

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time:- **Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 1.30 p.m.**

Venue:- **Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**

Membership:- **Councillors McKiernan (Chair), Tinsley (Vice-Chair), Adair, Ahmed, Allen, Beck, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Cowen, Jackson, Jones, Lelliott, Mault, Rashid, Sheppard, Stables, Taylor, Thorp, Mrs Kay Bacon and Mrs M. Jacques.**

Co-opted Members:- **Mrs. K. Bacon and Mrs. M. Jacques.**

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2025 (Pages 3 - 15)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Questions from members of the public and the press

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

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting

during consideration of any part of the agenda.

6. Flooding Alleviation Update (Pages 16 - 48)

To consider the presentation which provides an update on the Council's Flood Risk Management works across the borough and the priority Flood Alleviation Scheme Projects.

7. Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2024-2025 (Pages 49 - 113)

To consider the report and presentation which indicate progress on the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working model.

8. Improving Places Select Commission - Work Programme 2025 - 2026 (Pages 114 - 115)

To consider and endorse the outline schedule of scrutiny work for the 2025-2026 municipal year.

9. Urgent Business

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

**The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission
will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2026
commencing at 1.30 p.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 16 December 2025

Present:- Councillor McKiernan (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Allen, Jones, Keenan, Lelliott, Rashid, Sheppard, Taylor and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adair, Mrs Kay Bacon, Beck, C. Carter and Mrs M. Jacques.

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

34. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2025

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st October 2025 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sheppard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 38 (Annual Bereavement Services Update) on the grounds of being the former Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for this Service within the last 12 months.

36. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair invited members of the public present to read out their questions.

(1) From Mr. A. Azam – regarding the Annual Bereavement Services Update. The following questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting via email.

Within the Council's Annual Report can the following points be clarified :

- Section 2.5 Is Valley View part of the long-term strategic expansion of Herringthorpe Cemetery Yes or No ?
- Section 2.0 Can the council confirm that a Pathologist is available to undertake a review of the report 5 days a week.
- Section 2.0 As part of the metrics can you add the following:
 - % Report reviewed and submitted to Coroner's Office the same day as autopsy undertaken for expedited requests.
 - % acceptance of report by Coroner's office
- SIP Point 1, sub 1.2 Can the Council Share a copy of this digital guidance.

- SIP Point 3, Sub 3.6 is not needed, we already have engagement with Dignity and formal meeting is what is required, with all parties.
- SIP Point 4, Sub 4.5, paperwork to be submitted by 3pm. As a SIP why can't we undertake burials 365 days a year, other councils provide this service. Outside of this SIP where is all of this documented?
- SIP Point 9, Sub 9.1 can you confirm correct dates when compared with Point 3 sub 3.1
- General SIP Why are certain tasks red when due date isn't until 31/12/2026?

The Chair advised Mr Azam that he would receive a formal written response to his questions but invited him to make any statement he wished to. Mr Azam took the opportunity to publicly thank Phil Horsfield, Assistant Director of Legal, Elections & Registration Services (Assistant Director) and Kim Phillips, Rotherham Business Leader, Dignity Funerals Limited (Dignity Business Leader) for their hard work and commitment in driving the Bereavement Service forward, which, Mr Azam felt, had greatly benefitted those within Muslim community who had suffered bereavements in the past year.

Mr Azam further went on to briefly summarise the issues raised within his questions and drew particular attention to the fact that there was already a "Friends of East Herringthorpe" group that the Muslim community worked with and that the separate Muslim "Friends of" group suggested at 3.6 of the Council's Key Improvement Recommendations was neither necessary nor desired. Similarly, Mr Azam felt it was unnecessary to label the quarterly "Muslim Bereavement Liaison Meetings" which take place as "Muslim", when all parties and communities joined together to discuss matters at these meetings.

Mr Azam further requested that an update be provided from Dignity with regard to the current status of Phase 2 of the expansion of the Muslim burial section within the East Herringthorpe cemetery.

Councillor Beresford, the Cabinet Member for Housing, thanked Mr Azam for his questions and confirmed that a written response to them would be provided by Bereavement Services.

37. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

38. ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES UPDATE

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Beresford, introduced the item and commented that Bereavement Services provided a vital service for all

residents of Rotherham, supporting residents through difficult times to say goodbye and remember their loved ones. Councillor Beresford explained that Members would hear from both parts of Bereavement Services – an update from Dignity who were responsible for operational delivery under a 35-year contract with the Council, and an update from the Council on management of the contract with Dignity Funerals Limited (Dignity) and the retained services and assets under Council control.

Councillor Beresford alerted Members that details of Dignity's fee increase for the year 2026-2027 had been expected in advance of the meeting but that this information had not been forthcoming. Councillor Beresford expressed disappointment at this delay and expected Members to request that this information be provided to them, once available.

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services (Head of Legal) provided a summary of the Council's Annual Bereavement Services Update Report and drew Members' attention to the following points of note:

- Dignity was required to provide annual assurance to the Council that key performance targets were being met and service improvements were being made. The Council held monthly meetings with Dignity and would escalate matters where necessary. A performance management framework was used to monitor performance which was updated after every meeting with Dignity and Members could request sight of this for visual insight into the Council's management of the contract with Dignity.
- Using this framework, financial penalties were levied to Dignity where there had been performance failures and in 2024-2025, a total of £107,580 of financial penalties were imposed on Dignity.
- The Council had been expecting to receive Dignity's draft schedule of fees for the forthcoming financial year by 1 December 2025 but had been informed that it would not be available until 31 December 2025. As it could not be presented to Members at this meeting, the Head of Legal suggested that a recommendation be made by Members for the confirmation of Dignity's fees to be brought back to the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC).
- With regard to the proposed expansion of burial sites at Wath Cemetery, Dignity had previously assured the Council that work would commence once planning permission had been granted, which was in October 2023. However, works were still yet to commence. Dignity had confirmed that works were due to begin at the start of 2026 and the Head of Legal pointed out that the relevant planning permission would expire in October 2026.
- Dignity had a phased plan in place to develop increased availability of plots at East Herringthorpe Cemetery, and works were underway to extend the availability of the Muslim burial section.

- There were a number of disused cemetery chapels in varying state of disrepair within Council-retained cemeteries. The findings of an asset management review of these buildings would be added to a paper which would be presented to the Strategic Asset Management Board in the 2026-27 financial year. The Head of Legal confirmed that all buildings had been made safe under an ongoing programme to carry out any necessary safety works.
- Repairs and maintenance had been completed on several of the Council's retained cemetery assets, for example, on stone walls, fencing, gates and pillars. Surveys had also been carried out on other boundaries where significant weather wear had led to remedial works.
- The public mortuary contract with Rotherham District General Hospital was reported to be working well with no key performance issues. Quarterly meetings had taken place between Council officers, the Senior Coroner, pathology staff and NHS trust managers.
- The Digital Autopsy Contract, in partnership with City of Doncaster Council, was also reported to be working well with excellent performance against contractual indicators.
- The next meeting of the Muslim Bereavement Liaison Group was due to be held on 12 February 2026 and the Head of Legal confirmed that Mr Azam's comments with regard to the name of this group would be considered.

The Dignity Business Leader provided a summary of Dignity's Annual Report 2024-2025, and drew Members' attention to the following points of note:

- Works had been ongoing with architectural preparation for the proposed extension at Wath Cemetery and work on site was due to commence in early 2026, with a view to operational use commencing in summer 2026.
- Further to a request from the Chair at December 2024's IPSC meeting, further details of the types of funerals conducted had been provided within the Annual Report.
- An update was provided on the key performance targets (KPTs) which had been rated either amber or red at the end of the last reporting period (end of March 2025). Between April and November 2025, progress had been made on all these areas but there was no change in the Council's rating of them.

- Achievements over the past year were highlighted, including:- the award of Green Flag status for the East Herringthorpe cemetery; commencement of the initial stage of the Muslim burial extension; completion of the natural burial area at East Herringthorpe cemetery; progression of the Wath Cemetery extension which had provided a further 500 plots; continued investment in memorial options for bereaved families; continued customer engagement; increased availability of services over weekends; improvements to accessibility and wayfinding in cemeteries; introduction of feedback cards; a successful schedule of events and memorial/commemorative days; liaison with schools and the Armed Forces; partnership work with local funeral directors which had resulted in improvements to cemeteries and crematoria and the experience for bereaved families; and positive survey results from customers.
- The “Letters to Heaven” post boxes had been installed in all cemeteries prior to Christmas to support bereaved families to send messages to their loved ones.

The Chair invited members of IPSC to raise questions and queries on the Annual Bereavement Services Update and the Dignity Annual Report 2024-25 and in the ensuing question and answer session the following points were raised:-

The Chair asked Dignity to provide an indication of the level of fee increase the Council could expect under the contract. In response, Dignity's Operations Director, James Wintle (Operations Director), explained that Dignity had been conducting an annual benchmarking process before confirming the level of increase. Dignity had increased their fees twice under the contract within the last decade, with fees increasing by 13%. Over the same period, Dignity's costs had increased by 60%. Costs per cremation had increased by 70% which had had a significant impact on the profitability of the site. The Operations Director confirmed therefore, that there would be an increase in Dignity's fees for the upcoming year, but that the level of this increase was yet to be determined.

Councillor Allen referred to the tender process for the repairs to a retaining wall at Masbrough Cemetery, mentioned at 2.7.2 of the Annual Bereavement Services Update, and asked if there was a timescale for works to be started. The Head of Legal confirmed that work was due to commence in early 2026.

Further, Councillor Allen asked for confirmation of the timescale involved in the “usual procurement process” for repairs to a retaining wall at Moorgate Cemetery, mentioned at 2.7.3 of the Annual Bereavement Services Update. The Head of Legal confirmed that the tendering process usually took around 6 weeks so it was hoped that the works at Moorgate Cemetery could commence in February- March 2026 . Councillor Allen

commented that it would have been useful for this timescale information to have been available within the report.

Councillor Sheppard asked whether there were any plans to extend the provision of environmentally friendly burial sites more widely across the borough, which would reduce the distances that families need to travel. The Dignity Business Leader explained that it was difficult to ensure that every burial site complied with environmentally friendly requirements and legislation but confirmed that if the demand was proven, Dignity would look at what else could be provided.

Councillor Allen asked for more information on the options regarding the future use of disused cemetery chapels referred to in paragraph 6 of the Annual Bereavement Services Update. The Head of Legal responded that no detailed plans or timescales could be provided at this stage as there was a vast amount of work to be carried out. The Council wanted to consult with residents properly and would have to work within budgetary constraints.

The Chair asked whether these disused properties came under the responsibility of Bereavement Services. The Head of Legal confirmed that they did currently sit under Bereavement Services but that options were being considered for them to sit under the corporate landlord model under Facilities Management within the Council.

Councillor Allen referred to KPT 2.2 within Dignity's Annual Performance Report and asked whether Dignity had received the outstanding information they were waiting for from the Council's Asset Management team? The Head of Legal confirmed that Bereavement Services continued to chase the Asset Management team and understood that there were currently higher priority issues with other Council buildings.

With regard to the review of disused cemetery buildings, Councillor Lelliott recalled from their time as the relevant Cabinet Member, that reviews and surveys of these buildings had been undertaken by the Asset Management team. Councillor Lelliott expressed surprise that these buildings were still being reviewed and no works had been completed over this period of time. Councillor Lelliott further commented that the community had been surveyed in relation to these buildings and asked what they wished the future use of them to look like.

The Chair commented that the Asset Management team were in the process of conducting a wholescale review of all Council buildings and the Head of Legal confirmed that service would liaise with the relevant officers to obtain all relevant information.

Councillor Tinsley asked for more information regarding the customer feedback and complaints against Dignity that were upheld, in particular the types of complaints and what they related to. The Dignity Business Leader responded that the majority of the complaints were in respect of

burials and the upkeep of particular burial areas. A number of complaints had been made by relatives regarding adjacent burial plots, and such issues could be difficult to manage as different people have different standards and expectations with regard to upkeep. Dignity worked with families to maintain good working relationships and to avoid unnecessary upset. Figures for the total breakdown of complaints was not available at the meeting, but the Dignity Business Leader assured Members that this could be provided separately. Councillor Tinsley commented that this additional detail would be useful.

Councillor Tinsley further asked for clarification on what happened to the letters posted in the “Letters to Heaven” post boxes. The Dignity Business Leader confirmed there was a rigid process in place to shred and dispose of the letters appropriately and sensitively – the paper waste was composted and then reused within flower beds in the cemeteries with the aim of bringing back life.

With regard to memorial testing, Councillor Tinsley asked whether more issues with memorials had recently been identified or whether the numbers were part of an ongoing programme. The Dignity Business Leader confirmed that the memorials referred to had been identified as part of the ongoing programme, which had been running behind schedule and was now catching up, leading to some delayed reporting on memorial issues. If a memorial was deemed to be unsafe, families would be contacted and the options explained to them.

Councillor Allen referred to the KPTs with Dignity’s Annual Performance Report and sought reassurance that there was more documented detail behind the targets as they felt that some were not measurable from the information contained within the report. The Dignity Business Leader explained that the KPTs and the performance framework were provided by the Council and Dignity provided evidence to enable the Council to assess whether targets had been met. The Assistant Director assured Members that there were more documents and minutes of meetings behind the performance targets. These were not generally shared but could be provided to Members to assist their scrutiny if required.

Councillor Allen asked for clarification on the four “unrectified performance failures from previous APR years” referred to at 4.2 of Dignity’s Annual Performance Report. Had these now been rectified and if not, what could be done to ensure they were rectified? The Head of Legal explained that these were areas where the Council had imposed penalty charges on Dignity for repeated failures – for example, failing to re-seed certain areas of cemeteries for a number of years.

