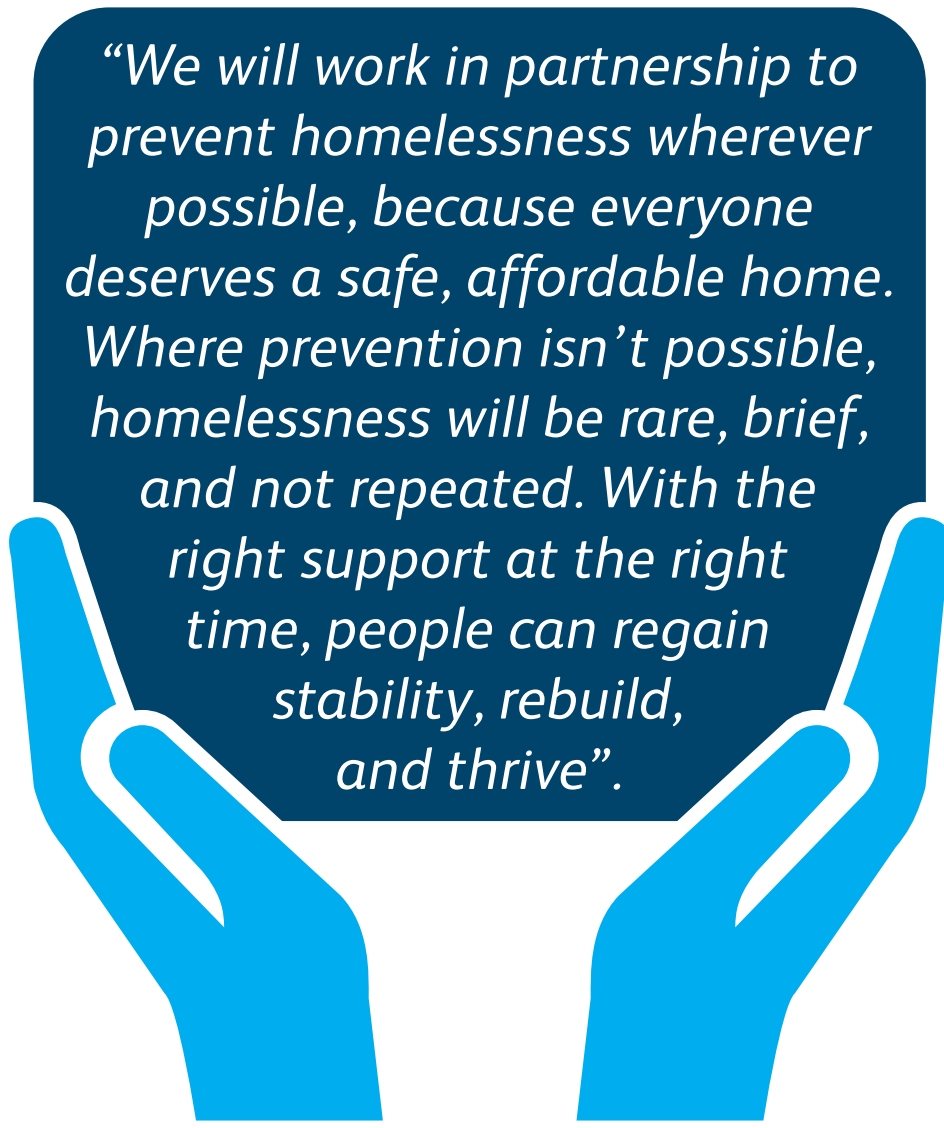
Homelessness is complex and often the result of multiple challenges, including financial hardship, relationship breakdown, mental ill health, substance misuse, limited tenancy skills, and the shortage of affordable housing. These pressures make it harder for individuals and families to both secure and sustain a home. Addressing them requires coordinated, person centred and compassionate responses across services and partners.

Our goal is to prevent homelessness wherever possible by identifying risks early, offering timely and practical advice, and working collaboratively to tackle the root causes. This includes supporting households experiencing financial strain, family or relationship breakdown, or other pressures that can lead to homelessness.

Where homelessness cannot be prevented, we will act swiftly to secure safe accommodation, minimise impact, and ensure people receive the support they need to recover, rebuild their lives, and successfully settle within their community.

As part of refreshing our previous strategy, we have revisited and strengthened our shared vision to reaffirm our commitment.

Our shared vision



“We will work in partnership to prevent homelessness wherever possible, because everyone deserves a safe, affordable home. Where prevention isn’t possible, homelessness will be rare, brief, and not repeated. With the right support at the right time, people can regain stability, rebuild, and thrive”.

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

In line with the Homelessness Act 2002, Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the Homelessness Code of Guidance, the Council must review homelessness and publish a strategy at least every five years. While this fulfils our statutory duty, our commitment goes far beyond compliance.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to prevent homelessness, reduce rough sleeping, and support those at risk of losing their home. It provides a clear framework to help individuals and families stay in safe, secure housing, access timely support, and achieve long-term solutions when homelessness occurs.

Tackling homelessness requires collaboration across housing, health, social care, voluntary organisations, and other public services.

By working together, we can:

- Understand the complex causes of homelessness
- Share resources and expertise
- Deliver person-centred, trauma-informed support that improves outcomes for residents

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This strategy aligns with key local priorities, including the Council Plan 2025-2030, Rotherham's Housing Strategy 2025-2030, and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2026-2029. It also reflects national reforms and commitments, such as the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness (2025), the Renters' Rights Act, and the Supported Housing

Act. Through a coordinated, integrated approach across partners and services, it aims to strengthen housing stability, health and wellbeing, financial resilience, and community safety.

For more information, please refer to the Council website:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/homelessness where the Strategy is published online and provides supporting information – How the Strategy Aligns with Local Priorities, National Homelessness Reforms and the National Context.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

What the law says about homelessness

The Housing Act 1996 (Part VII) is the main legislation governing homelessness in England, setting out local authorities' duties to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, introduced in April 2018, strengthened this framework by focusing on early intervention and prevention.

It created new duties for councils to:

Prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants at risk within 56 days, regardless of priority need or intentionality.

Relieve homelessness for those already homeless by helping them secure accommodation for at least six months.

If homelessness is not resolved during the relief stage, and the applicant is in priority need and unintentionally homeless, the Council owes the Main Housing Duty to secure suitable longer-term accommodation.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

This strategy was developed through an evidence based and collaborative approach, combining local data with meaningful engagement from stakeholders, partners, and residents. Central to the process was listening to people with lived experience of homelessness, whose insights have helped shape practical, person centred solutions.

This strategy uses some statutory and technical terms. A glossary explaining these terms is provided in *Appendix 1* to support accessibility and understanding.

For more information, please refer to the the Council’s website:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/homelessness where the Strategy is published online and provides supporting information – Local Context – Homelessness: Summary of the Data and Analysis 2022/23 and 2024/25.

Consultation headlines

In summer 2025, the Council carried out a wide ranging public consultation, including an online survey, focus groups, drop ins and pop up events with voluntary sector partners. These created safe, accessible spaces to hear directly from residents, partners and people with lived experience; 46.8% of survey respondents had experienced homelessness themselves, offering crucial insight into priorities and barriers.

Across all engagement activity, people emphasised the need for trusted, accessible services and stronger multi agency support. They highlighted ongoing challenges such as unclear information, communication barriers, stigma, ID requirements and isolation in temporary accommodation. Participants called for clearer guidance, more compassionate face to face help and greater peer involvement. This feedback has shaped the strategy and will continue to guide our work.

These quotes highlight what people told us and the key messages that helped shape our strategy.



“More homeless education in schools and colleges for young people.”

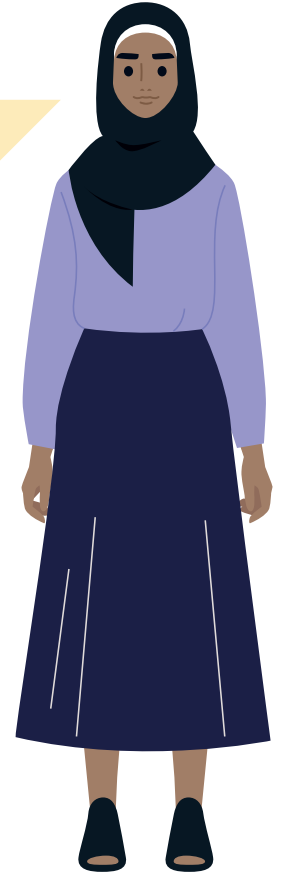


“The rough sleeper team were persistent to help me, never giving up, it really felt like somebody cared.”

“There needs to a better understanding of what homelessness is, the barriers and what it looks like, it may prompt people to seek support earlier, before things reach crisis point.”



“We want to be more involved using our own experiences is future services.”

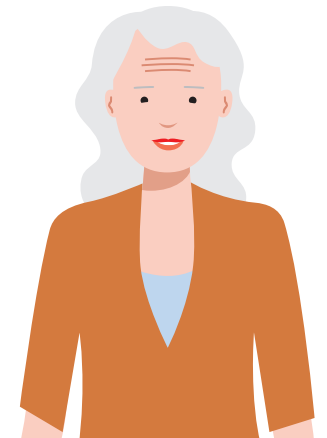


“More and better joined up working between different agencies.”

“Better relationships with private landlords, we need to increase access to affordable private rented accommodation.”



“We need more community face to face support, these needs promoting, so people know where to go and get help.”



OUR VALUES LED APPROACH

Shaped by consultation, four core values sit at the heart of this strategy, guiding both its development and delivery. These values define how we work, how we support people, and how we create meaningful outcomes for our communities. They are:



Collaborative working

We work collaboratively across agencies, services, and communities to tackle homelessness and inequality through early, coordinated intervention preventing escalation and improving outcomes.



Outcomes focused

We will drive innovation and share best practice to deliver lasting homelessness solutions shaped by lived experience across Rotherham.



Caring, empathetic and honest

We will treat people with dignity, compassion and understanding, and communicate openly to build trust and encourage positive engagement.



Trauma-informed

We deliver services with compassion and with an understanding of trauma, creating safe, respectful environments that support recovery and prevent re-traumatisation.

BUILDING ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Three years ago, we launched Rotherham's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023–2026, setting out our ambition to reduce homelessness and end rough sleeping. Since then, we have focused on early prevention and timely intervention, improved the quality of temporary accommodation by increasing the number of council owned furnished properties, strengthened local partnerships, and successfully prevented homelessness for many individuals and families. This has demonstrated the value of a proactive, person centred approach.

However, homelessness remains a growing challenge both nationally and locally, driven by rising housing costs, increased pressures on temporary accommodation, and growing demand for support. To meet these challenges, we must continue to adapt and keep prevention at the heart of our services.

The next phase of our work will build on these foundations, with a renewed focus on sustainable housing solutions, earlier identification of risk, and stronger multi agency collaboration to tackle the root causes of homelessness.

RESPONDING TO CHANGE OF NEED AND DEMAND

Responding to changing needs and demand is a cross cutting theme that underpins all four priorities. By drawing on lived experience and real time data, we will develop services that can adapt quickly, track repeat homelessness to understand system effectiveness, and share insights through the Homelessness Strategic Board to support joined up decision making. This approach enables timely adjustments, strengthens health and wellbeing outcomes, and aligns with both Rotherham’s Healthy Homes Plan and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority’s vision for South Yorkshire to become the healthiest region in the country.

COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Rotherham is committed to tackling homelessness and related social challenges through strong collaboration. Partnership working is central to this strategy, driving sustainable, person-centred solutions that improve lives across the borough.

Working alongside statutory partners, voluntary organisations, and regional bodies such as the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, we will build a truly joined-up system of support, making services more responsive, inclusive, and rooted in lived experience.

ACTION PLAN

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will be underpinned by a detailed cross working action plan that clearly sets out priorities, timescales, and accountabilities. In line with the national homelessness plan, the action plan will strengthen collaborative delivery by aligning responsibilities across housing, health, adult and children’s services, criminal justice, and voluntary sector partners, ensuring a coordinated and system wide approach to preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

The Action Plan will be published by Autumn 2026 to meet national expectations with updates made publicly available after each annual review to ensure transparency and accountability.

Measurables

To understand whether our priorities are being met, we will establish a robust set of measurables indicators. These measurables will be developed collaboratively during the action planning phase and will align with statutory reporting requirements, local priorities, and national strategic expectations.

UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS AND THE CAUSES

Understanding homelessness and its causes is crucial, as the term is often misunderstood. Many people associate homelessness only with rough sleeping, the most visible form, but the reality is far broader. It also includes individuals living in overcrowded, unsuitable, or temporary accommodation, as well as those moving between friends or relatives, commonly known as “sofa surfing”. These hidden forms of housing insecurity are just as urgent and deserve attention.

Households are considered homeless if any one of the following applies

No accommodation available to occupy

At risk of violence or domestic abuse

Accommodation exists but is not reasonable to continue living in

Accommodation exists but cannot be accessed

No legal right to occupy the accommodation

Living in a mobile home or houseboat with no place to station or reside in it

The causes of homelessness are varied and interlinked. Structural issues such as a shortage of affordable housing, poverty, and unemployment are major contributors. Personal circumstances, such as leaving prison, care, or the armed forces without suitable housing can also lead to homelessness.

Many affected individuals have escaped abusive relationships or face financial hardship, including rent or mortgage arrears.

Homelessness has a significant impact on individuals, families, and communities. It is closely linked to poor physical and mental health, substance misuse, relationship breakdowns, and barriers to employment. It also places increasing financial pressure on the Council and wider public services.

Rough sleepers

Rough sleeping is rarely caused by a single issue, often resulting from a combination of factors such as loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, financial hardship, and barriers to accessing housing. These challenges are frequently compounded by mental health issues, substance misuse, and experiences of trauma.

Sleeping rough exposes people to severe and immediate dangers, including physical harm, poor mental and physical health, and vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and crime. Prolonged exposure to the elements can lead to serious illness or even death. It also causes social isolation, loss of dignity, and reduced access to essential services, making recovery harder.

Youth homelessness

Youth homelessness is often driven by family breakdown, domestic abuse, leaving care, poverty, and limited access to affordable housing, alongside challenges such as mental ill health, substance misuse, exploitation, or criminal justice involvement. Homelessness at a young age increases vulnerability and the risk of long term disadvantage, including poorer health and reduced education and employment outcomes. This underscores the importance of upstream prevention, aligned with the national homelessness plan, through early identification of risk, trauma informed support, and joined up partnership working across housing, children’s services, education, health, youth justice, and the voluntary sector to prevent homelessness before crisis occurs.

KEY PRIORITIES IN DETAIL

Why it's important, what we have done so far, our aims and how we will measure success

Priority 1: Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention

Why is this important?

Preventing homelessness through early, proactive intervention ensures risks are identified and addressed before they escalate into crisis. Effective prevention combines universal actions, such as tackling poverty, insecure renting, and limited housing supply with targeted support for households at higher risk and sustained help to avoid repeat homelessness.

Early recognition of pressures such as financial hardship, relationship breakdown, or housing insecurity enables people to remain in stable accommodation. This reduces distress and disruption, particularly for families with children, and helps individuals maintain their wellbeing, employment, education, and community connections. By promoting stability, resilience, and long term positive outcomes, early intervention not only benefits individuals and families but also delivers significant savings for the wider public sector and strengthens communities.

What we have done so far:

- **Improved prevention outcomes:** Successful prevention outcomes for households at risk of homelessness within 56 days have significantly increased, with a 65.4% rise in prevention cases between 2022/23 and 2024/25.
- **Strengthened the Domestic Abuse Pathway:** The Domestic Abuse Pathway and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy were refreshed, resulting in a new 2026–2029 strategy that enhances support for people affected by domestic and sexual abuse.
- **Expanded tenancy readiness support:** The 'A Place of Your Own' tenancy ready course, delivered by a local homelessness charity, supported 510 residents between April 2023 and March 2025, helping people to sustain tenancies and reducing the risk of repeat homelessness.

Aims over the next 5 years:

1. Adopt a proactive, early intervention approach:

We will continue to adopt proactive, early intervention models that address the root causes of homelessness, ensuring clear, accessible information and advice reaches all residents, particularly those who are vulnerable or at heightened risk.

2. Target prevention and intervention support to those most at risk:

We will continue to focus targeted prevention efforts on groups disproportionately affected by homelessness, including young people, care leavers, LGBTQ+ residents, survivors of domestic abuse, people leaving institutions, members of the armed forces community, and individuals with multiple or complex support needs.

3. Strengthen duty to refer practice across public bodies:

We will work proactively with public bodies to embed a strong understanding of their Duty to Refer responsibilities, ensuring consistent compliance, timely referrals, and improved partnership working to identify risk earlier.

4. Improve pathways and coordinated support:

We will work towards improving pathways and coordinated support by ensuring clear routes between housing, health, social care and other services, supported by shared information and early risk identification. This will be strengthened by the new Duty to Collaborate once implemented.

How we will measure success:

- Increase the rate of successful homelessness prevention and relief through timely, effective interventions, reducing the number of individuals who go on to require the main homelessness duty.
- Reduce repeat homelessness amongst homeless households
- Successful outcome at prevention or relief for households with 3 support needs or more
- Reduce the number of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation
- Increase the number of Duty to Refer (DtR) notifications received from all specified public bodies (e.g., hospitals, prisons, Jobcentre Plus, probation).

KEY PRIORITIES IN DETAIL (continued)

Priority 2: Increase the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing

Why is this important?

Increase the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing, and ensuring we have the right types of homes, such as larger properties for families experiencing overcrowding and more single-person accommodation to meet our biggest homelessness need, is essential to addressing the diverse needs of our communities.

A shortage of affordable homes forces many households into overcrowded, unsuitable, or temporary accommodation, which can negatively impact health, wellbeing, and life opportunities. By expanding the availability of quality, affordable housing, we create stability for families, support economic growth, and reduce reliance on costly emergency interventions. This proactive approach ensures that everyone has access to a safe, secure home, which is the foundation for thriving individuals and resilient communities.

What we have done so far:

- The Housing Strategy 2025–2030, was reviewed and published, reaffirming the Council’s commitment to tackling homelessness by prioritising prevention and increasing access to affordable homes through new developments and property acquisitions.
- The Council’s target is to deliver 1,000 new council homes by summer 2027, with over 761 already completed as of 25 Feb 2026 and a new programme being developed for 2027/28 onwards.
- The Council in partnership with a young people’s charity secured over £700,000 through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme for specialist supported housing for young people, providing 14 additional homes for young people experiencing homelessness.
- Following extensive consultation, an updated Housing Allocation Policy was published which refines eligibility and banding, ensuring social housing goes to those in greatest need.
- The Council expanded temporary furnished properties from 127 to 173, improving quality and reducing hotel use.
- The Council introduced a new Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy, shaped by lived experience, to make decisions clearer and transparent.

Aims over the next 5 years:

1. Increase the supply of, and access to, suitable affordable housing:

We will increase the supply of, and access to, suitable affordable housing through new developments and partnerships with housing developers and providers.

2. Reduce reliance on hotels and ensure high quality temporary accommodation:

We will minimise the use of hotels as temporary accommodation and ensure that council-provided temporary housing meets local needs, while commissioned supported housing is tailored to deliver the right support for those who need it.

3. Strengthen engagement with the private rented sector:

We will continue to explore landlord incentive schemes to strengthen engagement with private sector landlords and increase the supply of affordable housing.

4. Improve standards and ensure a robust housing pathway:

We will promote high standards across all landlords and continue to review the housing pathway, to ensure it provides a diverse range of housing solutions. This includes supported housing for people with multiple disadvantages and support needs, ensuring it is well managed and meets all relevant regulations. We will also work with Housing Associations to maximise nominations.

How we will measure success:

- Increase the number of council homes available, including through new build and acquisitions.
- Increase the number of homeless households rehoused into settled affordable housing.
- Increase the number of partnerships with private landlords to expand the range of housing options available to homeless households.
- Reduce the number of households with children placed in hotel temporary accommodation
- Number of households with children that remain in hotel temporary accommodation for more than six weeks.
- Reduce the average length of stay across all forms of temporary accommodation for all household types.

KEY PRIORITIES IN DETAIL (continued)

Priority 3: Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time

Why is this important?

Providing timely support is essential to preventing homelessness and promoting long-term stability. Early intervention through advice and practical support helps individuals avoid homelessness, repeat homelessness, financial hardship, and poor health outcomes. When help is delayed, people often experience greater stress and disruption, leading to more complex and costly solutions later. By prioritising those at greatest risk and acting promptly, services can make a meaningful difference improving lives, strengthening resilience, and using resources effectively. This includes access to employment and health services, enabling people to achieve financial independence, enhance wellbeing, and build a secure resilient future.

What we have done so far:

- The Council reviewed its commissioned housing-related support services in partnership with key stakeholders, leading to the development of a new Framework. This Framework strengthens service quality and consistency, drives innovation, leading to better outcomes for people at risk of homelessness.
- In partnership the Council along with local organisations, delivered 102 multi-agency drop-in sessions in 2025/26, hosted by a central local homeless charity, providing people at risk of homelessness with coordinated access to advice, essential services, and timely support.
- The Employment Hub and Employment Solutions Services have supported more people into positive outcomes, receiving 4,626 referrals between January 2023 and December 2025, with 2,014 households assisted, 451 people supported into training, and 568 into employment.
- The Council has published its Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy for 2026–2029.

Aims over the next 5 years:

1. Strengthen multi agency working through collaborative working:

We will strengthen multi-agency working and embed person-centred, trauma informed approaches to ensure individuals receive coordinated, flexible, support at the right time.

2. Empower residents to build resilience through strengthening support pathways:

We will provide targeted support to households during the cost-of-living crisis while creating clear pathways to employment, education, and training. By combining immediate help with long-term opportunities, we aim to empower residents to build financial resilience and achieve lasting stability.

3. Identify gaps in support and develop new opportunities:

We will identify gaps in support provision and actively pursue new opportunities to strengthen and expand effective interventions, shaped by lived experience.

4. Personalised, connected support at the right time and place

Personalised support will be delivered within communities, at the right time, through a joined-up, locally driven approach.

How we will measure success:

- Number of people who are supported to access employment, training and education.
- Successful outcome at prevention or relief for households with 3 support needs or more
- Decrease use of all forms of temporary accommodation, due to more households accessing support early and avoiding homelessness crisis.
- Number of households who were assisted to remain in their existing home

KEY PRIORITIES IN DETAIL (continued)

Priority 4: Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response

Why is this important?

Preventing and responding to rough sleeping is vital to safeguarding health, dignity, and life chances. Rough sleeping exposes people to severe risks, including physical harm, poor mental health, social isolation, and vulnerability to exploitation and crime.

This strategy prioritises early prevention, stopping people from reaching crisis point rather than waiting until they are sleeping rough. Where rough sleeping does occur, rapid identification and response are essential to provide immediate support, safe accommodation, and access to vital services.

Our approach aligns with the government's ambition to halve long term rough sleeping by 2029, our aspiration is to go further by driving innovative prevention, rapid intervention, and strong partnership working. It also supports national goals to strengthen collaboration between housing, social care, and safeguarding services, particularly for people with multiple support needs.

The Council remains fully committed to responding to Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) activations as a critical safeguarding measure. SWEP ensures that during periods of severe weather, no one is left sleeping rough due to conditions that pose an immediate risk to life and health.

What we have done so far:

- The Rough Sleeper Initiative Team tripled early morning walks and added daytime checks, increasing visibility and enabling quicker identification and assistance for those sleeping rough. This has led to a 25 % increase in number of rough sleepers the outreach team have engaged with, moving them off the streets into safe accommodation.
- We have strengthened our partnership working with statutory and voluntary agencies, ensuring rough sleeping remains a shared priority and that no one falls through the cracks.
- The Council reviewed and recommissioned the Rotherham Housing First provision, an initiative designed to end homelessness by providing people with a home first, focusing on people with multiple support needs.

Aims over the next 5 years:

1. Rapid and responsive housing solutions:

We will provide and regularly review rapid housing solutions to help people move off the streets and into stable accommodation, while identifying gaps in provision and responding to households with multiple support needs.

2. Community based support and assertive outreach:

We will continue to work with partners and local communities to ensure support and advice are based in community settings, complemented by assertive outreach approaches that proactively engage individuals who may not otherwise seek help.

3. Strengthened multi agency coordination:

We will strengthen coordination across housing, health, criminal justice, benefits and voluntary sectors to ensure no one falls through the gaps.

4. Enhanced safeguarding for people sleeping rough:

Recognising the heightened risks faced by rough sleepers, we will strengthen integrated safeguarding through Rotherham's vulnerable adult pathway in collaboration with partners and social care.

How we will measure success:

- Reduce number of people sleeping rough long term
- Reduce number of new people sleeping rough.
- Reduce the number of people returning to rough sleeping.

EQUALITIES AND INCLUSION

Homelessness does not affect everyone equally. Certain groups face higher risks and greater barriers to accessing support, including people with disabilities, care leavers, older people, refugees, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those from minority ethnic communities. Our strategy is committed to ensuring that all services are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the diverse needs of Rotherham's residents.



Equality impact assessments: this strategy has undergone an equality impact assessment to identify and mitigate potential disadvantages for protected groups under the Equality Act 2010.



Accessible services: We will provide information in multiple formats and ensure physical and digital accessibility for all.



Cultural competence: Staff will receive training to understand and respect cultural, religious, and personal identities, ensuring services are delivered without discrimination.



Targeted support: We will work with partners to identify and address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including, individuals fleeing domestic abuse, people with learning disabilities, people with neurodiversity needs which includes, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).



Data and monitoring: We will collect and analyse data on service use by protected characteristics to monitor fairness and improve outcomes.

Tackling inequalities

Together the Council and partners recognise that structural inequalities and discrimination can exacerbate homelessness.

Our approach will:

Embed equality principles in all homelessness prevention and response services

Actively challenge discrimination and stigma faced by vulnerable groups

Ensure fair access to housing and support services regardless of background or identity

Work with community partners to co-design solutions that reflect the lived experiences of diverse groups

Monitor outcomes to identify and close gaps in service provision for underrepresented or disadvantaged communities

GOVERNANCE, ASSURANCE, AND DELIVERY

Delivery of this strategy will be monitored through a tiered governance structure designed to track progress, ensure accountability and transparency, maintain focus on strategic outcomes, and support continuous improvement.

Regular monitoring will consider:

- Progress against the cross-working action plan
- Achievement of key milestones
- Performance against measurable indicators
- Emerging risks, barriers, and opportunities
- Feedback from service users with lived experience, frontline staff, and partners



Laura's Journey: The impact of safe supported housing for young people

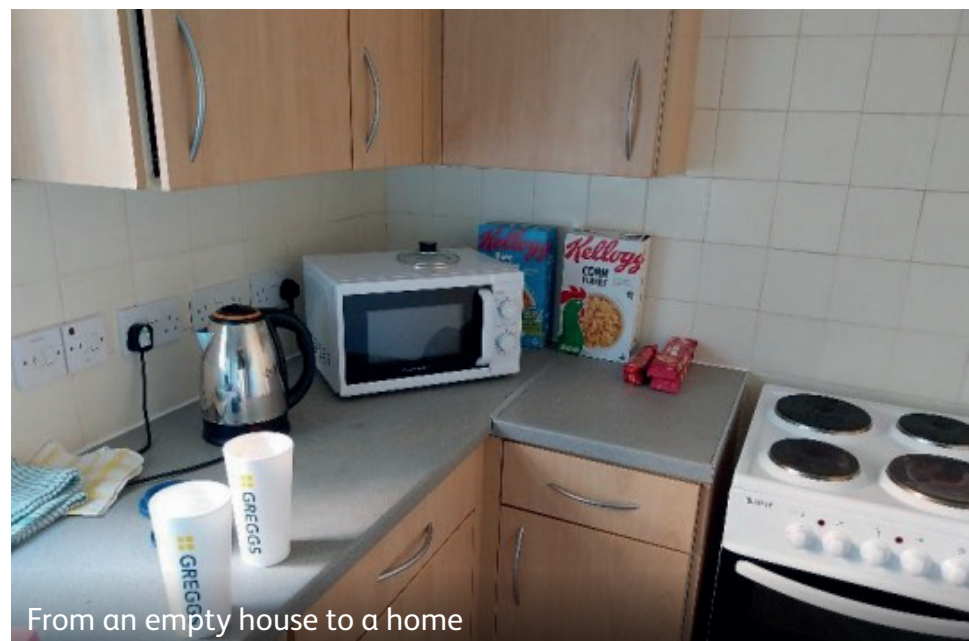
At 17, Laura became homeless after her relationship with her parents broke down. She moved between family, friends and temporary social care placements. Through joint work between Children's Services and the Council's Homelessness Team, Laura was offered a place in a young people's supported housing group living project.

This gave her a secure home and staff who could support her to rebuild her life. Laura engaged with specialist young people services, including education, employment and training support, trauma informed services for young women experiencing crisis or vulnerability, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to support her mental health.

With stability, Laura went on to secure a retail job and attended consistently, demonstrating strong commitment to her future. Nine months later, Laura had developed the independence and confidence to move into a dispersed property in the community, while continuing to receive support. When Laura became pregnant, staff helped her prepare for parenthood and navigate the process of applying for her own tenancy. Laura also enrolled on a business course to pursue her ambition of starting a beauty business.

Support continued throughout Laura's housing journey. Laura was matched with a two bedroom home, and support staff helped her secure the grants she was entitled to, sourced donated and affordable furniture, and supported her to set up her utilities, helping turn an empty property into a real home.

Today, 2 years later Laura is happy, safe and settled, continuing to pursue her aspirations. Her journey shows how the right support and a stable home can truly transform a young person's life.



“The kindness, generosity and non judgemental support I received from my support worker has been invaluable to my progress. Having someone willing to lend an ear and offer guidance has been incredibly helpful, whether it's been a difficult day at work, a personal challenge, or just a rough day”.

– Laura

CASE STUDY

Peter's Journey:

From domestic abuse and rough sleeping to a safe home

Peter, employed in a professional role, experienced homelessness for the first time after fleeing domestic abuse. Despite being in work, he could not afford hotel accommodation and was forced to sleep in his car while continuing to work. Isolated, worried about losing his job, and unable to have his children stay with him, Peter's mental health deteriorated. Following encouragement from his employer, he contacted a local homeless charity, who provided reassurance and notified the Council's Rough Sleeper Outreach Team.

The following morning, the outreach team located Peter sleeping in his car and acted quickly to secure emergency hotel accommodation, followed by a fully furnished temporary flat close to his workplace. Peter was referred to specialist domestic abuse service and allocated a dedicated Domestic Abuse Housing Officer. With tailored support, including a male peer support group, Peter began to rebuild his confidence.

During his stay in temporary accommodation, Peter received support with budgeting, financial management, and securing a permanent home. Within six weeks, he was matched to a two bedroom property, providing stability and a safe home where his children could stay. Peter expressed gratitude to the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team, the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service, and the local homeless charity for helping him move from crisis to safety and a fresh start.



Collaborative working

Working together with local organisations, communities, and people with lived experience to prevent homelessness and improve support.

Complex needs

When someone faces several challenges at the same time, such as mental health issues, disability, substance use, domestic abuse, or involvement with the justice system, and needs joined up support.

Cross partner delivery

Services delivered together by the Council and partner organisations, so people receive the right help without having to repeat their story.

Data analysis

Looking at information and evidence to understand homelessness in Rotherham and improve services and decisions.

Domestic abuse

Abusive behaviour by a partner, ex partner, or family member. This can include physical, emotional, psychological, financial, or controlling behaviour and can lead to homelessness.

Duty to refer

A legal requirement for certain public services, with a person's consent, to tell the Council if someone is homeless or at risk so they can get help early.

Duty to collaborate

The duty to collaborate is a central government led requirement for local partners to share information and work jointly to prevent homelessness more effectively.

Evidence based

Using information, research, and people's lived experience to make sure actions and decisions are effective.

Inequalities

Unfair differences in outcomes for some people or groups, such as poorer health, housing, or financial security. The Strategy aims to reduce these differences.

Intentionality

A check the Council must make to understand whether someone has deliberately done something that caused them to lose their home.

Legislation

The laws that set out the Council's responsibilities to prevent and deal with homelessness.

Lived experience

Knowledge and insight shared by people who have experienced homelessness.

Local connection

How the Council decides which area is responsible for helping someone, based on where they live, work, have family, or other special reasons.

Main housing duty

When the Council has a legal responsibility to provide suitable accommodation because someone meets the required criteria.

Multiple disadvantages/multiple support

When someone experiences more than one difficulty at the same time, such as homelessness alongside poor health, domestic abuse, poverty, or exclusion from services.

Our value led approach

Providing services in a fair, respectful, and compassionate way, treating people with dignity and understanding.

Person centred

Putting people at the centre of decisions and shaping support around their individual needs and circumstances.

Prevention duty

A legal duty on the Council to take reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness when someone is at risk within the next 56 days.

Priority need

Groups of people recognised in law as particularly vulnerable and who may be entitled to extra housing support.

Rapid rehousing

Helping people move as quickly as possible into a settled home, with support to help them stay there.

Relief duty

A legal duty on the Council to take reasonable steps to help someone find accommodation if they are already homeless.

Upstream prevention

Taking action early, before a crisis happens, to reduce the risk of homelessness in the future.

Rough sleepers

People who are sleeping outside or in places not meant for living in, such as doorways, tents, or vehicles.

Solution focused

Concentrating on practical actions and next steps to resolve housing problems and prevent homelessness.

Temporary accommodation

Short term housing provided while longer term, settled accommodation is found.

Trauma informed

Recognising that people may have experienced trauma and providing support in a safe, respectful, and understanding way.

Vision

The Council's long term aim for preventing homelessness and reducing rough sleeping in Rotherham.

Youth homelessness

Homelessness affecting young people, usually aged 16 to 25, often linked to family breakdown, care experience, mental health, or money problems.

Appendix 2.

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper
Strategy 2026-2031
Consultation Summary
Report**

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1. Consultation Overview

Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031 Consultation Summary

<p>What was the purpose of the consultation and who was consulted?</p>	<p>The Homelessness Act 2002 outlines that Local Authorities must have an approach for homelessness prevention and rough sleeping. This strategy has to be revised every 3 to 5 years; the consultation was to revisit the key areas of homelessness prevention and support for rough sleepers in Rotherham to assess what the priorities should be over the proposed 5-year period of the strategy.</p> <p>An 8-week public consultation was delivered to ensure equal opportunity for the public, services and organisation in Rotherham were able to have their say on the direction of the revised strategy.</p>
<p>What time period did the consultation run over?</p>	<p>The consultation ran for 8 weeks, launching on the 7th of July and closing on the 1st of September.</p>
<p>How many responses were received?</p>	<p>A total of 203 responses were received.</p>
<p>How will the responses be used by the Council?</p>	<p>The responses from the consultation, alongside the feedback attained in the community drop ins and sessions will help to shape the strategic direction for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Rotherham from 2026 to 2031. The consultation will outline the vision, priorities and ways to ensure housing is more sustainable for local residents.</p>
<p>Where will the outcomes of the consultation be made public?</p>	<p>The outcomes of the consultation will be made available once the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 is approved by Cabinet. The current timeline for the new strategy to go to Cabinet is on the 11th May 2026; on the basis that the strategy is approved, it will be published before June 2026.</p>

Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031 Consultation Summary

2. Introduction

Rotherham Council carried out an 8-week public consultation from 7 July to 1 September, to help shape the refreshed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031. The consultation aimed to understand local views on the current vision, key priorities, barriers faced by people experiencing homelessness, and what actions should be taken over the next five years.

In total, 203 responses were received through the online survey, supported by a comprehensive programme of engagement with residents, people with lived experience, frontline staff, partners, charities and voluntary sector organisations.

The findings demonstrate strong continued support for the overall direction of the current strategy, while highlighting important areas for improvement, particularly around communication, early intervention, availability of affordable housing, and joined-up support for people with complex needs.

(Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place, so totals may not equal exactly 100%)

3. Who Responded

3.1 Respondent Type

- **77.3%** – Residents of Rotherham
- **5.9%** – Residents outside Rotherham
- **4.4%** – Statutory agencies
- **3.4%** – Voluntary organisations
- **3.0%** – Temporary accommodation providers
- **1.0%** – Housing providers
- **4.9%** – Other/Unknown

3.2 Tenure of Resident Respondents

- **49.0%** - Owner occupiers
- **10.2%** - Private renters
- **12.7%** - Council/Housing Association tenants
- **13.4%** - Temporary accommodation
- **8.9%** - Supported accommodation
- **4.8%** - Homeless / NFA

3.3 Lived Experience

- **46.8%** had current or past experience of homelessness.

4. Communications and Reach

The consultation was widely promoted through:

- **Eight Facebook posts** (33,395 views; 19,601 users reached; 147 engagements).
- **LinkedIn**, Rotherham Round-up bulletins, direct emails across Council directorates, NHS partners and voluntary sector networks.
- **Posters** were provided to organisations who supported and hosted drop-in's and focus groups.

This ensured broad awareness and opportunities for residents and partners to participate.

5. Key Messages from the Consultation

5.1 Support for the Vision

Across all respondent groups, **89.8%** agreed that the current vision remains relevant. A strong consensus emerged around:

- Working in partnership to end homelessness
- Everyone having a secure, affordable home
- Ensuring the right support is available at the right time

Additional themes suggested for strengthening the vision include:

- Communication and partnership working
- Empathy and respect
- Staff training and trauma-informed practice
- Tenancy sustainment
- More affordable and supported housing
- Early advice and information

5.2 Strategic Priorities for 2026–2031

Respondents selected their top priorities from a list of ten. The highest-ranked priorities were:

1. Prevention and early intervention (75.9%)
2. Increase access to affordable housing (70.4%)
3. Joined-up support for homeless/rough sleeping households (60.1%)
4. Make homelessness brief and not repeated (47.3%)
5. Joined-up approach for people with complex needs (43.8%)

People with lived experience identified access to affordable housing as their highest priority (80%), followed by early prevention and access to tailored support.

5.3 Main Barriers People Face

Common barriers identified through survey responses and engagement sessions included:

- Lack of affordable housing and high private rental costs
- Cost-of-living pressures
- Limited or fragmented support for mental health and substance misuse
- Domestic abuse
- Lack of ID, particularly for rough sleepers
- Accessibility issues (language, digital barriers, limited information)
- Inconsistent communication across services

These barriers impact people before, during and after experiencing homelessness.

5.4 Suggested Solutions

Respondents highlighted a range of practical and strategic solutions:

- Better relationships with private landlords and incentives to widen access
- Building more social housing and improving supported accommodation options
- More specialist provision (women, young people, people with multiple support needs)
- Earlier intervention and clearer information across the borough
- Improved cross-partner working (homeless service, health, prisons, Adult Care, voluntary sector)
- More tailored support, counselling, trauma-informed practice and help with employment
- Ensuring pathways out of supported accommodation that enable people to work and sustain housing

6. Engagement Summary: Groups Consulted

A wide-ranging consultation was carried out with partners, service users, voluntary sector organisations, and council staff to understand what is working well, the challenges in preventing homelessness, and what improvements are needed in Rotherham. Engagement took place with groups representing domestic abuse survivors, young people, rough sleepers, people with multiple support needs, veterans, supported accommodation residents, and the wider public.

A total of 18 engagement sessions took place across the borough (in addition to the online survey), ensuring wide representation. Below is the full list of groups consulted:

Group / Organisation	Date	Format	Participants
Housing Options Staff (RMBC)	02/07/2025	Online presentation	48
Shiloh	04/07/2025	Focus group	5
Rotherham Homeless Forum	08/07/2025	Workshop	28
Strategic Housing Forum	09/07/2025	Workshop	16
Safeguarding Board	16/07/2025	Presentation	17
Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)	22/07/2025	Drop-in	3
Action Housing Breakfast Club	25/07/2025	Focus group	11
Social Supermarket	30/07/2025	Drop-in	13
Shiloh	01/08/2025	Drop-in	4
Queen Street Rough Sleeper Hostel	06/08/2025	Drop-in	3
Homeless Strategic Board	06/08/2025	Presentation	19
RMBC Staff Session	08/08/2025	Presentation	1
Young People (Rush House & Roundabout)	08/08/2025	Focus group	6
Elliot Court (Target Housing)	13/08/2025	Drop-in	6
Social Supermarket (Second session)	14/08/2025	Drop-in	3
Armed Forces Covenant	18/08/2025	Presentation	13
RMBC Staff Session	20/08/2025	Presentation	5
Rotherham Show*	06– 07/09/2025	Public stall	35

(*Fell outside the 8-week online survey window but included for wider engagement.)

7. Summary of Feedback from Consultation Sessions

Across all sessions, several common themes emerged:

- **The need for more affordable and suitable accommodation** across the borough.
- **Better joined-up working**, especially between housing, social care, health, and voluntary sector partners.
- **Improved access to timely information**, advice, mental health support, and early intervention.
- **A stronger emphasis on prevention**, lived experience influence, and trauma-informed approaches.
- **More specialist provision**, including options for women, people with multiple and often complex support needs, young people, and people with pets.

Below is a further summary.

7.1 Domestic Abuse & Families

Main Themes:

- Need for more affordable housing across all areas of the borough.
- Localised support, including counselling and holistic recovery services, should be better integrated.
- Challenges when supporting victims include trauma, mental health, returning to perpetrators, and risk of re-entering abusive relationships.
- Identified gaps include female-specific supported housing.
- Emphasis on healthy relationship education for victims.

7.2 Young People

Main Themes:

- Better joint working between services (housing, social care, education).
- Need for clear leaving-care pathways and improved early financial education.
- Young people face barriers accessing affordable housing.
- Suggested improvements:
 - Mediation and support for families.
 - More education in schools and colleges.
 - More LGBTQ+ awareness and support.
 - Female-specific options.
- Importance of good quality, modern temporary accommodation.
- Need for extra emergency provision, support for young parents, and learning from failed placements.
- Support around furnishing and decorating homes would aid tenancy sustainment.
- Riverside House, Council office environment felt adult, overwhelming, and difficult for neurodivergent young people. There is a need for trauma-informed spaces for young people presenting as homeless.
- Accessing mental health support can be too slow and not always at the right level, better access is needed.
- Better understanding barriers faced by young people in the BME community.

7.3 Households with Multiple Support Needs

Main Themes:

- Greater focus on universal prevention and expectation-setting for service users.
- Stronger multi-agency working to improve MARAC referrals and reduce delays around consent.

- Strengthening crisis prevention: wraparound support, tenancy monitoring, and clearer referral pathways.
- More emergency supported accommodation is required, especially small, supported schemes like the 7-bed provision.
- More front-end housing options could help people progress into long-term models such as Housing First.
- Building trust is essential to improving engagement and recovery.

7.4 Rough Sleepers

Main Themes:

- More suitable accommodation that allows:
 - Longer stays.
 - People to work without unaffordable rents.
 - Provision for pets.
- Greater mental health support to reduce crisis-led homelessness.
- Importance of lived experience in shaping services.
- Better joint work with prison services to reduce risk of rough sleeping.
- Strengthening supported accommodation standards.
- A joined-up approach between accommodation providers is essential for crisis prevention.
- More providers needed for SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) that can offer a warm safe place to stay.

A summary of other feedback during the consultation:

What Works

- Strong support from good homelessness providers, especially around wellbeing, life skills and signposting.
- Trusted, accessible community services providing multi-agency drop-ins.
- Most services in Rotherham seen as caring and accessible.
- The continued development of partnership working for veteran homelessness.

What Needs Improvement

- More peer support and provider funding.
- More empathy from staff across agencies.
- More supported accommodation for males and females.
- Better discharge processes (hospitals/prisons).
- Earlier interventions, improved integration, better furniture support.
- Improve non-commissioned supported accommodation standards.
- Limited options for high support needs.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Health access difficulties and financial barriers.
- Practical barriers: lack of ID.

Why Change is Needed

- To sustain accommodation, provide long-term post-move-on support, improve health and wellbeing support, reduce isolation, and support employment pathways.
- Need for public perception change and reducing stigma, education on homelessness will help earlier prevention and understanding that anyone can be homeless.

8. Overall Conclusions

The consultation demonstrates strong continued support for the current direction of homelessness work in Rotherham. The refreshed strategy should retain the core vision and priorities, while strengthening the areas most highlighted by residents and partners:

- Earlier, more accessible prevention.
- More affordable and diverse housing options.
- Stronger cross-partner working.
- Better mental health and addiction support.
- Clearer information, communication.
- Focus on vulnerable cohorts such as, people with multiple needs, young people, and domestic abuse victims.
- Trauma-informed practice - More compassionate, face-to-face support needed.
- Greater use of peer support and early intervention.
- Person centred approach that is outcome focused.

These findings will directly shape the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026–2031, due for Cabinet consideration - 11th May 2026.

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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: Homelessness Prevention & Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-2031	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Housing Options
Lead person: Richard Leighton-Cox	Contact: 01709334598
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This EIA is screening the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation for 2026-2031.
The current priorities set out in the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-26 are
1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.

2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.
3. Increase access to affordable housing options.
4. Improve access to housing support, employment, and health services.
5. Support people with complex needs.
6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.

The current Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2023 and published in April 2023. (3-year strategy). The Strategy is set to expire, necessitating a review and refresh. Under Section 1(1) of the 2002 Act, the Council is obligated to: (a) Conduct a homelessness review for their district. (b) Formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the review's findings.

Although significant progress has been achieved during the current strategy period, housing services have encountered new challenges related to the six priorities. These challenges include the continued cost-of-living crisis impacting households, a shortage of affordable housing, and changes in the private rental market.

A review of the existing strategy and understanding the current challenges, both nationally, regionally and locally will help to outline new priorities and initiatives to tackle homelessness more effectively, which will be reflected in the new proposed strategy.

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 review of the Strategy will consider the effects on different groups, particularly those protected under equality legislation. The aim will be to ensure that the new proposed strategy does not disproportionately disadvantage any group and actively promotes equality.

The review will assess the impact on various groups, including race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, and other relevant characteristics, including victims of domestic abuse, individuals with multiple support needs, rough sleepers and those who may be more at greater risk of homelessness.

A data analysis will help to inform this review alongside the consultation.

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?**

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and 2026-31 Consultation will have a positive Equalities and Diversity impact, as it will lay out the achievements and successes of the Strategy so far, whilst identifying key challenges and barriers to better support households at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance, states that Housing authorities must consult public or local authorities, voluntary organisations, or other persons as they consider appropriate before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy. It also states that Housing authorities may also wish to consult with service users and specialist agencies that provide support to homeless people in the district.

Best practice includes engaging with people with lived experience of homelessness. This was demonstrated in the development of the current Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023-2026 and will form part of the proposed strategy refresh. To ensure that the impact on Equality and Diversity are understood, an analysis of Homelessness Data submitted quarterly to central government has been undertaken to identify overrepresented groups within the homeless cohort. This will evidence how the Strategy will have a positive impact on protected characteristic groups. It is noted that limited information is available at this stage, and focuses on Age, Sexual Orientation and Ethnicity data recorded in Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2024/25.

- **Key findings**

Data shows that people aged 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44 are overrepresented in homeless data, compared to their prevalence in the general population of Rotherham. Those aged 16-24 made up 20.6% of homeless households between April and December 2024, compared to 10.7% of the population as per the 2021 UK Census (please note that census data records this age category as 15-24). Similarly, people aged 25-34 made up 31.6% of homeless households in the same time period, compared to 13.0% of the general population. People aged 35-44 made up 27.2% of homeless households, compared to 12.1% of the general population.

Data on Ethnicity shows that 72.7% of households that were assessed as homeless and owed a duty between April and December 2024 were White British, significantly lower than the 91.1% of the general Rotherham population recorded in the 2021 UK Census. 19.2% of homeless households were from BME backgrounds, compared to 8.9% of general population. This data demonstrates that people from BME backgrounds are overrepresented in homeless data in Rotherham.

Data on Sexual Orientation shows that 74.8% of homeless households owed a duty between April and December 2024 identified as being heterosexual/straight. This is a significant difference compared to the general Rotherham population of 91.6%. 4.7% of households identified as being LGBTQ+, higher than the general Rotherham population of 2.3%. 19.4% of homeless households recorded they preferred not to disclose their sexual orientation.

- **Actions**

- Completion of Part B of the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- Further research of local data regarding homelessness and rough sleeping in Rotherham
- Attain equalities data relating to homelessness in Rotherham through 2024/25.
- Attain further data to look into wider protected characteristics for full picture of equality impacts.
- Consider national and regional trends

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	02/06/2025
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	30/09/2025
/Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Richard Leighton-Cox Housing Options Development Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Helen Caulfield-Browne	Housing Options Operational Manager	03/06/25
Kim Firth	Homeless Team Manager	04/06/25
Chloe Harrop	Corporate Improvement Officer	09/06/2025

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	02.06.2025
Report title and date	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-31
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	02.06.2025

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: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Review and Consultation 2026-2031	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 18/06/2025	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	Service area: Housing Options
Lead Manager: Helen Caulfield-Browne	Contact number: 01709 807831
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> 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)
Richard Leighton-Cox	RMBC	Housing Options Development Officer
Helen Caulfield-Browne	RMBC	Housing Options Operational Manager
Kim Firth	RMBC	Homelessness Prevention and Resettlement 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 has a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002, as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, to review homelessness in its area and to develop, publish, at least every five years. This duty is reinforced by the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, which sets clear expectations that local authorities must undertake a robust review of homelessness, informed by meaningful engagement with people affected by homelessness and those who work with them, and translate this evidence into a clear, actionable strategy.

The Code of Guidance is explicit that the review and development of a homelessness strategy should be comprehensive and inclusive. This may include engagement with individuals or groups identified by a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, as well as other groups and stakeholders such as people with lived experience of homelessness, service users, employees, partner organisations, elected Members, and the wider community. The strategy must reflect local need, inequality, and risk, and demonstrate how homelessness will be prevented and rough sleeping reduced through partnership working and targeted intervention.

The new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is a key statutory document that sets out Rotherham's vision for preventing homelessness and tackling rough sleeping. It provides a shared framework for action across the Council and its partners, setting out clear priorities, expected outcomes, and measures that will be used to monitor delivery and impact.

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategies are designed to remove barriers to households affected by homelessness. The Strategy must ensure that the priorities, aims and objectives are relevant to the local and national context surrounding homelessness. Additional steer from the recently published Government Homelessness Plan helps to shape this approach, alongside a comprehensive consultation to ensure

lived experience of homelessness is incorporated. Below, the key priorities of the Strategy are outlined:

- Priority 1: Prevent homelessness through early, proactive intervention.
- Priority 2: Increase the of and access to suitable, affordable housing
- Priority 3: Ensure support reaches those most in need at the right time
- Priority 4: Tackle rough sleeping through prevention and rapid response

The Strategy outlines the Councils collaborative approach with partners to prevent homelessness earlier, reduce inequality, and provide timely, person-centred support. It also defines the processes for monitoring performance and reviewing progress to promote continuous improvement.

The Strategy has been shaped and developed following a public consultation that took place between July 2025 and the end of August 2025, alongside targeted engagement with partners and stakeholders. Feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness and frontline services has informed the strategic priorities and actions.

Relevant Legislative Framework

- **Homelessness Act 2002** – Requires local authorities to review homelessness in their area and publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years.
- **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** – Strengthens prevention duties and requires earlier intervention and partnership working with public bodies to prevent homelessness.
- **Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities** – Sets out expectations for homelessness reviews and strategy development, including consultation, equality considerations, partnership working, and evidence-based action planning.

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

Equality data is available from homelessness information, sent to Central Government via HCLIC quarterly, the 2021 UK Census, information provided by respondents consenting to provide equalities information when completing the consultation survey and data reports based on information pulled from Homeless Advice Cases.

The below links are referenced for information source purposes:

- [UK census data - Office for National Statistics](#)
- [Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK - HCLIC data](#)
- [Rough Sleeping Data Framework, January to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Consultation

The Strategy has been shaped by an eight-week public consultation, which ran from 7 July to 1 September. A total of 203 responses were received, with 47% of respondents reporting lived experience of homelessness.

The feedback gathered through the consultation has provided valuable insight into the real barriers faced by people with lived experience in Rotherham. This has ensured that the Strategy's priorities are grounded in what residents identify as most important, reflecting both their needs and their experiences.

Participation in the consultation saw a total combination of 415 interactions, across survey responses, focus group sessions and other methods of engagement. The consultation was conducted in a semi-structured manner, a blend of structured questions and multiple-choice options with an opportunity for add additional comments to be feedback, as well as open discussions that formed the main parameters for discussion.

The consultation was structured to engage groups that often experience barriers to participation. This includes those that are most at risk of homelessness and individuals with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. A mixed method approach was used to reduce barriers to engagement and maximise participation. The main method of consultation was through the promotion of the online survey was via the Councils website, social media platforms and partner networks, however, to tackle barriers around digital exclusion, a broad range of in-person sessions were arranged at different locations such as food banks and support services, allowing people to share their views in safe, familiar setting. The details of the timeline of consultation engagement sessions and dates are listed in under section - ***Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings) – refer to page 14.***

Targeted focus groups and engagement delivered through partner organisations enabled stronger participation from groups who are often under-represented in formal consultations, including people with lived experience of homelessness. Alternative ways of providing feedback such as creative and artistic expression were also offered to ensure individuals could communicate their views in ways that felt accessible and meaningful.

This approach helped ensure that consultation responses reflected a wide range of experiences and perspectives, supporting the identification of key barriers, priorities, and areas for improvement. The survey included an optional question on equality and diversity; respondents were not required to provide this information. Targeted focus groups were also encouraged and supported to participate with the online survey.

HCLIC data (Homelessness Case Level Information Collection)

H-CLIC data is the national case-level dataset submitted by local authorities in England to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It is used to monitor statutory homelessness and local authority duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

In relation to protected characteristics, these datasets include information on age, ethnic background, and sexual orientation for individuals who presented to the Council as homeless between April 2022 and March 2025.

UK Census Data 2021

Data collected during the 2021 UK Census can be used to provide further supporting evidence in overrepresentation of certain protected characteristics within people

presenting as homeless in Rotherham. The data can be used as a rough indicator, as the data is not directly comparable due to a change in population year on year. The tables below provide a breakdown of the data that is available that can be used to better understand the impacts on different protected characteristics.

Homeless Advice Cases data (internal data)

Homeless households that approach the Council will have an Advice Case opened to record information provided by the household and advice given by the relevant officer. Information stored has been pulled into an overview summary, giving better context to the range of support needs that are prevalent within the homeless cohort by year of presentation. This information can be used where appropriate. The datasets do include all households who have a homeless assessment completed. This includes households who were not owed a homeless duty by the Council. The data can be used to support evidence of need, growing demand or prevalence of certain groups.

Protected characteristic	Evaluation																		
Age	<p>HCLIC Age data is available from 2022/23 through to 2024/25. Across the 3-year period, 20.3% (863) people aged between 16-24 were owed a duty under homeless legislation as a result of presenting to the Council as homeless. People aged 65+ made up 3.1% (132) of the homeless cohort across the 3-year period. The largest cohort group by age was people aged 25-34, making up 32.2% (1,386) of homeless households. Households aged 35-44 made up 26.4% (1,123) of households, with 12.1% (515) being aged between 45-54. The final group of people aged 55-64 made up 5.9% (252) of homeless households in Rotherham.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of information on age of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16-24</td> <td>13.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-34</td> <td>15.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-44</td> <td>14.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-54</td> <td>16.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55-59</td> <td>8.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-64</td> <td>7.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-74</td> <td>12.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+</td> <td>11.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A comparison of the datasets shows that those aged 25-34 are overrepresented in homelessness data, as they are not the largest population group in the general population.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy</p>	Age	Percentage	16-24	13.0%	25-34	15.8%	35-44	14.7%	45-54	16.5%	55-59	8.5%	60-64	7.5%	65-74	12.9%	75+	11.0%
Age	Percentage																		
16-24	13.0%																		
25-34	15.8%																		
35-44	14.7%																		
45-54	16.5%																		
55-59	8.5%																		
60-64	7.5%																		
65-74	12.9%																		
75+	11.0%																		

	2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.																
Ethnic background	<p>HCLIC data on ethnic background across the 3-year period shows that 72.3% of households owed a homeless duty in Rotherham were White British. The second highest group in terms of prevalence were households identifying as Asian or Asian British, accounting for 8.8% of homeless households. Overall, 19.5% of homeless households in Rotherham were from different Ethnic Minority Backgrounds.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the Ethnic Background of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic background</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>91.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black African, Caribbean, Black British</td> <td>1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Ethnic Group</td> <td>1.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not known</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian or Asian British</td> <td>5.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comparison of the data shows that people from ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in homelessness data, compared to the overall population of Rotherham.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Ethnic background	Percentage	White	91.0%	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	1.4%	Black African, Caribbean, Black British	1.1%	Prefer not to say	0%	Other Ethnic Group	1.1%	Not known	0%	Asian or Asian British	5.3%
Ethnic background	Percentage																
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Prefer not to say	0%																
Other Ethnic Group	1.1%																
Not known	0%																
Asian or Asian British	5.3%																
Sexual orientation	<p>HCLIC data is available on sexual orientation, however, the recording metric changed between 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include a separate recording for people identifying as bisexual. In 2022/23, 61.2% of households were recorded as being heterosexual/straight, with 1.7% recorded as homosexual (gay/lesbian). 24.7% of households were recorded as Other, with a further 11.9% stating they preferred not to say. Across 2023/24 and 2024/25, 76.7% of households were recorded as heterosexual/straight. 4.8% were recorded as being homosexual, bisexual or other, with 18.1% stating they preferred not to say.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>																

Gender	<p>HCLIC data shows that across the 3-year period of 2022/23 to 2024/25, the gender split shows an average figure of 55.1% of homeless cases were for males. It is worth noting however, that this data only captures the lead applicants gender.</p> <p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the gender split of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Gender	Percentage	Female	51%	Male	49%																
Gender	Percentage																						
Female	51%																						
Male	49%																						
Religion	<p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of the religion of Rotherham residents.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>39.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christianity (all denominations)</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>5.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any other religion</td> <td>0.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>0.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Religion	Percentage	None	39.8%	Christianity (all denominations)	49%	Muslim	5.1%	Prefer not to say	5.2%	Any other religion	0.4%	Hindu	0.3%	Sikh	0.2%	Buddhist	0.2%	Jewish	0%	Unknown	0%
Religion	Percentage																						
None	39.8%																						
Christianity (all denominations)	49%																						
Muslim	5.1%																						
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Sikh	0.2%																						
Buddhist	0.2%																						
Jewish	0%																						
Unknown	0%																						
Disabled under the Equality Act 2010	<p>The 2021 UK Census data provides the following breakdown of Rotherham residents who are disabled under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Disabled under the Equality Act</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>21.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>78.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>	Disabled under the Equality Act	Percentage	Yes	21.1%	No	78.9%																
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Yes	21.1%																						
No	78.9%																						

<p>Transgender</p>	<p>Data on transgender households is available for April 2024 to March 2025, as it was not mandatory to report this information in the previous years. The data shows 1.4% of households presenting as homeless in this time period identified as being transgender.</p> <p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 anticipates no expected or possible negative impacts.</p>
<p>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</p> <p>Using the data provided in the consultation, Census data, HCLIC data and Homeless Advice Case data, a wide range of comprehensive data is available to help understand who the policy is seeking to support. The various datasets also provide a good level of context to the varying needs, patterns of change over a 3-year period and where certain groups or protected characteristics might be overrepresented within the local population of households who have experienced homelessness.</p>	
<p>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</p> <p>The Strategy is designed to be inclusive of all protected characteristics. Its central aim is to improve outcomes for all households in Rotherham affected by homelessness, ensuring that support is accessible, fair, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population.</p> <p>To ensure this commitment is delivered in practice, the Strategy will be supported by a cross-service action plan and overseen through a tiered governance structure. This structure will provide regular and robust monitoring to identify whether any groups with protected characteristics are disproportionately affected or face barriers in accessing support.</p> <p>Regular monitoring will include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against the cross-service action plan • Achievement of key milestones within the Strategy • Performance against measurable indicators related to homelessness prevention and relief • Identification of emerging risks, barriers, or inequalities, particularly for groups statistically at higher risk of homelessness • Feedback from service users, frontline staff, and partner organisations, helping to highlight lived experience and any differential impacts <p>Governance Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Operational Board – Quarterly • Homelessness Strategic Board – Quarterly • Homelessness Forums – Biannually 	

Use of Data and Insight

Analysis of homelessness data, led by the Homelessness Team Manager with support from the Performance Team, will monitor trends and patterns in service demand. This analysis enables early identification of shifts that may disproportionately affect particular groups or communities according to their protected characteristics. Where such patterns emerge, the service will respond proactively for example, through targeted prevention activity or tailored support offers.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

Overall, 212 people engaged in the different sessions delivered during the consultation.

Organisation	Date
Housing Options – RMBC	July 2025
Shiloh*	July 2025
Rotherham Homeless Forum	July 2025
Strategic Housing Forum	July 2025
Safeguarding Board – RMBC	July 2025
Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)	July 2025
Action Housing Breakfast Club (supported housing)	July 2025
Social supermarket	July 2025
Shiloh	August 2025
Queen Street rough sleeper hostel	August 2025
Homeless strategic board	August 2025
RMBC employee session	August 2025
Young People's focus group (Rush House & Roundabout)	August 2025
Elliot Court (supported housing)	August 2025
Social supermarket	August 2025
Armed Forces Covenant	August 2025
RMBC employee session	August 2025
*Rotherham Show	September 2025
*Rotherham Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity transformation group	November 2025

**Represents valued feedback received after the formal consultation period*

	<p>Refer to page 9, which provides a summary of the findings through engagement sessions.</p> <p>203 completed survey responses were received also. The summary of findings from the consultation are outlined below:</p> <p>The Vision</p> <p>89.8% of respondents agreed that the current vision remains relevant for the 2026–2031 strategy. Residents, people with lived experience, and professionals all showed strong support, emphasising partnership working, affordable housing, and appropriate support as the core approach to preventing homelessness and improving outcomes.</p> <p>This aligns closely with feedback from the Rotherham Homeless Forum and Housing Options staff, further confirming that the vision remains fit for purpose.</p> <p>Additional suggested themes for the vision included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger partnership working and communication • Respectful, empathetic approaches • Focus on tenancy sustainment • More specialist supported accommodation • Better staff training • More affordable housing options • Improved access to early advice and information <p>These suggestions provide evidence for future workstream’s and priorities aimed at improving tenancy sustainability.</p> <p>Priorities</p> <p>Respondents identified five key strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and early intervention • Increasing access to affordable housing • Better coordinated support for homeless households and rough sleepers • Ensuring homelessness is brief and not repeated • A joined-up approach for people with complex needs <p>These priorities closely reflect the current strategy and were reinforced through stakeholder sessions with the Rotherham Homeless Forum and Housing Options service.</p> <p>Main barriers</p> <p>Understanding barriers helps shape future service delivery. Respondents highlighted key issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable housing, cost of living pressures, and
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	<p>limited employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient support services • Addiction and mental health problems • Domestic abuse • Difficulties obtaining ID/documentation • Language, technology, and information access barriers <p>Stakeholder organisations reported similar themes, indicating consistent challenges across the borough.</p> <p>Solutions to mitigating barriers</p> <p>To address these barriers, respondents suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger relationships with private landlords • Developing more social housing • Improving accommodation options • Better cross-partner collaboration • Person-centred approaches • Enhanced support for managing complex needs <p>These solutions highlight the need for a coordinated, borough-wide approach involving the council, partners, voluntary sector, and community organisations.</p> <p>Accessing affordable housing</p> <p>Respondents stressed that improved access to affordable housing across social housing, private rent, supported accommodation, and affordable ownership is key to meeting local needs. Better access to support services was also seen as crucial for tenancy sustainment, preventing homelessness, and ensuring timely interventions.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Staff from across RMBC were invited to a session to understand more about the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy consultation. The session included an overview of the legal requirements, what the consultation will seek to achieve and an understanding of key achievements, data and challenges since 2022.</p> <p>Engagement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Options Staff Session – 02.07.25 • Council-wide online session – 08.08.25 • Strategic Housing Forum – 07.07.25 • Rotherham Safeguarding Board 0 16.07.25 • Homeless Strategic Board – 06.08.25 <p>The feedback received helped to shape the key priorities, ensure the vision remains relevant and that strategy is values-led.</p>

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)

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

No problems or barriers to communities or groups has been identified.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy has a positive impact by promoting inclusive, accessible, and preventative homelessness services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and others identified as vulnerable through homelessness legislation. This includes families with children, pregnant people, care leavers, victims of domestic abuse, people affected by mental or physical health needs, older age or disability, people with experience of the criminal justice system or armed forces, and those who lose their home due to an emergency.

The Strategy identifies and supports practical solutions to remove barriers that can prevent households from accessing help at the earliest opportunity, including systemic, communication, and engagement barriers. It promotes early intervention and targeted prevention for groups most at risk, such as young people, care leavers, LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of domestic abuse, people leaving institutions, former members of the armed forces, and those with complex needs. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, the Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of repeat homelessness through timely, coordinated, and person-centred support, helping people to secure and sustain suitable accommodation.

The Strategy takes a flexible and adaptive approach that recognises the changing nature and complexity of homelessness, including shifts in need and changes in the characteristics of households affected. A key priority focuses on providing timely and effective support for vulnerable households to prevent escalation of need and improve outcomes.

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 Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is designed to have a positive effect on community relations by promoting early intervention, inclusion, and fair access to support for people at risk of homelessness across Rotherham. By focusing on

prevention and reducing repeat homelessness, the Strategy supports improved stability for individuals and families, which in turn contributes to safer and more cohesive communities.

The Strategy emphasises partnership working between the Council, statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, and people with lived experience of homelessness. This collaborative approach supports shared understanding of homelessness, reduces stigma, and encourages constructive engagement between services, communities, and those affected by homelessness.

Targeted support and increased access to information for groups most at risk, alongside ongoing engagement with diverse communities, helps ensure that the needs of different groups are recognised and addressed fairly. This approach, promotes equality, and strengthens community confidence in how homelessness is prevented and managed locally.

Improving the Boroughs availability of good quality, affordable housing will enable more long-term, sustainable outcomes to be achieved. This considers affordable rents, supported accommodation and better financial opportunity for households in the borough, enabling tenancy sustainment and community cohesion.

Having a responsive framework towards rough sleeping, alongside improved early intervention and prevention, will improve not only individual outcomes around health, housing and wellbeing, but also improve public perceptions around homelessness, issues identified around community safety and image of the town centre.

The Strategy aligns with relevant local plans and policies ensuring that Rotherham's approach reflects both local priorities direction.

- [Council Plan – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)
- [Rotherham Housing Strategy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)
- [Housing Allocation Policy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

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: Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health
Lead Manager: Helen Caulfield-Browne – Operational Manager Kim Firth – Homelessness Manager
Summary of findings:
<p>Different data streams have been analysed in line with the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy, including HCLIC submission data, Advice Case data, Consultation data and UK Census data. This is to provide a comprehensive understanding into the reasons for homelessness, the support needs amongst the cohort and to understand the demographic/equality information. Despite the varying forms of data, we do not hold a full picture of the protected characteristics amongst the homeless cohort in Rotherham between 2022/23 and 2024/25; this is due to changes in the requirements of recording and the appropriateness of capturing certain personal information.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Strategy, no negative impacts or barriers have been identified. The Strategy aims to be inclusive and seeks to remove barriers to homelessness services and support across the Borough, including groups that are considered to be harder to reach or marginalised.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure regular monitoring of homelessness data is undertaken to identify changes and trends, which may specifically impact a certain protected characteristic group.	All	Annually
Ensure that key issues that are identified regarding homelessness in Rotherham are raised through the appropriate Governance channels and escalated as necessary, to mitigate and reduce harm.	All	Quarterly and annually

***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
Cllr Linda Beresford	Cabinet Member for Housing	25 th March 2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	27 th March 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	05.01.2026
Report title and date	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23/02/2026 – approved 26.02.26

Failure to delivery the aims of the Strategy may however have consequences for particular cohort groups in Rotherham. Comparing homelessness data against the 2021 UK Census, it shows that households identifying as Asian or Asian British are overrepresented. This highlights the importance of the governance process overseeing the delivery and management of the Strategy, alongside key external partners.

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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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from transport?	Increase	<p>Broader multi-agency working between RMBC staff and other services in the borough may require increase travel, increasing the number of work miles covered.</p> <p>There is a potential to see a reduction for the Council / contractors in the form of reduced refurbishment of temporary accommodation units. Reduced demand for temporary accommodation due to increased prevention work will subsequently require less maintenance and upkeep of the TA units, reducing travel time.</p>	<p>Whilst the impacts would be minimal, it could contribute to an increase in the release of greenhouse gasses in the borough. Increased carbon emissions could cause a reduction in air quality within Rotherham.</p>	<p>Promotion of public transport use. Car sharing where possible also encouraged to reduce carbon emissions. Adopt online meetings as a means of reducing carbon footprint.</p>	<p>Review methods of partnership working to ensure unnecessary travel is avoided.</p> <p>Officer travel is included with the Council's Net Zero 2030 greenhouse gas emissions accounting and is monitored by the council's Climate Change team.</p>

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	N/A	Increased prevention work will reduce the need for households to utilise temporary accommodation. Reducing TA usage will subsequently reduce the amount of replacement furnishings that will be required due to a high level of turnover that is experienced.	N/A	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	There is a potential for the Councils utility costs and subsequent emissions through use of gas/electricity in ringfenced temporary accommodation properties to increase. Whilst the properties are void between placements of different households, the Council will be liable for heating and maintaining the property, which will increase energy consumption. Work is ongoing to increase the availability of ringfenced properties to be used as temporary accommodation. Whilst increase RMBC TA provision will reduce need for hotel	Increased energy consumption contributes to greater carbon emissions. This could contribute to a minor decrease in air quality and carbon rating for the Council in terms of energy consumption & efficiency.	<p>Better throughput for households placed into temporary accommodation through providing more access to affordable housing will help to mitigate this. Reducing placement length will reduce maintenance work that is required between placements in a TA property. Reducing the re-let time for TA properties will reduce the cost & carbon emissions the Council will inherit during this process.</p> <p>The combined estimated figure for Visiting Officer mileage in 2025 is 3281 miles. This equates to 8.3 tonnes of CO2, based on</p>	

		<p>placements, which are large consumers of energy, it is worth flagging that increasing the TA portfolio will subsequently greater energy usage whilst properties are void.</p> <p>There is the potential to reduce carbon emissions in the form of streamlining work and reducing duplication.</p>		<p>an average mileage for a petrol vehicle in the UK. A reduction of temporary accommodation placements by 10% would see a saving of 0.8 tonnes of CO2 per year, a saving of 1.3 tonnes for a 15% reduction and 1.7 tonnes for a 20% reduction in use of TA.</p>	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Unknown	N/A	<p>Delivery of either new build social housing, supported accommodation or hostel-style accommodation to increase access to affordable housing options would cause an increase in the emissions contributed into the environment locally.</p> <p>This could be delivered as part of wider Council strategies that would fall under the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy by means of improving access to affordable housing and providing</p>	<p>The use of modern methods of construction will be considered for all new schemes, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.</p> <p>For refurbishment / retrofit schemes, emissions from the construction and refurbishment of properties could be offset by the reduction in carbon emissions from newly installed components having lower or zero carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy for 2022-2025 agreed by Cabinet in July 2022 includes the Green Housing Strategy to reduce energy costs and improve efficiency of homes.</p> <p>Outcomes of the strategies are monitored and reported through internal governance.</p>

			longer-term housing security for local residents. This would not be directly delivered under the strategy.		
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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?

The Strategy will not have any adverse effects on either the Council's or local residents' resilience or capacity to manage any changes regarding climate change. The Strategy will seek to support better outcomes for households at risk of or threatened with homelessness. This will reduce risk of people rough sleeping, subsequently reducing the risks associated with extreme and increasingly adverse weather conditions, such as flooding, heavy snow, freezing temperatures, heatwaves and high winds. Another aim of the Strategy will be to reduce the number of households who lose their accommodation. Preventing homelessness reduces the need for households to potentially access temporary accommodation.

Temporary accommodation requires a lot of resource and energy to sustain and maintain suitability. When households move on from temporary accommodation, deep cleans are often required, along with repairs to the property and replacement of furnishing. Due to the relatively short time frames households are placed in temporary accommodation, this is resource intensive and therefore has a negative impact on the environment. By reducing the need for temporary accommodation, this will have a positive impact on the local environment. In some cases, households requiring temporary accommodation will be placed into hotels. Due to the nature of hotel operation, this accommodation provision is less environmentally friendly. This is due to lighting, heating and staffing of large-scale buildings. Reducing need for hotel placements through prevention of homelessness will again provide better local resilience to the impacts of climate change. By preventing homelessness and reducing use of temporary accommodation, this will also reduce the amount of travel required by both households who are homeless and RMBC staff across the homeless, temporary accommodation and rough sleeper teams.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

As outlined previously, the aims of the Strategy do not have any adverse effects on the local population. Due to the nature of homelessness and how the Strategy will aim to achieve better outcomes, there are not an extensive list of impacts or monitoring arrangements in place. The main area where climate impact may be identified and monitored is around temporary accommodation usage. If improved prevention outcomes are achieved, less households will require temporary accommodation. In turn, this will reduce the turnover of furnishings, reducing waste and resource to remove items. It will also reduce the mileage the Visiting Officers have to cover, providing potential carbon emission savings (estimations outlined in table above).

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Richard Leighton-Cox Housing Options Development Officer Housing Options Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Due to the similarities and crossover, sections from CIA304, Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy written by Helen Caulfield-Browne have been used.
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 578 Arthur King Principle Climate Change Officer

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

Selective Licensing 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)

Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services
emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boston Castle
Brinsworth
Dinnington
Rawmarsh West
Rotherham East
Rotherham West
Thurcroft and Wickersley South

Report Summary

Rotherham Council made declarations for six new Selective Licensing areas which commenced in February 2026 for a period of five years. While traditional Selective Licensing tools have enabled the Council to regulate private landlords and deal directly with specific housing problems, during the consultation undertaken prior to declaration, the Council also heard from both tenants and landlords about wider problems in their communities. These included environmental and anti-social behaviour problems, and a lack of direct support to tenants.

To maximise the positive outcomes of these new designations, including improved housing standards, stronger community engagement, and enhanced regulatory intervention, as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process, the Council has agreed an additional revenue investment of £362,000 per annum. This aims to increase the impact of enforcement and regulatory activity, provide additional direct support to tenants, as well as provide increased capacity to ensure local stakeholder groups are well run and well supported.

In addition, the Council also agreed the allocation of a £500,000 capital budget over four years, 2026/27 to 2029/30 spread across the six areas, to deliver targeted improvements that complement enforcement activity. This capital programme will be shaped by the local stakeholder groups, and local teams.

This report sets out the operational model, responsibilities, governance, and expected outcomes for both the liaison function and the capital funding.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the report and progress to date.
2. Approve the approach to the community liaison roles and stakeholder panels.
3. Approve the approach to establishing the capital programme, with stakeholder groups identifying local priorities and delegate agreement for the final governance arrangement to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Service Director for Legal Services.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment Part A
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment Part B
Appendix 3 – Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Appendix 2 - Proposed Revenue Investments.pdf](#)

[Selective Licensing Policy - Updated report and appendices pack Agenda Supplement for Cabinet, 20/10/2025](#)

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

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Selective Licensing Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The 2020–2025 Selective Licensing schemes delivered clear, measurable improvements in housing conditions, community safety and neighbourhood stability across designated areas. The schemes drove proactive compliance and enforcement activity, resulting in thousands of housing and environmental hazards being identified and remedied, significant reductions in serious property risks, and improved standards across the private rented sector. They also contributed to wider place-based outcomes, including tackling criminality and anti-social behaviour through stronger partnership working and delivering demonstrable health benefits in individual cases. Overall, the schemes demonstrated that selective licensing, when implemented as part of a coordinated, multi-agency approach, can secure sustained improvements in both housing quality and community wellbeing.
- 1.2 Following a broad public consultation, the Council agreed to a further six designations to run from 2026 – 2031. The Selective Licensing designations aim to improve private rented sector conditions, reduce antisocial behaviour, and enhance neighbourhood quality. To support these ambitions, the Council committed to an additional revenue investment (totalling £362,000 per annum) to strengthen enforcement teams, tenant/landlord (community) liaison work and management capacity.
- 1.3 The Council also agreed an additional targeted capital programme funding (£500,000 over 4 years across the six areas) that will seek to further support delivery of the outcomes through both regulatory and environmental improvements, increasing community confidence, and long-term sustainable change.
- 1.4 This report seeks to provide an update on the implementation of selective licensing to date, outline the detail of the new investments and provide an overview of the governance structure for the schemes.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Rollout of the new Selective Licensing Designations

- 2.1.1 Implementation of the new Selective Licensing designations is progressing from mobilisation into delivery. Core systems are now in place, with the online application process and website fully operational and applications being processed through both digital and paper routes. Draft licences have begun to be issued, with full licences to follow as volumes stabilise. Neighbourhood Development and Improvement Plans have been formally adopted by Area Management Groups, embedding Selective Licensing within a wider place-based delivery framework. Governance arrangements are being finalised, including the establishment of a multi-agency Steering Group and the development of performance reporting to support statutory returns and local oversight. A targeted communications programme is

underway to increase landlord engagement and licence uptake, responding to lower than anticipated early application levels.

- 2.1.2 A risk based, intelligence led inspection model is being finalised to ensure early enforcement activity focuses on the highest risk properties and landlords, with active inspections scheduled to commence in May 2026. New inspection technology and reporting tools are being introduced to support consistent evidence gathering and governance. Implementation of Selective Licensing is being closely aligned with preparation for the implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025, including updated enforcement policies, staff training and partnership working with homelessness and legal services, ensuring the Council is well positioned to deliver both the new designations and forthcoming legislative duties.

2.2 Revenue Investment

- 2.2.1 The additional revenue investment agreed by the Council provides for additional enforcement capacity, with three new Enforcement Officers dedicated to the Selective licensing areas. These new officers will enhance the capacity within the service to respond to environmental, housing and anti-social behaviour complaints in the six areas. Recruitment for these posts commenced in March 2026.

- 2.2.2 In addition, two further dedicated officers have been funded in order to improve local engagement with the schemes and to support the establishment of local stakeholder groups and again, recruitment to these posts commenced in March 2026.

- 2.2.3 Finally, a dedicated management resource has also been provided to give greater oversight of Selective Licensing, ensuring alignment with the Renters Rights Act 2025 and to be accountable for all enforcement coordination (pro-active and reactive) activity across all private sector housing. Recruitment for this role commenced in April 2026.

- 2.2.4 The aim of these combined roles is to:
- Strengthen engagement with tenants, landlords, residents and partners.
 - Provide a visible point of contact for all activity linked to Selective Licensing.
 - Coordinate locality-based responses to housing, environmental, safety and wellbeing issues.
 - Support and service local stakeholder panels.
 - Contribute to neighbourhood development and improvement plans.
 - Ensure insight from residents feeds directly into enforcement and service delivery.
 - Oversee community communications and local reporting mechanisms.
 - Provide day to day engagement, tenancy support, and early intervention to prevent homelessness and resolve issues quickly.

2.3 Capital Investment Programme (£500,000 over 4 Years)

- 2.3.1 Alongside the additional revenue investment, the Council also agreed to provide capital funding for the six areas. The capital programme is specifically designed to deliver physical improvements that complement the regulatory impact of Selective Licensing. This includes environmental enhancements, safety measures, and small-scale neighbourhood improvements not deliverable through revenue budgets.
- 2.3.2 Funds will be allocated across the six Selective Licensing areas based on:
- Local needs
 - Stakeholder identified priorities
 - Alignment with neighbourhood development and ward plans
 - Deliverability and measurable impact
- 2.3.3 Examples of eligible capital spend could include:
- Alleyway improvements, gating, and lighting
 - Improvements to communal areas
 - Crime prevention design features including CCTV and/or lighting,
 - Waste storage solutions
 - Landscaping or greening interventions
 - Signage and neighbourhood identity features
- 2.3.4 The process for identification of opportunities for investment will be through consultation with local councillors, local Council teams and partners as well as residents and landlords who engage with the stakeholder panels. Ideas will need to be properly formed and costed prior to seeking the agreement of local stakeholder panels. Following on from this, proposals will be examined through a scheme-wide board, which is further detailed in section 2.5, to identify any consistencies or economies of scale before being submitted for formal approval through the Council's capital governance processes.

2.4 Stakeholder groups

- 2.4.1 In response to consultation feedback, the Council has agreed to establish new stakeholder panels in each of the designated areas. Stakeholder groups will be multiagency groups representing residents, landlords, partners, elected members and Council services. The groups will identify improvement priorities, review performance of the scheme and impacts locally and propose or review potential capital projects. The panels will also advise on community impacts and emerging issues.
- 2.4.2 The panels will be brought together initially following focussed communications in local areas in order to attract interest. Firstly, the Council will utilise mailing lists, populated as a result of previous selective licensing work, in order to contact potential local community members, residents and landlords to seek interest to take part in the stakeholder groups. The groups will be arranged virtually and in the early evening in order to maximise attendance for those who may have other commitments during the day. As

the new engagement and liaison roles are established, the Council will seek to more proactively recruit members to these groups by attending local events, engaging with local community and voluntary organisations and working directly with local councillors.

2.5 Governance

2.5.1 Selective Licensing designations and the associated capital and revenue investments will be overseen by new governance arrangements which will be multi-layered. Each designation, as detailed in section 2.4 will have a stakeholder panel, as agreed as part of the scheme implementation, this is underpinned by a bespoke Neighbourhood Development and Improvement Plan (NDIP).

2.5.2

- To ensure an integrated approach across the Council, Governance arrangements will be established that ensure integration with other groups and boards and enable oversight by Cabinet and Scrutiny.

2.5.3 These activities and arrangements are closely aligned with existing structures and will contribute to the delivery of a range of different strategic aims across the Council, not least supporting the thriving neighbourhoods ambitions. Progress updates will be routinely shared across priority areas and strategic groups. The previous Cabinet report set out some of the other key areas which Selective Licensing will contribute towards including:

- Housing Strategy
 - The Selective Licensing Scheme aligns with Rotherham's Housing Strategy, aiming to improve tenant conditions and management standards in the PRS.
- Homelessness Strategy
 - Selective Licensing complements the Homelessness Strategy by improving PRS standards and enabling enforcement officers to support residents into long-term, stable housing.
- Rotherham Empty Homes Plan 2025-2029
 - Although empty homes are not licenced, the scheme supports efforts to bring long-term vacant properties back into use.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy
 - The scheme reinforces the Council's ASB Policy by requiring landlords to actively manage and prevent ASB.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report provides an update following the decision to implement Selective Licensing and to allocate additional capital and revenue investment as part of the 2026/27 budget and therefore no alternative options have been considered in the preparation of this report.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Selective Licensing designation underwent extensive formal consultation, which has informed the approach as set out within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Implementation of the strengthened Selective Licensing model is already underway. Recruitment for the Community Liaison Function has commenced in March 2026, the Private Sector Housing Manager role went out to advert in April 2026, and the Enforcement Officer posts were also advertised in March 2026.
- 5.2 In parallel, governance structures will be established and aligned. The Selective Licensing Board will be convened in June 2026 to agree its terms of reference, membership and reporting arrangements. Stakeholder groups in each of the six licensing areas will be refreshed or established, ensuring they are ready to shape local priorities and feed recommendations into the capital programme from the outset.
- 5.3 Early capital priorities will be identified during the first year, with preparatory work undertaken while governance approvals and stakeholder recommendations are confirmed. As staff become fully operational and the liaison function begins to embed, the relationship between enforcement, community engagement and physical improvements will strengthen, enabling the programme to move into a steady, coordinated delivery phase for the remainder of the five year designation period.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Where there is a need to engage third party suppliers/contractors to provide goods, works or services to deliver this activity they must be procured in compliance with procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 / Procurement Act 2023 depending on the route to market) as well as the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 On 4th March 2026, Council approved a £362k permanent revenue budget investment and a £500k capital investment as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 to support the current Selective Licensing Scheme. This report also outlines the proposed arrangements for use of the capital funding, which will be in addition to the Council's existing financial monitoring processes.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The governance arrangements set out in the report, including the establishment of a Selective Licensing Board and local stakeholder panels, must operate within the Council's constitutional framework. While stakeholder panels may identify local priorities and make recommendations,

formal decision-making must remain with appropriately authorised officers in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

7.2 Other than the above there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within the report.

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 Any workforce implications arising from the recommendations will be managed in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Selective Licensing scheme and the additional revenue and capital investment activity are expected to have a positive impact on children and young people living within the designated areas. Improvements in housing conditions, environmental quality and neighbourhood safety contribute to healthier home environments, reduced exposure to hazards and improved wellbeing outcomes.

9.2 Vulnerable adults, including those living in poor quality or insecure private rented accommodation, will benefit from increased enforcement activity, enhanced tenancy support and improved access to advice. The approach supports early intervention, homelessness prevention and safeguarding by improving visibility of issues, strengthening engagement and enabling concerns to be identified and addressed at an earlier stage.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Selective Licensing scheme and the associated investment have been designed to support fairness, inclusion and equality of opportunity. The designated areas include communities with higher levels of deprivation and a greater concentration of vulnerable households. By targeting resources and investment in these areas, the programme seeks to reduce inequalities in housing standards, environmental conditions and access to support.

10.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is included as an appendix to this report. The assessment identifies that the proposals are likely to have a positive impact on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010, including tenants, low-income households and those with disabilities or health conditions. Ongoing monitoring will ensure that engagement activity, stakeholder groups and service delivery remain inclusive and that no group is disadvantaged by the implementation of the programme.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The proposals set out in this report are not expected to result in significant negative impacts on CO₂ emissions. The capital investment programme will focus on small-scale, place-based improvements and will be delivered in line with the Council's existing environmental and sustainability requirements.
- 11.2 Where capital projects are developed, opportunities will be taken to support climate-positive outcomes where appropriate, such as improved waste management, environmental enhancements, lighting upgrades and greening interventions. A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed and is included as an appendix to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Delivery of the Selective Licensing scheme and the associated capital investment programme relies on effective partnership working across a range of internal and external organisations. Key partners include South Yorkshire Police, health services, housing providers, environmental services, voluntary and community sector organisations, and other statutory agencies operating within the designated areas. The strengthened governance and engagement arrangements are intended to improve coordination, information-sharing and joint problem-solving rather than create additional demands on partners.
- 12.2 Partners will benefit from clearer routes for engagement through the stakeholder groups providing opportunities to influence priorities, align activity and contribute to place based solutions. The approach will be designed to complement existing partnership structures and locality arrangements, supporting shared objectives around community safety, housing standards, health and wellbeing. Any implications for partner resources will be managed through existing partnership agreements and ongoing dialogue to ensure expectations are proportionate and sustainable.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are several key risks associated with the delivery of the Selective Licensing programme and the wider neighbourhood improvement work.
- 13.2 One of the primary risks relates to sustaining meaningful engagement across all six areas. Without consistent involvement from residents, tenants and landlords, the ability to shape local activity and deliver change could be limited. This risk is mitigated through the enhanced presence of the Community Liaison Function, which will lead proactive engagement, maintain regular communication and support inclusive participation.
- 13.3 Risk of delays in delivering capital schemes or underspending against the annual allocation, particularly where projects require complex procurement or experience unforeseen operational issues. This will be addressed

through phased planning, early identification of deliverable schemes, and strong monitoring by the Locality Working Board to ensure timely progress and intervention where needed.

- 13.4 Ensuring equity across the six Selective Licensing areas, there is potential for local expectations or differing levels of capacity to create pressure for an unbalanced distribution of capital resources. The strengthened governance arrangements will provide oversight to ensure decisions are fair, transparent and evidence based.
- 13.5 A further risk arises from the dynamics within stakeholder groups. In some neighbourhoods, there is the potential for a dominant personality or interest group to disproportionately influence discussions or priorities, limiting diverse voices being heard. This will be mitigated through clear terms of reference, officer-led facilitation, and active support from the dedicated officers to ensure balanced representation and transparent decision-making.
- 13.6 Finally, as the programme relies on coordination between multiple Council departments and partner agencies, there is a risk of inconsistent practice or delays due to operational pressures. The new governance structure will support regular review, escalation and joint problem-solving, while the dedicated management capacity created through the investment will improve coordination and accountability.

14. Accountable Officers

- 14.1 Emma Ellis Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	24/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

Report Author:

Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services
emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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 Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Regulation and Enforcement
Lead person: Emma Ellis, Head of Service – Community Safety & Regulatory Services	Contact: emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other ✓ Strategy / Policy ✓ Service / Function Other: Operational delivery framework for Selective Licensing support functions and capital programme If other, please specify	

Appendix 1

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

Additional Band G officer posts to increase capacity for enforcement, engagement, early intervention and regulatory work; including Community Liaison to support tenants, landlords and residents across six Selective Licensing areas.

A £500,000 capital investment programme over five years to deliver environmental, community safety and neighbourhood improvements aligned to local priorities.

These measures aim to improve housing conditions, reduce antisocial behaviour, support vulnerable tenants, strengthen local engagement structures, and enable fair and transparent allocation of capital funds.

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?**

The proposals affect residents, tenants, landlords and communities within six Selective Licensing areas, many of which experience high deprivation, poor housing conditions, higher proportions of ethnic minority households, and vulnerable individuals including:

- Low-income families
 - Private renters experiencing housing insecurity
 - People with disabilities or long-term conditions
 - Migrant households and those for whom English is not a first language
 - Victims of ASB, harassment, or exploitation
 - Single parents, young tenants, and older residents
- Analysis of IMD data identifies that some areas fall within the top 10 most deprived nationwide, indicating greater exposure to poor housing and environmental conditions.
 - Consultation undertaken during the Selective Licensing process highlighted barriers faced by tenants, migrant households and vulnerable individuals, including lack of support, fear of reporting issues, language barriers, and limited knowledge of rights.
 - The Community Liaison Function is designed specifically to ensure equitable access, visible contact points, and targeted support for groups who are less likely to engage with council services.
 - Capital investment will be prioritised based on evidence of need, ensuring that areas with higher concentrations of disadvantaged groups receive fair and proportionate improvements.
 - Governance arrangements include community representation to avoid dominant groups controlling outcomes.

Key findings

- The proposals positively impact groups with protected characteristics by improving safety, housing, accessibility and engagement pathways.
- Risks relate mainly to:
 - Uneven participation in stakeholder panels
 - Language and communication barriers
 - Risk of dominant individuals influencing priorities
 - Mitigation is built into the roles of liaison officers, terms of reference for panels, and officer-led facilitation.
- Additional staffing increases capacity for early intervention, case support, and preventing homelessness, supporting vulnerable groups.

Appendix 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions <p>Ensure stakeholder groups are diverse, accessible and representative, Provide translation, interpretation and accessible materials, Monitor engagement volumes across protected groups, Use data to prioritise capital spend fairly and transparently Train new officers on equality, cultural competence and vulnerable person safeguarding,</p>	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	2/4/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	2/4/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Emma Ellis, Head of Service – Community Safety & Regulatory Services

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Service Director, Community Safety & Street Scene	08/04/26

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	April 2026
Report title and date	Community Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas – Cabinet, 13 May 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	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	2/4/2026

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: Community Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 2/4/2026	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead Manager: Emma Ellis, Head of Service – Community Safety & Regulatory Services	Contact number: emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify Operational delivery framework for Selective Licensing support functions and capital programme	

Appendix 2

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
Sam Barstow	RMBC	Service Director Community Safety and Street Scene
Chris Stone	RMBC	Community Protection Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
<p>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.)</p> <p>The proposal affects tenants, private landlords, residents, and a range of vulnerable groups within the six Selective Licensing areas. The aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve housing standards • Reduce anti-social behaviour • Enhance neighbourhood quality • Improve engagement, support and early intervention • Deliver targeted capital improvements identified by communities <p>These groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income families • People with disabilities • Migrant and ethnically diverse households • Older people • Single parents • Those at risk of homelessness • Victims of ASB or exploitation
<p>What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken) The equality evidence supporting this proposal is consistent with, and builds directly upon, the Equality Analysis (Part B) approved by Cabinet in October 2025 as part of the Selective Licensing Policy decision.</p> <p>The October 2025 Cabinet report highlights a high concentration of private rented sector accommodation, low household incomes and residents at increased risk of homelessness should housing conditions deteriorate. Evidence from the 2020–2025 scheme identified the continued presence of serious Category 1 and 2 hazards, with over 8,000 hazards removed from 1,416 homes, demonstrating the ongoing link between housing conditions, health outcomes and inequality.</p>

Appendix 2

That Equality Analysis concluded that the proposed Selective Licensing areas experience multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage, including entrenched deprivation, poor housing conditions, higher proportions of residents with long-term health conditions or disabilities, and increased ethnic diversity compared with borough averages.

All six areas fall within the most deprived deciles nationally, with one neighbourhood ranking within the top 10 most deprived in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. These areas were designated on the statutory criteria of high levels of deprivation, consistent with previous Selective Licensing schemes in Rotherham, and confirming that poor housing standards within the private rented sector were contributing to adverse health, safety and wellbeing outcomes.

It further identified that residents with protected characteristics, particularly disabled residents, people from ethnically diverse backgrounds, older people and low-income households, were disproportionately affected by unsafe housing, environmental harm and antisocial behaviour, and faced barriers to accessing support due to language needs, health conditions or fear of enforcement.

The report further confirms that several of the proposed areas, including central Rotherham neighbourhoods, have high levels of ethnic diversity, with a greater proportion of households where English is not a first language. Consultation activity evidenced that language barriers, low trust in statutory services and fear of reporting poor conditions disproportionately affect these communities

The Community Liaison Function and Capital Investment Programme proposed here directly respond to the mitigation measures and service improvements identified within the October 2025 Cabinet Report, by focusing on early intervention, accessible engagement, visible officer presence and targeted neighbourhood investment.

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

No significant gaps, but ongoing monitoring is required to ensure that:

- People with protected characteristics are equitably represented in engagement structures
- Barriers for groups with language needs or disabilities are fully understood as the programme embeds

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

Quarterly monitoring through the Selective Licensing Governance Board, Locality Working Board and performance dashboards.

Tracking engagement levels and service access by key characteristics (where it is proportionate and lawful).

Monitoring of:

- Equality impacts
- Distribution of capital funding
- Participation in stakeholder groups
- Issues raised by vulnerable groups

Appendix 2

<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>As set out in the Cabinet report (October 2025), a statutory public consultation was undertaken between January and June 2025 in relation to the proposed Selective Licensing designations. All residents, businesses, neighbourhood groups, local charities, faith groups, landlord groups, tenants, owner occupiers and visitors, which the council were aware of, were directly contacted. This included over 30,000 direct mail leaflets to all known addresses in the areas, supplemented by a range of other contact methods.</p> <p>Engagement activity included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation events held within the proposed designation areas, • A formal written consultation, available online and in paper format, promoted through ward members, council channels and community networks • Targeted engagement with private sector tenants. • Engagement with landlords and managing agents, • Input from voluntary and community sector organisations, particularly those supporting migrant communities, low-income households and residents with complex needs <p>The Key findings from the consultation were that of those who responded, the majority did not support the proposed scheme. There was no indication that any specific group with protected characteristics had a specific objection related to their characteristics. The objections came from Landlords who do not wish to pay a licence fee, owner occupier who fear a reduction in house prices and private tenants who are concerned about possible rent increases.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Internal engagement with Housing Enforcement, Community Protection, ASB, neighbourhoods, and locality based officers was undertaken during 2025 (January – June) to develop the operating model and the Neighbourhood Development and Improvement plans presented to Cabinet in October 2025.</p> <p>Officers highlighted that despite the success of previous schemes, underlying landlord behaviours had not changed sufficiently to achieve sustained improvement without continued intervention. Capacity pressures, complex household needs and fragmented engagement were identified as key risks.</p>

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)

- Increases service visibility and approachability, particularly for isolated, marginalised or vulnerable residents.
- Provides targeted, accessible support for tenants at risk of homelessness or exploitation.
- Enhances environmental safety (lighting, CCTV, public realm improvements).
- Ensures minority and marginalised voices are empowered within stakeholder groups.
- Translation, interpretation and accessible formats will be used to support diverse communities.

Race and ethnicity

Several Selective Licensing areas have high levels of ethnic diversity, and that consultation identified language barriers, fear of reporting and low trust in statutory services. The Community Liaison Function mitigates these risks by enabling accessible engagement, building trusted relationships and ensuring that minority communities can influence priorities and access services equitably.

Disability and health inequality

Poor housing conditions link to adverse physical and mental health outcomes, including respiratory illness and mental health impacts. Improved housing standards, enforcement and environmental investment reduce hazards and improve wellbeing, while inclusive engagement approaches ensure disabled residents are not excluded from decision making.

Low income and deprivation

The areas were approved because of high levels of deprivation, low-income tenants face increased risk of poor housing conditions, antisocial behaviour and homelessness. Targeted liaison, early intervention and transparent capital investment support residents most affected by cumulative disadvantage.

Age and family status

Poor housing conditions and environmental harm disproportionately impact older residents and families with young children. Improved neighbourhood conditions, visible officer presence and coordinated responses enhance safety, reduce isolation and improve quality of life.

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

Potential risks include:

- Dominance of certain individuals or groups in decision making forums.

Appendix 2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language or literacy barriers limiting participation. • Digital exclusion for some residents. • Accessibility issues for people with disabilities if engagement is not inclusive. <p>All identified risks have mitigation built into the delivery model.</p>
<p>Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?</p> <p>Yes – significant positive impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved housing quality and safety. • Enhanced community cohesion. • Better access to services for migrants, disabled people and low-income families. • More responsive, coordinated action on ASB and environmental issues. • Stronger representation of community voices in setting neighbourhood priorities.
<p>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)</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages joint problem solving between communities, landlords and the Council. • Builds trust through visible officers and consistent communication. • Reduces tensions by addressing environmental issues, poor housing and ASB collectively. • Increases fairness through transparent governance and equitable allocation of capital funding.

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: Community Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Community Safety and Street Scene.
Lead Manager: Emma Ellis
Summary of findings:
<p>The Equality Analysis identifies overall positive impacts across all protected characteristics, with especially strong benefits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income and vulnerable tenants • Disabled residents • Ethnically diverse communities • Older people and young families • Those experiencing ASB, unsafe housing or environmental neglect <p>Risks primarily relate to barriers in participation or communication and have been addressed through robust mitigation strategies including officer facilitation, translation, accessible communication, strong governance and continuous monitoring.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure stakeholder groups are inclusive, representative and actively supported by officers	A, D, RE, SO, GR	Ongoing
Provide translation, interpretation, accessible and easy-read materials	RE, D	Ongoing
Monitor engagement and participation by protected groups	All	Quarterly
Apply fair, transparent criteria for capital allocation	All	Ongoing
Ensure training for new officers covers equality, safeguarding and cultural competency	All	At induction

*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
Sam Barstow	Service Director	08/04/26
Cllr Linda Beresford	Cabinet Member	08/04/26

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

Appendix 2

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Date Equality Analysis completed	2/4/2026
Report title and date	Community Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas – Cabinet, 13 May 2026
Date report sent for publication	May 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	2/4/2026

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Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 3, Community Liaison Function & Capital Investment Programme in Selective Licensing Areas

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	No significant changes to Council buildings. Community Liaison staff will be locality based and use existing office space with minimal energy impact.	Capital projects may include small improvements to communal areas (lighting, safety). If LED/low energy options are chosen, this results in marginal reductions in community energy use.	Specify LED or solar powered lighting in capital projects; avoid adding energy demanding infrastructure unless essential.	Monitoring through capital project sign-off and reporting via the SL Governance Board.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Additional officer travel may increase fleet mileage. However, locality-based working reduces duplication and creates efficient routing.	Improvements to public realm may encourage walking/active travel in some neighbourhoods. Reduced fly tipping improves route efficiency for waste teams.	Use sustainable travel where safe; optimise routing; encourage walking for short-distance locality work; explore use of electric fleet vehicles if available.	Mileage monitoring for enforcement and liaison officers; periodic review via Locality Working Board.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	Better waste storage solutions reduce reactive collection miles and contractor trips.	Reduced fly tipping and clearer waste arrangements improve neighbourhood waste profiles, lowering emissions from clearance and disposal.	Prioritise waste related improvements; work with waste services to design sustainable containerisation options.	Monitor fly tipping reports and reactive clearance demand. Waste Services to provide quarterly feedback.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Unknown	The decision does not directly retrofit homes but strengthens regulatory enforcement, which improves housing conditions and may	Tenants benefit indirectly from safer, warmer homes where landlords respond to increased enforcement and liaison support.	Continue to signpost tenants/landlords to energy efficiency support; integrate energy efficiency messaging into liaison work.	Housing enforcement data and periodic review of category 1/2 hazards linked to energy inefficiency.

		reduce energy inefficiency linked to disrepair.			
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Small scale capital works may use materials with embodied carbon (e.g., concrete, metal, timber).	Minor increases in emissions from local construction activity depending on chosen projects. Overall scale is low due to £500k spread across six areas.	Prioritise low carbon materials; use recycled products; require contractors to minimise waste and follow RMBC sustainable procurement policy.	Capital project documentation will include carbon considerations. Monitoring through project approval and post-delivery review.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	No direct impact on Council estate unless tree planting projects occur on RMBC land.	Where local stakeholder groups prioritise greening, tree planting, pocket parks or landscaping, this will create new local carbon sinks and biodiversity benefits.	Encourage green infrastructure bids; provide guidance on suitable species; ensure maintenance plans included.	Monitor number and type of greening projects funded; annual review of green infrastructure outcomes.

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 proposal will have a positive impact on climate resilience.

How it strengthens resilience for Council services:

- The increased investment creates stronger local intelligence about environmental issues (e.g., flooding hotspots, heat-affected areas, waste build-up), enabling earlier intervention and more efficient deployment of services.

- Multi-agency neighbourhood structures improve coordination during extreme weather events by providing clearer communication routes between communities and Council services.
- Cleaner, better-maintained neighbourhoods reduce the strain on services during weather-related surges (e.g., blocked drains, fly-tipping during heatwaves or storms).
- Capital projects may include drainage, greening, or environmental improvements that reduce long-term pressures on Council teams.

How it strengthens communities' ability to adapt:

- Environmental improvements (shading, trees, planting, better drainage, safer outdoor spaces) support residents during heatwaves, heavy rainfall and flooding.
- Greener, cleaner environments reduce heat-retention in built-up areas and improve local air quality, helping vulnerable residents cope with climate impacts.
- Strengthened engagement structures ensure residents—especially those who are vulnerable, low-income or isolated—have better access to information, support and services during climate-related events.
- Better waste systems reduce pests and hazards that can worsen during warm weather.

Overall assessment:

The proposal enhances climate resilience for both the Council and residents by improving environmental conditions, strengthening community networks, and embedding climate-positive options in the capital investment programme.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The proposal has a low overall climate impact, with small risks from officer travel and minor construction activity that can be effectively mitigated through low carbon materials, efficient routing, and sustainable procurement. Improvements to waste management, neighbourhood greening, and safer public spaces offer positive contributions to environmental quality and carbon reduction across the Selective Licensing areas. Ongoing monitoring through the Selective Licensing Governance Board will ensure emission impacts remain minimal and climate friendly opportunities are maximised.

Non-domestic buildings – None

- No significant change to Council buildings.
- Small improvements (e.g., LED lighting) may slightly reduce energy use.

Transport – negative/none

- Officer travel may increase slightly.
- Locality-based working will reduce duplication and unnecessary trips.

Waste – Positive

- Better waste storage and less fly tipping means fewer clearance trips and lower emissions.

Housing – Indirect positive

- Stronger enforcement improves energy efficiency indirectly by addressing disrepair and cold homes.

Construction – Low negative

- Small capital works produce some embodied carbon.
- Overall very limited due to small scale.

Carbon capture – Positive (where chosen)

- Community-led greening projects create opportunities for tree planting and biodiversity enhancements.

Mitigation

- Use LED/solar lighting and low carbon materials.
- Optimise officer travel routes; encourage active travel.
- Prioritise greening projects where communities support them.
- Ensure sustainable procurement, recycled materials, and waste minimising contractors.
- Use governance boards to require a climate check on all capital bids.

Monitoring (One-line Summary)

- Monitor officer mileage, fly tipping levels, capital project materials/energy use, and delivery of greening schemes through the **Selective Licensing Governance Board** and **Locality Working Board**.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
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 623 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

The Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan

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

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Katya Anfilogoff-Clark, Partnership Manager
katya.anfilogoff-clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report summarises the Rotherham Together Partnership's (RTP) new Rotherham Plan, which replaces the expired Rotherham Plan 2025.

The new Plan sets out the RTP's vision for partnership working over the next decade, focused on the successful delivery of the four identified gamechangers for the borough, to improve quality of life for residents across Rotherham and address inequalities.

Recommendations

That Cabinet endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the four identified gamechangers.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Plan 2026-2036
- Appendix 2 Consultation Report
- Appendix 3 Equality Screening
- Appendix 4 Equality Analysis
- Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Rotherham Plan 2025](#)

[Rotherham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Rotherham](#)

[Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy](#)

[Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy](#)

[Rotherham Cultural Strategy](#)

[Thriving Places Index- Centre for Thriving Places](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan

1. Background

- 1.1 The Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) is a partnership which brings together 8 key local organisations across the Borough (RMBC, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire ICB, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and RNN Group), facilitating strategic collaboration on key issues with the aim of improving quality of life for residents.
- 1.2 The work of the partnership happens across a range of partnership boards and operational groups. The thematic boards include: the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, Business Growth Board (of which the Employment and Skills Board is a subgroup), Cultural Partnership, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board. The work of each of these boards is guided by their own strategies and monitoring mechanisms.
- 1.3 Since forming in the early 2000s, initially as Rotherham's statutory Local Strategic Partnership, this collective of partners has delivered significant developments for the Borough. The first partnership strategy committed to delivering the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) at Waverley as a breakthrough project.
- 1.4 Although economic growth remains a priority, the national and local context presents a very different set of challenges in 2026, which affects how residents experience day to day life across the borough - including continuing deep-seated inequalities which will require a new deliberate and coordinated partnership approach to overcome.
- 1.5 Since 2017, the partnership's work has been guided by the strategic priorities set out within the Rotherham Plan 2025, resulting in wide-ranging achievements including: the development of the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, opening of University Centre Rotherham, delivery of the world-leading Children's Capital of Culture festival year, development of immersive careers education site at Skills Street and opening of the town centre's first cinema in 30 years at Forge Island.
- 1.6 With the current Rotherham Plan expiring at the end of 2025/26, the partnership, in consultation with stakeholders and the public, has developed a new Plan to set the strategic direction for the RTP over the next 10 years. Underpinning this document is a focus on four 'gamechangers' for the borough over the next decade. These will form the foundation for how partners work together for maximum impact.
- 1.7 The Plan sets out how The Rotherham Together Partnership will add value to the delivery of the gamechangers by ensuring that partners in areas such as health, business, community safety and inclusion are all in the room together, facilitating the ability to identify shared priorities and barriers, problem solve and innovate.