Dignity’s Operations Director provided further information on these outstanding issues and stated that 3 out of the 4 related to paths within cemeteries. Dignity were committed to getting paths repaired as soon as possible and work had already started at Wath Cemetery. Dignity was aiming to get all areas of outstanding work completed within the first

quarter of 2026. Councillor Allen commented that Members would be checking within next year's Annual Report from Dignity, that these works had been completed, as promised.

Councillor Keenan asked a question around the Bereavement Services "What to do after death – a practical guide" referred to at page 30 of the agenda pack. As there were a lot of residents who did not have access to digital formats, Councillor Keenan wanted to know when this guide would be made available and whether it would also be made in PDF format. The Head of Legal confirmed that some information was already available on the Council's website, and that the outstanding pieces of information were being worked on in conjunction with Rotherham District General Hospital and Rotherham Hospice. It was anticipated that all information would be available by the end of March 2026. Councillor Keenan asked if an abridged version of this information could be made available for distribution around faith and community groups and the Head of Legal confirmed that this could be done and that information could be shared within existing liaison meetings.

Councillor Tinsley asked whether there was a timeframe for knowing where the proposed new site for the Maltby cemetery expansion would be. The Head of Legal confirmed that service was aiming to get an options paper presented to the Asset Management Board in January 2026.

The Chair asked whether Rotherham had enough burial sites available for the foreseeable future? The Assistant Director provided reassurance that there were sufficient burial spaces to meet current need and that this was continually assessed as part of the Council's own performance monitoring. The Council would continue to work on forward planning with the aim of expanding available burial provision to meet its duties in this area.

The Chair thanked officers and representatives from Dignity for their input and Members for the questions asked.

Resolved:-

1. That the contents of the Annual Bereavement Services Update Report and appendices be noted;
2. That the update report from Dignity Funerals Limited and appendices be noted;
3. That the level of fee increase under the Council's contract with Dignity for the forthcoming financial year be confirmed to members of IPSC via an off-agenda briefing note once the information is available (anticipated by 31 December 2025);
4. That Dignity provide more detail on the numbers of complaints

received during the 2024-2025 period, including a breakdown of the types of complaint; and

5. That once work developing the information available on the Council website regarding the "What to do After Death - A Practical Guide" has been completed, Bereavement Services ensure that a PDF copy of all information is to be made available to those without IT access and for ease of dissemination around faith/community groups etc.

Councillor Sheppard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 38 (Annual Bereavement Services Update) on the grounds of being the former Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area within the last 12 months.

39. IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION - WORK PROGRAMME 2025 - 2026

The Governance Advisor introduced the work programme report and drew Members' attention to the following developments:

- **School Road Safety Review:**
Two further meetings of this Review group had taken place with officers in Highways at RMBC and an officer from Sheffield City Council, who had been involved in implementing a School Streets scheme. The group would be moving on to look at crossing patrol and enforcement and hoped to make contact with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Workshop – 4 December 2025**
The ASB workshop had taken place on 4th December 2025 and was a very useful and insightful workshop which allowed Members the opportunity to ask questions of a number of Officers who worked within Housing across the borough.

The Housing team delivered a very informative presentation, covering topics such as: what does and doesn't constitute ASB; the legal position under the Council's tenancy agreement; what tools and powers were available to tackle ASB; and service KPI data and customer feedback. Input was also provided from the Community Protection Unit, which worked closely with Housing Officers on tackling ASB.

Members also took part in a breakout Case Study group session where Members and Officers worked together through real-life scenarios and were able to discuss the particular complexities of each case and valuable lessons learnt. Feedback from the session was that both Members and Officers found it very useful to consider each other's experiences and the session could be rolled

out further to wider Members.

- **Markets/Library Redevelopment Site Visit** (joint with OSMB)
This visit had been planned for 10 December 2025 but had to be rescheduled due to the timing of key works on site during that week which made visits impossible. It was hoped to reschedule this visit for the end of January/beginning of February 2026 and those IPSC members who were due to attend would report back on findings.
- **Municipal Year 2026-2027**
The Governance team were working to set dates for the calendar of meetings for the next municipal year (2026-2027) and it was felt that this would be a good opportunity to conduct a survey of IPSC Members as to the future timing of meetings. The Governance Advisor advised that a Microsoft Forms survey would be sent out to collate responses so that preferences could be considered when planning future meetings.

The Chair asked Members to consider as part of the survey, whether Members felt that IPSC were conducting effective scrutiny and also, whether a formal pre-meet should be structured into the meeting schedule. Councillor Lelliott commented that in her view, a pre-meet should take place to allow Members to get into the detail of the items prior to the meetings. However, Councillor Allen felt that pre-meets were not necessary and would not suit everyone's way of working when reviewing papers prior to meetings.

Councillor Lelliott commented that the schedule substantive item within the Work Programme on Children's Capital of Culture, should be undertaken as a full review of the programme. The Governance Advisor explained that the current plan was for the Improving Lives Select Commission to look at the impact on children and the legacy of the programme, and that the item scheduled to come to IPSC would be a review of the related events programme that had taken place within the town centre and across the Borough. Councillor Lelliott responded that she felt that the item should be a joint item in order that the programme could be considered as a whole.

Councillor Allen expressed surprise at the number of future items that were "To Be Confirmed" and also, were due to be covered via off-agenda means. Councillor Allen felt that items should be given confirmed dates as soon as possible and that if something was deemed suitable for IPSC to consider, it should come to a formal meeting.

The Governance Manager explained that some items on the Work Programme that were currently listed as off-agenda items were joint items with the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board - namely Waste Service Route Optimisation and the Street Safe

Team. It was possible that these items would develop into more substantive items for scheduling as more information became available following implementation.

Councillor Allen further commented that there should be more focus within the work programme on “Places” and what is happening in different places within the Borough. The Governance Advisor advised Members that an Agenda Planning meeting was due to take place the following day and asked Members to submit any topics they would want the Chair and Vice-Chair to consider.

Resolved:-

1. That the current work programme be noted;
2. That the Governance Advisor be authorised to make any required changes to the work programme in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair, and would report any such changes back at the next meeting for endorsement;
3. That IPSC would consider scheduling more “place based” items on upcoming agendas, with Members asked to provide any suggested topics to the Chair. Vice Chair and Governance Advisor; and
4. That Members would respond to a survey to be circulated by the Governance Advisor asking for feedback on preferred days and timing of future IPSC meetings and proposed IPSC pre-meetings for the 2026-2027 municipal year.

40. URGENT BUSINESS

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

Finance & Customer Services

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: BereavementServices@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Please Contact:
Ashleigh Wilford

Telephone Number:
01709 823542

24th December 2025

Mr Azam
Sent via email

Dear Mr Azam,

Questions raised at Improving Places Select Committee on 16 December 2025

Thank you for submitting your questions regarding the Improving Places agenda on 16 December 2025. I have addressed each question in turn as follows:

Council Report Questions

- **Section 2.5: Is Valley View part of the long-term strategic expansion of Herringthorpe Cemetery?**
The land in the area known as Valley View at East Herringthorpe is part of the cemetery land. It is for Dignity, as contracted operational managers of the site, to ensure the land is developed and brought into operation as part of their strategic plan.
 - **Section 2.0: Can the Council confirm that a Pathologist is available to undertake a review of the report five days a week?**
The South Yorkshire (Eastern) District Coronial jurisdiction has two pathologists. Wherever there is a case that needs to be expedited, these are always accommodated as soon as possible every day of the week.
 - **Section 2.0: As part of the metrics, can you add the following KPIs?**
 - *% of reports reviewed and submitted to the Coroner's Office the same day as autopsy for expedited requests*
 - *% acceptance of report by Coroner's Office*
- The KPIs are contractually set between all parties. This request will be taken to the next performance meeting for consideration.

Independent Review Action Plan Questions

- **SIP Point 1, Sub 1.2: Can the Council Share a copy of this digital guidance?**
The digital guidance referred to in this SIP is collated and owned by the Rotherham Hospital, not the Council. The Council inputs necessary information for its own service areas only. Therefore, we recommend you contact the Chaplaincy Service for a copy of that information. Information relating to Council services is available on our website and a PDF will be produced as agreed during the meeting in the New Year.
- **SIP Point 3, Sub 3.6: is not needed, we already have engagement with Dignity and formal meeting is what is required, with all parties.**
The recommendation aligns with other cemeteries and engagement across Rotherham for a Friends Group. As part of all customer engagement strategies, which are reviewed, this will be considered giving due regard to all aspects.
- **SIP Point 4, Sub 4.5: paperwork to be submitted by 3pm. As a SIP why can't we undertake burials 365 days a year, other councils provide this service. Outside of this SIP where is all of this documented?**
This is documented within the Dignity contract and related Dignity processes. The burial service operates 362 days per year due to essential interdependencies with other services, staffing limitations, and the need to uphold health, safety, and equality obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010.
- **SIP Point 9, Sub 9.1: can you confirm correct dates when compared with Point 3 sub 3.1?**
Correct dates for the Muslim Bereavement Liaison Group Meeting are confirmed to be: 12/02/2026, 28/05/2026, 13/08/2026, and 12/11/2026.
- **General SIP: Why are certain tasks red when due date isn't until 31/12/2026?**
Tasks appear red when not started and are reviewed throughout the year, upgraded to amber when in progress and green when complete.

Yours sincerely,

A Wilford

Ashleigh Wilford

Superintendent Registrar and Bereavement Services Manager

Improving Places Select Commission

27th January 2026

**Update on:
The Council's Flood Risk Management
works across the borough & the Priority
Flood Alleviation Scheme Projects**

Richard Jackson & Andy Saxton

Part A: Overview of ongoing flood risk management works across the borough

- ❖ Recent Flood Events
- ❖ Community Engagement (Catcliffe and Treeton)
- ❖ Projects Delivered
- ❖ Planned Works
- ❖ Property Flood Resilience
- ❖ Connected By Water
- ❖ Internship
- ❖ Road Gully Maintenance
- ❖ CCTV

Recent Flood Events

The Council was made aware of an increased flood risk as a result of Storm Claudia.

The drainage team

- Deployed pumps to manage surface water at Catcliffe
 - Council set up tactical management meetings throughout the day.
 - Other Council services were on standby to respond should the event become more severe.
-
- 81 Reports of Flooding
 - River Don Peak reached 1.74m - 800mm below flood level.
 - River Rother Peak reached 29.35m - 650mm below flood level.



Community Engagement (Catcliffe and Treeton)

In the wake of the devastating flooding caused by Storm Babet, The Council engaged with local residents and businesses to provide support.

This included drafting a community flood plan. The installation of Property Flood Resilience and the distribution of hydrosacks (sandbag equivalent) and grab bags.



Projects Delivered

Dale Hill Close, Maltby

- The site is located within a large residential area of Maltby and is at the lowest point in the area, subsequently it has a history of surface water flooding.
- The existing Severn Trent surface water sewer which collects the rainwater from the Highway became overloaded during periods of heavy rainfall, causing the gullies to back up, resulting in severe flooding to the bungalows on Dale Hill Close.

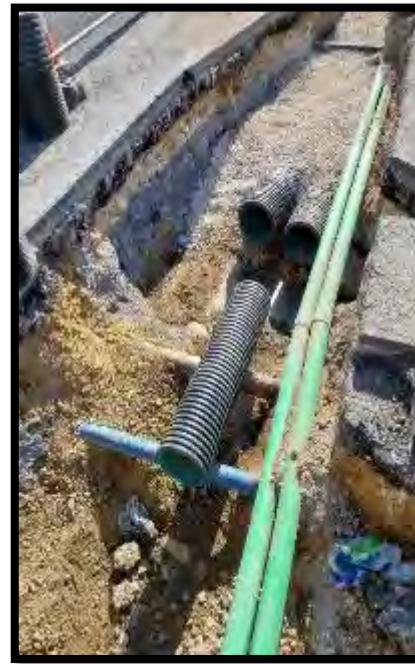


Projects Delivered

Dale Hill Close, Maltby

A new separate Highway drain, together with additional gullies, was designed to be laid in Dale Hill Road.

The works were undertaken by the Council's Drainage Delivery Team and commenced on the 16th June and took approx. 8 weeks to complete.



Projects Delivered

Waleswood Camp Site, Rother Valley

A large area of the existing Waleswood camp site is susceptible to flooding making these areas unusable for customers.

A scheme has been delivered to manage the surface water which includes 2000m of 150mm diameter perforated pipework set in a herringbone formation.

Backfilled with clean stone to allow water to infiltrated down to the pipework. Reducing the risk of the ground becoming waterlogged.



Projects Delivered

Waleswood Camp Site, Rother Valley: Drone Footage



Projects Delivered

New Road, Firbeck

Flooding from the fields has occurred regularly in Firbeck, affecting several properties.

A scheme was designed to install additional drainage and create a bund (an earth embankment) to prevent the overland flows from the field onto the Public Highway



Projects Delivered

New Road, Firbeck



Works continued onto third party land and a connection was made into the existing drainage system within Firbeck Halls' land.

The new drainage system and bunding holds water within the field and reduces the risk to properties in Firbeck



Planned Works

The Council Drainage Delivery Team will carry out works identified on this indicative list of proposed drainage schemes, funded by Council Capital awarded in 24/25.

Rockingham Road, Swinton - Proposed new Highway Drain. To reduce residential property and carriageway flooding.

Main Street, Aughton - Proposed Highway Drain renewal to reduce the risk of flooding to residential properties and highway flooding.