1.8 While partner organisations have their own strategies and workplans, by coming together the partnership ensures that residents feel more benefit. The Plan, therefore, focuses on the value added from closer collaboration, which helps partners work beyond 'business as usual'.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The vision set out within the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036 is that "*Rotherham will be an even more innovative, future-facing borough where all residents can thrive, with fair access to the opportunities and services they need to be happy and well*".

2.2 To better define success, the partnership adopts an established definition of what encompasses a thriving place.

2.3 "*We all deserve to live in a place where we can thrive. That means access to things that are fundamental to our wellbeing, like good health, secure livelihoods, decent housing, social connections and support, opportunities for learning, green spaces and clean air.*"

- Centre for Thriving Places

2.4 The vision also includes a commitment to prioritising Rotherham's next generation by embedding the voice and needs of children and young people into the policy, decision making and delivery. It recognises both the duty to the next generation and the resource which children and young people present to the Borough.

2.5 In pursuit of this Plan's vision, the partnership has identified four gamechangers for Rotherham, which will define the Borough over the next decade and catalyse improvements for residents. The gamechangers comprise key investments and developments which will require a collaborative approach from the RTP to ensure successful delivery. Further to that, the partnership will seek to address inequalities which present barriers to residents benefitting from the gamechangers.

2.6 The gamechangers are:

- **Growing a fair and thriving economy:** Growing an economy provides the foundation for residents to live better lives. This will include embedding strengths in advanced manufacturing while pivoting toward clean energy, life sciences, and digital industries, and prioritising a "healthy, mobile workforce" connected by better public transport and increased retention of wealth in Rotherham.
- **Enabling strong and thriving communities:** Fostering pride and cohesion in Rotherham communities, by shifting power to residents to shape their own spaces and better using analytical insight across the partnership to understand "hyper-local" needs and coordinate services more deliberately.
- **Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway:** Bringing mainline rail services back to the borough via the Rotherham Gateway. This hub will generate the connectivity to unlock

opportunities for residents and address inequalities through increased investment, economic growth and the creation of new neighbourhoods, as well as linking the town centre more easily to the rest of the borough.

- **Creating vibrant town centres:** Improving footfall and perceptions of the borough's principal town centres. This includes using public services and culture to diversify the function of the town centre and increasing the residential population.

2.7 The Plan is informed by a series of partnership stakeholder workshops held between January and March 2026, in which the proposed gamechangers were explored with participants and overwhelmingly supported as the focus for the partnership's new Rotherham Plan. In addition, public consultation was carried out via resident interviews, conducted by an external provider to explore public perceptions in relation to each of the gamechangers.

2.8 Details can be found in the consultation report at Appendix 2, but some of the issues raised included:

- Lack of employment and skills development opportunities or barriers to accessing these, including due to limited public transport connectivity (which is felt to be holding the borough back in relation to all of the gamechangers).
- Need to address deep-seated economic and health inequalities, informed by strengthened data insight and sharing to better target services.
- Pride in the borough and need to improve perceptions of Rotherham as a place, both among residents and external audiences.
- Perceptions of community safety, particularly in the town centre.
- Community cohesion, including need to build trust between public sector and neighbourhoods, provide greater support for community infrastructure and generate a broader range of activities, especially for young people.
- Environmental sustainability and importance of ensuring that new developments will support a resilient, low-carbon future and healthier, more sustainable communities.

2.9 For each gamechanger within the Plan the context is set out, including public voice captured through consultation. Each gamechanger has a ten-year vision, commitment to how the partnership will work differently in pursuit of this vision, and outcomes residents can expect for two and five years. All partners should be able to see a cross-cutting role as contributors to the gamechangers.

2.10 Following feedback from partners, the Plan also seeks to promote new working arrangements for the partnership, identifying more deliberate functions and specific roles for partners in pursuit of the vision:

1. Bringing people together
We'll connect organisations and communities to shape ideas, share learning and keep momentum going.
2. Securing funding and investment
While funding is limited, we'll help attract public funding and support partners to bring investment into the borough.
3. Listening and amplifying voices
We'll help make sure that voices which aren't always heard – especially young people and under-represented communities – shape decisions about Rotherham's future.
4. Championing Rotherham
We'll proudly promote the borough, its people and organisations, showing what makes Rotherham a great place and why our way of working matters.
5. Trying new things
We'll create space for partners to test new ideas and work differently, learning what works and sharing that learning.
6. Using what we already have
Together, partners own land and buildings across the borough. We'll use these assets more effectively to support our shared ambitions.
7. Tracking progress and learning
We'll focus on understanding what success really looks like for residents, measuring progress fairly and learning as we go.

2.11 The partnership will also explore options to determine delivery infrastructure, including a new structure and governance arrangements to better reflect the ten-year ambition of the strategy. This will form a key component of the two-year delivery plan, hardwiring the gamechangers into the partnership as the core policy focus.

2.12 As both a lead and member of the RTP, the Council will need to adapt and evolve its role and contribution. This will mean ensuring that clearer links are developed between the daily function of the council and the ambition set out within the Plan.

2.13 A two-year delivery plan will be developed in the first instance, to map outcomes and partner commitments to reach the first milestone within the plan. Following that a three-year delivery plan will be developed to reach the five-year milestone, offering a natural review point for the strategy.

2.14 The partnership boards, which are attended and some chaired by Cabinet Members, will be responsible for progressing activities as set out within the initial two-year delivery plan. The Leader will continue to chair the Strategic Partnership Group, which is also attended by other Cabinet Members. Other Cabinet Members may also be called upon for advice and expertise in advancing the wider plan as required.

2.15 The new Rotherham Plan will be embedded into the partnership's website when published online to enhance engagement and ease of navigating the document. A shorter, accessible version will be developed and distributed to

all households in the borough as one of the partnership's biannual newsletters, to further support resident engagement.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The recommendation is that Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the four identified gamechangers.

3.2 This recommendation reflects the priorities that have been highlighted during engagement and consultation.

3.3 An alternative option is to not agree the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036. This however could risk the effectiveness of local partnership working as there would not be any collectively agreed strategic priorities for the RTP to coalesce behind.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation activity was carried out through eight partnership stakeholder workshops, as well as resident facing consultation undertaken with twenty-eight people via one-to-one 'hall-test' interviews. The workshops engaged 131 participants from across the core partnership organisations, as well as wider partnership organisations including the local voluntary and community sector, local businesses, education and skills providers and wider public sector. Detailed information is included in Appendix 2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Alongside endorsement from Cabinet, endorsement will be sought from the seven other core partner organisations before this Plan is confirmed.

5.2 Once new governance arrangements for the partnership have been finalised, the Chief Executive Officer Group will present a proposal for delivery and decision making to the Strategic Partnership Group, Chaired by the Leader of the Council, for approval.

5.3 As the Plan sets out the differences that the public will see in two and five years in relation to each gamechanger, an initial two-year delivery plan, followed by a three-year delivery plan will be developed and implemented.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The current Rotherham Together Partnership is funded from partner contributions as follows:

Partner	Annual Contribution (£)
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber	2,500.00
RDASH	10,000.00
RNN Group	7,000.00
Voluntary Action Rotherham	2,081.00
Rotherham NHS Foundation	7,500.00
NHS Rotherham CCG	20,090.00
SYPC	14,693.00
RMBC General Fund	72,534.00
TOTAL	136,398.00

- 6.2 Any unused contributions at the end of each financial year are placed in a ringfenced reserve for use in future years. The reserve balance as at 31st March 2026 is £113,701 and is held by the council.
- 6.3 Contributions have been maintained unchanged at the current level for a number of years. The new strategic direction, with new working arrangements and more deliberate functions and specific roles for partners as referenced in paragraph 2.10 above should include a review of contributions to ensure that they are proportionate and sufficient to meet the costs of the partnership going forward.
- 6.4 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. Any procurement activity undertaken by the Council on behalf of the partnership to deliver against the priorities detailed in the Plan must be procured in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependent on the route to market) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedures Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 While there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council and partners to adopt a Plan of this nature, being clear about the priorities and principles the partnership will pursue, will give staff, residents and businesses within the Borough a clear understanding of what the Council and its partners seek to achieve and how they will prioritise their spending decisions.
- 7.2 Endorsing the Rotherham Plan provides a shared strategic framework to guide partnership working and inform future decision-making. Any activity or delivery arising from the Plan will remain subject to separate lawful decisions and compliance with the Council's constitutional framework.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The proposed Rotherham Plan does not hold any immediate staffing, structural or contractual implications for RMBC; potential impacts relate to officer capacity to support future changes to governance arrangements.

- 8.2 To address this, and in response to partner feedback on the existing volume of meetings, the proposed model will incorporate greater flexibility. Rather than requiring regular, formalised meetings for all four gamechangers, the new approach will recognise that each gamechanger will require different levels of intervention and activity at different stages, allowing the partnership to respond in a more proportionate and agile way.
- 8.3 The initial two-year delivery plan will incorporate an inwards focus, to acknowledge the work required to embed new ways of working and lay the foundations for the success of future activity.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Once the Plan is published, reviewing governance arrangements to deliver under this new strategic direction will be part of the early activity the partnership undertakes.
- 9.2 The partnership will consider how future governance can ensure that the voices of children and young people are more formally embedded through the structure, and the impact of policies and decisions on children and young people is given proper consideration.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The partnership aims, as set out in this Plan, to not only deliver the gamechanger activities but to ensure that they benefit residents across the borough and different protected characteristic groups, with a particular focus on leveraging these investments to address economic and health inequalities.
- 10.2 The Plan aims to ensure that investment, services and opportunities are better aligned, more inclusive and more accessible, with a clear emphasis on fairness, coordinated action and measurable improvement in quality of life for all residents.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 This report itself has no significant implications for CO2 emissions and climate change. However, the Plan brings together several capital developments which will require their own cabinet reports and carbon impact assessments in due course. In seeking to reduce deprivation and inequalities across the borough, this Plan will ultimately make communities less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 As a partnership plan, the seven other core partners will also be required to endorse this Plan before it can be formalised. Successful delivery of the Plan will also require engagement and close working with a much wider range of stakeholders, including public sector partners, local businesses, the voluntary

and community sector, education and skills providers, developers and visitors.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Any significant risks identified in the delivery of the new Plan will be assessed, mitigated and monitored through the partnership governance structure, with significant operational risks overseen by the Chief Executive Officer group and reported into the Strategic Partnership Group.

14. Accountable Officers

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Strategy, Policy and Engagement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	22/04/26

Report Author: *Katya Anfilogoff-Clark*
katya.anfilogoff-clark@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Rotherham Plan 2026-2036:

A decade of opportunity.

Introduction

Rotherham Together is a partnership that brings together eight major local organisations to improve life across the borough. Collectively, we have the responsibility and influence to shape the borough's future, and together – in collaboration with our communities- we will decisively steward Rotherham through the next decade.

Partnership working has always been central to Rotherham's progress. In 2002, we responded to economic challenge with ambition, committing to the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) at Waverley. Today, the AMP is a cornerstone of Rotherham and South Yorkshire's industrial economy, and a powerful example of what collaboration can achieve. Rotherham is now the fastest-growing economy in the north, with residents telling us they feel more optimistic about the future.

Since 2017, our work has been guided by previous iterations of the Rotherham Plan, delivering major achievements including the immersive and innovative careers education site at Skills Street, the borough's first cinema in 30 years, and delivering the world leading Children's Capital of Culture across all of our 25 wards.

Looking ahead, the next decade will be one of the most optimistic and opportunity-rich in Rotherham's history - this is why, for the first time, we have developed a ten-year plan. Our plan is designed to build boldly on our spirit as a place and community, respond to current economic uncertainty, and ensure residents are connected to major new opportunities as the borough evolves.

The plan is built around the partnership response to the four major opportunities- our gamechangers- that will shape Rotherham's future and improve everyday life for residents:

Growing a Fair and Thriving Economy; Enabling Strong and Proud Communities; Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway and Creating Vibrant Town Centres.

Success will require us to work differently and align our effort and investment behind the gamechangers. Rotherham Together is uniquely placed to add value across all four priorities, with a clear focus on ensuring that all residents can thrive as our borough evolves. In doing this, we will provide additional emphasis on future generations and young people. We will work in new ways and set our sights higher, deepening the positive impact of each of the gamechangers, to deliver lasting benefits for Rotherham.



A Partnership that Delivers

In 2017, an extensive public consultation was carried out called the 'Views from Rotherham', which led to the development of the Rotherham Plan 2025. The plan was refreshed and relaunched in 2023. Within the Rotherham Plan partners committed to delivering tangible differences across the borough.

Over the course of this plan, we've delivered: (to be displayed in a chronological infographic)

- A new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre opened at Rotherham Hospital – 2017
- The opening of University Centre Rotherham improving access to higher education in the borough - 2018
- Council-Police neighbourhood teams to tackle shared priorities in local communities - 2019
- Kooth digital mental health support offer for both children and adults in place - 2021
- UEFA Women's Euros, welcoming 40,000 visitors and generating £5.4 million– 2022
- The canal barrier at Forge Island, protecting the town centre from flooding - 2022
- A partnership charter that sets out shared commitments to climate and nature crises– 2023
- A partnership Armed Forces Covenant, pledging support to the armed forces community- 2024
- Completion of development of the Community Diagnostic Centre at Breathing Space, improving patient access and reducing pressure on hospital resources - 2024
- The world leading Children's Capital of Culture festival year, including 138 traineeships for local young people– 2025
- Forge Island development, including the Borough's first cinema in 30 years (as requested by children in 2017) and a hotel in 2024, and new places to eat and drink in 2025.
- Skills Street, a cutting-edge careers experience for young people at Gulliver's Valley- 2025
- More than 1,000 people supported to move into work over 5 years through Employment Solutions – 2025
- Nearly 10,000 new woodland trees planted - 2025
- Olive Lane Development at Waverley and Waverley's new medical centre -2025
- Annual Rotherham Show, with 96,000 attending the biggest ever show in 2025
- A new tram train stop at Magna -2026

Why Rotherham Together matters

Rotherham Together unites partners across health, local government, policing, education, the voluntary sector and business to focus on what matters most for the borough.

By bringing together colleagues from across health, business, community safety and inclusion, Rotherham Together adds value – enabling identification of shared priorities, removing barriers and solving problems collaboratively.

By aligning our efforts, residents see more impact and better outcomes from the investment made across Rotherham.

A Borough of Spirit and Opportunity

Rotherham is a place full of surprises – rich in character, creativity and opportunity. We have an in-built sense of pride, purpose and resilience which is fundamental to our identity.

Nature and industry sit side by side. We have a wealth of green space, with 70% of the borough open countryside. We power thousands of local businesses and the world leading manufacturing giants of Don Valley Corridor. We are a place of makers and a place that matters.

We remember the past and look to the future. Our rich heritage, dug from mines and forged in steelworks, has given us remarkable places to explore today - including the extraordinary Wentworth Woodhouse- now also a host of the prestigious RHS Flower Show.

We value community. Our large, engaged and active voluntary sector embodies the neighbourliness, generosity and energy of our people.

We have ambition and creativity. As the world's first Children's Capital of Culture through our 2025 festival year we championed the voice of young people, giving them even more reason to be proud of their borough.

Residents have developed this map to show what they love most about Rotherham – from Magna to Rother Valley, scenic walks to community spirit, Forge Island to family.

This is what makes Rotherham our home.

And these are some of the assets, strengths and opportunities our plan will build on over the next 10 years.



Our Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

Rotherham is a fantastic borough, with brilliant assets and resourceful, industrious residents contributing to growing productivity, momentum, and optimism about our future. These are some of the opportunities we want to capitalise on as a partnership:

1. We are delivering the largest regeneration programme in a generation and there's more to come – we're delivering £200m of government investment, with a further £1.2billion in potential private investment stimulated by Rotherham Gateway Station alone.
2. We love where we live – our residents have greater satisfaction with their local area as a place to live than the England average.
3. We have the fastest growing economy in the North – over the last 2 decades our productivity increased by 64%.
4. We are a great place to visit – there were 4.2m visits to Rotherham visitor attractions in 2025, generating £600m for the local economy.
5. We are at the heart of the country – with 4.5m people within 30 miles of the borough.
6. We care - Rotherham boasts 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations and well over 10,000 volunteers.

Challenges

We need however, to acknowledge some of the significant and pervasive challenges and inequalities which we will seek to overcome in delivering this new Rotherham Plan and our gamechangers.

This plan seeks to address the five challenges below, which will form the yardstick against which we measure our success:

1. 1 in 5 residents live in the 10% most deprived areas of England, and 31% of children live in poverty.
2. Residents develop poor health earlier than average and spend longer in poor health. This is worse in our most deprived areas.
3. 1 in 4 working-age people are economically inactive, with long-term sickness rates higher than the national average. Educational qualifications and skills attainment are lower than comparator areas.
4. Public transport is limiting, rather than enabling our progress. Only 24% of residents are within a 30 min walk of a train station, compared to 51% nationally.
5. Rotherham town centre vacancy rate is higher than the national average, impacting footfall and how safe people feel in our town centre.

Our Vision for the Next Decade:

Rotherham will be an even more innovative and future-facing borough, where all residents can thrive, with fair access to the opportunities and services they need to be happy and well.

As the Centre for Thriving Places describes, thriving places are those where people can access the fundamentals of wellbeing: good health, secure livelihoods, decent housing, social connections and support, opportunities to learn, green spaces and clean air.

Creating these conditions would enable all residents to be well and live happy, fulfilled lives.

This ten-year plan builds on our strengths as a borough to deliver generational, lasting change. Partners will take decisive action, centred on the gamechangers, to enable future generations of Rotherham residents to thrive. Whilst this is a plan for everyone, we will actively prioritise the future generations through this plan – embedding the voice and needs of children and young people across policy, decision-making and delivery.

We will deliver this plan as part of a broader regional system, where we enable resilient places, a healthier workforce and a stronger economy, not just for Rotherham but also in support of a prouder, more purposeful and prosperous South Yorkshire.

Through this approach, we will create a forward-looking, innovative Rotherham - full of opportunity, rooted in inclusion and committed to ensuring that no one is left behind.

“You’ve got what it used to be, with all the industry and everything that came with that.

Then you’ve got what it is now, which feels a bit in-between, like it’s still finding its place.

And then there’s what it could be, with all the changes that are happening.

It’s like it hasn’t quite reached that next stage yet, but you can see it coming.”

The Gamechangers for Rotherham

The gamechangers are the activities which will define our borough for the next decade and beyond.

They have the potential to dramatically improve life in Rotherham. But on their own, these interventions will not achieve the change we want to see. We must work differently, maximising the full value and breadth of our partnership, to fully realise their benefit to local people.

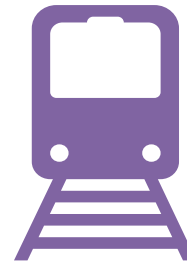
Our strategy is to unite the partnership and the potential of our shared resource and influence behind these areas of focus. We will supercharge the gamechangers, moving beyond business as usual, enabling them not only to deliver great infrastructure and places, but also to create generational opportunities, improve quality of life and change perceptions of our borough.



Growing a Fair and Thriving Economy



Enabling Strong and Proud Communities



Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway



Creating Vibrant Town Centres

Working in Context: Three Big Questions Impacting How We Grow a Fair and Thriving Economy

Our plan is founded on the ambition to support a good economy which improves the quality of life of our residents. As we start this plan, the world is changing. Factors outside our control and events elsewhere in the world will have a significant impact on the future of our economy, so we need to adapt and work in new ways. The partnership will provide a space to think differently about the economy and its impact on people's lives. In doing so, we will be guided by the following questions:

1. How can we build a resilient, fair economy that helps residents live well, shielding them from the uncertainty of rising living costs, while ensuring that work pays and wellbeing is a shared economic outcome?
2. How do we prepare Rotherham for the future world of work, staying ahead of AI, automation and changing employment patterns, so businesses and residents can adapt and thrive?
3. How do we invest now to secure a sustainable future for the next generation, ensuring young people are ready to take up the opportunities available to them in a decade's time, while responding to the climate crisis?

"The support I've had locally has been really good. If you're starting something or trying to grow, there is help there and people will work with you. That side of it has been positive, and you can see what's possible if that continues."

"Most people I know don't work locally... it's quite normal now for people to commute to Sheffield or other places, because that's where the opportunities are."

"It can feel quite disconnected — like the opportunities are there somewhere, but people don't necessarily know how to access them or progress through them. Unless you've got someone pointing you in the right direction, it's not always easy to see how you get from one step to the next."

"If people don't see opportunities locally, they'll go elsewhere, and that has a knock-on effect. They're not here during the day, they're not spending locally, and that affects businesses. It all links together — jobs, footfall, how the town feels. If one part isn't working, it affects everything else"

Our Vision for Growing a Fair and Thriving Economy

In 2036 our economy will provide the foundation for residents to live better lives. All Rotherham residents will be able to secure good jobs, financial security and the ability to plan confidently for the future. Businesses will start to thrive in a supportive environment, where they can work with purpose in support not only of their corporate objectives, but also of the wider ambition of the town and its residents.

How we will work and what this means:

The next decade will be critical for our economy, an opportunity to change the story for Rotherham and its residents. To do this, we will create more capacity in our economy, cultivating the spaces for new and existing economic activities to thrive. We will embed our nationally significant strengths in innovation and advanced manufacturing, whilst adapting to accommodate activity in clean energy and life sciences, and harnessing the borough's potential in digital technologies, creative industries and health innovation.

We will not overlook our existing businesses, recognising that much of the future growth in the economy will come from businesses who are already here. We will work with these companies over the long term, to help them adapt and diversify, creating even stronger roots in Rotherham.

A thriving economy depends on a healthy, mobile workforce, connected to opportunity by good public transport and fair access to the services that help them live well. Mobilising our residents- particularly our young people- to drive our growing economy will start now, requiring new approaches to engagement, participation, learning and skills development across the borough.

We will amplify local opportunities to inspire residents to stay and build a career in Rotherham, safe in the knowledge they don't need to leave the borough to achieve their ambitions. They will have access to a range of pathways to develop their skills and experience to equip them for our future economy.

Our approach will also seek to proactively retain the wealth we create in our economy, ensuring that more of the money generated in Rotherham, stays in Rotherham. This means partners buying locally and our high streets providing local, high-quality goods and services for local people.

Within the next two years, we will create a new borough wide inclusive economy strategy, working across the partnership to ensure businesses and residents are supported to adapt to the context and opportunities of the next decade. We will evolve our approach to measuring our social value and maximising our collective local spend providing a clearer route map to increase retention of wealth in the borough.

Building upon the South Yorkshire Youth Guarantee, we will create career pathways for young people, weaving them into the opportunities of the next 10 years, including continued investment in apprenticeships. We will create new working arrangements between health, council, and voluntary sector partners to put the wellbeing of residents at the heart of our economic outcomes, with specific action to address ill health as a barrier to work.

As employers ourselves, we will evolve our approach to supporting specific target groups into work, particularly care-leavers and residents with learning disabilities. We will continue to prioritise the creation of apprenticeships across the borough, accelerating provision to deliver 400 new apprenticeship starts over the next two years. Through a range of employment support programmes, we will support more than 2,000 residents, with at least 800 progressing into work and/or training opportunities within this period.

In five years, as major projects are delivered, residents will feel engaged in and proud of their local economy. We will have a stronger idea of our future economic specialisms, mobilising specific plans for skills development and investment in support of this. Investors will actively choose Rotherham and businesses will be more engaged as partners in the borough's economic evolution. Rotherham will be receiving national recognition for our work as stewards of a good economy. Residents will recognise optimism in the local economy and will feel connected to it, with a sense that new investment is fair, inclusive and shared.

Working in Context: Three Big Questions Impacting How We Enable Strong and Proud Communities

Across the country, neighbourhoods are dealing with long-standing challenges that shape everyday life and wellbeing. Rotherham is no exception. As we continue to adapt and look ahead to long-term renewal, there is clear energy and optimism: 70% of 18–24-year-olds feel positive about Rotherham’s future as a place to live, whilst residents are keen to have a stronger voice in shaping their neighbourhoods. Partners will build on this momentum and local commitment, supporting strong and proud communities while exploring the following questions:

1. How do we strengthen belonging, trust, and pride in our neighbourhoods, building deeper connections, and ensuring people from different backgrounds get on well together?
2. How can we improve trust and engagement in local services, so communities better support resident wellbeing, so that people feel healthy, well, safe, secure and more able to thrive where they live?
3. How do we enable truly community-led change, removing barriers in our systems and meaningfully involving young people in shaping services, spaces and decisions for the future?

“[Rotherham] listens to kids and young people. It’s good because they want young people to be heard”

“There used to be more places where people would go and see each other, just naturally. You don’t have as much of that anymore, so you don’t get the same level of interaction”

“I do think there’s a sense of community round here. You know people, you see the same faces all the time, and you’ll stop and have a chat, It’s that kind of place”

“You hear about things going on now, but it’s not like it’s happening to you...you just take a bit more notice”

“Places like the library are important because people can go there without having to spend money.”

Our Vision for Enabling Strong and Proud Communities

Everyone can be part of a community where people build good relationships with their neighbours, access high-quality local services close to home, feel pride and a sense of belonging, and have the resources and opportunities to participate in civic life- improving their lives, those of others and neighbourhoods as whole.

The borough's communities will be stronger – community will act as the glue to support people to stay and be proud of Rotherham. People get along, feel safe, and trust that institutions work together to support everyone's happiness, health and wellbeing.

How we will work and what this means:

We will listen to and champion the voice of all our communities. We will work with them on what they say is important, making sure services are easy to access and shaped around local needs. We will empower our communities to grow in capability, providing more opportunities for local people to be involved in shaping their neighbourhoods, strengthening people's sense of belonging and pride in where they live.

Building on the success of our first St George's Day celebration event at Clifton Park, we will continue to find new ways to support our communities to grow in confidence and create the conditions for people from different backgrounds to get on well together.

Children's Capital of Culture has shown what we can achieve when we empower our young people. As such, we will elevate the role of young people in our partnership, ensuring that this plan sets the tone for the next generation of residents. This will help us ensure that younger residents understand their important role in community life, and have access to spaces, activities and services which have been designed with and for them, supporting their wellbeing.

As a partnership we will be guided by analytical insight to improve understanding of neighbourhood-level context and needs, enabling better targeting of services, maximising our impact and building confidence that partners are working in a deliberate and coordinated way.

Within the next two years, Our investment in support for the voluntary and community sectors, delivered by Voluntary Action Rotherham, will provide practical empowerment through advice, guidance and training on starting and developing groups, securing funding and supporting volunteers.

We will continue to prioritise joint working between police and partnership teams, including the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Council Street Safe Teams, to deliver an efficient, effective service for the people of Rotherham; maximising opportunities through use of the legislation and powers that are available to us. South Yorkshire Police will continue to invest in neighbourhood policing, and collectively we will act on the feedback from communities to improve our services and target the issues which matter to them most.

We will develop a new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, bringing residents closer to decisions that influence their communities and making services and partners more visible, particularly in more deprived neighborhoods. New arrangements will be implemented to support neighbourhood health, shifting investment into communities to make wellbeing services more accessible for residents.

Building on the success of Children’s Capital of Culture, we will establish a programme of events and activities which continues to empower local children and young people. The Pride in Place programme will give local residents an increasing role in making investments in Maltby and our central area. We will expand our investment in community spaces which provide vital and accessible opportunities for residents to connect, socialise and support one another, including libraries, community centres, family hubs and social clubs, ensuring that residents have access to 21st century community assets they can be proud of.

We will support the development of high quality leisure spaces and opportunities across the public, private and voluntary sectors, including our country parks, new sports facilities, children’s play areas and the emerging proposals for a white-water course at Manvers Lake.

In five years, communities will feel more cohesive and self-sustaining. Our public buildings and local spaces will feel better used and more purposeful, hosting services that genuinely support people’s health, wellbeing, and daily lives. New and emerging community groups will feel more confident, better supported, and more able to thrive—mirroring the revival of familiar social assets like social clubs, which will once again feel like anchors of local life. Residents will report a renewed sense of civic pride and overall satisfaction with life in the borough.

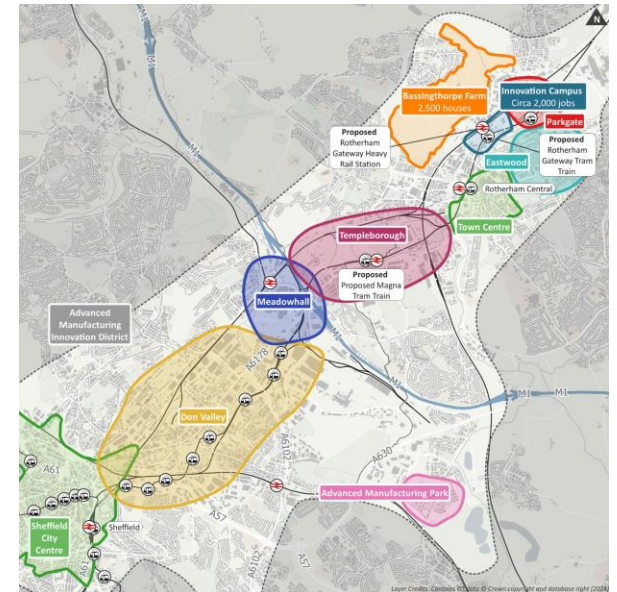
Working in context: Three Big Questions Impacting Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley Corridor

The Don Valley, stretching from Rotherham to Sheffield, is now nationally recognised as one of the most exciting national economic opportunities of the next 30 years. We have already proven we can deliver in this area, supporting the borough to become home to world leading companies including Rolls Royce and McLaren. The next stage of the corridor's evolution is even more significant and ambitious.

Despite the successes of the last two decades, not enough of our residents feel connected to, or inspired by, these opportunities. It is critical that we secure new investment and growth, but do so in a way that supports a noticeable improvement in the lives of residents. This will be particularly crucial to the success of Rotherham Gateway, comprising a new mainline rail station for the borough, which will be developed close to some of our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The Don Valley will be a project of more than 20 years, but planning for inclusion must start now, underpinned by new partnership responses to some significant questions:

1. How do we create a coherent, compelling story for the Don Valley Corridor that positions Rotherham at the heart of the UK's industrial evolution, attracting long term investment?
2. How do we improve connectivity across the corridor, linking Rotherham Gateway, the town centre and surrounding communities through better public transport and infrastructure?
3. How can we work with the right local, regional and national partners now to ensure these investments deliver inclusive, long-term benefits and connect communities to opportunities over the next 5, 10 and 20 years?



“People will go to Parkgate because it’s easy, but there isn’t really that link back into town. It feels like two separate places rather than something that works together”

“There are good jobs out there, places like the AMRC and things like that, but not everyone can get to them. If you’ve got transport and you can travel, then it opens things up. But if you haven’t, or it’s not straightforward, then those opportunities might as well not be there.”

“[The Gateway Station] That’s the kind of thing that could change how people use the town. If it’s easier to get in and out, more people might come in as well.”

“If it means you don’t have to go into Sheffield to get a train, that would make a big difference. It would make things feel a lot more connected and easier to get to places”

Our Vision for Unlocking the Potential of Rotherham Gateway

Rotherham Gateway Mainline Station will be successfully delivered and will be recognised as a key anchor of the Don Valley Corridor. This modern transport hub will put Rotherham at the heart of a revived northern transport network, generating up to 1,000 new high value jobs, 3,000 new homes and £52million improvement in the local economy. Long term planning and engagement will mean that these are the right type of jobs and homes, with investment providing direct benefits to the lives of local people. The Gateway will also be the key to unlock further significant benefits across the Don Valley Corridor, including securing £1.2billion in private investment and thousands more jobs.

How we will work and what this means:

We know that simply delivering physical infrastructure and securing private investment will not guarantee positive outcomes for local people. We will work carefully and at pace to ensure that Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley projects set new standards of inclusion and representation of residents.

We see Rotherham Gateway as a pivot which will support and enable the successful delivery of our other gamechangers – generating apprenticeships and local jobs; driving revenues to invest in public services; and connecting our communities to opportunities across the north and beyond.

When looking to our future generations, improved connectivity will expand horizons and opportunities for our younger residents, with key investments across the Don Valley Corridor improving access to skills development, work experience and well-paid jobs.



We will develop new collaborations and working arrangements, to clearly connect economic and commercial opportunities with outcomes for public health, community cohesion, nature renewal and safety.

Within the next two years, working in partnership with government, SYMCA and private investors, we will start to assemble funding to support both the physical transformation and business diversification. This starts with the government's £86.5m investment in ITM Power UK which will create 400 new jobs in the clean energy sector on our doorstep. A further £19m Rolls-Royce investment in Rotherham's advanced manufacturing capability will increase the availability of high-quality local manufacturing roles, keeping these valuable skills within the community.

We will have secured the investment for Rotherham Gateway station, and business cases and deeper evidence will provide the foundations that will allow us to work differently across Don Valley. We will have a stronger understanding of the opportunity and its future impact, mobilising programmes of activity which prepare our residents and businesses for the positive changes ahead.

Anchored by the new tram stop at Magna, we will deliver the new Templeborough Business Zone, providing new managed workspace capacity alongside community amenities and green space for those living in the Don Valley Corridor.

In five years, Rotherham Gateway Station will enter service. This milestone will prompt the delivery of the Innovation Campus, further changing the industrial character and economic influence of Rotherham. Links to the town centre will be established and a programme for inclusion and renewal for the Don Valley will be well underway, with local businesses and residents seeing the opportunity as their own.

Working in Context: Three Big Questions Impacting Vibrant Town Centres

For many residents, pride in the borough is closely tied to the success of our town centres. While our high streets have undergone significant change- shaped by local competition, and wider shifts in how people shop and spend time- there is an increasing sense of optimism in our local centres.

Street safe teams have been launched across our principal towns; Forge Island has provided the borough's first cinema in 30 years and nearly 200 homes have been built in Rotherham town centre. Regeneration schemes have launched across the borough, to revitalise our town centres and make them places in which people want to spend time, with opportunities to access useful services and support to grow their businesses.

We know that more work is needed to create the activity, consistency, and appeal residents want, so in doing so Rotherham Together will consider the following questions:

1. How do we further enhance the perception of Rotherham Town Centre? Can we diversify the offer to increase the number of return visits from residents and those outside of the borough?
2. How do we create town centres across the borough that feel busy and welcoming for everyone, with better use of empty buildings, and shaped by meaningful involvement of different groups- from children and young people, to families, older residents, and disabled people?
3. How can all of our town centres become places that improve the wellbeing of our residents, with easier access to services, green spaces, and where partners are visibly working together in a way that people trust and promotes confidence?

"You've got places like Parkgate where it's all in one place and easy, whereas town feels a bit more spread out and harder to know where to go"

"Some bits are fine, some bits you wouldn't really want to stay in too long... it's not consistent."

"My daughter and her family love it, they go to the cinema and make a trip of it. That's the kind of thing you need, something that brings people in and gives them a reason to come."

"It's like it's in-between – not what it was, but not fully something new either"

Our Vision for Vibrant Town Centres

Our town centres will be vibrant, welcoming places that bring people together and make a real contribution to quality of life across the borough. Better services and an attractive environment will encourage residents and visitors to spend more time in our principal centres.

In Rotherham town centre, a growing local population will create a lively, bustling feel, while a more diverse offer will support a safer, busier evening economy. The centre will be easy to reach, with pleasant routes linking to the new mainline rail and tram station at Rotherham Gateway.

Across the borough, empty units will be brought back into use — and pride in our town centres will be the lasting result.

How we will work and what this means:

To make sure our town centres are relevant and thriving in a rapidly changing world, we are redefining how we measure success—moving beyond traditional metrics of retail and spending, to also prioritise the social, wellbeing and community value which town centres can deliver.

The breadth of the partnership will enable new collaborations in terms of public service delivery, public health and safety. This means that as we develop new strategies, including our masterplan for Rotherham town centre, we can do this in new and innovative ways. Younger residents will have a genuine role in shaping our town centres, ensuring these important public spaces have something fun to offer for families and young people alike, and improving how confident young people feel in navigating them.