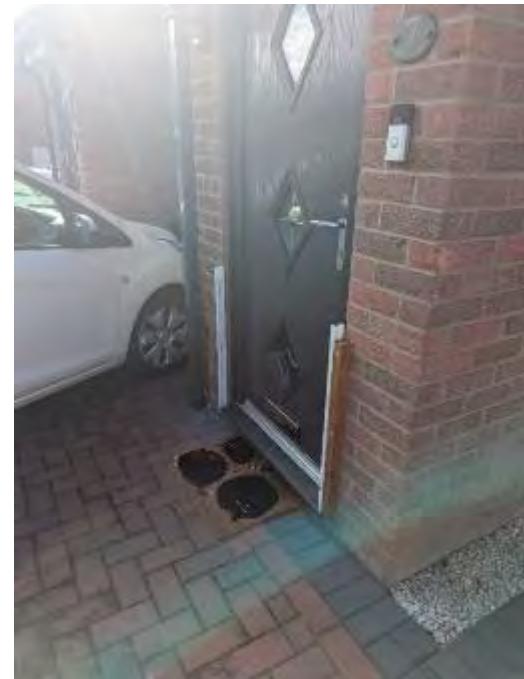
Meadow Bank Road, Meadow Bank - Proposed Highway Drain renewal to reduce the risk of flooding to highway flooding.

Recreation Road, Wath - Scheme to construct bunding to perimeter of Brook Dyke and install one-way valves on gullies/manholes in order to contain flood water.

Property Flood Resilience

Property flood resilience measures have been installed following Storm Babet to properties across the Borough that were affected by internal flooding.

- Council Properties - 35,
- Private Properties - 48,
- Reimbursed, work carried out by homeowner – 8.



DEFRA provided £5,000 per property, for all those that suffered internal flooding. The cost of works far exceeded the DEFRA grant allowance and the Council supported the scheme financially to ensure the works were fully funded.

Connected By Water

Background

- The flooding in 2019 provided the catalyst for the formation of Connected by Water and the first action plan. Now developing an Integrated Flood and Water Management Plan.
- An alliance of seven partners
- Working together to protect homes and businesses from flooding
- Recognising the value of effective flood and water management for economic growth
- Supporting communities to become more resilient



Activity in 2025 includes

Connected by Water intern scheme – pilot led by RMBC



Awareness raising – business facing video commissioned and launched at UKREiiF



Highways Maintenance activity relating to water management group for South Yorkshire established



Combined sewer overflow programme – Yorkshire Water early engagement with all SY local authorities

Mapping of priority projects for South Yorkshire against revised 2025 risk data



Connected By Water

Internship

The aim of the internships consisted of:

- Upskill 4 interns in flood resilience and risk management whilst demonstrating the value and varied scope of a career in flood resilience
- The interns designed a full highway drainage scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to the network in Swinton.
- The internship was created to help design a 2-year graduate scheme that will start in the summer of 2026.

Connected By Water

Internship



- The Internships were managed by Rotherham Council and allowed these university undergraduates to gain experience across the partnership. This initiative will be supported to increase opportunities for university graduates to join flood risk industry.

Road Gully Maintenance

The Drainage Team have mapped 48,752 road gullies across the Borough. This will allow the introduction of a dashboard which will be publicly accessible through the Council's webpage that indicates the on-going maintenance of the highway drainage system.



The Council's new Highway Asset Management System, (Aurora) is scheduled to go live in March 2026. This upgrade will enhance the management of all drainage assets and significantly improve the team's ability to respond to enquiries efficiently and effectively.

Drainage Team and Vehicles



Introduction of CCTV Cameras to monitor flooding hotspots

- CCTV cameras have been installed in 10 locations to monitor areas at frequent risk of flooding. The introduction of the CCTV Cameras will support the Drainage Team with real-time updates, helping them act quickly during flood risks and future planning.



Treeton Lane, Catcliffe / Treeton - Flooding within Storm Claudia

Part B: Progress Update on the Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) Projects

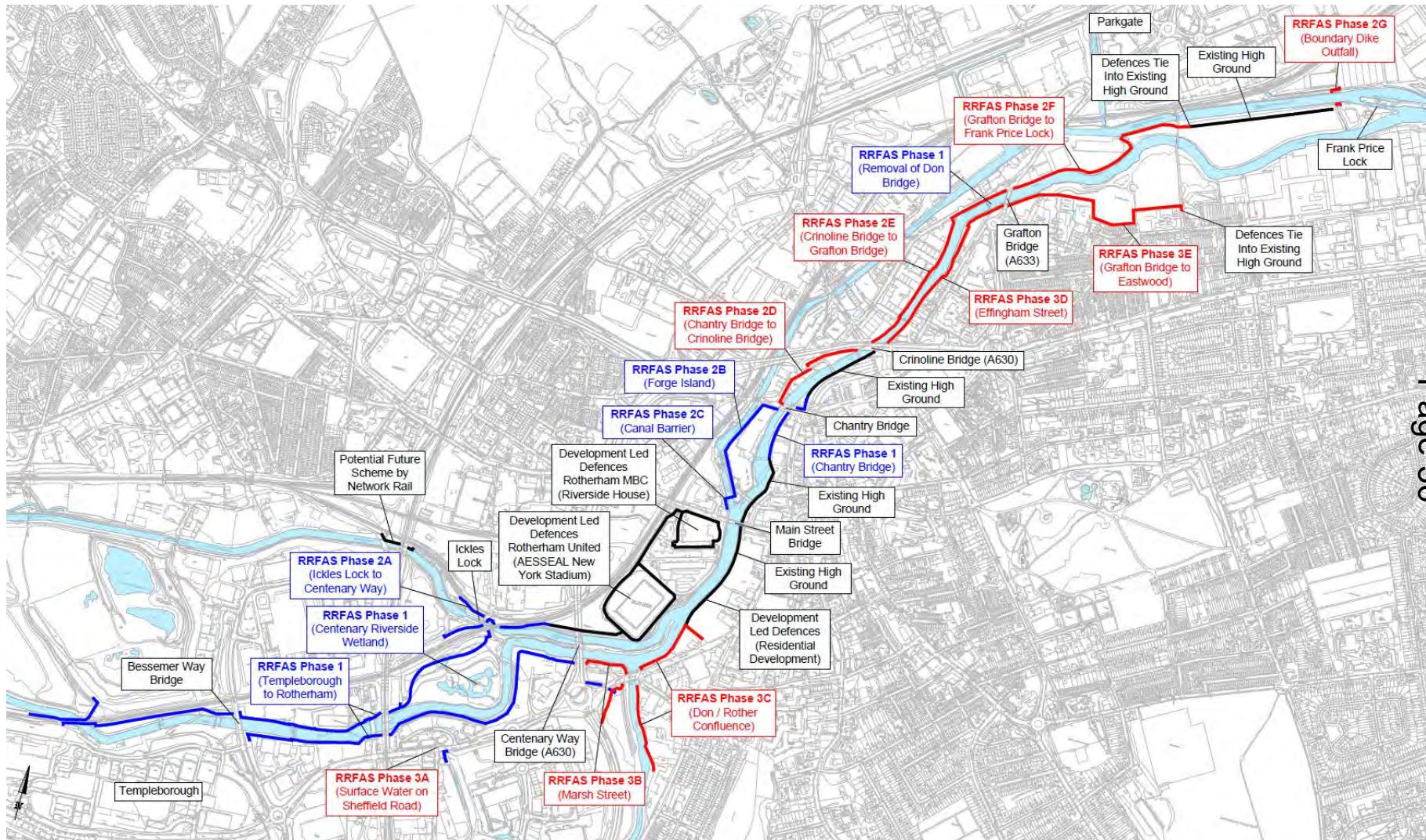
The Council are currently progressing Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) to help reduce the risk of flooding to homes, businesses and infrastructure around the borough. They consist of:

1. **Culverts Renewal Programme** (to improve existing culverts to reduce the risk of flooding)
2. **Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme** (alleviating flooding from the River Don to Rotherham Town Centre, Parkgate and Kilnhurst)
3. **Parkgate & Rawmarsh Flood Alleviation Scheme** (reducing the risk of flooding from watercourses through Rawmarsh and Parkgate)
4. **Eel Mires Dike Flood Alleviation Scheme** (to reduce the risk of flooding from watercourses in Laughton Common)
5. **Catcliffe Pumping Station** (to replace the Council's portable surface water pumping operation in Catcliffe)
6. **Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Alleviation Scheme – Treeton Lane Bridge** (to improve conveyance of the river by replacing the bridge with one with a slimmer bridge deck)
7. **Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme** (to alleviate flooding from Whiston Brook and surface water in Whiston)

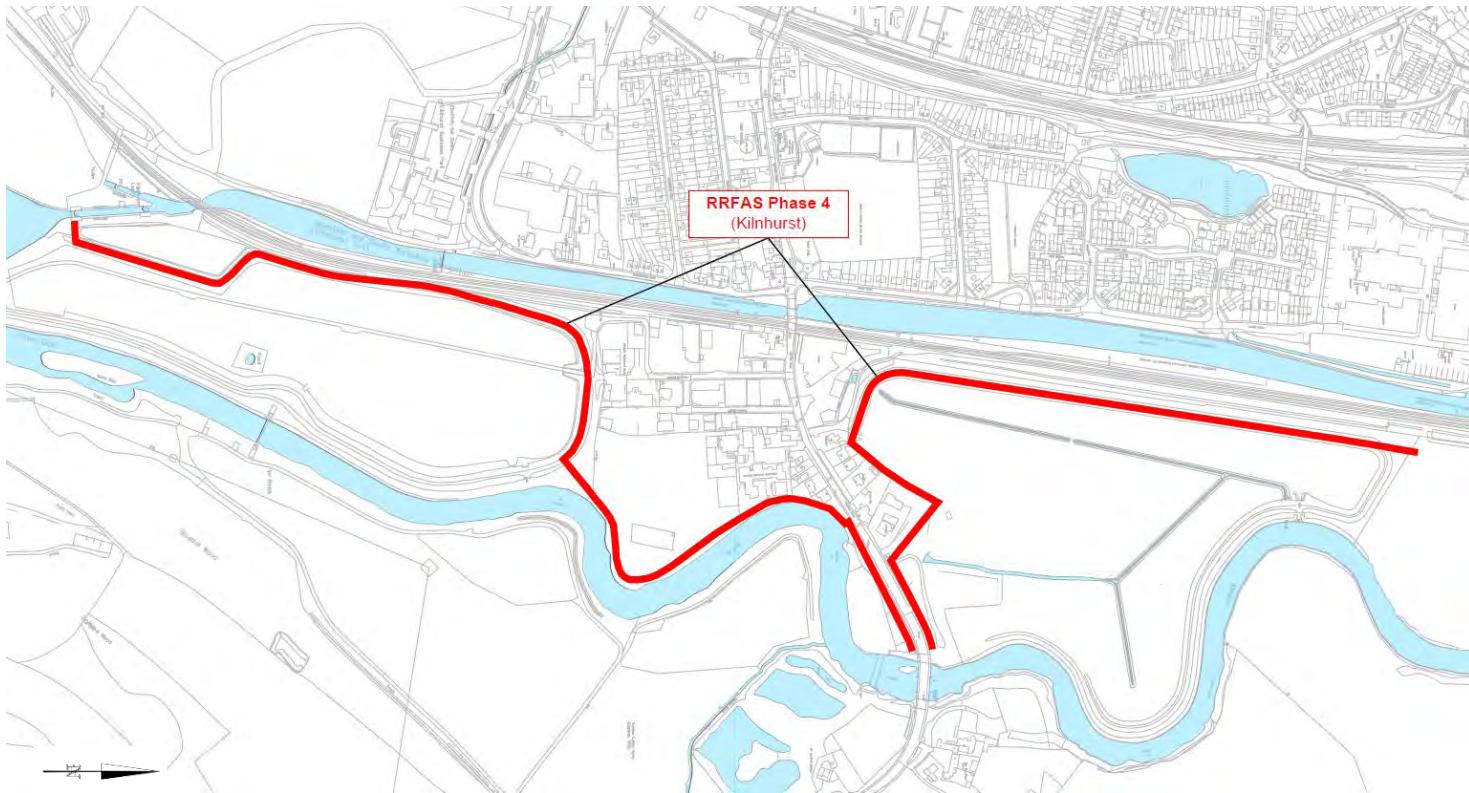
1. Culvert Renewal Programme

Name	Address	Ward
Herringthorpe Valley culvert	Herringthorpe Valley Road, Herringthorpe	Sitwell Ward
River Mas culvert	Wortley Road, Kimberworth	Rotherham West Ward
Church Lane culvert	Church Lane, Ravenfield	Bramley & Ravenfield Ward
Moor Lane South culvert	Moor Lane South, Ravenfield	Bramley & Ravenfield Ward
Ickles Goit culvert	Off Fullerton Road, Templeborough	Boston Castle Ward
Chapel Flat Dyke culvert	Sheffield Road, Templeborough	Boston Castle Ward
Thorpe Hesley culvert	Brook Hill, Thorpe Hesley	Keppel Ward
Sough Hall Avenue culvert	Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley	Keppel Ward
Todwick culvert	Goosecarr Lane, Todwick	Aston & Todwick Ward
Bondhay Dyke	Common Road, Thorpe Salvin	Anston & Woodsetts Ward
Collier Brook	Kilnhurst Road, Kilnhurst	Rawmarsh East

2. Rotherham Renaissance FAS



2. Rotherham Renaissance FAS



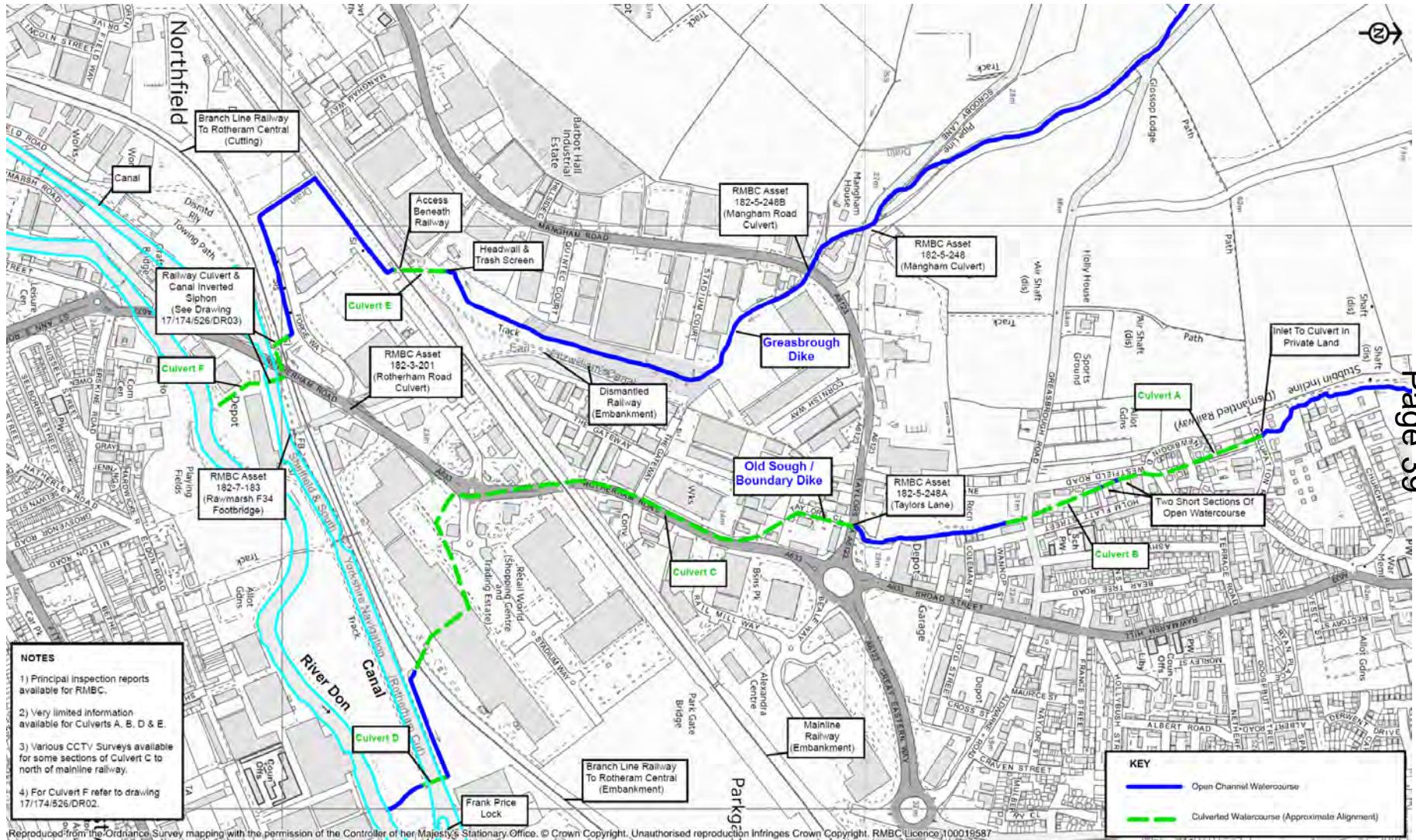
The design is currently with the Environment Agency for approval. Works will include sheet piling and reinforced concrete walls and raising and creating new earth embankment.

2. Rotherham Renaissance FAS

Concept rendering of the scheme at Kilnhurst



3. Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS

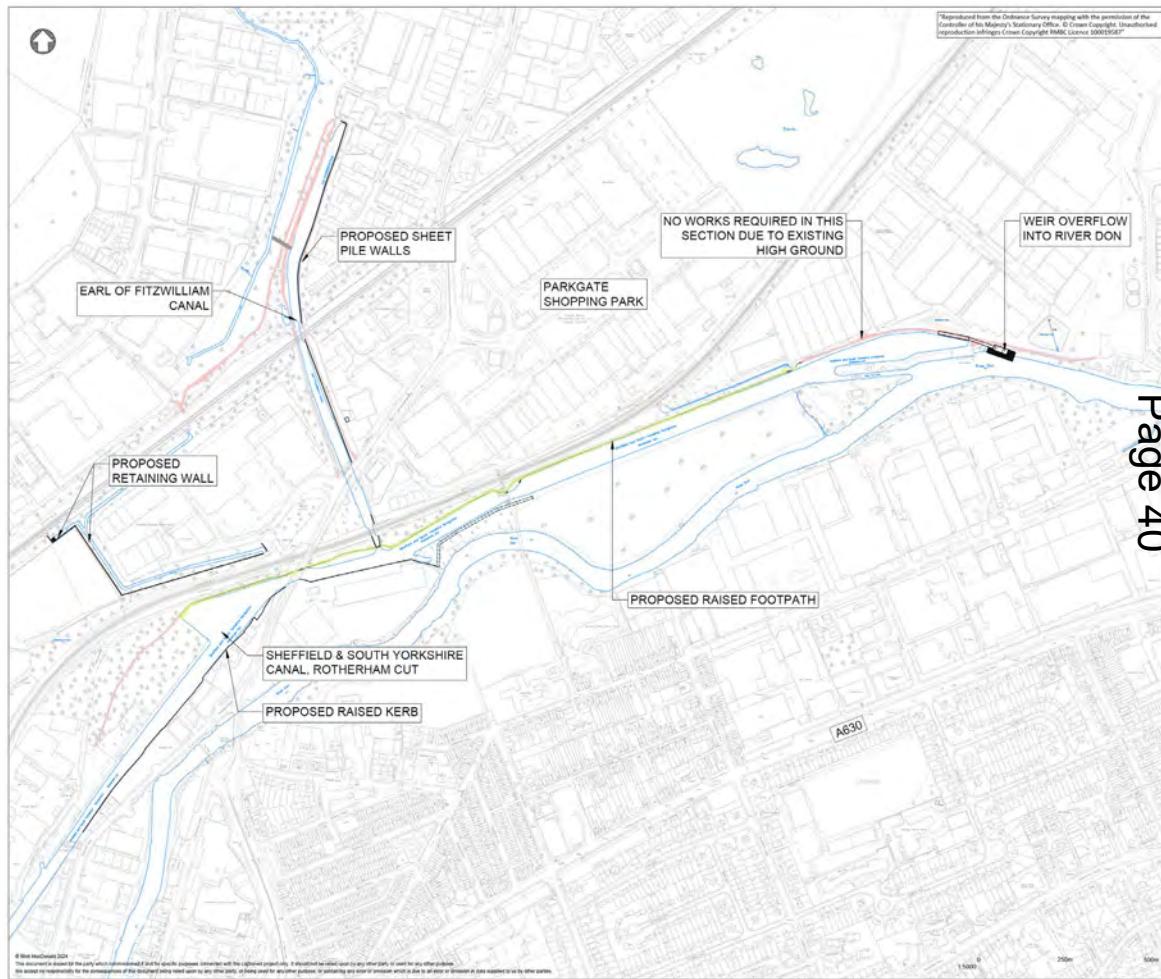


3. Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS

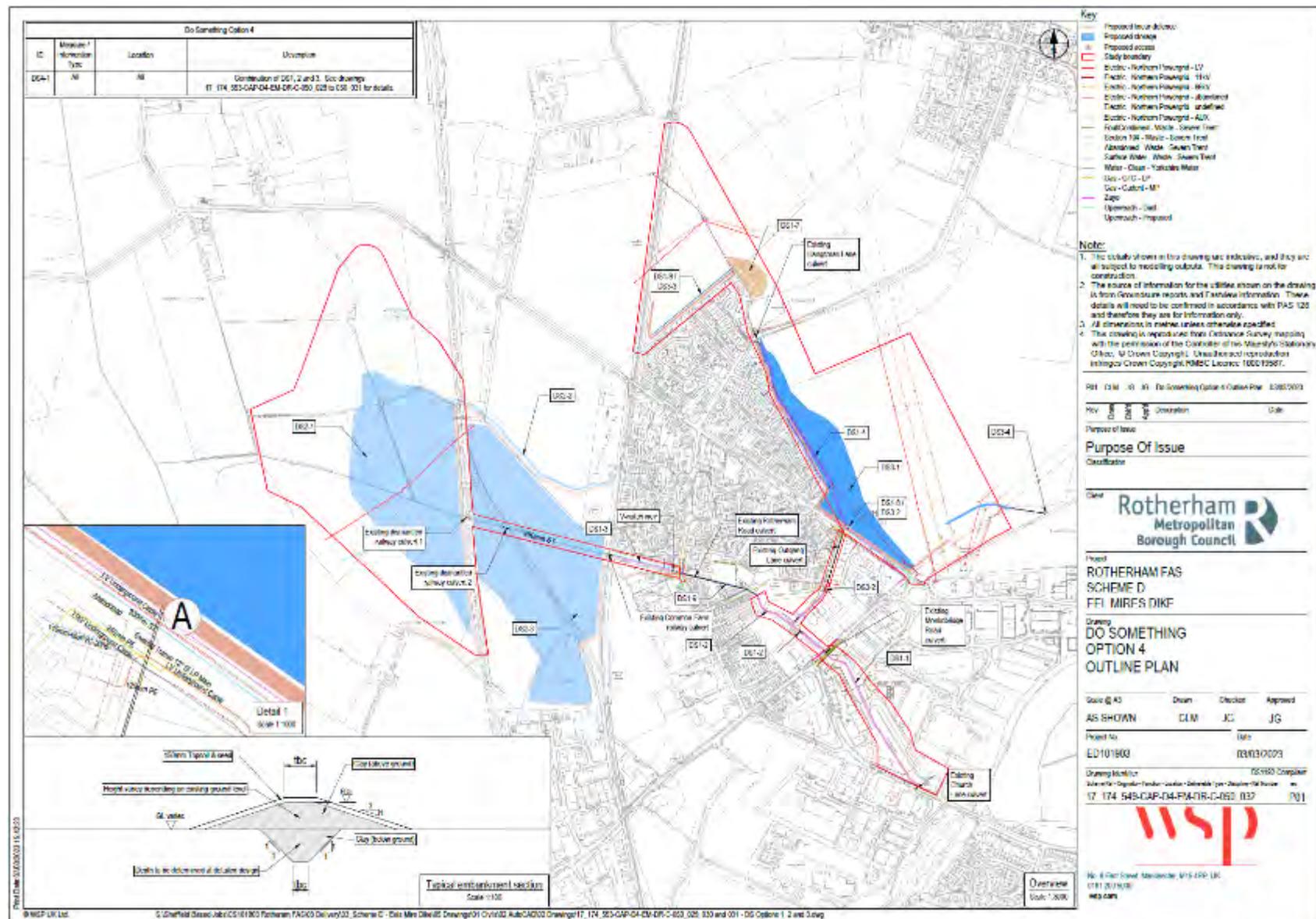
Outline designs have been completed, and detailed design is being undertaken. Once complete, part of the downstream works will be constructed by Network Rail using their own funding.

Aspects being considered for construction with available funding include:

- Linear flood defences (flood walls)
- Non-return valves
- Overspill weir from the canal.
- Localised raising of chambers.



4. Eel Mires Dike FAS



4. Eel Mires Dike FAS

The works include the construction of:

- 2 large flood storage areas including flow controls.
- Improved conveyance of the watercourse downstream.
- Siltation removing
- Day-lighting of culverts
- Creating 2 tier open watercourse.



Concept rendering of the scheme at Laughton Common

5. Catcliffe Pumping Station

Concept rendering of the scheme at Catcliffe

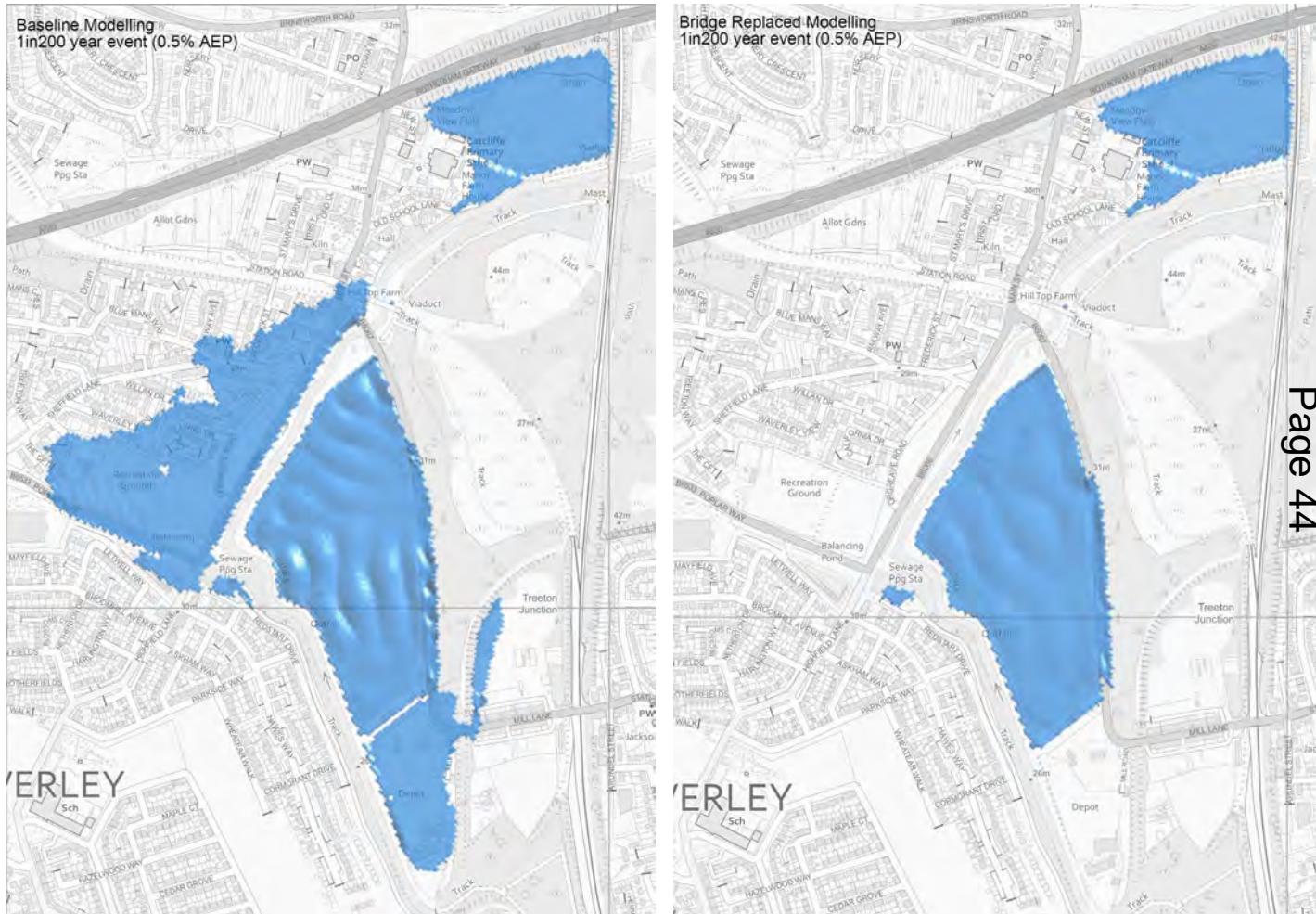


6. Catcliffe and Treeton Bridge Replacement

Hydraulic Modelling (before and after bridge replacement)

The current flood defences currently overtop in storm events greater than a 1in75 year (1.3% AEP) storm event.