We will strengthen our collective effort to support residents to buy local, whilst a more active and flexible approach to letting partner properties will give local businesses the confidence to test new ideas in a supportive environment. From a strong base, culture will be at the heart of the evolution of our town centres.

An engaging and exciting programme of events will draw people into our town centres, making them vibrant hubs for our communities and places where people come together. In Rotherham town centre, this sense of surprise and discovery will drive a renaissance in the visitor and nighttime economy. Increasing the central residential population will be a key priority and require more than simply building new homes. It will demand thoughtful improvements to streets and public spaces, whilst enhancing Rotherham town centre's heritage.

Within the next two years, as we deliver significant regeneration and invest in public spaces within our town centres, we will ensure traders can capitalise upon the opportunities this creates. We will support businesses and community organisations to fill previously empty units and revitalise streets across the borough, making better use of public sector buildings to support entrepreneurship and culture in our town centres.

Across our town centres, including Dinnington, Maltby, Rotherham, Swinton and Wath, we will support the regeneration of our high streets with a focus on improving footfall, business support and making public spaces more pleasant and welcoming. This will include capital investments in key service hubs, including redeveloped markets, libraries and community and civic centres, and making town centres more attractive. A new team will proactively support businesses in our principal town centres, helping them to flourish and ensuring resources are focused on tackling the issues which matter most.

In Rotherham Town Centre, a new Health Hub will also draw people in for essential wellbeing services, and a new masterplan, supported by closer partnership working across the public sector will provide clearer direction and momentum.

In five years, the town centre will feel better connected, more exciting and established. Improved public transport, and walking and cycling routes will make it easier for residents to choose their local centres. Good public services will play an increasingly important role in our town centres, driving more visits and ultimately more local spending. With more people living and spending time in Rotherham Town Centre, it will feel more rooted in everyday life, with a stronger community presence helping to enhance pride in our town.

Delivery

This plan is built upon the principle that the partnership delivers more as a collective, working alongside the daily activities of members and other partners to deliver added value. This activity is delivered by a number of boards and groups, and guided by the plans and strategies below, which will also support the delivery of the target outcomes set out on the next page.

Key partnership strategies:

- Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-2028
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 2025-2030
- Cultural Partnership Strategy – 2019-2026
- Employment and Skills Strategy – 2026-2031
- The emerging Children and Young People’s Partnership Plan

This plan has also been developed in alignment with sub-regional strategies, including:

- Local Growth Plan
- The emerging South Yorkshire Strategy

Our thematic boards:

- Our **Children and Young People’s Partnership Board** brings together local children and young people to give their opinions on the priorities of the partnership, ensuring their voice is reflected in key partnership decision making to improve opportunities for children and young people across the borough.
- The **Cultural Partnership Board** is made up of various partner organisations from the culture and leisure sectors in Rotherham. The Board members provide strategic leadership, shared governance and sector expertise, working collaboratively to shape priorities and oversee the coordinated delivery of the Borough’s Cultural Strategy
- The **Business Growth Board** represents the voice of business within our decision-making and planning, and provides leadership, drive and support in overseeing the delivery of the South Yorkshire Growth Plan in Rotherham and ensuring it meets Rotherham’s local priorities.

- The **Health and Wellbeing Board** brings together health leaders to drive action that improves health outcomes, reduces inequalities and enables people in Rotherham to live healthy, independent lives in thriving communities.
- The **Safer Rotherham Partnership** is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which brings together the responsible authorities which have a duty to work together to protect their local communities, and help people feel safer.

Our **Safeguarding Children's Partnership** and **Safeguarding Adults Board** also bring together key partners from across the borough to ensure we are collectively protecting our most vulnerable residents.

Within the next two years, the partnership will redesign its delivery and governance arrangements to ensure that these reflect the aspirations set out within this plan. This will include specific focus on the four gamechangers and enhanced representation for the borough's young people in guiding the future of the Rotherham Together Partnership.

Our Priority Outcomes

Delivering on this plan will require significant commitments from partners, as well as requiring us to find new ways of monitoring and measuring success. These outcomes will guide our collective prioritisation of effort and resource.

Fair and Thriving Economy	Strong and Thriving Communities	Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley	Vibrant Town Centres
People are skilled and our workforce is adaptable for the economy of the future	Communities feel healthy, safe and resilient, with people enjoying the best possible mental health and wellbeing	Rotherham Gateway station opens, making travel easier across the borough and beyond	Town centres are recognised as being safe, clean, busy and welcoming
More local people are accessing high-quality jobs that pay good wages	Greater engagement of residents with local services which are shaped by their needs	People are well connected to Rotherham Gateway station	People can access good public services in town centres which help improve their wellbeing
More of the Rotherham £ is spent in Rotherham	People from different backgrounds get on well together	Private investment into Rotherham increases	Vacancy rates are reduced, with a greater variety of thriving businesses
People live well for longer	More public buildings and spaces are used to host services supporting people's health, wellbeing and daily life	New jobs and opportunities are available and accessible to local people	Day and nighttime use of Rotherham town centre increases with a greater variety of places to eat, drink and socialise
Businesses can flourish and are empowered to contribute to local communities	Community groups and networks are confident and sustainable	Innovation activity increases in Rotherham	More people choose to live in and visit Rotherham town centre
Children and young people are equipped for a career in a rapidly changing labour market.	Children and young people feel their voice is heard, and help shape public spaces, services and activities.	Developments across the Don Valley generate new apprenticeships and clear career pathways for local young people	Children and young people feel more confident when navigating our town centres and have more fun things to do.

Cross-cutting partnership outcomes:

- Good public services are available and accessible to all
- Residents across the borough share in the benefits of the gamechangers
- All children are ready for school (with good communication, social and emotional skills, independent, physically able and healthy routines)
- Poverty and inequalities are reduced
- Financial resilience is increased
- Health inequalities are reduced
- Partners are responsive to neighbourhood and community priorities
- Rotherham is recognised nationally as a great place to live and visit

How we'll work together

Rotherham Together brings together a wide range of organisations that all play a part in the life of our borough. Together we work across many different services, projects and plans.

This variety is one of our biggest strengths. It allows us to connect people, ideas and resources in ways that wouldn't be possible alone. We know that our gamechangers are already progressing and will continue to evolve over time. That's why we'll be clear and purposeful about where we focus our efforts, making sure our involvement adds real value.

We also know the world is changing quickly. To keep making progress, we'll stay flexible and ready to adapt, responding to what residents need and what works best.

To guide how we work, we've agreed seven simple principles:

- **Bringing people together**
We'll connect organisations and people to shape ideas, share learning and keep momentum going.
- **Securing funding and investment**
While funding is limited, we'll help attract public funding and support partners to bring investment into the borough.
- **Listening, engaging and understanding**
We'll engage with people and communities to understand their views, to inform decisions about Rotherham's future.
- **Championing Rotherham**
We'll proudly promote the borough, its people and organisations, showing what makes Rotherham a great place and why our way of working matters.
- **Trying new things**
We'll create space for partners to test new ideas and work differently, learning what works and sharing that learning.
- **Using what we already have**
Together, partners own land and buildings across the borough. We'll use these assets more effectively to support our shared ambitions.
- **Tracking progress and learning**
We'll focus on understanding what success really looks like for residents, measuring progress fairly and learning as we go.

Governance and accountability

Delivering this new 10-year plan will require partners to work together, creating the space and capacity to collectively drive progress on the gamechangers.

To ensure we are transparent and accountable to the public, we will also:

- Publish an initial 2-year action plan, setting out key activities and commitments to reaching our first set of milestones
- Hold public showcase events, sharing progress against the delivery plan and providing opportunity for feedback and questions
- Issue a biannual Rotherham Together newsletter to every household, celebrating key achievements and raising awareness of the gamechangers
- Refresh the Rotherham Together communications strategy, keeping people informed and providing ongoing opportunities for feedback and engagement

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Rotherham Plan Consultation Report

March 2026



Contents:

1. Introduction and background
2. Methodology
3. Engagement profile
4. Executive summary
5. Summary of findings from resident interviews
6. Summary of findings from stakeholder workshops



1. Introduction and background

Rotherham Together is a partnership which brings together 8 core local partner organisations—Rotherham Council, Rotherham North Notts Group, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Foundation Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce. Together, these partners work collaboratively to improve life across the borough.

The Rotherham Plan 2025, which sets out the partnership's strategic direction and priorities in relation to five themes—a place to be proud of, an inclusive economy, climate and environment, health and wellbeing, and building stronger communities - is due to expire at the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.

To support development of a more ambitious 10-year Rotherham Plan, the Strategic Partnership Group met in late summer 2025 to review shared ambitions and agree the proposed engagement approach with partners and residents. The discussion focused on where collective action could add the greatest value over the next decade.

A 10-week consultation was subsequently undertaken to gather views on the proposed gamechanger priorities - the key projects which the partnership has identified will have the biggest impact for the borough over the next decade. These include: a fair and thriving economy, a vibrant town centre, strong and thriving communities, and Rotherham Gateway and the Don Valley. The partnership will not only drive these developments but seek to ensure that all residents can see and feel the benefit of them.

The consultation aimed to identify existing activity already underway, surface emerging issues requiring partnership intervention, and understand public perceptions in relation to these priorities. This engagement was essential for ensuring the new plan reflects local needs and to understand how the gamechangers can deliver broader benefits and address inequalities across the borough.

This report outlines the methodology used, the engagement profile of respondents, an executive summary of the main themes emerging from the consultation and the qualitative analysis of consultation output.

2. Methodology

Following a discussion with the Strategic Partnership Group on 29th October to scope the parameters for engagement, the consultation began on 7 January 2026 and concluded on 17 March 2026. During this period, Rotherham Together facilitated a series of workshops involving stakeholders from across the partnership, and Spirul was commissioned by the partnership to conduct interviews with residents. Full details of the groups involved are provided in section 3 (engagement profile) below.

2.1 Resident interviews:

In March 2026, Spirul carried out three days of hall-test interviews with residents across Dinnington, Wath upon Dearne, and Rotherham Town Centre. These sessions were designed to capture a broad and diverse range of perspectives by engaging people in accessible, high footfall locations. Each interview was structured around the four proposed gamechanger priorities, enabling the partnership to gather insights on how residents experienced these issues in their daily lives, the extent to which the priorities resonated with local needs, and any additional challenges or opportunities they felt should be reflected in the partnership's future plans.

This approach provided valuable qualitative evidence that complemented the stakeholder engagement and ensured that resident voices were central to shaping the emerging priorities. It also provided depth of insight into the awareness or perceptions held by residents in relation to the gamechangers, which will inform development of the condensed plan which will be distributed to all households, as well as the development of a new partnership communications strategy.

2.2 Stakeholder workshop sessions:

The workshop sessions provided space for semi-structured, open conversations with local stakeholders, enabling discussion of the key issues facing the borough which require a coordinated partnership response. Facilitators were provided with discussion prompts to support the flow of conversation and ensure coverage of the key topic areas. These prompts included:

- What activity is planned or progressing in relation to each of the proposed gamechangers by partner organisation or board?
- What more could be achieved in relation to this gamechanger?
- Who needs to collaborate, and how can they work together to make this successful?
- How would the partnership know if this was successful?

Following the close of the consultation, all notes and written comments were analysed to identify common themes and shared priorities across each of the four gamechangers.

3. Engagement profile

3.1 Resident interviews

A total of 23 interviews were conducted with **28** respondents. The tables below set out the number of interviews conducted by day and location, as well as equalities monitoring information of participants including age and employment status (respondents provided consent for this to be used by the partnership).

Location	Date	No. interviews
Dinnington	11 March	6
Wath-Upon-Dearne	12 March	10
Rotherham Town Centre	13 March	7

Age	No. interviews
20-34 years	6
36-49 years	4
50-64 years	8
65 years and over	10
Employment status	No. interviews
Employed	9
Business owner	2
Unemployed	6
Retired	9
Carer	2

Due to the small sample sizes and the nature of qualitative research, this consultation wasn't expected to be representative of the whole borough, but rather to explore perceptions of residents in greater depth than surveying would allow. However, despite a small sample size there were clear themes emerging from the discussions with residents, which were closely aligned with the themes arising from the stakeholder workshop sessions.

Stakeholder workshop sessions

A total of 131 stakeholders participated in 8 stakeholder workshops. Respondents demonstrated a strong willingness to work collaboratively with the partnership in shaping the new plan, accompanied by a clear sense of optimism about the potential for meaningful and lasting change over the next decade.

Participants were representatives from across the thematic boards of the Rotherham Together Partnership and reflecting a range of protected characteristics. Their feedback was gathered to help shape the proposed gamechanger priorities and the emerging vision for the new plan.

Ref.	Date	Name of group	No. of attendees	Membership/groups attending	Online/ in person
1	7 January 2026 and 11 February 2026	Rotherham Together Partnership Chief Executive Officers Group	9	Voluntary Action Rotherham, Rotherham Council, Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	Hybrid: both online and in person
2	14 January 2026	Stakeholder focus group session 1 at Voluntary Action Rotherham	13	Rotherham Council, Clifton Learning Partnership, Crossroads Care Rotherham, Shiloh Rotherham, South Yorkshire Housing Association, Rotherham Business News, NHS	In person
3	15 January 2026	Stakeholder focus group session 2 at Rotherham Town Hall	17	Age UK Rotherham, Rotherham Council, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, South Yorkshire Apprenticeship Hub, Healthwatch, South Yorkshire Police, Maltby Learning Trust	In person
4	19 January 2026	Stakeholder focus group session 3 at Rotherham Town Hall	18	Rotherham Council, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Places for People Leisure, Rotherfed, Rotherham North Notts Group, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	In person

5	26 January 2026	Children and Young People's Partnership Board at Rotherham Town Hall	14 young people, plus 6 Rotherham Council staff who supported the facilitation of activities and discussions.	A forum for children and young people to discuss the Rotherham Plan priorities that matter most to them and for local partner organisations to seek support, challenge, and share insight helps ensure that children and young people's views and voices have a meaningful impact.	In person
6	24 th February 2026	RTP Apprenticeship Working Group	6	A forum that brings together representatives from the 8 core partners of Rotherham Together Partnership to discuss workforce development, including the creation of apprenticeships for new employees and upskilling opportunities for existing staff to address skills gaps.	Online
7	26 February 2026	Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust Senior Leadership Team	30	A meeting that brings together the Trust's operational management team responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation.	In person
8	17 th March 2026	Business Growth Board	18	A forum that brings together private sector-led partners aimed at driving the borough economic strategy, focusing on job creation, skills development, and regeneration.	In person

Any specific issues raised in these workshops have been fed back to relevant services, and the detailed priorities and findings are outlined in section 6.2 – 6.6.

4. Executive summary

Across all methods of engagement, there is consistent and compelling evidence to indicate that the proposed gamechanger priorities represent the right areas of focus for the partnership to pursue to deliver meaningful change and improve outcomes for local communities.

4.1 A Vibrant Town Centre

Respondents reported approaching the Town Centre with some caution due to unease about its atmosphere and, at times, safety, although recent developments such as Forge Island, the markets, new housing and the expansion of Grimm & Co were viewed positively and seen as strengthening its long-term potential. Engagement identified four areas where the partnership can have the greatest impact: enhancing service provision, improving public transport, strengthening community safety and adopting a more coordinated approach to place marketing.

Residents and stakeholders emphasised the need to broaden the leisure and cultural offer and create safe, inclusive spaces, particularly for young people to support increased footfall and improve perceptions of the Town Centre. Reliable, accessible and safe public transport was highlighted as critical for widening access to jobs, education, services and leisure. Strengthening community safety through visible policing and preventative measures, along with improved place marketing, was seen as essential for building confidence and promoting the borough's strengths.

The success of this gamechanger will depend on strengthening communication and engagement with communities, expanding the range of activities on offer, and improving perceptions to encourage greater participation and spending. Respondents also recognised the need for clear, measurable indicators, such as increased visitor numbers, community participation, improved perception scores and stronger economic activity to track progress and demonstrate impact.

4.2 Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley

Rotherham Gateway station was broadly welcomed for its potential to improve direct transport links, although awareness of the project varied and many residents were unsure how it would benefit them. The overriding priority for respondents was improving everyday connectivity to employment, essential services and the Town Centre. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for stronger links to Rotherham Hospital and the Advanced Manufacturing Park, recognising these connections as vital for widening access to high-quality jobs and supporting economic growth.

Stakeholders additionally emphasised the importance of climate-adaptation measures along the Don Valley Corridor, including resilience-focused design and strengthened green-industry supply chains. Improved engagement with schools and colleges to develop future skills pipelines and the continued delivery of mixed-tenure housing were also seen as important for inclusive growth.

Overall, the gamechanger received strong support, with reliable transport links viewed as essential for improving access to opportunities, boosting local economic activity and enhancing the overall experience of Rotherham. Complementary measures identified included building civic pride, strengthening climate action efforts and expanding business support to maximise long-term, inclusive benefits.

4.3 Strong and Thriving Communities

Residents generally feel safe in their neighbourhoods, supported by strong local connections, community spirit and access to good-quality green spaces. However, this sense of pride does not always extend to the wider borough, and younger and working-age residents reported feeling less connected to community life. Respondents highlighted the need for more accessible social spaces and activities, particularly for young people as well as better use of existing community assets and more targeted support for areas experiencing higher levels of need. Strengthening place marketing was also seen as important for improving perceptions and attracting future opportunities.

The success of this gamechanger will depend on increasing opportunities for participation, improving the visibility of community activity and promoting more positive narratives about the borough. Stronger partnership working between statutory services and the voluntary and community sector was viewed as essential for coordinating support, aligning resources and delivering projects that build civic pride and strengthen community cohesion.

4.4 A Fair and Thriving Economy

Residents recognise that employment opportunities exist locally and across the region, but many feel it is difficult to access the right roles, particularly those offering progression. Entry-level positions are often not visible or readily available, especially for younger people. Stakeholders echoed these challenges and highlighted the need to expand post-16 education provision, strengthen pathways for Level 2–3 learners, and increase access to apprenticeships and traineeships.

While commuting, particularly to Sheffield is common, limited transport options and varying levels of confidence mean that opportunities outside Rotherham are not equally accessible, creating a gap between where jobs are located and who can realistically reach them.

A key difference in feedback between residents and stakeholders was stakeholders' emphasis on maximising social value and strengthening business support. They highlighted opportunities to use procurement, commissioning and investment to create wider community benefits, such as local job creation, support for small and voluntary-sector organisations and increased use of local supply chains. Consistent and accessible business support was seen as essential for helping organisations grow, adopt sustainable practices and contribute to a stronger local economy, ensuring economic opportunities translate into real benefits for residents.

The success of this gamechanger relies on ensuring that employment opportunities are accessible, visible and aligned with residents' needs. Improving entry-level opportunities, strengthening pathways into work, and enabling inclusive access to jobs across the region will be essential. Positive experiences of local business support provide a strong foundation on which to build.

5. Summary of findings from resident interviews

5.1 A Vibrant Town Centre

Residents feel safe in their own neighbourhoods but are more cautious in the Town Centre, where unease is driven by atmosphere and observed behaviour rather than direct experiences. The Town Centre is widely seen as quieter than in the past, with reduced activity making it feel less inviting and giving people fewer reasons to visit.

Recent and planned investments, such as Forge Island, the Arc Cinema and the new library are viewed positively, but their impact is still emerging, and the Town Centre does not yet feel cohesive. Some areas are attractive, while others feel less welcoming, contributing to a fragmented experience.

“My daughter and her family love the cinema and make a trip of it. That’s the kind of thing you need - something that brings people in and gives them a reason to come.”

“There are parts of it that are nice, definitely, but then you move into other areas, and it just feels completely different.”

“It doesn’t feel as safe as it used to. There used to be more people about, more going on, and that made it feel better.”

Overall, the Town Centre lacks the activity, consistency and appeal that residents want. Increasing footfall, improving the feel of the place and strengthening links between new developments will be important for boosting confidence and supporting local businesses.

5.2 Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley

Residents consistently emphasised the importance of connectivity for accessing employment, services and the Town Centre. Many commute to Sheffield and other areas, but limited and unreliable transport options make journeys difficult and restrict access to opportunities, including those at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

“It’s not that the opportunities aren’t there, it’s that they’re not easy to get to and that makes a big difference.”

Connections between key destinations, particularly Parkgate and the Town Centre are viewed as challenging, and residents often rely on Sheffield for wider rail access.

“People will go to Parkgate because it’s easy, but there isn’t really that link back into town. It feels like two separate places rather than something that works together.”

The proposed Rotherham Gateway station is welcomed for its potential to improve direct links, although awareness of the project is mixed. The Town Centre is also described as fragmented, highlighting the need for better internal movement as well as improved regional connectivity.

Overall, residents see stronger, more reliable transport links as essential for accessing opportunities, supporting local economic activity and improving how Rotherham is experienced, but there is work to be done by the partnership in communicating the benefits of the investment in Rotherham Gateway and development across the Don Valley.

“You hear about things happening, but you don’t always know what it’s going to be like or what difference it will make.”

5.3 Strong and Thriving Communities

Residents generally feel safe in their own neighbourhoods, with familiarity and knowing people locally providing reassurance. While many are aware of incidents in their area, this experience is usually indirect and lead to increased caution rather than a wider sense of being unsafe. Some residents link concerns to a la

ck of structured activities for young people, though this tends to influence awareness and avoidance rather than overall confidence in their community.

Residents frequently describe friendly interactions and informal daily contact, but this does not always translate into a strong sense of belonging to a wider community. Community is often experienced in smaller groups or through specific activities, such as sports or arts clubs, rather than as a shared identity across the wider area.

Opportunities to meet others are perceived as more limited than in the past, with fewer places and activities that naturally bring people together. Libraries and similar accessible spaces remain valued for enabling low-cost social contact.

Younger and working-age residents are less likely to feel part of a broader community and often describe community as something they would need to actively seek out. Across all groups, there is also a sense that local views are not always heard or acted upon, contributing to weaker engagement.

While residents often feel attached to their immediate area, this does not consistently translate into pride in Rotherham as a whole. People tend to describe the borough in neutral or cautious terms, particularly when speaking to those unfamiliar with it. Some choose to reference nearby places, such as Sheffield or South Yorkshire rather than Rotherham directly, reflecting awareness of external perceptions.

Overall, community connections exist but are uneven, feelings of safety are grounded in familiarity, and pride in Rotherham is limited beyond the immediate local context.

Strengthening opportunities for participation, increasing visibility of community activity and supporting more positive narratives about the borough may help build a more shared and confident sense of place.

“I do think there’s a sense of community around here. You know people, you see the same faces, and you stop for a chat, it’s that kind of place. You’re not on your own; you always feel like there are people around, and if anything happened, someone would help. But it’s not like it used to be. People were out more, talking more, it felt busier. Now it’s a bit quieter and people keep to themselves more, but it’s still there underneath.”

5.4 A Fair and Thriving Economy

Residents recognise that employment opportunities exist locally and across the wider region, but many feel that accessing the right opportunities, particularly those offering progression, is difficult. Entry-level roles are not always visible or readily available, especially for younger people, creating a sense that starting out in the local labour market is challenging.

Although commuting, particularly to Sheffield, is common, the ability to travel is not universal. Limited transport options and varying levels of confidence or awareness mean that opportunities outside Rotherham are not equally accessible to all. This contributes to a gap between where jobs exist and who can realistically reach them.

Residents also report that pathways into work and career progression are unclear. While opportunities are acknowledged, they are not always well-signposted or easy to navigate, leading many to feel that building a sustainable career often requires looking beyond the borough.

Overall, residents describe a fair and thriving economy as one where employment exists that is accessible, visible or aligned with their needs. Improving entry-level opportunities, strengthening pathways into work and ensuring inclusive access to opportunities across the region will be essential. Positive experiences of local business support provide a strong foundation on which to build.

“There are good jobs out there, places like the AMRC and things like that, but not everyone can get to them. If you have got transport and can travel, it opens things up. But if you haven’t, or it’s not straightforward, those opportunities might as well not exist. It’s not just about the jobs being there; it’s whether people can actually reach them”

6. Summary of findings from stakeholder workshops

6.1 Children and Young People’s Partnership Board (reference focus group session 5)

Members contributed their vision for the Rotherham Plan by sharing how they would like the borough to look by 2036 and outlining the actions local partner organisations can take to support improvement. This was explored through the children and young people writing a postcard from 2036, imagining that the gamechangers had been successfully delivered, and followed by a discussion. They provided a wide range of suggestions, including:

- **Education:**
 - inclusive teaching; better access to home-schooling; modern technology across schools and libraries.
 - a wider range of post-16 and higher-education courses, with subjects such as animal care.

- greater access to affordable, healthy food.
- **A thriving Town Centre:**
 - more activities and spaces designed specifically for them
 - repurposing empty units, introducing a wider range of alternative shops, expanding cinema options, broadening dining choices, and providing opportunities to showcase student artwork.
- **Town Centre library:**
 - modern study spaces, quiet zones, games clubs and themed areas to make the new library appealing for learning and socialising.
- **Community safety:**
 - tackling crime, gang activity and drug misuse
 - expanding anti-bullying campaigns to support young people.
- **Public transport:**
 - Concerns about safety and accessibility, requesting better train and tram links, a more modern and well-lit bus station with visible staff, and support to help them feel confident using public transport.
- **Environment and green spaces:**
 - importance of protecting parks, reducing litter and rodent issues, expanding woodland, and creating new nature trails.
- **Inclusive economy:**
 - young people called for fair access to good jobs and apprenticeships, stronger support for vulnerable groups, and a commitment from employers to pay the real living wage.
- **Housing:**
 - increasing the availability of accessible and disability-adapted homes to support independent living.
- **Health and wellbeing:**
 - concerns included long GP waiting times, limited mental-health support, lack of awareness of hidden disabilities, and the need for stronger prevention efforts around vaping.
- **Residents' voice:**
 - greater involvement in shaping local strategies and services, particularly for people with lived experience.
- **Things to do:**
 - more exercise areas, additional football pitches, themed sports days, and new attractions at Clifton Park such as a zip line and larger year-round events.
- **Investment:**
 - continued investment in local places, including aspirations for a new town centre theatre.
- **Accessible services:**
 - services should remain inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all residents.

• an environment full of nature
 • no rats
 • more people homeschooled
 • more young people travel busses
 • school should be cancelled or
 is + teachers with respect



While there were clear areas of alignment between the feedback from children and young people and the responses gathered through the wider stakeholder forums, their priorities tended to focus more specifically on neighbourhood-level issues where gaps in provision were felt most strongly, rather than on borough-wide themes.

6.2 Initial quickfire workshop questions

At the start of the stakeholder workshop sessions (reference 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7), respondents were asked two initial questions, before the gamechangers had been introduced to participants.

Firstly, ***“What is your favourite thing about Rotherham?”***

90 responses were collected, with three clear priority themes emerged:

- **Community spirit and belonging** – the community was consistently described as Rotherham’s greatest strength, with respondents highlighting residents’ warmth, resilience and neighbourliness, as well as strong informal support networks.
- **Strong partnership working** – respondents praised the collaborative relationships between organisations, voluntary groups and local services, noting that this teamwork strengthens support for residents and improves outcomes.
- **High-quality green spaces** – parks, woodlands and open spaces were valued for recreation, wellbeing and bringing people together.



Respondents also highlighted Rotherham’s rich heritage, increasing diversity, strong regional connectivity, the NHS, and its local businesses as major assets to the borough. Key attractions, such as Magna, Grimm and Co., Forge Island, and Wentworth Woodhouse were recognised as important cultural and educational landmarks that help strengthen Rotherham’s identity and overall appeal.

Secondly respondents were asked: ***“What is the most important thing to capture in the new plan?”***

99 responses were collected, with five main priorities emerging:

- **Equitable access to opportunities** – ensuring everyone, regardless of protected characteristic, can access employment, education and services.
- **Stronger community voice and engagement** – embedding genuine, ongoing involvement of residents in shaping policies and services.

- **Placing community at the centre** – a plan rooted in local needs and aspirations, using co-production and empowering communities to drive change.
- **Ambition, civic pride and clearer communication** – respondents called for a bold plan that builds pride, supported by better communication so residents feel informed and included.
- **Health, wellbeing, inclusion and future growth** – improving health and inclusion while planning effectively for the borough’s long-term development.



Other priorities which were mentioned included:

- Continued Town Centre regeneration
- Improved public transport
- Greater community empowerment
- Strengthening key local centres such as Dinnington High Street
- Showcasing major developments, including the new markets
- Rotherham Gateway station
- Need for investment in education and skills, including support for schools, more apprenticeship opportunities and stronger promotion of assets such as University Centre Rotherham
- Attracting new businesses
- Enhancing neighbourhood working
- Progressing housing improvements, particularly bringing empty properties back into use

Following the initial exercises, stakeholders were asked to reflect on the proposed vision for the four ‘gamechangers’ and to identify the key opportunities and challenges that must be addressed to ensure the new plan effectively responds to local needs.

6.3 A Vibrant Town Centre

6.3.1 “What should the vision of Town Centre gamechanger be?”

When asking participants what they thought the vision for the Town Centre should be, respondents suggested that the vision should be confident, positive, and people-focused, emphasising what residents and visitors can enjoy while ensuring the area feels safe, welcoming, and a source of local pride. They highlighted the importance of attracting and growing businesses, encouraging those currently based in Parkgate to return to the Town Centre, and more effectively showcasing key assets such as the cinema, Empire Theatre, markets, restaurants, and emerging cultural venues.

Culture should remain central to the vision, with co-production playing an important role in shaping the look, feel, and future use of Town Centre spaces. New housing was viewed as

essential for creating a lively, sustainable place throughout both the day and evening, supporting footfall and contributing to long-term vibrancy.

Respondents also emphasised the need to align health priorities, Town Centre investment, economic growth, and retail development so that the borough's ambitions reinforce one another and deliver a coherent, long-term vision.

6.3.2 “What activity is planned or progressing in relation to the Town Centre gamechanger?”

Respondents highlighted a wide range of initiatives already supporting the Town Centre vision:

- South Yorkshire Police are increasing their presence through additional Police Community Support Officers and regular engagement with young people
- the Council's Street Safe Team continues targeted work to address drug use and street drinking.
- Major developments, such as Forge Island, the new library and markets complex, and the Town Centre Health Hub were highlighted as modern, accessible investments that can help rebuild confidence and attract more visitors.
- Emphasised the importance of acting on resident feedback, praising the role of Healthwatch Rotherham in capturing community insight and recognising improvements already made, including the introduction of a single contact number for the Homelessness Team.
- A new decarbonisation standard is now guiding Council building projects, ensuring that sustainability is embedded within future capital investments. Alongside this, a feasibility study for a Rotherham Heat Network is exploring options for low-carbon district heating, with particular consideration given to heritage sites where reducing emissions while preserving character is critical.
- Respondents emphasised strengthening perceptions of Rotherham by showcasing visible regeneration, riverside improvements, expanded cultural events and enhanced green spaces. Clear communication was seen as vital to managing disruption during construction.

6.3.3 “What more could be achieved in relation to the Town Centre gamechanger?”

Five key areas for further development were identified:

1. Improving public transport systems

Transport was identified as a key priority, with participants highlighting the need for better routes, more frequent bus services, and faster, more reliable journey times. Respondents emphasised the importance of strengthening engagement with a wider range of partners, including the voluntary and community sector, local businesses, students, and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that transport planning reflects diverse needs and supports increased access to the Town Centre.

2. More effective partnership working

Respondents highlighted a need to strengthen collaboration by reducing duplication between Town Centre and neighbourhood boards, suggesting that streamlining governance structures could create clearer roles and more efficient decision-making. They also identified significant opportunities to expand preventative health services and to relocate more provision into the Town Centre, noting that these changes would support accessibility, increase footfall, and encourage more integrated partnership approaches.

3. Strengthening service provision

Although no new social housing is currently planned, developing a comprehensive Town Centre residential accommodation strategy remains a key priority for increasing footfall and encouraging more people to live, work, and spend within the local area. Strengthening the presence of public services, including schools, healthcare provision, and wider community facilities in the Town Centre will further support the creation of a sustainable, vibrant urban environment.

Investment in new and enhanced connectivity, including improvements to rail stations, also presents opportunities to repurpose empty Town Centre buildings into high-quality residential units. This would help bring vacant properties back into productive use and contribute to long-term regeneration. Health partners reiterated the importance of locating services in accessible, high-footfall areas such as the Town Centre or Parkgate, alongside improving access to hospital sites through reliable public transport and affordable parking.

Respondents also highlighted the value of targeted action to reduce deprivation in Eastwood and Masbrough, strengthen engagement in Wellgate, support pop-up activities, expand healthier food options, and coordinate the restoration of older buildings. Together, these interventions would enhance local provision and promote a more inclusive and attractive Town Centre.

4. Community safety

Community safety remains a central concern, with respondents calling for practical measures such as improved street lighting, an increased and more visible policing presence, and learning from existing safe-space initiatives to create a more welcoming environment. Enhancing safety and connectivity at Rotherham Interchange was also identified as a priority, with suggestions including expanded CCTV coverage and other interventions that would help ensure the area feels secure for all users.

5. Expanding educational opportunities

Sustained investment in education and skills was viewed as essential to boosting Town Centre vibrancy and increasing footfall. Participants highlighted the importance of expanding opportunities through University Centre Rotherham and enabling local colleges to make use of vacant Town Centre buildings for teaching, training, and community learning. These developments were seen as key to attracting a wider range of learners, supporting economic growth, and strengthening the Town Centre as a hub for education and lifelong skills development.



6.3.4 “Who needs to collaborate, and how can they work together to make this gamechanger successful?”

Respondents emphasised the need for more effective partnership working and engagement. Stronger collaboration with the voluntary and community sector was viewed as essential, alongside closer coordination between partner events teams, cultural venues and community-engagement leads to improve promotion and accessibility.

Greater collaboration with local businesses and investors was highlighted as vital for supporting growth and increasing footfall, backed by meaningful community engagement and well-informed councillors who can advocate confidently and effectively. Ensuring safe, welcoming transport interchanges was identified as a shared responsibility, with a key role for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

The importance of integrated working across partner organisations, including sharing information, coordinating resources and shaping priorities collectively was recognised. To support this, the introduction of a governance diagram mapping thematic boards was recommended to improve clarity and reduce duplication.

6.3.5 “How would the partnership know if this was successful?”

Respondents identified three key focus areas:

1. Strengthening communications and engagement with communities

Respondents emphasised the need for clear accountability, robust impact measurement and consistent communication. They felt that success should be visible to residents through purposeful projects that deliver tangible outcomes. Suggested indicators of progress included an increase in Town Centre events led by local organisations, higher visitor numbers, greater levels of local spending, strengthened civic pride and more positive media coverage.

2. Increasing the range of things to do

Expanding free, safe activities for children and young people, such as games clubs in libraries and cafés alongside improving reliable, well-connected public transport was identified as a priority.

These actions should be supported by wider improvements, including better mental health outcomes, stronger community resilience, greater tree equity, and enhanced mapping of flood and heat risks.

3. Improving perceptions of the Town Centre to encourage greater spend

Sustaining new businesses, reducing crime and improving feelings of safety were seen as key signs of progress. Town Centre footfall and spending were highlighted as the primary measures of success.

6.4 Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley development

6.4.1 “What should the vision of the Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley gamechanger be?”

Themes among respondents included:

- Investment in the Don Valley Corridor and the development of the Rotherham Gateway are fundamental to unlocking major private investment and driving long-term regeneration.
- The Don Valley Corridor narrative should showcase opportunities not only in advanced manufacturing but also across logistics, innovation and other high-growth sectors.

- New housing linked to the Gateway Station will be a significant economic catalyst, further enhanced by improved transport connections to Leeds, Sheffield and Rotherham.
- respondents also highlighted the need for a clear, visually compelling vision that communicates the scale of transformation and demonstrates the station's pivotal role in linking the Town Centre with Parkgate, while supporting wider regeneration ambitions.