In a 1in200 year (0.5% AEP) storm event, the bridge replacement reduces flood risk to 167 residential properties and 14 non-residential properties.



6. Catcliffe and Treeton Bridge Replacement

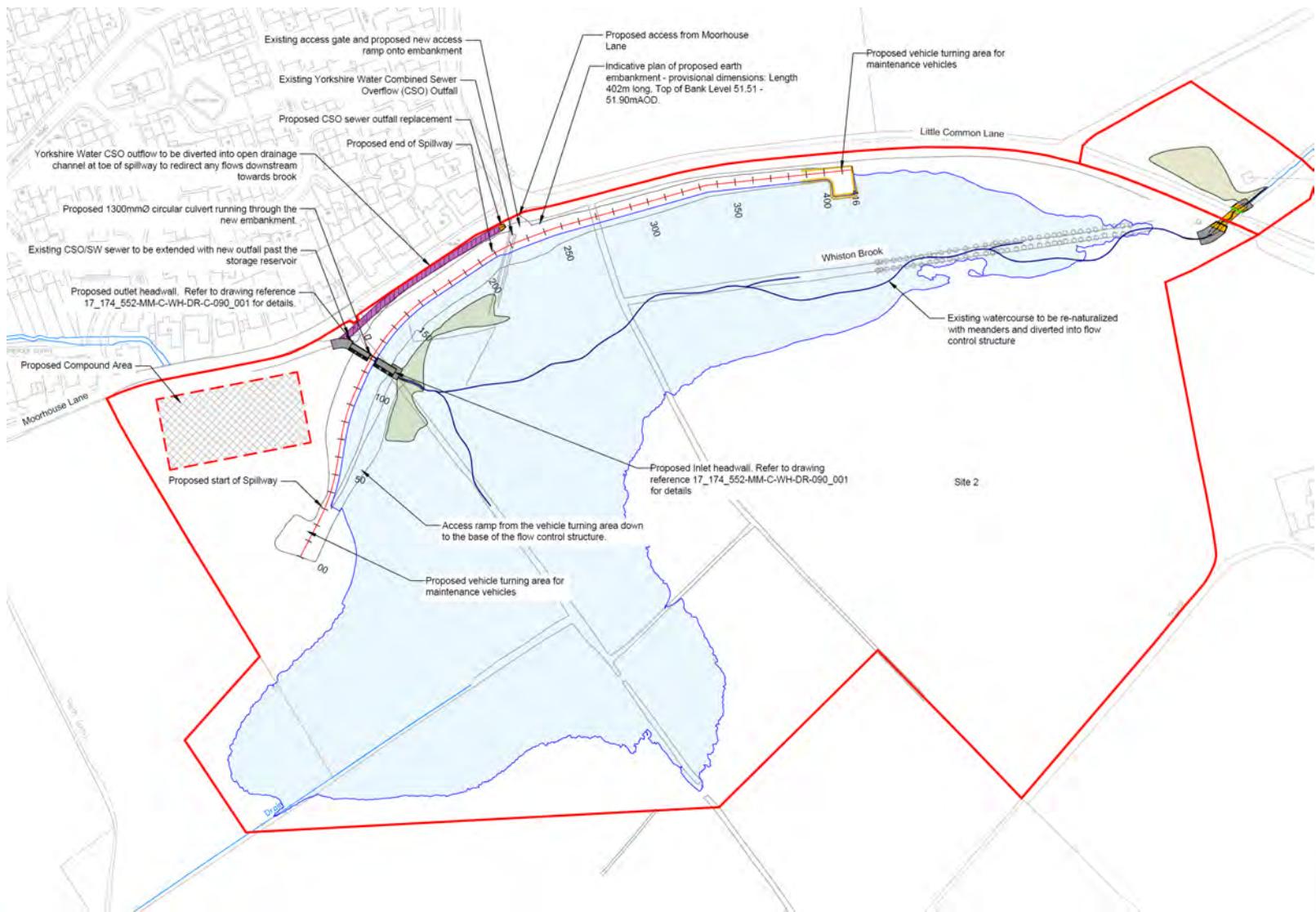


Bridge impeding flows within Storm Claudia.



Concept rendering of the bridge replacement

7. Whiston Brook FAS



7. Whiston Brook FAS

The Whiston Brook FAS is now progressing into the construction phase, marking a major milestone in our flood resilience programme. This scheme has been designed to reduce flood risk to homes, businesses, and key infrastructure within the Whiston Brook catchment.

The tender process has been completed. Works are scheduled to commence in January 2026.



Concept rendering of the scheme at Whiston

Questions



Questions?



Public Report

Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 27 January 2026

Report Title

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2024/25

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

No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)

Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods

martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Progress on the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working Model

Recommendations

That the Select Commission note the progress of the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working Model

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Appendix 2 – Neighbourhoods Performance Indicators

Appendix 3 – Ward Priorities summary (2024-26)

Background Papers

- Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy 2018-2025
- Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead
- Rotherham Council Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025/26
- Refresh of Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy cabinet report – 21 November 2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2024/25

1. Background

- 1.1 This annual report primarily focuses on the municipal year May 2024 to May 2025 but also provides a summary of any significant activity up to and including December 2025.
- 1.2 Cabinet approved the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025) in November 2018 following the introduction of the new neighbourhood working model in May 2017. The Strategy was refreshed and agreed by Cabinet in November 2022 (see Appendix 1). An updated Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy is due to be produced in 2026.
- 1.3 The Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aims to achieve –
 - Neighbourhoods that are safe and welcoming with good community spirit.
 - Residents are happy, healthy and loving where they live.
 - Residents have the opportunity to use their strengths, knowledge and skills to achieve what is important to them.
- 1.4 This Strategy helps to deliver the Council's vision under the 'Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean' strategic outcome within the Council Plan (2025-30) - *'Our people and neighbourhoods are important to us and are at the heart of everything we do. Through the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, we have already come a long way, and we continue to work with local people to find solutions to local issues, building on our heritage and assets. Alongside this, we are delivering events and activities that bring people together, reducing social isolation and enabling people to have an active cultural life. This is a crucial part of transforming our communities, creating a sense of cohesion, belonging and pride.'*
- 1.5 The 'Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean' theme within the Council's Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes the following priorities that the Council will focus on in 2025/26 –
 - Helping people to feel safe in their community.
 - Creating vibrant communities – which includes specific activity relating to the delivery of ward plans and the refresh of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.
 - Better public places.
 - Revitalising the Town Centre.
- 1.6 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report, which was presented to cabinet in September 2023, provided positive feedback on the Council's neighbourhood working model stating – *'The Council's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aspires to strengthen the role of ward members as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and those delivering service in communities to bring about the changes that communities want to see. The peer team was impressed by the exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead.'*

2. Key Issues

Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

- 2.1 A refreshed version of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025) was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 (see Appendix 1). An updated Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy is due to be produced in 2026.
- 2.2 Delivery of the Strategy is done so via the 25 ward plans. Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Teams review and update these plans on a monthly basis. Elected Members present ward reports to Council to illustrate progress against their ward priorities. The latest cycle of reports to Council commenced in July 2025.
- 2.3 A range of Neighbourhoods Team Performance Indicators are recorded throughout the year. The figures from 2021 – 2025 are attached as Appendix 2. Performance and impact are also captured through case studies and stories, that are included in the Members' ward reports, ward e-bulletins and other media channels.

Elected Members as Community Leaders

- 2.4 Elected Members are at the centre of Rotherham's Neighbourhood Working Model, which supports them to maximise their role as community leaders.

Member Development and Support

- 2.5 Elected Members are supported on a day-to-day basis by the Neighbourhoods Team. During 2024/25 the Neighbourhoods Team facilitated 247 ward member briefings. These ward briefings are fundamental to the neighbourhood working model as they provide Members with the opportunity to review their ward priorities, plans and budgets, engage with various partners and services, consider any emerging issues, take a lead on any projects or initiatives, and discuss how to involve and work with the local community.
- 2.6 Following the May 2024 elections new and returning Members were provided with a ward focused induction by the Neighbourhoods Team. The ward induction complemented the wider Corporate Member Induction Programme.

Ward Priorities and Plans

- 2.7 Following the May 2024 elections and the completion of the ward inductions, the Neighbourhoods Team supported new and returning Elected Members in the identification of their new ward priorities. Members were provided with ward data, input and advice from council services and partners and local community intelligence, including the results from any recent consultation exercises. The new ward priorities were published on the Council's website in October 2024. A summary is included as Appendix 3.
- 2.8 Elected Members continue to work with a range of council services, local communities and numerous partners to develop projects and improve local

services to tackle their ward priorities. Details of this activity is captured in the individual ward plans, included in the monthly ward e-bulletins and summarised in Ward Members' reports to full Council.

- 2.9 The Elected Members' reports to Council include numerous stories and case studies, illustrating the impact of neighbourhood working, their role as community leaders and progress on ward priorities. The latest cycle of reports to Council commenced in July 2025. All ward reports are published on the ward webpages once presented.
- 2.10 As well as forming the basis for local action, the ward priorities and plans are used to inform Council decision making - the Council Plan, policies, strategies, service plans and resource allocation.

Devolved Ward Budgets

- 2.11 In 2024/25 Elected Members had access to the following devolved ward budgets -
 - Community Leadership Fund (CLF) - £1,584 per individual Elected Member (revenue). A total budget of £93,456.
 - Ward Capital Budget - £7,120 for two member wards £10,680 for three member wards. A total budget of £210,040.
 - Ward Housing Budget (WHB) - £4,000 base budget for each ward with an enhancement dependent upon the number of Council homes in the ward. A total budget of £216,000.
 - Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – 15% of the total CIL paid to the Council retained in any ward not covered by a Parish Council. The budget available to Elected Members is dependent on the level of development in the ward, land values and the payment schedules. At the beginning of 2024/25 £518,794 of Neighbourhood CIL was available to 11 of the non-parished wards.
 - In 2024/25 a total of £1,038,290 was available for Elected Members to spend in their wards.

	Budget	Spent	Balance
CLF	£93,456	£56,184	£37,272
Capital	£210,040	£55,003	£155,037
WHB	£216,000	£77,565	£138,435
CIL	£518,794	£86,364	£432,430
Total	£1,038,290	£275,116	£763,174

- 2.12 CLF and Ward Capital Budgets –
 - These budgets have a roll forward provision, with any funding unallocated in a specific year rolling forward into the following year, up to 2027/28.
 - In 2024/25 Elected Members allocated £111,187 to projects, services and activities tackling their ward priorities. £56,184 from CLF and £55,003 from the Ward Capital Budget.

2.13 Ward Housing Budget –

- The £216,000 annual Ward Housing Budget is made available each year to support projects and investments around our council housing estates, to address ward priorities and issues of concern for council tenants and residents.
- The budget had previously been administered by the Housing & Estates Service. Administration of the budget moved to the Neighbourhoods Team in 2024/25 to better align with CLF and Ward Capital Budgets.
- This budget also has a roll forward provision, with any funding unallocated in a specific year rolling forward into the following year, up to 2027/28.
- During 2024/25 a total of £77,565 was allocated to support the delivery of local projects that directly benefitted council tenants.

2.14 Community Infrastructure Levy –

- A charge that Councils can apply to new developments to raise funds for local infrastructure.
- Wards that are not covered by a Parish Council retain the Local CIL or ‘Neighbourhood Portion’. This equates to 15% of the total CIL.
- The budget available to Elected Members is dependent on the level of development in the ward, land values and the payment schedules. There is no deadline to spend CIL monies.
- CIL has been made available to Elected Members in non-parished wards since April 2022.
- At the beginning of 2024/25 £518,794 of Neighbourhood CIL was available to 11 of the non-parished wards. During 2024/25 a total of £86,364 was allocated to support the delivery of local projects. *Note – this includes £15,590 that was spent at the end of 2023/24 which wasn't included in the last annual report.*

2.15 £62,371 (23%) of the devolved budgets was invested directly into the Voluntary and Community Sector, supporting a total of 160 community organisations. £97,038 (35%) went into the public sector for additional activities, services or equipment. The remaining £115,706 (42%) was used to purchase items/equipment from the private sector to improve community assets and or support community activities, such as play equipment.

2.16 In total, Elected Members allocated £275,116 on projects and services in line with their ward priorities during 2024/25. This figure is lower than previous years but was expected given that Members were only elected in May 2024 and ward priorities only confirmed in October 2024. The remaining £763,174 was carried over into the next financial year. Summaries of the allocations made in each individual ward in 2024/25 were published on the Council website in May 2025.

Communication and Community Engagement

2.17 How both Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Team communicate and engage with residents, stakeholders and partners is fundamental to Rotherham’s neighbourhood working model. Communication & Engagement is embedded in the delivery of the ward plans.

- 2.18 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report (September 2023) stated that – *'The peer team was impressed by the exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead'.*

Website

- 2.19 The Neighbourhoods home webpage includes information on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, an interactive map of all the wards, details on how to apply for devolved ward budgets, links to the Parish Councils section of the Council website and links to all 25 ward pages. In 2024/25 there were 4,826 unique views of this webpage.
- 2.20 The 25 ward webpages include Elected Members details, a link to subscribe to the ward e-bulletin, and useful links to other websites. They also allow people to access the ward priorities, ward data profile, annual ward budget statements and the Elected Members' report to Council. Due to unresolvable software issues it was decided to remove the 'latest news' section from the ward pages and simply sign post readers to subscribe to the ward e-bulletin.

Ward E-bulletins

- 2.21 Each ward produces and circulates a monthly e-bulletin. The wards that cover Rawmarsh, Swinton and Maltby & Hellaby issue a joint e-bulletin. These are written in consultation with Elected Members and provide local information and numerous stories illustrating the progress made in tackling ward priorities and the impact of neighbourhood working within the ward.
- 2.22 At the end of 2024/25 there were 11,829 subscribers to the ward e-bulletins. There was a small increase of 230 subscribers over the year. This increase is significantly less than in previous years. A number of people subscribe to multiple ward e-bulletins. Therefore, 18,497 ward e-bulletins are received by subscribers each month.
- 2.23 241 editions were issued throughout the year. The engagement rate (the percentage of bulletins opened and read) is 76%. A high rate considering the number of ward e-bulletins issued. This appears to indicate that the content is of interest and useful to the reader.
- 2.24 In Spring 2025 the Communications Team initiated a review to check the accuracy of the subscription figures. This identified that a number of the subscribers previously recorded had not indicated a ward preference and had, therefore, not been receiving any e-bulletins. These individuals have been contacted periodically over the last 6 months to encourage them to select a ward e-bulletin to receive. Those that have chosen not to do this will be removed from the subscribers list. Therefore, the 2025/26 subscription figures will be less than previous years.
- 2.25 In 2026 the Neighbourhoods and Communications Teams will be conducting a survey with e-bulletin readers to find out what they like about the e-bulletins and

how they think they could be improved. This will be followed by another campaign to increase subscribers.

Supporting Community Organisations

- 2.26 Supporting local community groups who run activities and services that help tackle ward priorities, is a core function of the Neighbourhoods Team.
- 2.27 In 2024/25, the Team supported community organisations 462 times with general advice, funding, volunteer recruitment and linking them into various partnerships and services. This figure includes the establishment of 12 new community organisations. This work was alongside and in addition to, the ward budget funding which was awarded to 160 community organisations.

Community Events

- 2.28 The Neighbourhoods Team continue to work alongside Elected Members to bring communities together through a range of enjoyable, cultural and social activities and events, which inspire hope and pride in local communities across the Borough. 316 community events were arranged or supported by the Team in 2024/25.

Consultation

- 2.29 The Neighbourhoods Team continue to advise and support Council services and partners who wish to consult within wards and neighbourhoods, such as the Our Places programme. This is in accordance with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework.
- 2.30 Elected Members in some wards initiated a consultation exercise in summer 2024 that informed their ward priorities and plans.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 2.31 The Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy emphasises the need to promote and provide opportunities for all communities within the Borough. In 2024/25, Elected Members and the Neighbourhoods Team supported 232 activities, projects or initiatives that promoted communities with protected characteristics. These include consultation exercises, support/funding for community groups and community events.
- 2.32 Following the violent disorder at the Holiday Inn at Manvers in August 2024 the Council increased its commitment to promote community cohesion. Ward Members and the Neighbourhoods Team have contributed to this by –
 - Including community cohesion activity within ward priorities and plans and supporting local activities, projects and events through ward funding;
 - Supporting the delivery of projects, activities and events funded via the Community Recovery Fund and ensuring they are linked into local community organisations and residents; and
 - Specific support for Manvers Residents Association and the local community.

- 2.33 Over the next 12 months the Neighbourhoods Team will continue to work with Elected Members on community cohesion projects and provide more opportunities for communities with protected characteristics to get involved in local consultation, activities and co-produced community action.

Partnership Working

Ward Priorities

- 2.34 The priorities within ward plans form the basis of local projects, partnerships and networks which are supported by the Neighbourhoods Team and Elected Members. These priorities are shared across all Council services and partner agencies to help inform strategies, service plans, the allocation of resources and the delivery of services. A summary of the ward priorities is included as Appendix 3.
- 2.35 Work continues to increase the visibility of the ward priorities to all staff across the council. This included ward priorities being considered during the development of the new Council Plan, service planning and strategy development. In addition, the priorities are included in regular discussions with various management teams across the council and an annual programme of neighbourhood tours is available to all staff.

Neighbourhood Partnerships and Networks

- 2.36 A range of neighbourhood-based partnerships and networks have continued to meet or have been established in order to tackle the priorities within the ward plans. This includes the Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) which operate in all 25 wards and provide a vehicle to tackle community safety related issues.
- 2.37 In 2025/26 the Neighbourhoods Team co-ordinated 618 neighbourhood partnership and network meetings. These have been a mix of in-person and online Teams meetings.

Parish and Town Councils

- 2.38 Parish and Town Councils are key to local partnership and neighbourhood working. The Parish Council & Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer is a fairly unique post and illustrates the importance the Council places on these positive relationships. A number of the Parish Councils recognise this as a model of good practice.
- 2.39 Over the last year the Parish Council Liaison Officer has worked alongside the Parish Councils to –
- Monitor and promote the Joint Working Agreement with the Council;
 - Meet with each other, council services and partners on a regular basis;
 - Link into Elected Members and key council services to address local issues;
 - Develop their response to potential future flood or emergency incidents;
 - Hold events and celebrations – including early preparation with council services for events such as Remembrance Sunday;

- Recruit Parish Council representatives to various Boards and Group, such as the Transport Advisory Group; and
 - Access learning and development opportunities.
- 2.40 The Parish Council & Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer co-ordinates the Parish Council and RMBC Joint Working Group, Parish Council Network events, Clerks meetings and joint learning and development sessions. During 2024/25, 25 of the 31 Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham were involved in one or more of these meetings and events.
- 2.41 The Parish Council & Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer also engages with those that have chosen not to get involved in any of the joint meetings or events, via the Parish Councils' e-bulletin, attending their meetings or individual discussions with the clerk.

Integrated Locality Working

Rotherham Town Centre

- 2.42 The Neighbourhoods Team has the lead role in promoting a placemaking approach within Rotherham town centre by bringing all key stakeholders together to achieve common goals and ensure the town centre becomes a desirable place to live, work and visit.
- 2.43 The Town Centre Community Co-ordinator is an integral link between those involved in the economic regeneration of the town centre, various council services, local businesses, the VCS, residents and visitors. The performance figures attached as Appendix 2 illustrate that ASB, Community Safety and Street Scene related issues is where the majority of the demand lies, followed by support for businesses, events, community engagement and regeneration projects.
- 2.44 Particular achievements for the Town Centre Community Co-ordinator during 2024/25 include –
- Forge Island - relationships with Travelodge and ARC Cinema, Vetro Lounge, Sygnature Dish and Heavenly Desserts and early identification of any emerging site related issues.
 - Riverside Gardens / Corporation Street - engaging with businesses impacted by the ongoing works.
 - Supporting new and existing local businesses - providing advice, support and signposting and encouraging working together to maximise footfall and opportunities.
 - Vacant buildings – meetings with potential investors who are interested in some of the long-term empty buildings and signposting to specialist advice.
 - Events - working with businesses and council services, before, during and after the events
 - Community Safety & Street Scene – involved in recruitment and induction of new Street Safe team and lead on weekly partnership walkabouts with council services and partners.

- 2.45 The Town Centre Strategic Group, chaired by the Service Director for Regeneration & Environment, has recently led on the production of a new Town Centre Action Plan (2025-2030). The Action Plan pulls together and steers work relating to the town centre. The actions are organised thematically and demonstrates how services and partner are working collectively to achieve the desired objectives. These themes are -
- Placemaking
 - Connectivity
 - Housing & Communities
 - Services & Facilities
 - Safety & Street Scene
 - Culture & Leisure
 - Business Support & Growth
 - Marketing & Communications
- 2.46 The Town Centre Operational Group meets on a monthly basis to ensure there is joint-working and co-ordination of services and partners in the town centre. The Operational Group will progress the actions identified in the Town Centre Action Plan.
- 2.47 Pride in Place (previously known as Plan for Neighbourhoods) is a Government programme that will benefit the Town Centre and surrounding communities. The programme provides £20m funding over 10 years from April 2026. Over the last 12 months consultation has taken place to inform an Investment Plan, which has included consideration of ward priorities. The Plan was agreed by cabinet in November and has now been submitted to Government for a final decision. The Plan includes proposals for investment around –
- Regeneration, High Streets & Heritage
 - Safety & Security
 - Education & Opportunity
 - Cohesion
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Work, Productivity & Skills
- A new Neighbourhoods Board will be established to oversee delivery of the Plan. Phase 2 of the Pride in Place programme will cover Maltby East ward. Work on developing the investment plan for that area will commence in 2026.

Locality Working Board

- 2.48 The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report (2023) included a recommendation to '*Develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working*' and suggested that '*Integrated locality working through increased co-design and co-production of solutions and services alongside partner organisations can deliver enhanced outcomes for residents through improved services and solutions which are tailored to their needs.*'
- 2.49 In response to this a Locality Working Board made of senior council officers from across the Council, South Yorkshire Police and the NHS was established

in June 2024. The Board is responsible for embedding integrated locality working within the Council and with partners, with a specific focus on -

- Collaborative problem-solving to tackle community safety, crime & ASB and street scene.
- Family Hubs are integrated into wider neighbourhood / locality working.
- Promotion of Prevention and early intervention to tackle Health Inequalities.

2.50 The Board has formalised the role and function of the North, Central and South Locality Managers Groups, which comprise of area managers from council services and partners that deliver on that particular footprint - such as Neighbourhoods, Housing, Environmental Enforcement, Community Protection Unit, Street Scene, Early Help, Adult Care and South Yorkshire Police. The Groups are responsible for identifying and maximising opportunities to connect and integrate public sector and VCS service delivery across the North, Central or South Locality Area, in line with the ambitions set out in the Council Plan, the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the ward priorities. Going forward the Locality Managers Groups will oversee the delivery of the Selective Licensing Neighbourhood Improvement Plans.

2.51 Over 2024/25 other specific activity that the Board have initiated includes -

- Neighbourhood tours for council staff;
- Embedding a Strengths-Based Working approach within the Council via training and development and the establishment of a Community of Practice;
- Ensuring ward priorities inform service delivery;
- Establishing and promoting a ward directory of key contacts; and
- Championing improvements to the Council's approach to consultation and engagement.

2.52 National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme – Rotherham was recently successful in its bid to be part of this national change programme to make early progress on neighbourhood health delivery, as set out in the NHS 10-year plan. This is an exciting opportunity to deliver more integrated and accessible health services within communities by building on existing locality and neighbourhood working models and service delivery.

3 Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The report presented is for information.

4 Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report presented is for information.

5 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The report presented is for information.

6 Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

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

7 Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications.

8 Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The outcomes within the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Neighbourhood Working model supports the delivery of the Council Plan's strategic outcomes around 'Children & Young People Achieve' and 'Residents Live Well'
- 9.2 The ward priorities illustrate where Elected Members are targeting resources towards both Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. This includes new or additional activities, improved facilities or improved access to services. The majority of the wards also have priorities which try to mitigate against the 'Cost-of-Living' crisis.

10 Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The neighbourhood working model enables the Council to respond to the specific needs of Rotherham's increasingly diverse communities. Engagement with residents takes into account the strengths, assets and needs of different communities of interest, which differ in each neighbourhood and ward. Neighbourhood working allows the flexibility to respond to these needs.
- 10.2 The ward priorities and ward budget statements published on the website illustrate how Elected Members have targeted activity, services and resources toward communities with protected characteristics. Case studies and stories on ward webpages, e-bulletins and the Ward Members' reports to Council illustrate the impact being made.
- 10.3 Over the next 12 months the Neighbourhoods Team will continue to work with Elected Members on community cohesion projects and provide more opportunities for communities with protected characteristics to get involved in local consultation, activities and co-produced community action.

11 Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

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

12 Implications for Partners

12.1 Multi-agency working is covered in paragraphs 2.34 to 2.52 of this report. This illustrates the importance of partners (from the public, voluntary and private sector) and Parish Councils in the delivery of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. The ward priorities and plans are informed by the experience and intelligence from these partners, which encourages the establishment of shared priorities and goals.