6.4.2 “What more could be achieved in relation to the Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley development gamechanger?”

Respondents identified two key focus areas:

1. Climate change

Respondents emphasised that the Gateway Station must prioritise low-carbon design, strong sustainability standards and universal accessibility. This includes integrating climate-resilient features such as flood-mitigation measures and protections against extreme heat to ensure long-term adaptability.

An early opportunity was also identified to upgrade the canal towpath, creating a green-blue active-travel route connecting Rotherham Central to the Gateway site. This would enhance sustainable travel choices, improve biodiversity and provide a high-quality, low-carbon link between key destinations.

2. Improving transport connectivity

Public transport links between the Town Centre and Rotherham Hospital remain challenging, and respondents highlighted the need for stronger connections to the Advanced Manufacturing Park Research Centre. Although Rotherham Gateway Station is strongly welcomed, stakeholders emphasised the importance of accompanying climate-adaptation measures along the corridor, including strengthened green-industry supply chains and resilience-focused design.

Respondents also called for improved engagement with schools and colleges to build skills pipelines that align with emerging sectors, alongside the delivery of mixed-tenure housing to support inclusive growth. Better connectivity from Eastwood to both the station and the Town Centre was viewed as essential to ensuring equitable access to new opportunities.

Bassingthorpe was identified as needing a stronger community presence, supported by well-planned infrastructure to create a cohesive and sustainable neighbourhood. Raising

Rotherham's innovation profile and increasing the visibility of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), pathways were also highlighted as key priorities for long-term economic transformation.



6.4.3 “Who needs to collaborate, and how can they work together to make this gamechanger successful?”

Themes among respondents included:

- Emphasis of the need for stronger and more coordinated partnership working across organisations, sectors and communities.
- Greater involvement of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) in advancing the Rotherham Gateway, particularly through land acquisition, preparatory works and securing the necessary investment. It was also recommended that leads for climate, social value, employment and skills, and adult social care be actively involved in the business-case process.
- The importance of understanding accessibility needs, especially for residents who currently do not travel to ensure future interventions are inclusive and effectively targeted.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board was viewed as central to promoting active travel and embedding a health-in-all-policies approach across local decision-making. Respondents highlighted the need to clarify partner responsibilities for home adaptations, ensuring support is timely, coordinated and accessible.
- Highlighted the importance of learning from the experience at Waverley to avoid fragmented community development in future projects.
- The impacts on the voluntary and community sector should be carefully considered when planning major infrastructure, recognising the sector's vital role in supporting residents and maintaining community cohesion.
- Stronger community engagement was viewed as essential, with colleges, neighbourhood networks, voluntary and community sector organisations, and the Council's Neighbourhood Team identified as key partners in shaping and delivering future plans.
- The importance of recognising neurodiverse needs and involving specialist partners to ensure the inclusive, sensory-aware design of places- seen as critical to creating environments that are accessible, welcoming and supportive for all residents.
- Need for close collaboration with key infrastructure and utilities partners, including EON Energy, Northern Powergrid, ESO, Network Rail, Department for Transport and Transport for the North to support delivery of the innovation campus, tram-stop development and wider rail improvements.

- Creating local advocates, as the Children’s Capital of Culture Traineeship has, and developing consistent messaging aligned with the “Live Here, Go Far” narrative, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods (Eastwood highlighted)
- Importance of understanding demographic change and planning infrastructure accordingly, noting that without clear evidence of population growth, securing additional GP provision for new neighbourhoods may be challenging and limit the ability to meet their needs and support long-term development.

6.4.4 “How would the partnership know if this was successful?”

Respondents identified four distinct areas of focus:

1. Building civic pride

Securing additional grant funding and delivering major projects is essential to strengthening regional connectivity and enhancing civic pride across our communities. By attracting investment and advancing impactful initiatives, the partnership can create high-quality places, improve local infrastructure, and foster a stronger sense of identity and pride among residents.

2. Supporting residents

Supporting residents requires a strong focus on good-quality employment, fair pay, secure contracts, and meaningful social-value outcomes, including the completion of apprenticeships. Ensuring that transport does not restrict access to work, education, or training is also critical.

A well-connected active-travel route through the Don Valley Corridor was identified as essential to improving accessibility and enabling sustainable travel choices. In addition, providing mixed-tenure housing that meets local needs will help support long-term stability and create inclusive, resilient communities.

3. Climate change

Environmental sustainability was seen as a key priority, with emphasis placed on reducing carbon emissions, strengthening flood-risk management, improving air quality, and enhancing local biodiversity. Together, these indicators support a resilient, low-carbon future and contribute to healthier, more sustainable communities.

4. Business support

Strengthening the local economy requires targeted support for business growth, including the attraction of new firms, the expansion of existing enterprises, and the retention of employers. Workforce stability is also a key priority, underpinned by clear numerical targets and ongoing monitoring of social-value outcomes to ensure sustained, measurable impact.

6.5 Strong and Thriving Communities

6.5.1 “What should the vision of the Thriving Communities gamechanger be?”

Respondents called for a clear and purposeful vision that explains exactly what the partnership wants to achieve. They recognised the importance of defining what a “strong community” means in practice, linking it to neighbourhood working, improved health and wellbeing, and measurable outcomes, such as increased uptake of health checks.

Respondents emphasised the need for a vision that includes a firm commitment to reducing antisocial behaviour, creating safe and cohesive neighbourhoods, and ensuring that

communities are actively represented in decision-making. They strongly supported more community-led approaches, in line with national expectations around local empowerment.

Strengthening neighbourhood-level data and insight was seen as essential for understanding local needs and engaging effectively, especially with communities that feel disconnected. While ward plans already reflect resident priorities, respondents felt this intelligence could be used more consistently and effectively across the partnership to inform shared action.

6.5.2 What activity is planned or progressing in relation to this gamechanger by partner organisation or board?"

Respondents highlighted a wide range of ongoing work across the partnership to support residents and strengthen neighbourhoods:

- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust has restructured to form a Communities and Inclusion Department, strengthening links with local groups, although many projects still depend on short-term funding.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board has set its 2025–2028 priorities around building stronger communities, improving engagement and prevention, strengthening multi-agency leadership, promoting personalised safeguarding, and sharing learning across the system.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board is progressing work on loneliness, mental wellbeing and chronic pain, while the Rotherham Recovery Community continues to support residents affected by drug, alcohol and gambling harms.
- At neighbourhood level, joint Police and Neighbourhood Teams are working together to address community cohesion, hate crime, antisocial behaviour and youth support.
- The Safer Streets Team is working closely with Family Hubs, health hubs are providing additional wellbeing support, and The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy is being refreshed, including further investment in fraud prevention and digital inclusion.
- The Strategic Housing Forum plays a key role in improving the quality of social housing across the borough. The partnership between Energie and the Council brings together housing repairs, maintenance and energy-efficiency improvements, helping to reduce household bills, tackle fuel poverty, and create more sustainable, high-quality homes for residents.
- Age UK Rotherham and carers' groups play an important role in reducing isolation and amplifying the voices of older residents. Strengthened relationships with the Roma community are improving safeguarding awareness and access to services.
- Flux Rotherham continues to deliver community-led cultural activity through Arts Council funding, tenant engagement is supported through a TARA liaison contract, and grant-funded programmes are contributing to the cost-of-living response and the Open Arms initiative.

6.5.3 "How should the partnership be talking to residents about the NHS Neighbourhood Working pilot?"

Developing a strong, recognisable brand for neighbourhood-based health services was seen as essential, mirroring the public familiarity of the A&E (accident and emergency care) brand. Respondents recognised the need to embed patient voice throughout the plan, so actions reflect what works for communities, not organisational priorities.

More consistent communication was viewed as vital, as many residents are unaware of positive work already happening. Building pride of place and creating visible opportunities for young people were highlighted as key to retaining the next generation.

6.5.4 "What more could be achieved in relation to this gamechanger?"

Respondents identified four key areas for further focus:

1. Improving communication and place marketing

Among the Business Growth Board, place marketing was considered an important priority which would help develop the borough's identity. Respondents noted that it will require dedicated resource and sponsorship to further develop the Rotherham Story and ensure consistent, high-quality promotion.

Respondents also emphasised the importance of challenging negative perceptions of Rotherham by sharing positive stories and delivering heritage-focused events that build local pride. Clear, solution-focused communication was seen as essential to ensuring residents feel informed, involved and confident in the borough's future.

The strength of the South Yorkshire People's Network should also be reflected, demonstrating the value of collaboration, alignment and integrated working across the region. Improved transport links, combined with coordinated regional effort, were seen as important for creating a more connected, accessible and inclusive borough.

The Safeguarding Adults Board is also strengthening collaboration across community safety, housing and children's services and making better use of existing forums, contributing to more joined-up and effective local support.

2. Making better use of community assets

Respondents emphasised the importance of making the most of existing community assets and securing long-term funding for both well-established organisations and smaller neighbourhood groups. This was seen as essential for building local resilience and ensuring communities can continue to lead and shape activity in their areas.

They also highlighted the need to challenge negative perceptions of Rotherham by sharing positive stories and delivering heritage-focused events that help strengthen local pride. Clear, solution-focused communication was viewed as critical to keeping residents informed, involved and confident in the borough's future.

The forthcoming Health and Care Estates Strategy was identified as another key opportunity. Respondents felt it would play an important role in ensuring buildings are used more effectively and in strengthening The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's role as an anchor institution, including by improving employment pathways for local people.

Pharmacies were also highlighted as an underused community asset, with the potential to contribute more to prevention, early help, and wellbeing across neighbourhoods.

3. More targeted support

Targeted initiatives such as baby packs, warm-winter packs, the Maltby Community Food Hub, and multicultural events delivered by Rotherham United Community Sports Trust were highlighted as examples of good practice that should be shared more widely.

Respondents also valued programmes like Moving Rotherham and suggested learning from successful external models, such as Well Doncaster, particularly in relation to achieving sustainable long-term funding. Involving older adults as mentors and visibly responding to community feedback were seen as important steps in building trust and strengthening local engagement.

While regeneration of local towns and village centres is progressing, respondents recognised a continued need to improve public transport across the whole borough. Better, more reliable connectivity was viewed as essential to ensure residents can easily access employment, education, and leisure opportunities, and to support more inclusive growth.

management paired with the effective use of digital platforms to showcase activity, share updates and respond to community feedback.

2. Visible improvements within neighbourhoods

Increased participation in events and consultations, better health outcomes, and fewer community safety concerns reported to South Yorkshire Police were also seen as important signs of progress. Respondents highlighted the value of well-maintained green and blue spaces that help to improve perceptions of the borough, alongside improvements in green-space quality and tree-equity scores, as further indicators of success.

Building trust at neighbourhood level remains vital. Respondents stressed the need for stronger links with schools and colleges, greater professional support for community groups to become established and sustainable (e.g. support to access funding), and a more visible presence from Neighbourhood Teams to strengthen insight and demonstrate action. They also emphasised the importance of person-centred engagement beyond digital channels and highlighted the need to increase social housing to help ease pressures on local services.

3. More effective partnership working

A clearer shared understanding of priorities across partnership boards is needed to align with borough-wide ambitions. Stronger collaboration between statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector was seen as essential for delivering coordinated, effective support.

6.6 A fair and thriving economy

6.6.1 “What should the vision of the economy gamechanger look like?”

respondents highlighted a major gap in opportunities for 16–18-year-olds, who were seen as particularly vulnerable. They called for more meaningful opportunities for this age group, linked to the Town Centre regeneration and the Council’s Employment and Skills Strategy.

Respondents recognised the need for better support and stronger incentives for businesses to employ young people, ensuring they have clear and accessible routes into training and work.

Collaborative delivery was seen as essential to the plan’s success, with partners emphasising that the Council cannot achieve its ambitions alone and that cross-sector involvement is crucial.

6.6.2 “What activity is planned or progressing in relation to this gamechanger by partner organisation or board?”

A wide range of activity is already taking place to improve skills and support residents into work:

- SYMCA funding is being used to improve adult skills and support young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training). Volunteering opportunities and supported placements for people aged 16+ are also helping to build stronger pathways into employment.
- The Council’s Employment Solutions Service, Pathways to Work, and the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer continue to play an important role in reducing barriers to work, particularly for disabled and autistic residents, ensuring people receive the tailored support they need to find and sustain employment.
- Retaining local talent remains a concern, as limited opportunities risk graduates and investment being drawn elsewhere. Employers are also experiencing funding

pressures, and while improved regional connectivity is positive, it may shift spending out of the borough, highlighting the need for a strong and competitive local offer.

- There are new developments helping to strengthen local skills and employment pathways. These include a new artificial intelligence and automation apprenticeship delivered by the Rotherham North Notts Group, and programmes that bring industry professionals into education, supported by the South Yorkshire Apprenticeships Hub. These initiatives aim to equip local people with the skills needed for future industries and help businesses access a more highly skilled workforce.
- Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance is improving community cohesion but requires long-term funding, and SYMCA is exploring more consistent ESOL (English speakers of another language) provision.
- Tenant engagement through groups such as Rotherfed seen as key – importance of stabilising household income and sustaining cross-service collaboration
- RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Yorkshire Huber Trust) is expanding volunteering and peer support and developing a Poverty Strategy focused on community outreach and better mental health access. Shiloh’s multi-agency drop-in was identified as an example of good practice.
- The Council’s social value work aims to retain wealth locally, while the Local Area Energy Plan and UK Shared Prosperity Fund support SMEs (small to medium enterprises) to reduce costs and adopt renewable technologies.
- Major climate investment includes retrofitting 10,000 homes to EPC Band C by 2030 and expanding EV (electric vehicle) charging across communities.



6.6.3 “How do you think apprenticeship partnership activity complements the gamechanger?”

Respondents said that current section 106 agreements (requiring contractors to offer at least one local apprenticeship) are a good starting point but could go further. Respondents felt these opportunities should be expanded to create targeted apprenticeships for young people with SEND (special educational needs) or EHCPs (education, health and care plan), as well as for ethnic minority groups who often face additional barriers to work.

Respondents also highlighted the value of apprenticeships for upskilling existing staff, noting that they are a cost-effective way for employers to build skills within their workforce. They suggested that providing employers with a simple, well-structured menu of apprenticeship options would make it easier for businesses to get involved and ensure opportunities better match local needs.

6.6.4 “What more could be achieved in relation to the gamechanger?”

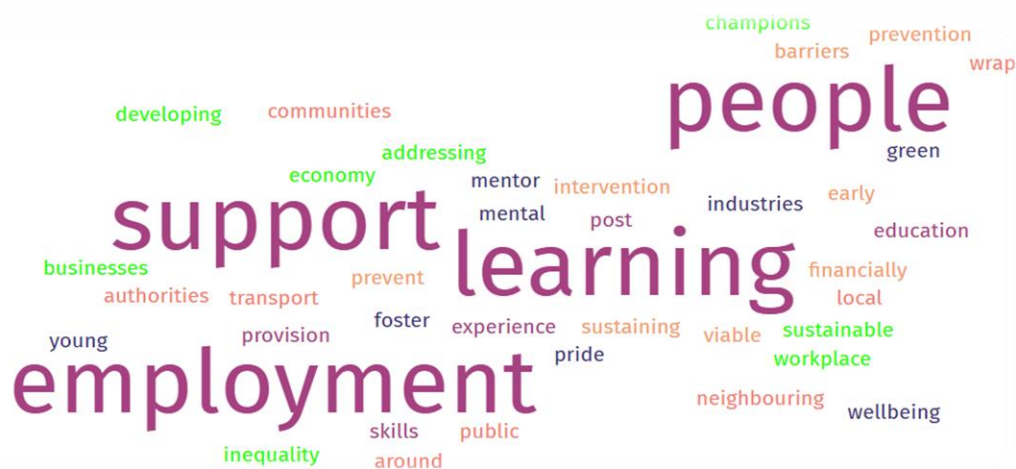
Respondents identified the expansion of post-16 education, creating clearer employment pathways for Level 2–3 learners, and involving older residents as mentors as important ways to support the next generation. Respondents also emphasised the need for a stronger focus on green industries, building on the Pathways to Work Programme to create new training and supply-chain opportunities in areas such as retrofit and renewable energy. This would help position Rotherham as a hub for long-term green careers.

There is also significant potential to establish Rotherham as a pioneer in green technology and artificial intelligence by developing a dedicated sector cluster. This could build on existing regional strengths, such as the work of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre to attract high-value investment, drive innovation and create skilled employment across the borough.

Further action is recommended to remove barriers to sustained employment, including improving awareness of how to challenge workplace prejudice, ensuring that work remains financially viable for people in supported accommodation, and strengthening early-intervention support for those at risk of falling out of work.

Affordable and accessible public transport, particularly for young people, was seen as essential for supporting inclusive growth and enabling residents to take up education, training and employment opportunities.

Respondents also highlighted the need for stronger wrap-around support for businesses, including the use of workplace champions, to help employers create supportive, inclusive working environments. The development of the new Rotherham Plan is seen as an opportunity to refresh the Economic Growth Plan, ensuring it takes a more integrated, people- and place-focused approach.



6.6.5 “How can the partnership work with the private sector to support delivery of the gamechanger?”

Representatives of the Business Growth Board identified four key areas for collaboration:

1. Strengthening communication and engagement

Respondents referenced the need for stronger and more coordinated communication between sectors. They highlighted that the Council should work more quickly and proactively with partners, while reducing duplication, particularly where several teams or organisations may be approaching the same businesses.

Improving visibility and engagement between public- and private-sector organisations was also identified as a priority. Increasing participation in strategic initiatives and investment platforms, such as UKREiIF (UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum), would help attract new partners, raise Rotherham's profile, and highlight key development opportunities.

2. Maximising social value

To maximise social value, engagement with local businesses, including those around Rotherham Gateway station needs to be strategic, consistent and well-coordinated. Respondents highlighted strong examples from across South Yorkshire that demonstrate what can be achieved. Doncaster has increased its local spend to 68 percent through prioritised procurement and dedicated resources, while Sheffield has reached 65 percent, presenting a significant opportunity to retain far more economic benefit within the borough and strengthen the impact of local investment.

3. Expanding training and employment opportunities

The partnership was also encouraged to strengthen how it promotes the outcomes it is already delivering, not just its future plans. Respondents highlighted good practice such as the RNN employer academies, where local employers help shape curriculum design. Expanding this model would support residents to gain the skills needed for local jobs and ensure businesses can access a strong, reliable workforce.

Expanding access to jobs, apprenticeships and traineeships was seen as essential for supporting local growth and ensuring residents benefit from new opportunities. Respondents also emphasised the value of promoting the real living wage and encouraging fair pay across sectors, helping to retain economic value within the borough while improving quality of life for local workers.

4: Enhancing business support

Respondents identified opportunities to strengthen business support across the borough. Respondents highlighted the potential to encourage more sustainable business practices, which can improve workforce wellbeing and, in turn, help reduce pressure on local health services. Strengthening the borough's retail offer was also seen as important, including attracting a wider range of shops and exploring more community-focused retail models, such as "free shops", to meet local needs and create more inclusive high streets.

6.6.6 "How would the partnership know if this was successful?"

Three distinct areas of focus were identified for developing the measures:

1. Supporting residents

Respondents highlighted several important measures, including creating a Care Leaver Employment Strategy with clear pathways into work, embedding work experience across all school curriculums, and expanding employment support for vulnerable residents. They also emphasised the need to increase completion of accredited training, reduce homelessness, strengthen financial resilience, and support more residents to enter and stay in good-quality employment.

2. Improving skills, training and green jobs

Respondents highlighted the importance of monitoring traineeships, education and training opportunities, and the creation of new roles within the green sector. They also identified broader indicators of progress, including increased investment in local organisations, fair and

equitable access to support across all communities, and growth in inclusive economic activity throughout the borough.

3. Strengthening the local economy

Respondents emphasised the importance of monitoring business confidence and economic growth, particularly where this is linked to local investment. They emphasised the need to retain more wealth within Rotherham and increase local spending.

Measures of success should be clear and measurable, with a strong focus on outcomes such as reducing deprivation gaps, improving productivity, and raising household incomes.

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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 Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan

Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Service area: Policy, Performance and Improvement

Lead person: Katya Anfilogoff-Clark

Contact: Katya.anfilogoff-clark@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

This screening is for the Rotherham Together Partnership's (RTP) new *Rotherham Plan 2026–2036*, which replaces the previous *Rotherham Plan 2025*.

The new ten-year plan outlines how the RTP will work in partnership over the next decade, focusing on delivering the four identified gamechangers designed to improve quality of life for residents across the borough.

The *Rotherham Plan 2026–2036* sets out a future-facing vision for an innovative borough where all residents can thrive, with fair access to the opportunities and services they need to live healthy, happy lives.

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?

The new Rotherham Plan is an equalities- and inequalities-focused document which seeks to reduce disparities across the borough, particularly those linked to socioeconomic deprivation, health inequalities and fairness.

In developing the Plan, we took an evidence-led approach. We reviewed borough-wide data to understand the scale and nature of inequalities, and we complemented this with direct consultation with residents to capture lived experience and community priorities. We also engaged with partners across the Rotherham Together Partnership, as well as key internal stakeholders, to ensure a shared understanding of the issues and a collaborative approach to addressing them.

This combination of data insight, resident voice, and stakeholder engagement directly shaped the Plan's content. It helped define the shared set of gamechangers that bring the Partnership together, with a clear focus on how collective action can improve outcomes and tackle inequality. Throughout the design process, these inputs ensured that the Plan responds meaningfully to the challenges identified and aligns with the borough's ambitions for fairness and inclusion.

• Key findings

The full findings are outlined in *Appendix 4 – Equalities Assessment*.

• Actions

The following actions will be taken:

- A full equalities assessment will be completed.
- An initial two-year delivery plan will be produced, which will contain measures which address inequalities in the borough through the delivery of the gamechanger activities. This will likely be followed by a three-year delivery plan, bringing the partnership to a natural review point at five years to understand the impact to date for equalities before determining next steps.
- Additional consultation, equalities assessments, and mitigations will be carried out as part of progressing the gamechangers.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	25.03.26
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	27.03.26
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Katya Anfilogoff-Clark Partnership Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Chris Paddock	Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	09.04.26

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	25.03.26
Report title and date	The Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan
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 – 11 May 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09.04.26

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: Rotherham Plan 2026–2036	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): March 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Katya Anfilogoff-Clark	Contact number: Katya.anfilogoff-clark@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> 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)
Katya Anfilogoff-Clark	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Partnerships Manager
Paul Stafford	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy Officer
Kellie Rodgers	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Research 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, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Rotherham Plan 2026–2036 is the Rotherham Together Partnership’s central strategic document, setting out a shared long-term vision for the borough and the way partners will work together to improve outcomes for residents. It has been developed collaboratively by the eight organisations that form the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) and provides a collective framework for aligning resources, planning activity and coordinating delivery across the next decade.

The Plan is intended to benefit all residents across Rotherham, recognising both the strengths of the borough and the long-standing inequalities that shape people’s daily lives. Evidence shows that many communities experience significant deprivation, poorer health, lower educational attainment, barriers to employment and limited transport access. These issues affect children and young people, older adults, disabled residents, economically inactive residents, and those living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Plan therefore places additional focus on the people and places where the need for change is greatest.

The strategy is organised around four major “gamechangers”— growing a **fair and thriving economy, enabling strong and proud communities, unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway, and creating vibrant town centres**. These reflect the themes raised through partnership workshops and public consultation, where residents highlighted concerns about job access, transport, safety, local pride and the visibility of opportunities. Each gamechanger sets out how partners will work together to deliver improvements and the difference residents can expect to see in the coming years.

The Plan also has implications for a wide range of stakeholders, including public sector partners, local businesses, the voluntary and community sector, education and skills providers, developers and visitors. It aims to ensure that investment, services and

opportunities are better aligned, more inclusive and more accessible, with a clear emphasis on fairness, coordinated action and measurable improvement in quality of life.

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

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as from the 2021 census, and the Resident Satisfaction Survey 2024 is provided here.

Population

- Population estimates suggest the population is continuing to increase in its diversity with international migration, mainly from EU countries. 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.
- 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.

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.

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

During the 28 qualitative hall-test interviews undertaken in March 2026 by the consultant Spirul, no equalities-related demographic information was collected. In order to address this gap, further public engagement will be carried out to ensure participation from a broad and representative cross-section of the community.

We will not just measure success based on delivering the game changers, but how they have reduced inequality. The game changers are the catalyst.

In addition, the four gamechangers outlined in the Rotherham Plan each represent substantial programmes of work in their own right. Each of these will involve further engagement with all communities who may be affected by the individual projects, including those who may experience disruption or specific local impacts.

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

A structured approach to monitoring will be built into the delivery of the Rotherham Plan 2026–2036. The Plan will be underpinned by an initial two-year delivery plan, which will contain measures which address inequalities in the borough through the delivery of the gamechanger activities. This will likely be followed by a three-year delivery plan, bringing the partnership to a natural review point at five years to understand the impact to date which the delivery of the gamechanger activities has had on equalities, before determining next steps. The overall outcomes will also be evaluated at the end of the ten-year period. This review process will provide an opportunity to understand how different communities—including those with protected characteristics—have benefited from the Plan and where further action is needed.

In addition to this, each of the four gamechangers represents a substantial programme of work, and individual projects within these areas will include their own evaluation and monitoring arrangements. These project-level assessments will capture equalities-relevant information where appropriate and identify any differential impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

The findings from these project evaluations will feed directly into the wider Plan review, ensuring that the partnership maintains a clear, evidence-based understanding of the impacts on diverse communities. This approach will help ensure that actions remain responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of all residents as the Plan progresses.

<p>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Dates and Locations of Consultation</p> <p>Consultation took place over three consecutive days of hall-test qualitative interviews across the borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 March 2026 – Dinnington (6 interviews) • 12 March 2026 – Wath upon Dearne (10 interviews) • 13 March 2026 – Rotherham Town Centre (7 interviews) <p>In total: 23 interviews involving 28 participants, lasting 537 minutes, with transcripts anonymised.</p> <p>Groups Consulted</p> <p>Participants represented a broad cross-section of Rotherham residents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents aged 20–34, 35–49, 50–64, and 65+ (ages 20–34 = 6 interviews; 65+ = 10 interviews) • A mix of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employed residents (9) ○ Business owners (2) ○ Unemployed/seeking work (6) ○ Retired residents (9) ○ Carers / those looking after home (2) <p>Key Findings from Engagement</p> <p>1. Pride and Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents feel strong personal attachment to Rotherham, largely due to family ties, familiarity, and long-term residence. • However, wider civic pride is low, with many residents describing Rotherham as “alright” but not somewhere they actively promote.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger residents show less pride and weaker attachment to the borough. <p>2. Community Cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local neighbourhoods are viewed as friendly and familiar, with people recognising faces and supporting each other. • Community is experienced in small pockets, often through specific groups (e.g., sports clubs, libraries) rather than as a borough-wide identity. • Fewer shared spaces and reduced footfall in centres have weakened wider interaction. <p>3. Safety and Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents generally feel safe in their own neighbourhoods, due to familiarity. • Rotherham town centre is associated with unease, not because of direct incidents but due to atmosphere, low footfall, and visibility of certain behaviours. • People adjust behaviour (e.g., avoiding late evening visits) but don't describe feeling widely unsafe. <p>4. Vibrant Town Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre perceived as quieter, less cohesive, and offering fewer reasons to visit, especially compared with Parkgate, Meadowhall, and Barnsley. • Investments like Forge Island, Arc Cinema and the new library are welcomed, but residents do not yet see clear impact or how they connect into a wider vision. <p>5. Fair and Thriving Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs exist, but entry-level roles are seen as limited, especially for younger people. • Many residents commute to Sheffield or beyond; local jobs are perceived as lacking progression.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport issues create barriers to accessing regional opportunities, particularly for those without cars. • Pathways into work are not always visible or easy to navigate. <p>6. Transport and Connectivity / Rotherham Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport links are often indirect, inconsistent, or less convenient than travel to neighbouring areas. • Reliance on Sheffield for rail connections reinforces a sense of being poorly connected. • The proposed Rotherham Gateway station is viewed positively but understanding of its impact is mixed. • Key destinations within the borough (e.g., Parkgate and the town centre) feel poorly integrated.
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Engagement with partner and key internal stakeholders took place throughout the development of the Rotherham Plan via a series of structured internal workshops and partnership forums held between July 2025 and March 2026. These sessions involved staff from across Rotherham Council and partner organisations through the Strategic Partnership Group, Chief Executives Group, thematic partnership boards, and service-specific workshops.</p> <p>Across these sessions, staff contributed insight on emerging priorities, shared organisational challenges, and identified opportunities for more coordinated partnership working. Key findings included strong support for the four proposed gamechangers, agreement that the priorities reflect the most significant issues facing residents, and recognition of the importance of clearer communication, strengthened neighbourhood engagement, improved transport connectivity, and creating more inclusive opportunities for young people and under-represented groups. Those engaged also emphasised the need for consistent evidence-sharing, reducing duplication, and aligning governance and delivery arrangements to support more efficient partnership working.</p> <p>This engagement has directly shaped the development of the Plan’s strategic framework and provided early insight into the operational implications for services and partnership delivery</p>

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 considerations run throughout the Rotherham Plan 2026–2036. The Plan is rooted in the principle that Rotherham must become a fairer borough—one where opportunities, investment and improvements in quality of life are experienced by all residents, especially those facing the greatest barriers. This fairness ambition is embedded in the Plan’s ten-year vision, which commits partners to tackling deep-seated inequalities in health, employment, connectivity and community safety.

The four gamechangers—**Growing A Fair and Thriving Economy, Enabling Strong and Proud Communities, Unlocking the Full Potential of Rotherham Gateway and the Don Valley, and Creating Vibrant Town Centres**—provide the framework through which equalities impacts will be delivered and monitored. The Plan is shaped by engagement with residents, partner and internal stakeholders, and reflects the priorities raised across partnership workshops and the qualitative hall-test interviews. Consultation highlighted differences in access to jobs, transport, services, safe public spaces and opportunities for belonging, which the Plan aims to address through coordinated action.

The Plan balances benefits for the whole borough with targeted action for those who experience the greatest disadvantage. Universal benefits include improvements to public transport, investment in the town centre, expansion of cultural activity, stronger neighbourhood-level working, and enhanced green spaces—actions that improve daily life for all communities. At the same time, analysis of local need shows that some residents face significantly poorer outcomes, including those living in Rotherham’s most deprived neighbourhoods, residents experiencing long-term illness, older adults, young people, ethnic minority communities, and people who feel unsafe in key public spaces such as the town centre. The Plan responds to these inequalities by using the potential and reach of the RTP to ensure that the gamechangers have the greatest possible impact.

Growing A Fair and Thriving Economy directly addresses structural inequalities through commitments to improve access to employment, create high-quality jobs, strengthen skills and progression pathways, and reduce economic inactivity—all of which are issues disproportionately affecting vulnerable and under-represented groups. The Plan recognises that transport is a major barrier to opportunity and therefore links economic objectives with improved connectivity, ensuring that residents who currently cannot reach major employment sites are not left behind.

Enabling Strong and Proud Communities focuses on addressing the fragmentation and uneven experience of community life identified in the consultation. Residents described strong local ties but weaker borough-wide identity, and young people in particular highlighted limited opportunities to feel connected to others. The Plan responds by strengthening neighbourhood-level work, increasing the visibility and accessibility of community spaces, and building capacity within communities—an approach intended to support cohesion across different cultural, age and socioeconomic groups.

Unlocking the Full Potential of Rotherham Gateway addresses geographical inequalities by improving transport, connectivity and access to the significant employment potential of the Don Valley. Residents highlighted that opportunities feel out of reach not because they do not exist, but because they are not accessible. This gamechanger aims to bridge that gap, ensuring communities across Rotherham can benefit equally from region-wide growth.

Creating Vibrant Town Centres responds to some of the most prominent issues raised by residents—feelings of safety, the lack of things to do, uneven quality of the environment, and limited reasons to visit our town centres. Women and young people in particular report concerns about safety in Rotherham town centre, and older residents noted reduced confidence due to the town centre’s current feel. By prioritising safer, more inclusive and accessible town centres, the Plan supports a wide range of equality outcomes linked to participation, wellbeing, connectivity and pride in place.

Across all four gamechangers, the Plan commits to designing services and projects in a way that is inclusive and responsive to different needs. Engagement and co-production are central to this approach, reflecting residents’ experiences that their views are not always heard. New governance arrangements which build into the partnership a focus on each of the gamechangers will ensure that equalities considerations are embedded throughout delivery, while project-specific equality analyses will be undertaken by the lead service or partner as each major piece of work progresses.

In summary, the Rotherham Plan meets the needs of different communities by combining universal improvements with targeted action that explicitly seeks to narrow inequalities. It responds directly to resident voice, addresses the structural and geographic barriers identified through consultation, and commits partners to ensuring that the benefits of change are shared fairly, so that no community is left behind.

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 Rotherham Plan.

During the planning and implementation of the individual gamechangers, any potential impacts will be assessed and mitigated for where possible.

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 impact to community relations have been identified or flagged as part of the development of the Rotherham Plan.

During the planning and implementation of the individual gamechangers, any potential impacts will be assessed and mitigated for where possible.

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: Rotherham Plan 2026–2036
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement, Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Katya Anfilogoff-Clark, Partnerships Manager
Summary of findings:
<p>The Rotherham Plan 2026–2036 is the Rotherham Together Partnership’s central strategic document. It sets out a shared long-term vision for the borough and describes how partners will work together to improve outcomes for residents.</p> <p>The Plan provides a framework through which the Partnership can ensure that the four identified gamechangers are used to reduce the levels of inequality experienced across the borough.</p> <p>Data from the Office for National Statistics, findings from the Council’s 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey, and feedback received through the public consultation for this Plan all highlight the need for significant action to tackle inequalities. As part of this, strong and focused partnership working will be essential.</p> <p>Further engagement and monitoring will take place throughout the design and implementation of the individual gamechangers. This ongoing activity will inform the Plan’s five-year review, as well as the retrospective evaluation at the end of the period covered by the Plan.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
All delivery projects to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor.	All	Ongoing
Undertake a five-year review of the Plan.	All	2031

*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	09.04.26
Cllr Chris Read	Leader	21.04.26

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	27/03/26
Report title and date	Rotherham Plan 2026-2036
Date report sent for publication	21.04.26
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09.04.26

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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	New public buildings will be built, including as part of Rotherham Gateway, which will comprise a new mainline rail and tram train station, as well as commercial buildings within the Innovation Campus.	By increasing the number of non-domestic buildings within the borough, although sustainability will be factored into design and development, there will likely be an increase in emissions as a result.	Targeting business growth among the clean energy sector- which has been identified as a potential growth sector for Rotherham with the potential to generate 9,000 jobs by 2050. Where possible, setting the decarbonisation standard – ensuring new developments built with high energy performance and onsite renewable electricity generation as standard.	Emissions for non-domestic buildings within Council ownership are monitored by the climate change team.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	The Rotherham Gateway gamechanger sets out plans for a new mainline rail and tram train station centrally positioned in the borough, to improve public transport connectivity. This is likely to reduce the number of council workers who commute by car to	The mainline station will make travel for business and leisure much easier for many residents and therefore reduce the number of car journeys across the borough. Some activities in relation to the Thriving	Advertising active or public transport via partnership communications as part of external programmes and general promotion of Town Centre, particularly in relation to the new mainline rail and tram-train station, and encouraging car sharing	Emissions for staff transport are monitored annually by the climate change team. Partners may have their own methods for monitoring this. Further assessment of the impacts of the

		<p>Riverside House and other locations.</p> <p>However, other activities may lead to increased transportation across the borough, including engagement activities, events, community support programmes and the increase of population through the development of new neighbourhoods. The impact of this is not currently known.</p>	<p>Communities and Town Centre gamechangers may lead to increased transportation emissions from delivery of more events which residents and visitors travel to, and the diversification of the Town Centre offer leading to more visits.</p>	<p>or public transport where possible for colleagues attending events from across the partnership.</p>	<p>Rotherham Gateway project on transport will e included as part of the wider project.</p>
<p>Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?</p>	<p>Increase</p>	<p>Waste may be increased as a result of construction activities, increasing number of homes across the borough, attracting more businesses/business growth and delivery of events.</p>	<p>Alongside the impact of council operations related waste, an increase in waste through partners activities may result in an increase in borough wide emissions.</p>	<p>Consider the waste hierarchy in all actions.</p> <p>Inclusion of sustainable materials as part of events planning. Advice can be received through the Council's events environmental champion on this topic and plans for the events progress.</p>	<p>Waste management may vary depending on location of event or activity. It will therefore need to be reviewed where monitoring is possible. Alternatively, qualitative monitoring of positive swaps or avoided waste can be monitored.</p> <p>There will be additional project specific monitoring carried out by the relevant teams or organisations further to that which is mentioned here.</p> <p>RMBC conduct regular monitoring of council events, and partners will</p>

					have their own methods of monitoring this.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	This will increase due to increase in homes built across the borough, as set out within the Town Centre and Rotherham Gateway and Don Valley gamechangers.	If homes are not built to a net zero standard, these new properties will increase the Borough's emissions.	Inclusion of carbon monitoring and sustainability considerations in new tenders.	There will be project specific monitoring carried out by the relevant teams or organisations further to that which is mentioned here.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Construction of a number of capital developments, including Rotherham Gateway, housing schemes and refurbishment of public realm.	These developments will all have associated emissions which will increase total construction emissions for the borough.	Inclusion of carbon monitoring and sustainability considerations in new tenders. A net zero operational build should be considered where appropriate.	There will be project specific monitoring carried out by the relevant teams or organisations further to that which is mentioned here.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	Over the course of the last Rotherham Plan nearly 10,000 trees were planted, and partners are supportive of continuing this activity. However, it is not yet known if any trees will be removed due to any of the developments associated with the gamechangers, so the net increase or reduction is unknown.	Some carbon may be captured as part of the plan through landscaping activities though this is likely to be minimal.	Development of planting schemes attached to new developments and through public realm improvements. Partners have also expressed interest in pursuing tree planting schemes with private sector. Additional protections should be considered for trees within project boundaries such as TPOs where feasible.	RMBC tree planting is monitored and reported on by the green spaces team. It is likely that Biodiversity Net Gain will apply to the developments involved.