13 Risks and Mitigation

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

14 Accountable Officer(s)

Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Executive Director of Corporate Services	Judith Badger	05/12/25
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	05/12/25
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	05/12/25
Service Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	N/A

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

THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Rotherham Neighbourhoods Strategy 2018 – 2025
(Updated November 2022)



www.rotherham.gov.uk/neighbourhoods

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FOREWORD FROM DEPUTY LEADER/CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

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

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

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

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

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



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

VISION

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

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

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



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

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

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

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

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



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

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



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

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



OUR APPROACH

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

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



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

A 'place-based' approach

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

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

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

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

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

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



A 'strengths-based' approach

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

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



Therefore, Rotherham Council will:

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



ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

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



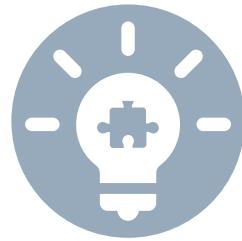
Orchestrator:
bringing people together, mediating and helping to broker relationships



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



Advocate:
acting on behalf of all residents



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



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



Catalyst:
empowering residents and community organisations to achieve their ambitions



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

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

Councillors devolved ward budgets

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

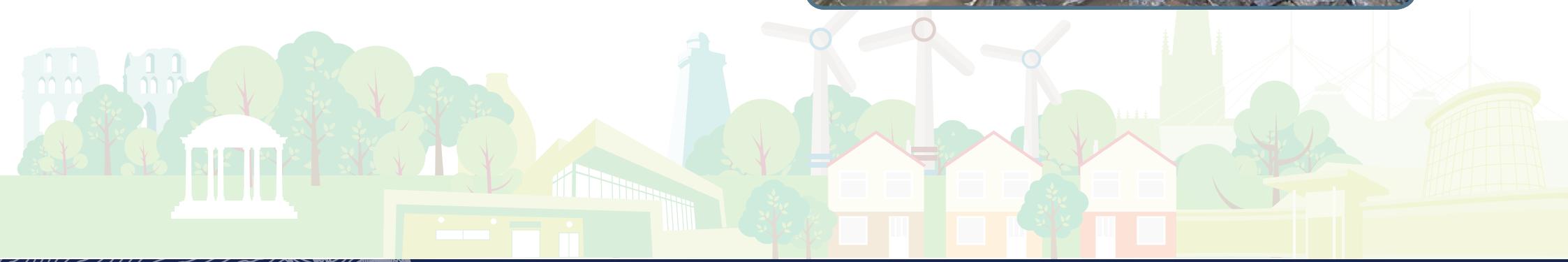
- **Community Leadership Fund:** a small individual budget allocated to each Councillor to fund local community organisations or projects, provide additional activities or put on events
- **Ward Capital Budget:** allocated to each ward and used to purchase physical assets or equipment
- **Ward Housing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



MEASURING SUCCESS

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

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



GET INVOLVED AND FIND OUT MORE

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

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

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



Appendix 2 – Neighbourhoods Performance Indicators 2021 - 2025

Performance Indicator	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No. of ward briefings organised	289	294	287	247
No of community groups funded by ward budgets	238	267	271	160
No. of times community groups supported (not via funding)	297	663	531	462
No. of new community organisations established	26	19	13	12
No. of community events supported / managed	Not recorded	395	354	316
Number of initiatives that have specifically targeted communities with protected characteristics	Not recorded	200	220	232
Increase in ward e-bulletin subscribers	1,345	2,730	2,011	230
Total ward e-bulletin subscribers	6,858	9,588	11,599	11,829
Number of unique website views (landing page)	6,618	4,447	5,308	4,826
Number of newsfeed posts published on ward pages	27	120	113	33
No. of multi-agency meetings organised / supported	825	867	734	618
Parish Councils				
Number of Parish Councils supported	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	25
Number of Parish Council meetings attended	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	16
Number of network / joint Parish Council meetings managed	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	10
Number of training and development sessions managed	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	1
Number of Parish Council Emergency Plans completed	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	0

Town Centre				
Number of ASB, community safety and street-scene issue related activities	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	101
Number of meetings with potential new or existing businesses / operators	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	33
Number of events supported	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	26
Number of community engagement activities	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	26
Number of economic regeneration projects supported	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	22
Number of council staff / partner town centre tours	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	15
Number of public health projects supported	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	5

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Anston & Woodsetts	1	<p><u>Represent all areas of our community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all residents from all areas of the ward feel included and represented, including North Anston, South Anston, Woodsetts and Thorpe Salvin. • That residents in rural area like Turnerwood, Lindrick Dale, Netherthorpe and Cinder Hill have a voice. • Involve and work with local community groups across the ward to make Anston and Woodsetts Ward an even better place to live and work.
	2	<p><u>Make people feel safe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in hotspot areas • Highlight the specific issues around rural crime and support initiatives to tackle it • Work to make our roads safer with speed reduction and safety schemes coupled with working with the police and community for better enforcement. • Highlight the overuse of our village roads by HGVs and speeding traffic
	3	<p><u>Cleaner streets, lanes and open spaces and protect the environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with council services to encourage tougher enforcement on fly-tipping and littering. • Support and develop community initiatives to reduce litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping. • Ensure our green spaces are properly maintained and looked after. • Ensure that the voice of the community is heard in any proposed planning developments
	4	<p><u>Improvements to our public transport and roads system</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect our local bus and rail services and work towards increased accessibility of all areas of our ward to high quality public transport including road and rail. • Work with residents to prioritise for repairs and resurfacing work on our roads and pavements.
	5	<p><u>Develop initiatives to support local businesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities around creating a Local Business Forum • Champion local businesses in the ward • Increased connectivity to high-speed broadband where possible
	6	<p><u>Support voluntary and community organisations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to support groups through the Community Leadership Fund and to identify other funding opportunities • To support networking opportunities for local organisations to come together to share ideas and best practice

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Aston & Todwick	1	<p><u>Developing and support initiatives around road safety and transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve parking around schools • Improve Red Lion Roundabout on A57 – A57 Todwick M1 • Connectivity and Frequency of buses (Crystal Peaks) • Potholes, road and pavement repairs • Traffic calming
	2	<p><u>Opportunities to engage, improve and support local businesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More shops and a Post Office (Todwick) • Better shopping and cash machine facilities at Todwick
	3	<p><u>Develop and support initiatives around crime, community safety, particularly in hot spot areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns around burglary and car crime • Police visibility • More enforcement activity / visible presence to tackle Quad bikes • CCTV
	4	<p><u>Support and develop initiatives to improve the local environments e.g. community clean-up days or support for litter picking groups or improve green spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed management and frequency of grass cutting. • Bins need to be emptied more frequently. • Reduce litter and fly tipping. • Better maintained green spaces • Improved playgrounds and sports facilities
	5	<p><u>Support initiatives to help and improve mental health, wellbeing, loneliness and isolation tenants/residents of all ages within the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older residents feel socially isolated. • More groups to support mental health. • More groups for men • Activities and support for children and young people both in Todwick and Aston

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Aughton & Swallownest	1	<p><u>Develop & support initiatives that will improve health & wellbeing and tackle poverty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and support activities for children and young people • Develop and support initiatives that address mental and physical health • Develop and support initiatives that address social isolation • Develop initiatives that support people to address the cost-of-living crisis
	2	<p><u>Develop & support initiatives around crime and community safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and promote initiatives that address domestic abuse and exploitation • Speeding traffic and traffic management • Raise awareness and promote home, vehicle and personal safety
	3	<p><u>Develop and support initiatives that will improve the environment and the neighbourhood</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing flytipping and littering • Encouraging people to take pride and ownership of public spaces, including reporting issues to relevant services
	4	<p><u>Support local communities to come together and celebrate local and cultural heritage</u></p>

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Boston Castle	1	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to Crime / Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive / respond to reports of Crime / ASB • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc • Unpick and respond to the other indicators of acute deprivation i.e. Environment, Housing, Education, Employment, Income and Health
	2	<p><u>Support your local community</u></p> <p>Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhancing community spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting individuals / groups at Christmas • Engaging with the vol-com sector to understand / respond to the needs of this diverse ward
	3	<p><u>Improve the environment you live in</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support work designed to enhance the appearance of key sites around the Ward, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Clifton Park ➢ Boston Park ➢ Herringthorpe Playing Fields ➢ Hollowgate Pocket Park • Address environmental issues at identified sites around the Ward, beginning with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The area around Wellgate House ➢ The area around Alma Road / The Maltings
	4	<p><u>Working with you to improve Wellgate</u></p> <p>Continuing the development of the Towns / Villages funded project on Wellgate, including addressing issues linked to Crime / ASB and the appearance of the environment</p>
	5	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to Road Safety / Traffic</u></p> <p>Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety / traffic, beginning with ensuring the community voice is heard in respect of the proposals for the Broom area</p>

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Bramley & Ravenfield	1	<p><u>Improving road safety and addressing crime & anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School road safety • Working with residents to address traffic and speed concerns • Off-road biking • Reducing fly-tipping • Working with partners to address local concerns • Continue to support Bramley and Wickersley Neighbourhood Watch group • Continue to tackle crime and ASB through the Community Action Partnership
	2	<p><u>Improving the environment and enhancing community facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for clean and well-maintained streets and green spaces • Organising community litter picks and supporting existing litter picking groups • Supporting community garden and allotment projects • Improving outdoor spaces and facilities • Enhancing community safety resources • Working with local businesses, community and voluntary groups to promote and build on the local offer
	3	<p><u>Bringing people together and improving mental & physical well-being</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community events • Supporting community groups and our Parish Councils/Parish meeting • Supporting initiatives that provide accessible and inclusive spaces to socialise • Supporting activities for children, young people and families

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Brinsworth	1	<p><u>A cleaner and greener Brinsworth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support litter picking, community clean ups and environmental improvement days • Develop and support tree planting schemes and enhance the natural environment through wildflower and bulb planting opportunities • Work with schools to raise awareness of nature and protecting the natural environment
	2	<p><u>A safer Brinsworth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Police, local groups, and partners to tackle issues in hotspot areas and deliver community safety events • Support road safety initiatives • Support initiatives that ensure people of all ages feel safe within their neighbourhood
	3	<p><u>A community focused Brinsworth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local community groups and organisations to develop and deliver community-based activities • Work with schools in Brinsworth to develop a programme of activities and opportunities for students to participate in • Engage with libraries, community centres and Parish Councils and support them to deliver projects and activities within the ward • Support community cohesion initiatives that bring people together
	4	<p><u>A more active Brinsworth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage families to become more active by taking part in the Brinsworth Jubilee Trail • Support and develop projects that will increase the appeal and usage of parks and open spaces • Support local sports clubs and recreational grounds to maintain amenities and continue to provide a variety of options to stay active • Support projects that promote healthy lifestyles, physical and mental health

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Dalton & Thrybergh		<p><u>Overarching Priority:</u> Ensure residents have the support they need in relation to the cost-of-living, particularly those most impacted or disproportionately affected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure residents are aware of support and services available to them to • Working with and through agencies, partners and Council services.
	1	<p><u>Give young people and their families the support they need so they have the best start in life</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and improving opportunities for young people, including places, spaces and activities; • Tackling known disadvantages such as education and obesity; • Ensuring families and caregivers have the right support at the point of need. • Working with schools and providers.
	2	<p><u>Tackle inequalities that lead to poorer health and quality of life; ensuring people can access services and support that will enable them to improve their health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address wider determinants of health, such as housing, green spaces, exercise, work and social connectedness. • Focus on prevention, early intervention and self-help, to encourage people to act around their own health. • Ensure people can and have the opportunity to access the services and mechanisms of support they need.
	3	<p><u>Build safer neighbourhoods that are clean and celebrated, where people are empowered to control their own lives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the community, partners and Council services to tackle issues, find shared solutions and encourage community action • Encouraging reporting and ensuring people feel empowered and have the knowledge, confidence and skills • Continued recognition and celebrating the people, places and heritage that make the ward a great place to live.

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Dinnington	1	<p><u>Develop and improve the local environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage community clean-up days and litter picks • Work in partnership with stakeholders to improve public spaces
	2	<p><u>Develop and support initiatives around crime and community safety, particularly in hotspot areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners, including South Yorkshire Police and the Council to address anti-social behaviour across the Ward • Support and empower communities to help improve their local area and encourage through reporting • Support and advocate for improvements to road safety and commit to efforts to mitigate the impact of off-road vehicles
	3	<p><u>Support initiatives to improve the town centre, markets and investment in the local economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the regeneration of Dinnington High Street & Market • Work with local businesses to improve the town centre and markets area
	4	<p><u>Support improvements to highway maintenance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the different ways to report issues to the Council and encourage residents to do this • Promote investment in greener travel
	5	<p><u>Support and develop initiatives to improve wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help residents with cost-of-living support including access to advice, guidance and budgeting • Foster community spirit by empowering local residents to form groups to act for and with their communities • Celebrate community heritage • Support initiatives designed to improve physical wellbeing and help people 'get fit' • Support effective management of Private Sector Housing

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Greasbrough	1	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to road safety and traffic</u> Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety/traffic beginning with the following locations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Street • Fenton Road • Potter Hill • Main Street • Rossiter Road • Gin House Lane, Bassingthorpe Lane and Munsbrough Lane
	2	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and respond to reports of crime and anti-social behaviour • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc
	3	<p><u>Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve existing facilities through investment, beginning with exploring the possibility of installing goal posts on land off Wensleydale Road • Reduce social isolation, beginning with a partnership project with Flux
	4	<p><u>Support your community</u></p> <p>Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhancing community spirit, beginning with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing the development of the Towns / Villages funded project on Brimmagem Fold, including the installation of additional benches and a history board • Buying and displaying poppies on lamp posts • Supporting individuals / groups at Christmas

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Hellaby & Maltby West	1	<p><u>Protecting and improving the environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving local facilities including green spaces and parks • Work with community, stakeholders and council departments to reduce dog fouling, fly-tipping and street litter in the ward • Support environmental education through events and projects for people of all ages.
	2	<p><u>Support and develop initiatives to increase community and individuals' wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting communities and families on cost-of-living • Assisting community groups and partners deliver events and social groups • Promoting community groups and social events to combat loneliness and isolation. • Facilitating and supporting employment opportunities within the area. • Support new and existing community groups to develop and thrive. • Encouraging education inclusivity and community cohesion for all ages, including children, young people & families
	3	<p><u>Identify and support initiatives that improve community safety, road safety and vehicle crime</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road traffic management schemes • Speed watches and community engagement activities.
	4	<p><u>Celebrating local and cultural heritage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging events and projects to share memories, local history and cultural heritage.