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

The Rotherham Plan 2026-2036 sets out a number of large-scale projects through its four gamechangers for the borough. The gamechanger activities are to varying levels already in progress across different partnership organisations, however the value of this plan is in making them all a priority for all partners to coalesce behind. The partnership adds value in developing and implementing this new plan by ensuring that the experts in areas such as health, business, community safety and inclusion are all in the room together to discuss the gamechangers, facilitating the ability to identify shared priorities and barriers, problem solve and innovate.

Each of the major activities set out within this plan will have their own carbon impact assessments associated with their cabinet decisions, in addition to what is set out here.

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 plan itself, aside from the carbon associated with publishing and storing it electronically and producing any paper copies, will not have a direct climate impact.

The activities arising from delivering the strategy's gamechangers will have direct climate impacts, and separate climate impact assessments will be carried out by the relevant teams as part of the governance process when progressing those actions.

The partnership, in pursuit of the plan's vision of "*an even more innovative and future facing borough where all residents can thrive with fair access to the opportunities and services they need to be happy and healthy*", will add value to the delivery of the gamechangers by ensuring that the associated investments and activities are used to benefit all residents, addressing inequalities, promoting good health and reducing deprivation. This will also include addressing the unequal impact of climate change on Rotherham residents.

The 'growing a fair and thriving economy' gamechanger within the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036 seeks to increase rates of residents who are economically active and ultimately reduce levels of deprivation. In Rotherham, deprivation is correlated with exposure to extreme heat: more than two thirds of the population living in LSOAs (Lower-Level Super Output Areas) with the greatest urban heat island affect were amongst the 20% most deprived in England, as measured by the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (double the proportion of the population living in the least deprived LSOAs, throughout the borough as a whole).

'Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway' features as another gamechanger within this plan, with the Gateway comprising a new mainline train station and new tram-train stop for the borough. This would improve residents' access to public transport and make rail journeys to and from Rotherham quicker and more convenient (rail journey time to Leeds would be cut from 60minutes to 30 minutes, and more trains would be stopping). This development will make rail travel a more viable and attractive option for many residents, therefore reducing emissions

from car travel. The vision set out for increasing productivity and investment in the Don Valley also seeks to capitalise on the area's potential for growth in clean energy, with the expansion of this sector having potentially huge benefits for carbon reduction.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The plan itself will have minimal direct climate impact, aside from the emissions associated with publishing and storing it electronically and producing any paper copies. Paper copies of condensed, public-facing version of the plan will be distributed to all households in June in place of our regular biannual newsletter, but where possible we will distribute electronic copies rather than printed versions of the full plan, which will also be embedded on the Rotherham Together website. Where printing is required, due consideration will be given to the paperstock used.

There will be some further in-person activity which is necessary to achieve the required engagement, including the partnership Showcase event at Magna in June to launch the new plan to circa two hundred attendees. In these cases, mitigations will include encouraging use of active travel and public transport, especially at Magna which was selected as the venue for the Showcase event to spotlight the opening of the new tram-train stop. Any future activities arising from the strategy's vision and gamechangers may have climate impacts. These will be assessed separately by the relevant teams as part of the governance process before implementation.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Katya Anfilogoff-Clark Partnerships Manager Partnerships Policy, Strategy and Engagement
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 621 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

Supporting High Streets

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)

Simeon Leach, Service Manager Economic Strategy
0794 990 1043 simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boston Castle
Dinnington
Maltby East
Swinton Rockingham
Wath

Report Summary

A new team is being established following the approved Budget Investment for "Supporting Our High Streets" in principal towns across the Borough, including Rotherham, Wath, Dinnington, Maltby and Swinton. The team will provide business support and a visible presence across the Borough and also take the lead on delivery of the Shopfront Grants Programme.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the establishment of the new Supporting Our High Streets Team.
2. Approve the activities guiding the Supporting Our High Streets Team's programme of work in principal towns across the Borough.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Supporting our High Streets - Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Cabinet Budget Report Feb 2026 - R&E 002 – Supporting our High Streets](#)
[Cabinet Report 16 March 2026 - Local Growth Fund 2026/27 allocation](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Supporting High Streets

1. Background

- 1.1 Rotherham Council continues to invest in high streets across the Borough. Following on from additional capital investments such as the Shopfront Grants programme, as well as revenue investments in areas such as the Street Safe Team, the Council is aiming to maximise engagement and impact in high street areas across the Borough.
- 1.2 As part of the budget approved by Council on 4th March 2026, a revenue investment entitled “Supporting our High Streets” was agreed. Building on the success of the existing Town Centre Co-ordinator role, this project seeks to expand this approach, with a focus on business support, in Rotherham Town Centre and across the other principal towns in the Borough; Wath, Swinton, Dinnington and Maltby.
- 1.3 The purpose of the investment is to introduce three new High Street Business Advisers to work across Council services to support high street businesses to flourish, including access to a budget of £25,000 in each of the five locations to support local activities, for example promotional campaigns.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The new team, with advisers operating on a geographical basis, will allow for greater engagement with ward members, businesses and residents in the identified areas to ensure that resources are focussed on tackling the issues that matter most and so that successes can be effectively communicated. The main purpose of the roles is to engage with high street businesses in the Borough’s principal towns, and to provide a point of co-ordination for businesses in relation to the various activities in each locality: events, Streetscene, Street Safe and crime, business investment, local promotional opportunities and signposting to other business support services.
- 2.2 The posts will have a specific function of liaison with the local business community, providing a local presence, identifying issues of concern, and signposting to other Council services for assistance, where appropriate. They will provide visible and routine engagement in the identified areas and be a known face to businesses and local ward members, providing regular updates on activity and working to solve problems as they arise.
- 2.3 The Advisers will also provide initial business advice, help to co-ordinate local promotions, signpost to other services (e.g. grant opportunities) and co-ordinate with other Council departments.
- 2.4 The team will also lead on the delivery of the successful Shopfront Grants project, which has received a further 12 months of funding through the Local Growth Fund for 2026/27.

Deployment and monitoring

- 2.5
- As an additional resource, the team will have a significant impact on the areas covered, which are areas of high demand and therefore offer a significant opportunity in relation to enhancing the engagement and support available to the local business community. Team resources will be deployed based on identified needs and agreed priorities, such as implementation of the Shopfront Grants, and in proportion to the demand and requests from the local business community.
- 2.6
- Various indicators will be used to measure the impact and success of the activities, and will include the number of businesses supported, the amount of vacant building floorspace brought back into use, and the take up of business support and grants by Rotherham businesses.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1
- Option 1 – Approve the activities of the Supporting Our High Street team. This will provide a recognisable local resource for business support, support businesses with applying for Shopfront Grants, as well as identifying and accessing other sources of funds – this is the recommended option.
- 3.2
- Option 2 - Not to approve the activities, which is not recommended as that would not be in line with the investment approved by Council in March. The target areas would not receive the additional localised support supplied by the Advisers and the ability to maximise the various grants and business support available to them.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1
- Members and other local stakeholders will be consulted on how the new team will operate in the various target areas.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1
- The Outline Investment Proposal was presented to Cabinet and Council in February and March 2026. Following the budget approval, work was progressed in March and April on the necessary recruitment approvals and interviews and appointments are anticipated in May 2026, with staff onboard, trained and operational by July 2026.
- 5.2
- During the two years of funding currently approved, an evaluation of the project and its impacts will be undertaken. This will be used to assess the potential for continuing or expanding the project.

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 On 4th March 2026 Council approved a £304k permanent revenue budget investment as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 entitled Supporting Our High Streets. This created a team of three business advisors and a budget in each of the five locations to support local activities.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council has power to implement the Supporting Our High Streets programme under its general powers of competence and in accordance with budget approvals agreed by Council for 2026/27. Other than this there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The proposal requires the establishment of three posts to support delivery of the Supporting Our High Streets programme. All recruitment activity will be undertaken in line with the Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy.
- 8.2 Any future workforce implications will be managed in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.

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 directly from this report.

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.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 It is expected that the Supporting our High Streets team will involve a range of internal and external partners in their work, dependent on the issues arising.
- 12.2 The team will have regular communication with the Neighbourhood teams and local Councillors, to ensure they are fully up to speed with what is happening in areas and how they can assist.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Failure to recruit suitable staff for the posts.

Mitigation: Salary is competitive and similar posts have received a number of good applicants.

13.2 Advisers fail to connect with many local businesses.

Mitigation: Will use existing contacts through the RiDO and Neighbourhoods teams to promote the new team and the support they can offer.

14. Accountable Officers

14.1 Simeon Leach, Service Manager Economic Strategy

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

*Report Author: Simeon Leach, Service Manager Economic Strategy
0794 990 1043 or simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk*

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

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: Supporting our High Streets	
Directorate: R&E	Service area: RiDO
Lead person: Simeon Leach – Service Manager Economic Strategy	Contact: 0794 990 1043 Simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>It has been agreed to set up a new “Supporting the High Streets” team in RiDO, comprising 3 x High Street Advisers.</p> <p>The remit of the team is "Supporting Our High Streets" across the borough, including Rotherham town centre, Wath, Dinnington, Maltby and Swinton. The team will provide business support and a visible presence across the borough, linking business with relevant services within the Council when appropriate and taking the lead on delivery of the Shopfront grants scheme.</p>

The posts will have a specific function of liaison with the local business community, providing a local presence, identifying issues of concern and signposting to other Council services for assistance, where appropriate. They will provide visible and routine engagement in local areas and be a known face to businesses and local ward members, providing regular updates on activity and working to solve problems as they arrive. The Advisers will also lead on the delivery of the Shopfront Grants project.

The Advisers will work with all businesses and Community Groups within the target areas. Once in post, the Advisers will look at how they can specifically support certain groups and communities. Discussions with all relevant stakeholders within these areas will help develop a work programme for the Advisers, which will work to benefit all residents within the area. A full equality analysis will be completed once the Advisers are in post and have consulted with businesses and local organisations, and once a programme of interventions has been developed for assisting all relevant businesses and groups.

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**.

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 Advisers will work with all businesses and Community Groups within the target areas. Once in post they will look at how they can specifically support certain groups and communities. These could include:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Socio-economic status

The project will mainly work with businesses in the target areas, though all residents will benefit to a degree from the improved look of the High Street and the economic performance of local businesses.

This team which is being created to ensure that the work of the Town Centre Community Co-ordinator, which has been very well received within the town centre, will be replicated across the borough.

They will work closely with the Neighbourhood teams to ensure they link to as many local businesses as possible.

The project should ensure more funding is attracted to, and benefits, these areas.

- **Key findings**

Information is available down to Ward level for a range of economic indicators, a lot of which are included in the Rotherham Skills Data Dashboard, which was produced as part of the Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy and is updated 6 monthly. Some data is not available at High Street level and as such it will be difficult to link it directly back to the activity being undertaken by this project.

Each of the areas supported by the Supporting our High Streets team have areas of high deprivation, as evidenced by the recently published Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025 data.

The new team will help tackle deprivation by providing support to local businesses which will benefit the local economy by supporting the sustainability of employment and related services.

- **Actions**

The Advisers will assist businesses in each of the identified areas, helping them to improve their businesses.

The shopfront grants, administered by the Advisers, will help the businesses, but also improve the overall look and vitality of the areas.

The Advisers will act as a conduit between the local businesses and organisations and other parts of the Council, they might wish to engage with.

Produce an equality analysis once a work programme has been developed through consultation with the Advisers and local businesses/organisations.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	June 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	August 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Simeon Leach Service Manager Economic Strategy

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Simeon Leach	Service Manager Economic Strategy	8 th April 2026
Simon Moss	AD Planning, Regen and Transport	8 th April 2026
Claire Green	Business Investment Manager	8 th April 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	08/04/26
Report title and date	Supporting our High Streets Cabinet 11 th May 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	11 th May 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	08/04/26

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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	Impacts will be small in general due to increased resourcing such as: Use of charging devices, etc when located in Council buildings will increase the Council's emissions.	Increased employment could contribute to higher emissions, but works to buildings could decrease emissions through the sharing of grant funding and sustainability advice.	Business support will look at the options and benefits for moving towards net zero.	Monitoring will not be part of the work of the team.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	There is likely to be a small increase in emissions associated with commuting (scope 3) and emissions relating to business travel as part of the roles of the new teams.	Likely to be little or no impact on wider transport emissions from this project.	If working with larger firms, there may be opportunities to share information relating to sustainable travel and the benefits of a green travel plan.	Monitoring related to business travel is already undertaken annually by the climate change team Information can be shared on request to identify opportunities for reducing travel emissions and costs.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	There are likely to be some small increases in emissions associated with the employment of additional staff due to a small overall increase in waste produced.	Possibility of some waste/emission reduction from the work of the team, but these are likely to be low	These roles will support businesses to improve which includes the potential to work with businesses to enable them to reduce the amounts of waste	The Council's emissions associated with waste are annually reviewed by the climate change team. It would not be possible to

				produced and/or improve their disposal of it. It is not currently known what impact this will have.	review any impact on local businesses, and any changes are expected to be small.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

None identified

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 direct resilience implications as a result of this report, though there may be some positive business resilience outcomes as a result of direct support available in the community. This will depend on the support businesses received from the new roles if approved.

<https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E08000018>

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The primary emissions associated with the proposed recommendations are associated with the appointment of new staff, their energy use in council buildings and their travel throughout the Borough as part of their roles to support business improvements. This is not expected to be

significant. These emissions increases will be mitigated through some of the support services they offer such as the Low Carbon Grants schemes and general sustainability advice provision which may result in emissions reductions of the businesses they support.

The installation associated with the dissemination of the shopfront grants scheme will also result in emissions; however, this is outside of the remit of this paper, and it is noted therefore that these emissions are reviewed elsewhere. The approval of this overall scheme and associated CIA is included within CIA 598 pertaining to the Local Growth Fund and its implications.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Simeon Leach Service Manager Economic Strategy RiDO Regeneration and Environment
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 614 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/2027

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)

Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk
richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk

Andy Saxton, Highway Asset and Drainage Manager
Andy.saxton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain its highways through Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980.

This report describes how Rotherham's highways are strategically managed and maintained, in accordance with the agreed Highway Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP).

The report reviews the current strategy for the management and maintenance of Rotherham's highways and the impact the recent Council funding has had on the highway network.

The report describes the current performance, both in terms of the condition of Rotherham's highways and in terms of the delivery of highways maintenance services.

This additional investment in Rotherham's roads is making a real improvement to the highway network. This is evidenced by the improvement in the condition of the estate roads and classified network and a continued reduction in the number of potholes reported and highway claims received against the Council.

Recommendations

That Cabinet note the programme and delegate any amendments necessary for practical delivery or safety purposes to the Executive Director, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1	Rotherham Roads Repair Programme 2026/2027
Appendix 2	Equality Impact Analysis Part A
Appendix 3	Equality Impact Analysis Part B
Appendix 4	Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Cabinet Report – Monday 19 May 2025](#)

[Highway Policy, Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan](#)

[Well managed Highway Infrastructure October 2016](#)

[Highways Communication Strategy](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/2027**1. Background**

- 1.1 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) is responsible for 1,191 kilometres of roads, 2,082 kilometres of footways, footpaths and public rights of way, and the associated street lighting, road markings, road signs, safety barriers, traffic management systems, drainage systems and bridges.

Table 1.2 RMBC Maintained Highway Network

Road Type	Length (km)
Principal – A Roads	137
Non-Principal – B Roads	97
Non-Principal – C Roads	182
Unclassified – U Roads	775
Footway*	1666
Public Rights of Way (PROW)	416
Total	3273

*includes link paths through estates

- 1.2 The Council's approach to highway maintenance is based on the following principles:
- To maintain Rotherham's roads and footways in a safe condition to nationally recognised standards
 - To carry out programmed maintenance as cost-effectively as possible.
- 1.3 The Council has a statutory duty to maintain its highways through Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. This report describes how Rotherham's highways are strategically managed and maintained in accordance with that Act, and the Council's Highway Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to achieve the above principles.
- 1.4 As part of management and maintenance of the highway the Council has adopted an associated "Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment" (CoP), which sets out the criteria used to develop the Council's planned and reactive maintenance works on the highway within agreed timeframes. The CoP has been developed with reference to national guidance documents ("Well managed Highway Infrastructure (October 2016)" and "Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance Document (May 2013)") and takes account of advice from the Council's insurers and legal advisors.
- 1.5 The HAMP is reviewed annually and refers to the Indicative repair programme. It also includes information relating to the "Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment" (CoP).
- 1.6 A team of Highway Inspectors undertake Safety Highway Inspections to identify, record and prioritise the repair of defects, which present an immediate danger or significant inconvenience, to users of the highway, to the structural condition of the highway or the assets contained within the highway boundary. All inspectors are professionally certified through the UK Roads Board and are included on the National Register of Highway Inspectors.

- 1.7 The Highways Service has a robust information system to support the management of cyclic and ad-hoc inspections. The system records all inspections, reports and works carried out on the highway and ensures that repairs are managed within the CoP.
- 1.8 The Council recognised that a greater investment was required to narrow the gap between the condition of the estate roads and the national average.
- 2015/2016 saw the start of the Council Capital investments.
 - £5m investment across two years
 - £10m investment across three years
 - £24m investment across four years
 - 2024/2025 was the start of the current £12m investment.
- 1.9 This continued additional investment in Rotherham's roads has made a real improvement to the highway network. This is evidenced by the improvement in the condition of the estate roads and classified network and a continued reduction in the number of potholes reported and highway claims received against the Council.
- 1.10 The highway repair programme (2025/26) identified repairs across 339 maintenance schemes, equating to 33.1 miles (53km) of roads and 7.8 miles (12.5km) of footways.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Current Highways Maintenance Budget

- 2.1.1 Identified below are the main funding streams available to the Highways Service in 2026/2027. These are utilised to best deliver a strategic and prioritised approach to service delivery:
- Department for Transport (DfT) - City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) funding
 - Council capital funding for carriageway and footway repair
 - Pothole Fund allocation
 - Council annual revenue funding

2.1.2 Summary of Funding for Roads and Footways (2026/27)

Financial Year	Council			DfT / SYMCA		TOTAL
	Council Capital funding	Revenue	Road Programme Top Up Fund	DfT CRSTS fund	In year additional funding	
2026/2027	£4.2m (£3m CW / £1.2m FW)	£0.75m	0.72m	£3.0m	£2.058m HMB Allocation	£10.728m

2.2 Works Prioritisation and Indicative Works Programme

- 2.2.1 The roads and footways included in the Indicative Highway Works Programme 2026/27 (Appendix 1) are supported by a scoring matrix, detailed in the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP).

2.2.2 The aim of this process is to prioritise sections of the highway for inclusion in the works programme that provide value for money, by repairing as much of the road network as possible, whilst taking a number of factors into consideration, as listed below.

2.2.3 The criteria include:

- The condition of the Highway(s)
- Ward Member and Parish/Town Council priorities
- The number of complaints received
- The number of actionable defects (Potholes) identified
- Input from highway inspections
- The overall condition of the Ward's highways

2.2.4 The Indicative Highway Works Programme is formulated using the above adopted criteria. Once established, the proposed works locations are indicative as they could be affected by a number of factors including:

- Engineering difficulties
- Changes to funding levels
- Opportunities to coordinate with other Council Projects
- Unforeseeable essential statutory undertaker works (i.e. Gas, Water, Electric Utility Companies)
- The weather

2.2.5 Regular officer implementation meetings are held to coordinate works across the network and to keep any changes to the works programme to a minimum. The Highway Service collaborates with stakeholders and partners such as the Transportation Infrastructure Service to support delivery of improvements on the Highway Network.

2.2.6 **Table: 2.2.6 Allocation of Budgets Across the Highway Network in 2026/27**

Road Type	Value
A	£2,058,000
B & C	£1,820,000
Unclassified	£4,000,000
Footway	£2,000,000
Footway Crossings	£100,000
Revenue (unplanned)	£750,000
TOTAL	£10,728,000

2.2.7 The indicative Highway Works Programme includes a schedule of works to improve the accessibility of the footway network. These measures provide people with visual impairments, wheelchair users and others with improved access to the network. The existing footways on the planned list will be adapted with new dropped kerb lines and blister/tactile paving to assist access and promote safer locations to crossroads and access to footways. 34 pairs of crossings will be delivered across the network in locations requested by residents, local Councillors and interested groups.

2.2.8 The programme includes footway repair and the delivery of a surface treatment to priority sections of the footway network across the Borough.

2.3 Service Performance

- 2.3.1 During 2025, the Department for Transport introduced a rating system measuring how well each local highway authority is maintaining its local roads and making use of its increased government funding. This allows local people to see how well their council is maintaining roads in their area. The Department for Transport expects all local highways authorities to publish information about their highways maintenance activities to help local taxpayers see the difference that funding is making in their areas.
- 2.3.2 Rotherham Council publishes its Highway performance information in the DfT's Transparency report, informing about maintenance activities on the highway network.
- 2.3.3 Rotherham Council has been ranked among the best in the country for managing the maintenance of Rotherham's highway network thanks to its £55m investment in road repairs which commenced in 2015.
- 2.3.4 The Government has introduced a new 'traffic light' system for ranking local authority performances on repairing damaged roads, with green for the best, amber for adequate and red for those which need to improve. The Government rankings take into account both how good councils are at repairing damage and how effectively they invest in road repairs.
- 2.3.5 Rotherham is the only area in South Yorkshire, and one of three nationally, to be ranked green, with most of the rest of the country ranked as amber. This is understood to be due to the £39m investment between 2015 and 2024 in accordance with Rotherham Council's good Highway Asset Management principles. The Council have continued investment with a further £16m committed to the Rotherham Roads Programme until 2028.
- 2.3.6 On a quarterly basis Highway Services publishes a suite of performance indicators on the Council website. These indicators cover all aspects of service provision including:
- Condition of the Highway Network
 - Pothole Repair Times
 - Quality of Pothole Repairs
 - Highway Safety Inspections
 - Making safe dangerous overhanging trees on highway land
 - Customer Questionnaire Results
 - Make safe missing cover e.g. public and private sewers, gas, water, or BT apparatus.

2.4 Condition of the Road Network

- 2.4.1 Based on the latest information available from the Department for Transport national data set 2024/25 (this is the latest available data), the table below shows the condition of Rotherham's road network compared to the National Average. The lower the figure, the better the score. The table below shows that the condition of Rotherham's unclassified network is better than the national average, which is 17%. National figures were last produced in March 2024.

Table 2.4.1 Condition of Rotherham's Roads

Year	National Average A Roads	RMBC Average A Roads	National Average B/C Roads	RMBC Average B/C Roads	National Average Unclassified Roads	RMBC Average Unclassified Roads
2015/16	3	3	6	6	17	24
2016/17	3	3	6	7	17	23
2017/18	2	2	6	5	17	23
2018/19	2	2	6	4	17	23
2019/20	4	2	6	3	17	22
2020/21	4	2	6	3	17	19
2021/22	4	2	6	3	15	16
2022/23	4	2	6	3	17	14
2023/24	4	2	6	2	17	13
2024/25	4	3	7	3	17	13
2025/26	tbc - data not available	Dec-25 3	tbc - data not available	Dec-25 2	tbc - data not available	Dec-25 10

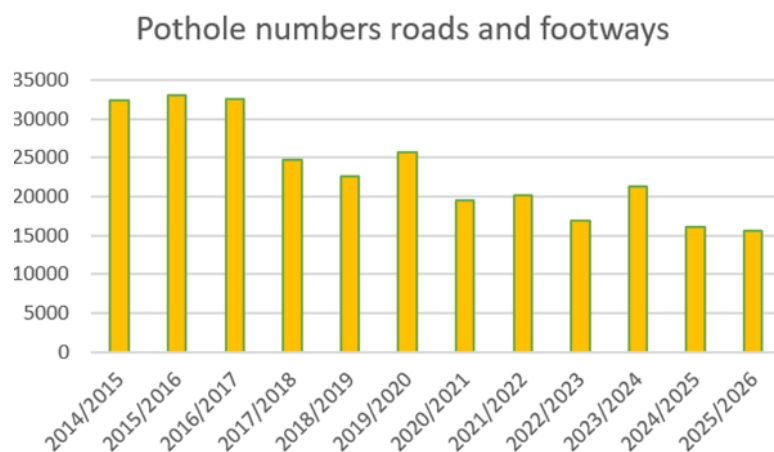
*U - Unclassified Road Network (Estate type roads)

2.4.2 The current level of Council investment in the highway network has achieved a better than national average standard for the classified network (A, B and C class roads). A trend has been identified that shows the condition of A roads, which is 136.8km of the total network, requires investment.

2.4.3 The previous additional investment in the maintenance of unclassified roads has seen the condition of the unclassified network improved to better than National Average.

2.5 Urgent Defects (Pothole Repairs)

2.5.1 The table below identifies a significant reduction in the number of actionable defects required to be repaired across the network i.e. from 34,000 in 2014/15 to 16,114 in 2024/25. The table below indicates the reduction in pot hole repairs over the last ten years; the Council repaired 15,521 potholes in 2025/26.

Table 2.5.1 Pothole Repairs

2.5.2 Roads with a high number of potholes are considered in the works prioritisation process, for inclusion in the Indicative Highway Works Programme for resurfacing and, consequently, the number of potholes requiring repair has reduced significantly. It should also be noted that a prolonged cold winter and or flooding can and does impact on the condition of the highway network; causing the number of potholes to increase through freeze/thaw action. This in turn can lead to an increase in the number of claims received.

2.6 Highway Claims

2.6.1 The management and maintenance of the highway network is in accordance with the Council's "Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment" (CoP), which sets out the criteria used to develop the Council's planned and reactive maintenance works on the highway within agreed timeframes. The CoP has been developed with reference to national guidance documents ("Well managed Highway Infrastructure (October 2016)") and "Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Guidance Document (May 2013)") and takes account of advice from the Council's insurers and legal advisors.

2.6.2 Highways, Roads & Carriageways include the potential for tripping claim liability through defects on the highway. The Council's success in complying with the requirements set out in Section 58 of the Highways Act means that currently 94% of all Highways insurance claims are repudiated. Similar results have been achieved over the past several years and are recognised within the insurance industry as one of the best performing authorities in the country in this regard.

2.6.3 Between 2011 and 2015 the Council received a monthly average of 30 claims for alleged damage to vehicles and personal injury claims. In 2015 before the investment in the road network through the Council's Capital funding, the Council received 381 claims. The improvement to the highway network has now seen a substantial reduction in the number of claims received to the lowest ever recorded at an average of 18 claims per month and a total of 221 claims received in 2024.

2.6.4 In 2015/2016 the Council paid £636,534 in claims relating to highway defects, however this has reduced over time and to date, in 2024/2025 the Council has paid out £5,879. Claims considered in County Court often take a number of years to be processed, but the Council continues to repudiate a high number of claims made (Information January 2025).

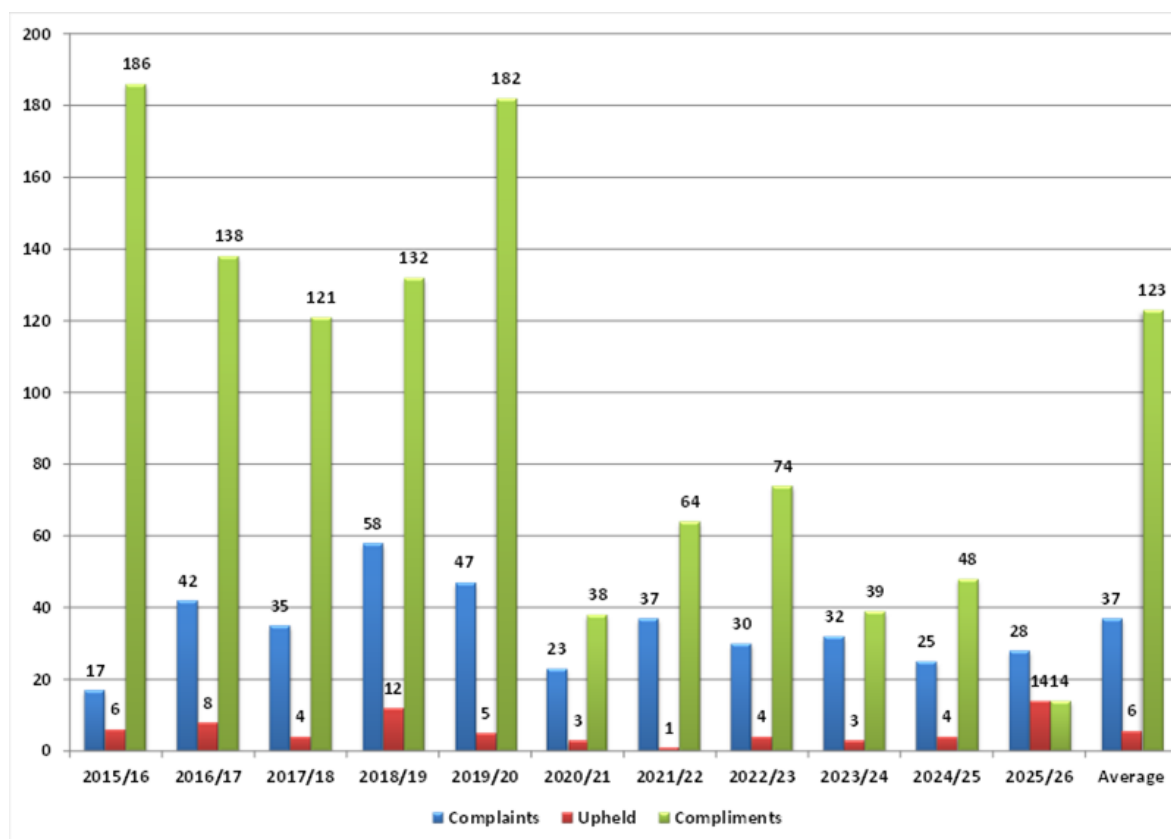
Highways Liability PL Claims Performance							
Incident - financial Year	Claims Rec'd	Number on-going	Number Closed	Number Repudiated	Percentage Repudiated	Number Paid	Total Paid (inc. costs)
2015/16	262	0	262	236	90%	26	£636,534
2016/17	121	0	121	108	90%	13	£61,775
2017/18	196	0	196	182	93%	14	£185,791
2018/19	204	0	204	195	96%	9	£50,701
2019/20	296	0	296	259	88%	37	£86,741
2020/21	122	0	122	109	90%	13	£29,361
2021/22	133	1	131	120	92%	12	£40,699
2022/23	182	5	177	168	95%	9	£15,824
2023/24	298	17	281	274	98%	6	£31,559
2024/25	151	118	32	29	90%	3	£5,879
2025/26 (as Dec 2025)	61	40	21	21	100%	0	£0

2.7 Customer Feedback – Complaints/Compliments/Questionnaires

2.7.1 Highway Services receives a number of complaints and reports throughout the year from residents, businesses and visitors relating to the highway network. The Highways team provide a written reply to all customers where appropriate.

2.7.2 Graph 2.7.2.1 below identifies the number of complaints received and the number of complaints that were upheld. The table also shows how many compliments the Service has received. These are recorded and monitored by the Council’s Complaints Team. The information provides a good indication of how the delivery of Highway Services is perceived by residents in Rotherham.

Figure 2.7.2.1 - Highways Customer Complaints and Compliments



2.7.3 The Highway Service has consistently received a larger number of compliments in comparison to complaints. Of note is the very small number of upheld complaints, which are analysed by the Service to drive improvements in delivery of highway repairs.

2.7.4 In addition to the monitoring of complaints and compliments, post-construction surveys are delivered to properties affected by highway repair works. The questionnaire asks residents, who have been directly affected by the delivery of a highway scheme, their opinion on all aspects of the work.

2.7.5 The questionnaire includes a range of questions, such as:-

- How well residents and businesses were informed about the works before they started
- Did the works start on time?

- Quality of the Works
- Was the site left clean and tidy?
- Professionalism of staff carrying out the works.

2.7.6 The most recent survey results for 2025/26 show very high satisfaction with service performance. Across eleven questions included in the post-construction survey an average satisfaction score of 84.5% has been achieved.

2.7.7 The Highway Service participates in the National Highways and Transportation (NHT) Annual Survey, where Rotherham residents are asked their views on their satisfaction with the condition of the road surfaces in Rotherham. The survey results from 2024, (the current published survey) confirm that 22% of residents asked, were satisfied with the speed of repair to damaged roads and surface, in comparison to the NHT average, also at 22%.

2.7.8 Although customer satisfaction with the general condition of Rotherham's roads is low, in accordance with the NHT survey, the actual condition of Rotherham's main roads (A, B and C's) which carry around 80% of the traffic is better than the national average.

2.7.9 To try and address satisfaction levels and raise the profile of the works being carried out, the service engages with residents and visitors through a number of initiatives, including pre-works consultation and satisfaction surveys. The Council's Corporate Communication Team also promote highway works with social media updates, press releases and through the Council.

2.8 **Communications and Engagement**

2.8.1 Communications and engagement with residents and Elected Members are vitally important to ensure the Highway Services are operating in an efficient, effective, and accountable way.

2.8.2 Highway Services have an approved Communication Strategy, which is published on the website (see background papers above) providing guidance on how the Service communicates and engages with key stakeholders on managing highway assets and decision-making process.

2.8.3 In addition, one of the key elements of highway asset management is ensuring a holistic approach to the delivery of services, promoting integration of processes, information, and systems. This is supported by cross service weekly meetings to review programming of works to ensure effective delivery.

2.8.4 Good communication with stakeholders is an essential part of the process for the delivery of highway works:

- Proposed works details are shared with appropriate managers within the Council.
- Letters are delivered to all residents and businesses fronting the works prior to scheme design completion. The letter informs them of start dates, contact details and a request to undertake a satisfaction survey on completion of the works.
- Ward Members are consulted when the proposed designs are circulated to the residents and their feedback is considered in the final design.

- Other stakeholders such as South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and bus operators are consulted during the design process to minimise disruption to bus services.
- Prior to the start of a road or footway repair, pre-start signage is positioned on the roadside, providing road users with information relating to details of the highway works. The signage will confirm the proposed start date and detail if any traffic lights or road closures will be used to deliver the works.
- Proposed works are also posted on the <https://one.causeway.com/applications/network> website.

2.8.5 In addition, any major projects that could cause disruption to road users are detailed on the Council's website for customers to access with the link to the content included on the prestart signage.

2.8.6 This process enables local residents, businesses and Members to inform the scheme design and the method of delivery e.g. night-time or weekend working to minimise disruption and/or inconvenience.

2.9 Elected Member Engagement

2.9.1 Highway Services delivers a seminar to all Ward Members on an annual basis. The seminar includes an explanation of the Council's Highway Management principles focussing on "Whole Lifecycle Planning" to maximise the available budget.

2.9.2 The seminars are held annually and provide Members with the detail of the criteria used to develop the Indicative Works Programme.

2.9.3 A Members' seminar was held on the 9th December 2025 to provide Local Ward Members with a review of the works delivered over the previous year and reassurance ahead of the commencement of the Winter Service.

2.9.4 The Members' seminar also gives an opportunity for Highway Services to provide information on customer feedback and discuss any key issues for the next 12 months.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 The consequence of a poorly maintained highway network impacts directly on all road users and has a detrimental impact on the local economy and on users' perceptions of the Borough. Poor roads mean increased vehicle operating costs, delays, and less safe roads, and as a result may influence investment decisions.

3.2 Highway lifecycle planning is used to develop a sustainable maintenance strategy over the life of the highway asset from construction to disposal. This provides the ability to predict the future performance of the asset for different levels of investment and assists in mitigating the risk of failure by allocating funds to where they will be most beneficial. This form of allocation moves away from a more traditional "worst first" approach and targets work programmes at those parts of the infrastructure which present the greatest risk and where timely treatment can achieve the most beneficial whole of life cost.

3.3 The Council could adopt a worst first approach, which would see some short-term improvements to some roads, however, this approach would see an increase over time of

the number of roads that deteriorate to a very poor condition. This would likely lead to an increase in the number of highway claims and customer complaints the Council receives.

- 3.4 Through improving capture and analysis of information about the maintenance of the highway assets, services can be delivered more efficiently. Highway budgets can be focused on preventing deterioration and in so doing ensure that the maximum benefit is derived from available resources.
- 3.5 The Council's unclassified road network had deteriorated below national average prior to capital investment. The Council investment from 2020 arrested the deterioration and the £24m to 2024 Roads Programme Investment has achieved the Council's objective to improve the condition of the estate roads to better than National average. The current Investment of £12m over four years together with £1m from DfT funding, will continue to manage the condition at current state.

4. Consultation on Proposals

- 4.1 Highway Services have developed an effective Communication Strategy which is adhered to from the drafting of the programme of works through to implementation of the schemes, as detailed above.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Head of Highways and Flood Risk is accountable for the development of the Highway Policy, Strategy and Plan and for ensuring the delivery of the indicative Highway Works Programme 2026/27. The Highway Asset and Drainage Manager leads the operational coordination of actions to deliver the indicative Highway Works Programme 2026/27.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 Section 2.1 provides information on the 2026/2027 Capital and Revenue funding for Highways.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report. However, the Service must ensure that all goods, works and services required to maintain the Highway are procured in line with the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and applicable procurement legislation subject to the route to market selected (Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended) and Procurement Act 2023).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to maintain its highways pursuant to Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. The way in which the Council complies with this duty is set out in the body of the report and is in compliance with relevant Legislation, Guidance and Codes of Practice.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Highway Network is available for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough. The Council makes positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access aspects of the network. The indicative Highway Works Programme includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheelchair users equal access to the network.
- 9.2 Residents, businesses, local Councillors, and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes detailed in the indicative Highway Works Programme. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individuals during the delivery of works are accommodated, where possible, to encourage the continued access to the highway network.
- 9.3 Where possible, the delivery of works that affect access to schools or places of worship are scheduled at a time to minimise disruption to all user groups. Often works near to or affecting access to a school are carried out during the summer school holidays or at nights.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A full Equality Impact Analysis has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix 2 and 3.
- 10.2 The Highway Network is available for all residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough. The Council makes positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access all aspects of the network. The indicative Highway Works Programme includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheelchair users equal access to the network.
- 10.3 Residents, businesses, local Councillors, and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes detailed in the indicative Highway Works Programme. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements necessary to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of works will be accommodated to encourage the continue access to the highway network.
- 10.4 The delivery of works that affect access to schools or places of worship are scheduled at a time to minimise disruption to all user groups. Often works near to or affecting access to a school are carried out during the summer school holidays or at night.
- 10.5 The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.
- 10.6 The Communication Strategy includes the action to hand deliver a note to all properties affected by the proposed works in the week prior to the commencement. The note contains the details and contact information for the onsite works supervisor.

- 10.7 The onsite works supervisor is available to answer queries relating to the delivery of the scheme and also any access issues. The supervisor will make arrangements during the construction of works to allow vehicle access for ambulances / taxis to allow residents to keep hospital appointments etc. or special requirements relating to weddings, funerals or other exceptional occurrences.
- 10.8 Good highway asset management enables the most efficient use of resources and minimises the disruption to all road users of the highway.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix 4. Whilst the resurfacing of roads has a significant carbon impact the Council continues to work with its suppliers to identify materials and methods that reduce the carbon impact of the activity. For example, the Council is working with Steelphalt to trial what is believed to be the World's first Carbon Negative asphalt with asphalt incorporating a natural binder that can part replace fossil-based bitumen.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Key stakeholders will be able to contribute to the identification and delivery of proposed highway repair works through various forums and methods, particularly disabled users and representatives, cycling, walking and horse-riding groups, South Yorkshire Police, and passenger transport groups including the local bus companies. Close working with the Council's Transport Infrastructure Team will ensure a co-ordinated programme of replacement and investment that minimises whole life costs and maximises value for money.
- 12.2 Consultation on potential changes to the highway is an important part of communication with customers to ensure service users' needs are reflected in changes made to the highway network. The prioritisation methodologies demonstrated in the decision-making process include elements of customer priorities.
- 12.3 For major highway schemes, full consultation exercises are carried out in advance of works starting. For routine maintenance schemes, contact is made with all residents and businesses fronting the works prior to design; informing them of start dates, contact details and a request to undertake a questionnaire on completion of the works.
- 12.4 Key stakeholders have been consulted on RMBC's approach to manage and maintain the highway network including:
- South Yorkshire Police
 - South Yorkshire Ambulance Service
 - South Yorkshire Fire Service
 - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
 - Major Bus Operators
 - First
 - Stagecoach
 - Network Rail
 - Parish and Town Councils
 - Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent Water
 - Major Utility Companies
 - Environment Agency

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The highway network is the most valuable asset that the Council is responsible for with a gross replacement value of £1.654 billion.
- 13.2 The highway network is accessed by residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough and the condition of the network influences opinions of Rotherham and the confidence of businesses to invest in the Borough.
- 13.3 To prevent deterioration in the condition of the highway network, continued investment is required in Rotherham's roads. If the condition of the roads deteriorates, funding would be required to be targeted at responsive repairs (potholes) to keep road users safe rather than the wider, programmed and more cost-effective works.
- 13.4 The risk from a deterioration of the network is the potential for an increase in the number of customer complaints, accidents, and highway claims that the Council receives. This could damage the Council's reputation and see an increase in the payments made to injured parties.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Service Director

Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	13/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/04/26

Report Author: Andy Saxton, Highway Asset and Drainage Manager
andy.saxton@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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APPENDIX 1 - ROTHERHAM ROADS PROGRAMME 2026/2027

ADDRESS	LOCALITY	LOCATION	TREATMENT	ROAD CLASS	WARD NAME
ORCHARD AVENUE	NORTH ANSTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
OAKDALE ROAD	NORTH ANSTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
ORCHARD GARDENS	SOUTH ANSTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
WORKSOP ROAD	ASTON	JUNCTION WITH AUGHTON LANE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
DINNINGTON ROAD	WOODSETTS	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
GILDINGWELLS ROAD	WOODSETTS	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
NURSERY ROAD	NORTH ANSTON	FISH BAR TO WOODSETTS ROAD	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
CROWGATE	SOUTH ANSTON	WINDSOR WALK TO AXEL LANE (ODD NUMBERED SIDE)	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	ANSTON AND WOODSETTS
THE MEADOWS	TODWICK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
AUGHTON LANE SERVICE ROAD 1	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
LOVETOT AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
MAPLE GROVE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
AUGHTON LANE SERVICE ROAD 1	ASTON	PHASE TWO AREA	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
AUGHTON LANE SERVICE ROAD 2	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
CANTILUPE CRESCENT	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
CONYERS DRIVE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
HOLDERNESS DRIVE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
LOVETOT AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
MELBOURNE AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
MILLSTONE DRIVE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
ROSEDALE CLOSE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
ROSEDALE ROAD	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
ROSEGARTH AVENUE	ASTON	PHASE TWO AREA	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
ST STEPHENS DRIVE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
TOWN END AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
VERELST AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
WESLEY AVENUE	ASTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	ASTON AND TODWICK
CHESTERFIELD ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	TBC	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
PARK HILL	SWALLOWNEST	63 TO ALDI	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
SHEFFIELD ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	11 to 35	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	C	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
PICKERING CRESCENT (and side roads)	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
ARCUBUS AVENUE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
HARROGATE ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
KNARESBOROUGH CLOSE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
ROTHERHAM ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	JUNCTION WITH HIGH STREET	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
GRAY AVENUE FOOTPATH 2	AUGHTON	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
ALEXANDRA ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
ARCUBUS AVENUE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
AUNBY DRIVE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
DARCY CLOSE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
ESTONE DRIVE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
FANE CRESCENT	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
IVANHOE MEWS	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
KING STREET	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
LUTERAL DRIVE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
MASON AVENUE	SWALLOWNEST	PARTIALLY COMPLETED	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
PAGENALL DRIVE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
CHESTNUT ROAD	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
BEECH WAY	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
LEYBURN DRIVE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
HOLLY TERRACE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
OAK TERRACE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
AYSGARTH RISE	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
OAK TERRACE FOOTPATH 1	SWALLOWNEST	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST
MOORGATE ROAD	MOORGATE	PHASE 3 (TOTAL)	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	BOSTON CASTLE
CANKLOW ROUNDABOUT	CANKLOW	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	BOSTON CASTLE
WEST BAWTRY ROAD	MOORGATE	NEAR JUNCTION 33 M1	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	BOSTON CASTLE
ALMA ROAD	MOORGATE	SECTION REPAIR	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	BOSTON CASTLE
BROOM VALLEY ROAD	BROOM	BEACONSFIELD ROAD TO BRUNSWICK ROAD	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BOSTON CASTLE
BROOMFIELD GROVE	BROOM	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BOSTON CASTLE

ROTHERSTOKE CLOSE	MOORGATE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BOSTON CASTLE
GODSTONE ROAD	WELLGATE	JUNCTION WITH MOORGATE ROAD	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	BOSTON CASTLE
VICTORIA AVENUE	CLIFTON	JUNCTION WITH BADSLEY MOOR LANE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	BOSTON CASTLE
MAIN STREET	ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE	DROPPED CROSSING TO ACROSS BRIDGE	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	BOSTON CASTLE
CANKLOW ROAD	CANKLOW	ALMA ROAD TO DUSTY MILLER BUILDING	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	C	BOSTON CASTLE
BROADLANDS	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
COQUET AVENUE	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
FLASH LANE	BRAMLEY	THE LINGS TO SLACK LANE	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
PROSPECT CLOSE	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 1	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 2	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 3	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 4	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 5	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE FOOTPATH 6	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
THE LINGS	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
SEDGE CLOSE	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD
BRINSWORTH ROAD	BRINSWORTH	ROUNDAABOUT TO 251	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	BRINSWORTH
NELSON CLOSE	BRINSWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BRINSWORTH
GREENFINCH CLOSE	BRINSWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BRINSWORTH
CHAFFINCH AVENUE	BRINSWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	BRINSWORTH
POTENTIAL DONCASTER ROAD - SUPPORT TO SYMCA PROJECT	DALTON	130M SECTION	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	DALTON AND THRYBERGH
SCHOOL LANE	THRYBERGH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	DALTON AND THRYBERGH
LADY OAK ROAD	EAST HERRINGTHORPE	REMAINDER	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	DALTON AND THRYBERGH
BACK LANE	THRYBERGH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	DALTON AND THRYBERGH
SPRINGFIELD DRIVE	THRYBERGH	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	DALTON AND THRYBERGH
DOE QUARRY LANE	DINNINGTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	DINNINGTON
NURSERY ROAD	NORTH ANSTON	SPEED BUMPS BEFORE PARK AVENUE TO ROUNDAABOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	DINNINGTON
CARR LANE	CARR	THROUGH VILLAGE	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	C	DINNINGTON
LIMELANDS ROAD	DINNINGTON	CHURCH LANE TO CRAMFIT CRESCENT?	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	DINNINGTON
MELLOW FIELDS ROAD	DINNINGTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	DINNINGTON
OLD HALL CLOSE	LAUGHTON EN LE MORTHEN	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	DINNINGTON
POTTER HILL	GREASBROUGH	MAIN STREET SPLITTER TO SIDE OF CROWN	ANTI SKID INSTALLATION	B	GREASBROUGH
POTTER HILL	GREASBROUGH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	GREASBROUGH
ROUGHWOOD ROAD	WINGFIELD	FENTON ROAD TO PAST WINGFIELD ROAD	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	GREASBROUGH
MUNSBROUGH LANE	GREASBROUGH	SECTION REPAIR	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	GREASBROUGH
DERWENT ROAD	WINGFIELD	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	GREASBROUGH
ADDISON ROAD	MALTBY	TRAFFIC LIGHT AREA	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST
FROBISHER GROVE	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST
VERNON WAY	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST
LOWTON WAY	HELLABY	TACTILES X6	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST
STREET LANE	HOOPER	TBC - OVERLAY	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HOOPER
BRAMBLE WAY	WEST MELTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HOOPER
LYMEGATE	BRAMPTON BIERLOW	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HOOPER
FRIERS CROFT	WENTWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	HOOPER
PACKMAN ROAD	WEST MELTON	EAST SIDE 100M FROM AMERICA LANE	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	HOOPER
WESTFIELD ROAD	BRAMPTON BIERLOW	WESTPIT HILL TO OPPOSITE 30 including Tactiles at Westpit Hill Junction	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	HOOPER
LODGE LANE	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
THORNTREE ROAD	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
REMOUNT ROAD	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
BINDERS ROAD	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
KEPPEL DRIVE	KEPPEL	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
SCHOLLS GREEN	SCHOLLS	RAMP AND SURFACE REPAIR TO O/S NO'4	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
ELM TREE CLOSE	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
THORNTREE CLOSE	KIMBERWORTH PARK	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KEPPEL
OAKS LANE SERVICE ROAD WEST	KIMBERWORTH PARK	IN FRONT OF SHOP OPPOSITE TO FOOTPATH	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	KEPPEL
Brook Hill	THORPE HESLEY	O/S 163	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	KEPPEL
OAKS LANE	KIMBERWORTH PARK	SERVICE ROAD TO DEPOT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	C	KEPPEL
OAKS LANE SERVICE ROAD WEST	KIMBERWORTH PARK	SIDE 2 STUDMOOR TO 125 OAKS LANE	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	C	KEPPEL
VICTORIA STREET	KILNHURST	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST
NEW STATION ROAD	SWINTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST
ROCKLEA CLOSE	SWINTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST
Lawrence Drive	SWINTON	ACROSS LAWRENCE DRIVE (NEAR BENTON TERRACE JUNCTION)	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST
QUEEN STREET	SWINTON	APPROX 55M EASTERN FWAY - OLD BRIDGE TO 45M SOUTH OF WATH ROAD	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	KILNHURST AND SWINTON EAST
HIGH STREET	MALTBY	CROSS ROADS AREA INTO MUGLET DOWN TO MILLINGDALE	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	MALTBY EAST

DUKE AVENUE	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
WALTERS ROAD	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
SCHOLFIELD CRESCENT BACK ROAD 1	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
DUKE AVENUE BACK ROAD 1	MALTBY	SCHOLEFIELD CRESCENT BACK ROAT TO MUGLET LANE	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
ALBERT STREET	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
KING AVENUE BACK ROAD 1	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
MUGLET LANE BACK ROAD 1	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
BEDFORD STREET	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
BEDFORD STREET BACK ROAD 1	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
SOMERSET STREET	MALTBY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	MALTBY EAST
ALDWARKE ROAD	PARKGATE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	RAWMARSH EAST
GREAT EASTERN WAY ROUNDABOUT	PARKGATE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	RAWMARSH EAST
MARRION ROAD	RAWMARSH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH EAST
MARSHALL CLOSE	PARKGATE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH EAST
GREENFIELD RJ Request	RAWMARSH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH EAST
BARBERS AVENUE	PARKGATE	JUNCTION WITH POTTERY CLOSE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	RAWMARSH EAST
POTTERY CLOSE	PARKGATE	BETWEEN 7 AND 9	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	RAWMARSH EAST
CREIGHTON AVENUE	RAWMARSH	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH EAST
DALE ROAD (BLYTH AVENUE)	RAWMARSH	TBC	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	RAWMARSH WEST
RAWMARSH HILL	PARKGATE	TBC	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	RAWMARSH WEST
ROLLS CRESCENT	RAWMARSH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH WEST
RODEN WAY	RAWMARSH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	RAWMARSH WEST
HIGHFIELD LANE	ORGREAVE	ROUNDABOUT TO SHEFFIELD BOUNDARY	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	ROTHER VALE
SHEFFIELD LANE INCLUDING THE CROFT	CATCLIFFE	ORGREAVE ROAD TO THE CROFT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHER VALE
WASHFIELD CRESCENT	TREETON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHER VALE
CHRUCH LANE	TREETON	JUNCTION WITH STATION ROAD	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHER VALE
SHEFFIELD LANE	CATCLIFFE	JUNCTION WITH SOUTH VIEW TERRACE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHER VALE
WOOD LANE	TREETON	VARIOUS POINTS	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHER VALE
Treetown Crescent	TREETON	JUNCTION WITH STATION ROAD	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHER VALE
WICKERSLEY ROAD	BROOM	SECTION NEAR STAG ROUNDABOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	ROTHERHAM EAST
NORTH ROAD	EAST DENE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
LONGFELLOW DRIVE	HERRINGTHORPE	TBC	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
LINDLEY STREET	EASTWOOD	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
SHAKESPEARE ROAD	EASTWOOD	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
ERSKINE ROAD	EASTWOOD	THROUGHOUT (NOT CONCRETE SECTION)	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
NEWTON STREET	CLIFTON	FROM MIDDLE LANE TO NUMBER 32	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
EASTWOOD MOUNT	CLIFTON	FROM MIDDLE LANE TO NUMBER 32	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
THE LANES	EAST DENE	SINGLE DROP END OF FOOTPATH 7	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHERHAM EAST
THE LANES	EAST DENE	SINGLE DROP END OF FOOTPATH 8	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHERHAM EAST
THE LANES	EAST DENE	TBC - TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL AREAS IN CO-ORD WITH PATH 7 AND 8	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	ROTHERHAM EAST
ST LEONARDS ROAD	EASTWOOD	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
THE LANES	EAST DENE	STEPS REPAIR AND SURFACE	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM EAST
ROSEBERY STREET	HOLMES	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
MEADOWBANK ROAD SERVICE ROAD 2	MEADOWBANK	430 - 472	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
DOVERCOURT ROAD	MASBROUGH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
OAKDALE ROAD	KIMBERWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
OAKDALE PLACE	KIMBERWORTH	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
CONCORD VIEW ROAD	KIMBERWORTH	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	ROTHERHAM WEST
MORTHEN LANE (PATCH)	MORTHEN	MORTHEN LANE JUNCTION WITH MORTHAN HALL LANE	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	B	SITWELL
NEWMAN COURT	MOORGATE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SITWELL
WELL LANE	WHISTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SITWELL
SCHOOL HILL	WHISTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SITWELL
ALLENDALE ROAD	HERRINGTHORPE	NEAR JUNCTION WITH HERRINGTHORPE VALLEY ROAD	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	SITWELL
HERRINGTHORPE LANE	HERRINGTHORPE	HERRINGTHORPE VALLEY ROAD TO WOODALL ROAD	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	SITWELL
GOLDEN SMITHIES LANE	SWINTON	JUNCTION WITH A6022	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	C	SWINTON ROCKINGHAM
GRANGE ROAD	SWINTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SWINTON ROCKINGHAM
DUKE STREET	SWINTON	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SWINTON ROCKINGHAM
QUEEN STREET	SWINTON	VARIOUS	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	SWINTON ROCKINGHAM
BAWTRY ROAD SERVICE ROAD 3 SOUTH	WICKERSLEY	148 TO 172	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
RECREATION AVENUE	THURCROFT	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
GREEN ARBOUR ROAD	THURCROFT	SAWN MOOR ROAD TO LIMETREE AVENUE	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
ZAMOR CRESCENT	THURCROFT	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
GURTH DRIVE	THURCROFT	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
GUILBERT AVENUE	THURCROFT	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	U	THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH
NORWOOD CRESCENT	WALES	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WALES

MANVERS WAY AND STATION ROAD ROUNDABOUT	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	WATH
CUTTS AVENUE	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WATH
NICHOLSON AVENUE	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WATH
NEWFIELD CRESCENT	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WATH
HALL DRIVE	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WATH
WOODSIDE AVENUE	WATH-UPON-DEARNE	ACROSS FROM NO 1 ACROSS JUNCTION WITH SIDE ROAD AND JUNCTION WITH THOMPSON CLOSE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	WATH
BAWTRY ROAD	WICKERSLEY	ROUNDABOUT TO SEVICE ROAD (PAST TANYARD)	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	WICKERSLEY NORTH
BAWTRY ROAD	WICKERSLEY	JET GARAGE TO BEECH AVENUE	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	A	WICKERSLEY NORTH
BRECKS CRESCENT	BRECKS	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
THE CENTRE	BRAMLEY	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
LOW RIDDINGS	SUNNYSIDE	THROUGHOUT	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
CHURCH LANE	BRAMLEY	BRAMLEY PARK JUNCTION	CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACING	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
CENTRAL AVENUE	SUNNYSIDE	35M FROM FLANDERWELL LANE JUNCTION	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	WICKERSLEY NORTH
FLANDERWELL LANE	SUNNYSIDE	ADJACENT TO 107 FLANDERWELL LANE	FOOTWAY CROSSING	FW	WICKERSLEY NORTH
DALTON FOOTPATH 8	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
GREENFIELD GARDENS FOOTPATH 2	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CLOSE FOOTPATH 17	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CLOSE FOOTPATH 16	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CLOSE FOOTPATH 15	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CLOSE FOOTPATH 13	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 10	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 11	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 12	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 8	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 7	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT FOOTPATH 9	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
FLEMING WAY FOOTPATH 3	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
FLEMING WAY FOOTPATH 4	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CLOSE	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
DELMAR WAY	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MILLAIS RISE	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
VARLEY GARDENS	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAGNA CRESCENT	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
FORRESTER CLOSE	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
LANDSEER COURT	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
ROSSETTI MOUNT	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
FLEMING WAY	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
HAYDON GROVE	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
GREENFIELD GARDENS	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
REDGRAVE PLACE	FLANDERWELL	THROUGHOUT	FOOTWAY MICRO ASPHALT	U	WICKERSLEY NORTH
MAIN STREET	BRAMLEY	ALDI TO CROSS STREET (ALDI SIDE)	FOOTWAY RESURFACING	B	WICKERSLEY NORTH

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 properly considered 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: Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27		
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Highways	
Lead person: Richard Jackson – Head of Highways and Flood Risk	Contact number: 01709 823895 or Richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk	
Is this a:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify		

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Strategic Management and Maintenance of Rotherham's Highways – Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27. This programme sets out the boroughwide highway repairs to be carried out in the 2026-2027 financial year.

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?	Yes	
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?		No

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 Council is placed under a duty to maintain its highways by Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. Section 58 of the Act allows the Council to mount a defence in actions against the Authority if it can demonstrate that it has taken reasonable care to ensure that the highway was not dangerous to traffic. The “Rotherham MBC Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment” assists the Council to robustly defend highway claims under Section 58 of “The Highways Act 1980”.

The RMBC Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment helps ensure roads are serviceable and safe. The consequence of a poorly managed and maintained highway network impacts directly on all road users, has a detrimental impact on the local economy and on user’s perceptions of the Borough.

The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

Issues relating to equalities has been addressed as part of the current Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27 with the inclusion of measures to give access to the highway network for all disadvantaged groups.

The delivery of works that effect access to schools or places of worship are scheduled at a time to minimise disruption to all user groups. Often works near to or affecting access to a school are carried out during the summer school holidays or at nights.

The schemes carried out affect all residents. We organise the works to reduce the impact on the public. Several stages of consultation and information informs residents and provides them the opportunity to contact us with any specific requests or access requirements. We work hard to accommodate these where we can in the context of carrying out our statutory duty to maintain the highway.

- **Key findings**

The highway network is available for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough. The Council make positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access all aspects of the network.

The Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27 includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheelchair user’s equal access to the network.

The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

All residents, businesses, local Councillors, and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes detailed in the proposed Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27.

All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are consider in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated to encourage the continued access to the highway network.

Issues relating to equalities has been addressed as part of the proposed Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27 with the inclusion of measures to give access to the highway network for all disadvantaged groups.

- **Actions**

The service levels specified within the “Rotherham MBC Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment” and the risk-based evaluation process acknowledges the different users of the public highway. The minimum investigatory levels specified within the CoP are provided as a guide. The vulnerability of all highway users, including cyclists and pedestrians to certain highway defects are reflected in the risk assessment carried out when deciding the category of the defect.

Issues relating to equalities has been addressed as part of the proposed Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27 with the inclusion of measures to give access to the highway network for all.

The highway network is available for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough. The Council make positive changes to the highway network to provide equal opportunity to access the network.

Residents, businesses, local Councillors, and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes in their communities in the proposed Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27.

All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated to encourage the continued access to the highway network.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	10.03.2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	27.03.2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Andrew Saxton – Highway Asset and Drainage Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Richard Jackson	Head of Highways and Flood Risk.	26.03.2026

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	09.04.2026
Report title and date	Cabinet Report – Rotherham Roads Programme 2026-2027
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 – 11 May 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09.04.2026

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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 properly considered 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: Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment to approve the Highway Repair Programme for 2026 / 2027.		
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): Regeneration and Environment		
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Streetscene	
Lead Manager: Richard Jackson	Contact number: 01709 823895	
Is this a:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)
Sam Barstow	RMBC	Service Director
Richard Jackson	RMBC	Head of Service
Andy Saxton	RMBC	Highway Asset and Drainage 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 highway network is available for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough. The Council make positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access all aspects of the network. The indicative Highway Works Programme includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheelchairs user's equal access to the network.

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

The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

The Communication Strategy includes the action to hand deliver a letter to all properties affected by the proposed works in the week prior to the commencement. The note contains the details and contact information for the onsite works supervisor.

The onsite works supervisor is available to answer queries relating to the delivery of the scheme and any access issues. The supervisor will make arrangements during the construction of our works to allow vehicle access for ambulances / taxis to allow residents to keep hospital appointments etc. or special requirements relating to weddings, funerals or other exceptional occurrences.

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

Highways Service is aware of areas of Rotherham which are more ethnically diverse. Many schemes have successfully been carried out in these areas. Letters posted are generally in English and we have received good cooperation from residents. The Service has used letters in other languages previously. And this option is considered where deemed useful.

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

A key elements of highway asset management is ensuring a holistic approach to the delivery of services, promoting integration of processes, information, and systems. This is supported by cross service weekly meetings to review programming of works to ensure effective delivery.

Good communication with stakeholders is an essential part of the process for the delivery of highway works:

- Proposed works details are shared with appropriate managers within Council
- Letters are delivered to all residents and businesses fronting the works prior to scheme design completion. The letter informs them of start dates, contact details and a request to undertake a satisfaction survey on completion of the works
- The Highway Service collaborates with stakeholders and partners such as the Transportation Infrastructure Service to support delivery of improvements on the Highway Network
- Ward Members are consulted when the proposed designs are circulated to the residents and their feedback is considered in the final design
- Other stakeholders such as South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and bus operators are consulted during the design process to minimise disruption to bus services
- Prior to the start of a road or footway repair, pre-start signage is positioned on the roadside, providing road users with information relating to details of the highway works. The signage will confirm the proposed start date and detail any if traffic lights or road closures will be used to deliver the works.
- Proposed works are also posted on the One.network.org website

In addition, any major projects that could cause disruption to road users are detailed on the Council's website for customers to access with the link to the content included on the prestart signage.

This process enables local residents, businesses and Members to inform the scheme design and the method of delivery e.g., night-time or weekend working to minimise disruption and/or inconvenience.

In addition to the monitoring of complaints and compliments, post-construction surveys are delivered to properties affected by highway repair works. The questionnaire asks residents, who have been directly affected by the delivery of a highway scheme, their opinion on all aspects of the work.

The questionnaire includes a range of questions.

- How well residents and businesses were informed about the works before they started
- Did the works start on time?
- Quality of the Works
- Was the site left clean and tidy?
- Professionalism of staff carrying out the works

The current survey results for 2025/26 show very high satisfaction with the Services performance. All questions included in the post-construction survey have achieved an individual satisfaction score in excess of 91%.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	All stakeholders (residents and Councillors) are consulted on a scheme-by-scheme basis. Works will commence on 01/04/26 – 31/03/2027 With satisfaction questionnaires sent to 50% of properties.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	27 th March 26 – Consultees were issued with the preliminary report and asked for their input and feedback. This feedback is incorporated into the final draft for publication on May 2026. At the start of the financial year all residents are sent a letter with details of the scheme, (before its programmed to start) giving them the opportunity to contact the council with any special requirements. Councillors are also contacted for their input. Prior to the scheme starting advance signage is erected on site and then a few days before the actual start frontages are sent a letter giving specific details about the works, traffic management etc which includes the name and phone number of the supervisor on site. Any special requests for access are accommodated during the works.

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 highway network is available for all residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough. The Council make positive changes to the highway network to provide any disadvantaged groups with equal opportunity to access all aspects of the network. The indicative Highway Works Programme includes a substantial schedule of works to improve access to the footway network. These measures provide visually impaired and wheelchairs user's equal access to the network.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No, Through advertising the works, informing residents and assisting them on site we have very, few complaints regarding how we consult with the public and carry out the works.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

All relevant residents, businesses, local Councillors, and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes detailed in the indicative Highway Works Programme. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. Where possible, additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of the works will be accommodated to encourage the continue access to the highway network.

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 delivery of works that effect access to schools or places of worship are scheduled at a time to minimise disruption to all user groups. Often works near to or affecting access to a school are carried out during the summer school holidays or at nights.

The Highways Communication Strategy details how the Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

The Highways Communication Strategy includes the action to hand deliver a letter to all properties affected by the proposed works in the week prior to the commencement. The note contains the details and contact information for the onsite works supervisor.

The onsite works supervisor is available to answer queries relating to the delivery of the scheme and also any access issues. Each scheme will have site specific issues primarily relating to mobility or visual impairment, but there could be other relevant disability raised by the residents, businesses, or visitors.

The Supervisor will seek to mitigate any impacts on mobility or visually impaired people and the onsite staff will make arrangements during the construction of the works to accommodate vehicle access for ambulances / taxis to allow residents to keep hospital appointments etc. or special requirements relating to weddings, funerals or other exceptional occurrences.

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: Rotherham Roads Programme 2026-27
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Community Safety and Streetscene.
Lead Manager: Richard Jackson
Summary of findings:
Following a review outlined above there are no adverse impacts identified and the impacts of the policy on equalities is likely to have a positive impact in terms of improving accessibility.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Service will monitor the impact on communities and groups according to their protected characteristic. Questionnaires are sent to 50% of the schemes allowing the opportunity for improvement.	All	March 27

***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	Executive Director	08.04.2026
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member	07.04.2026

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	15.03.2026
Report title and date	Executive Director Regeneration and Environment to approve The Rotherham Roads Programme 2026/27.
Date report sent for publication	11 May 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	09.04.2026

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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?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Increased transport through delivery of tarmacadam and construction products from supplier to site.		The Council purchase the majority of its tarmacadam products from Steelphalt, a Rotherham based company to minimise the movement of material and minimise the impact of emissions from the transport / delivery of millions of pounds worth of materials.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of asphalt is produced from recycled steel slag that is a bi-product generated from steel production within 3 miles of the supplier. All surplus asphalt returned from customers and blended back in to 		Steelphalt - engaged with University of Sheffield and the Carbon Trust to baseline our current nett carbon per tonne of material. This in early stages and we don't have any carbon specific data to share	Monitoring and reporting will improve once Steelphalt have completed the emission data work and it is available to use.

		<p>base & binder products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently producing all machine lay base & binder products at 20-30 degrees lower temperatures to reduce energy use. 			
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	<p>The Council has a statutory duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the adopted highway. The repair of the roads and footways is required to keep the highway safe for all users.</p> <p>Highway maintenance does have an impact on carbon emissions through material use, construction and delivery but these emissions are mitigated where possible as stated previously.</p>		<p>The Council's approach is to move away from traditional maintenance options, not concentrating on repairing worst first, and more towards treatments that extend the life of a road. It is therefore important to have a wide range of treatment options available so as to allow the most appropriate treatment to be used on the appropriate site. Therefore, the most efficient method of maintenance is used that avoids deep dig repairs that require greater levels of CO₂ to deliver.</p>	

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
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Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Steelphalt are a Rotherham based company who fabricate the majority of tarmacadam material used to repair the Council's roads and footways. Steelphalt is collaborating with the University of Sheffield and the Carbon Trust to baseline their current net carbon per tonne of material.

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. More information on climate change impacts in Rotherham is available from: <https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E08000018>

- Do actions recommended in the report affect the ability of Council services to continue during, or recover after extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate-related hazards?*
- Will the proposal affect resident's capacity to adapt to climate change impacts?*
- Will the proposal affect the risk of climate change impacts in the Borough of Rotherham?*

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Steelphalt have confirmed their Steel Slag Asphalt is 95% recycled per tonne. They offer low temperature asphalt and inclusion of recycled plastic to further reduce embodied carbon by up to 40% in comparison with asphalt produced from quarried aggregates.

The Council has worked with Steelphalt on two trials with what we believe to be the Worlds first Carbon Negative asphalt. This asphalt incorporates a natural binder that can part replace fossil based bitumen. This binder is Kraft Lignin, a plant derived polymer found in almost all dry land plants, in this case trees. This is achieved by using steel slag aggregate (zero quarrying), a reduced mix temperature of 30-40c reducing CO2 emissions, and the Lignin having a Biomass carbon equivalent to 2,336 kg/t.

Street Lighting have two main suppliers, ASD (lanterns) and Fabrikat (columns and poles) and the Council has asked the companies to provide information regarding their commitments and improvements in manufacturing, packaging and transport with regards the Carbon Impact Assessment

The Street Lighting Service has over the last 8 years made huge inroads into energy reduction with the installation of LED lanterns and the replacement of all illuminated bollards with reflective units. The other effect of LED units is the reduction in faults and the reduction in the need for Council staff to need to travel around the borough to effect street lighting repairs.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Andy Saxton Highway Asset and Drainage Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
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 626 Matteo Martini Principal Decarbonisation Officer