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Hoover	1	<p><u>Improving road safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to address local concerns around road safety improvements • Work with communities to help alleviate parking problems, speeding and improve traffic flow
	2	<p><u>Addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces/community assets for everyone</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support communities with initiatives that help keep the ward clean, safe and welcoming for all, e.g. signage, enforcement, community clean ups, litter picks, promotion of services and education • Improve community facilities/assets/greenspaces whilst ensuring accessibility for all • Deliver high visibility walkabouts with partner agencies and the community to address local issues
	3	<p><u>Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with the Police and other partner agencies using a problem solving approach to tackle local issues • Work with partners to promote reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour using a variety of mediums
	4	<p><u>Support opportunities for bringing people together, enhancing community spirit, and support the communities and its groups to thrive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support activities that address loneliness, isolation and mental wellbeing • Promote community cohesion, inclusion and equality • Share information, services and promote local activities • Support community groups and the development of new groups • Work with community groups to set up a community networking partnership • Continue to engage with the community on issues that matter to them, e.g. fuel poverty • Maximising the use of facilities and encourage/support more community events

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Keppel	1	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to road safety and traffic</u> Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety/traffic beginning with the following locations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorpe Street • Scholes Village • Brook Hill • London Way • Kimberworth Park
	2	<p><u>Improve facilities for our young people and their quality of life</u> Improve existing facilities through investment beginning with the following locations -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground • Hesley Grange Play Area • Lodge Lane Recreation Ground
	3	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and respond to reports of crime and anti-social behaviour • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc
	4	<p><u>Improve the environment you live in</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local community groups or organisations with environmental projects beginning with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Continuing the development of the Towns / Villages funded project on St Johns Green, including exploring the possibility of painting the business shutters in partnership with local retailers and a local art project ➢ The potential design / installation of an environmental feature on Fenton Road • Work with partners and the community to reduce fly tipping, dog fouling and street litter, beginning with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Purchasing / installing additional 'No Littering' signs ➢ Partnership projects to help maintain local green spaces
	5	<p><u>Support your community</u> Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhance community spirit beginning with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing / installing three Christmas Trees at these locations; Thorpe Street, Oaks Lane and Fenton Road / Roughwood Road • Exploring the potential for creating a community hub in Kimbwerworth Park • Buying and displaying poppies on lamp posts • Supporting individuals / groups at Christmas

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Kilnhurst & Swinton East	1	<p><u>Clean and Green and having pride in our place</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the community to improve the area with initiatives such as clean ups and skip days • Working with partners to resolve anti-social behaviour using a multi-agency approach • Celebrate local heritage • Encouraging and conserving the natural diverse environment and it's wildlife e.g. Hedgehog signs, bug houses
	2	<p><u>Place to go and things to do for all ages including activities for children and access to play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and promoting activities for all including children's Santa's grottos • Improving children's play areas and access to open greenspaces • School travel safety initiatives • Engaging schools in local democracy
	3	<p><u>Supporting our vulnerable residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the reduction of health inequalities including consideration of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing e.g. loneliness, isolation and mental well-being • Support the community on issues that matter to them i.e. Fuel poverty • Share information, services and promote local activities to support our community • Support community cohesion, inclusion and equality
		Priority areas: - Fitzwilliam estate and Kilnhurst village

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Maltby East	1	<p><u>Improving opportunities and inclusivity for children and young people</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local activities for families, including culture, arts and heritage projects • Support families with Special Educational Needs (SEND). • Help connect children and young people to initiatives which aim to improve their wellbeing and job opportunities
	2	<p><u>Support existing and new community groups to thrive and develop</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Healthy Lifestyle • Supporting initiatives that improve older people quality of life. • Tackling loneliness and isolation in line with 5 ways of wellbeing • Support Maltby residents with Disabilities, physical and mental health, and the cost of living
	3	<p><u>Develop and support initiatives to improve community safety and the environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working with Council departments, police and community to deliver projects which tackle antisocial behaviour and crime. • Support improvements to local Parks and Green Spaces, including events and play equipment. • Walkabouts and community engagement • Facilitate Multi Agency meetings and events • Promote and support Police initiatives, including encouraging the reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour. • Support residents with e-safety. • Road safety including bike riding and e-scooters • Environmental Crime and sign posting to council services such as bulking item collection.
	4	<p><u>Support Maltby local economy and improve the high street environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local business to identify opportunities to improve Maltby High Street. • Support businesses and police tackle anti-social behaviour and crime • Support and develop activities and initiatives to encourage shoppers back to the Highstreet.

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Rawmarsh East	1	<p><u>Improvements to the physical environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to community green spaces • Tackle hotspot area suffering from fly-tipping and littering • Support initiatives that improve the look of the area • Support projects that help reduce the impact of climate change
	2	<p><u>Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the range of activities offered locally for children and young people • Support education projects including encouraging young people to read more • Improvements to play areas. • Develop a Rosehill Park Events Group and increase the number of community events that take place in the park • Provision of the Rawmarsh Community Christmas Tree
	3	<p><u>Explore opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify projects that aim to improve mental health and wellbeing • Support activities that promote improved physical health • Provide advice and information on energy saving and cost of living crisis. • Support activities that reduce social isolation • Support projects that reduce health inequalities
	4	<p><u>Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partnership working initiatives that make people feel safe where they live or work • Create initiatives that address issues in hotspot areas
	5	<p><u>Celebrating local heritage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group • Improvements at Rawmarsh Cenotaph • Explore options for the Parkgate Miners Institute Building • Support the development of a Friends of Rawmarsh Cemeteries group

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Rawmarsh West	1	<p><u>Improvements to the physical environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to community green spaces • Tackle hotspot area suffering from fly-tipping and littering • Support initiatives that improve the look of the area • Support projects that help reduce the impact of climate change
	2	<p><u>Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the range of activities offered locally for children and young people • Support education projects including encouraging young people to read more • Improvements to play areas. • Develop a Rosehill Park Events Group and increase the number of community events that take place in the park • Provision of the Rawmarsh Community Christmas Tree
	3	<p><u>Explore opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify projects that aim to improve mental health and wellbeing • Support activities that promote improved physical health • Provide advice and information on energy saving and cost of living crisis. • Support activities that reduce social isolation • Support projects that reduce health inequalities
	4	<p><u>Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partnership working initiatives that make people feel safe where they live or work • Create initiatives that address issues in hotspot areas
	5	<p><u>Celebrating local heritage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work of the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group • Improvements at Rawmarsh Cenotaph • Explore options for the Parkgate Miners Institute Building • Support the development of a Friends of Rawmarsh Cemeteries group

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Rother Vale	1	<p><u>Support and contribute to a clean and green environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for estate clean-ups, skip days and litter picking and encourage reporting of fly-tipping to identify hotspot areas. • Develop projects that promote nature and enhance the natural environment.
	2	<p><u>Support and develop community safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Police and partners to hold community safety roadshows and information sharing • Support and develop initiatives around road safety • Work with partners and communities to develop a Community flood plan and support flood recovery initiatives
	3	<p><u>Support health, economic and social issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, including physical and mental health • Host roadshows and pop -up events that provide advice on money and debt management and mental health and well-being
	4	<p><u>Support local events and initiatives that encourage community cohesion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with local community groups and organisations to develop and deliver a wide range of community-based activities. • Encourage and support volunteers in the delivery of activities, such as coffee mornings, lunch clubs and social groups.

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Rotherham East	1	<p><u>Working with you to improve Eastwood Village</u> Continue to support the development and delivery of the Eastwood Village Action Plan, focusing on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime / Anti-Social Behaviour • Waste / Environment • Housing • Health / Wellbeing
	2	<p><u>Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life</u> Improve existing facilities through investment, beginning with -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating / promoting the brand new children's play area on Eldon Road playing fields • Establish the potential for new provision from Clifton Learning Partnership and on the broader Eldon Road playing fields
	3	<p><u>Support your community</u> Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhancing community spirit, beginning with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting individuals / groups at Christmas • Continuing to support the Eastwood Fun Fest • Engaging with the vol-com sector to understand / respond to the needs of this diverse ward
	4	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive / respond to reports of Crime / ASB • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc • Unpick and respond to the other indicators of acute deprivation i.e. Environment, Housing, Education, Employment, Income and Health
	5	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to Road Safety / Traffic</u> Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety / traffic, beginning with ensuring the community voice is heard in respect of the proposals for Fitzwilliam Road / St Anns roundabout</p>

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Rotherham West	1	<p><u>Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life</u> Improve existing facilities through investment beginning with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing funding to install a brand new children's play area in Henley • Securing funding to install floodlights at the Ferham Park multi-use games area (MUGA)
	2	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to road safety and traffic</u> Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety/traffic beginning with the following locations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradgate Lane • Old Wortley Road • Meadowhall Road • Kimberworth Road and Church Street
	3	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive / respond to reports of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour • Develop / deliver a plan specific to Ferham • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc • Oversee CCTV / lighting improvements in both Ferham and Bradgate Parks
	4	<p><u>Improve the environment you live in</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to help maintain local green spaces • Continue to undertake work on Little Common Lane designed to reduce fly tipping • Explore the potential for improving the pedestrian environment both on the approach to / through the College Road roundabout
	5	<p><u>Support your community</u> Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhance community spirit beginning with -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing / installing three Christmas Trees at these locations; Meadowbank Road, Richmond Park Avenue and Church Street / High Street • Supporting individuals / groups at Christmas • Continuing to support the Ferham Festival

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Sitwell	1	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to road safety and traffic</u> Respond to community concerns around the Ward with regards to road safety / traffic, beginning with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing / deploying 4 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs on East Bawtry Road and Broom Lane • Exploring what steps can be taken to address driver behaviour at the Broom Lane zebra crossing • Working with South Yorkshire Police and RMBC on a cross-Ward speeding issue
	2	<p><u>Working with you to reduce the impact of flooding in Whiston</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive progress reports from RMBC Drainage on proposals to reduce the risk and impact of flooding • Work with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water on potential community projects (following on from previous Whiston Brook clean up days)
	3	<p><u>Improve the environment you live in</u> Support work designed to enhance the appearance of key sites around the Ward, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing the development of the Towns / Villages funded project around Stag roundabout • Continuing the landscaping works at Worrygoose roundabout, which has included the planting of a Christmas Tree • Herringthorpe Valley Park • Whiston Meadows • Long Lane
	4	<p><u>Improve facilities for our young people and their quality of life</u> Improve existing facilities through investment, beginning with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiston Cricket Club, but potentially expanding to include other sporting / leisure facilities • Securing funding to improve the Play Area on Greystones Road
	5	<p><u>Address your concerns in relation to Crime / Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive / respond to reports of Crime / ASB • Ensure CCTV in right places covering ASB, fly tipping etc

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Swinton & Rockingham	1	<p><u>Improve the appearance of the Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the reduction in fly-tipping through education, promoting services, signage, cctv, community skip days, and enforcement action. • Support communities with initiatives that help keep the ward clean, safe and welcoming for all, e.g. reducing litter and dog fouling through signage, enforcement, free poo bag scheme at Swinton Library, education, and community litter picks. • Delivery of wildlife and area improvement projects
	2	<p><u>Enhancing Community Assets, activities and celebrating local heritage for the whole community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of community facility improvements • Supporting provision of activities and facilities for children and young people - Bow Broom Field goal posts • Work with community groups to enable community events / activities to take place to enhance community cohesion throughout the ward • Celebrate local heritage including supporting the Pottery Ponds and Waterloo Kiln • Supporting activities that address the cost of living crisis, health and wellbeing
	3	<p><u>Addressing Crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners and South Yorkshire Police using a multi-agency problem solving approach to address local concern. • Encourage residents to report through various methods • Undertake high visibility walkabouts with partner agencies and the community • Work with partners, the community and schools to address road safety issues

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Thurcroft & Wickersley South	1	<p><u>Build a stronger, cohesive community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and empower community groups, including both Parish Councils • Improve resident engagement • Improve community facilities, amenities and opportunities • Support individuals, families and businesses to navigate financial challenges and receive maximum support • Support and develop initiatives to address social isolation
	2	<p><u>Support crime prevention strategies and target anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with local Police to identify and address local crime • Promote the importance of reporting crime and support residents to do so • Identify opportunities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour • Carry out targeted work to address issues with off road vehicles
	3	<p><u>Develop and improve the local environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and inspire pride in the local community and the environment • Support community clean up days • Support local businesses and shops and encourage people to shop local • Support local people and work in partnership with stakeholders to improve public spaces

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Wales	1	<p><u>Support and develop initiatives to improve the local environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and develop local litter picking groups • Raise awareness and education around environmental issues working with local schools and community groups • Community clean up days • Towns & Villages fund
	2	<p><u>Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and crime in the hotspot areas</u></p> <p>Identify opportunities to increase facilities and activities for young people</p>
	3	<p><u>Support local community and voluntary organisations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to support through the Community Leadership Fund and to identify other funding opportunities • To support networking opportunities for local organisations to come together to share ideas and best practice
	4	<p><u>Work with the community and relevant groups to promote active travel across the ward</u></p>

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Wath		<p><u>Overarching Priority</u> – Supporting the community by sharing information, with help and support specifically in relation to fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis</p>
	1	<p><u>Address crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with police and other partner agencies to address local issues including local action plans and high visibility walkabouts. • Encourage reporting. • Build stronger community cohesion and awareness of different cultures within our community. • Improve Road Safety working with partners and the community to address local concerns, including making good use of the RMBC Highways scheme where areas are identified. • Support projects which address Speeding and off-road bike nuisance. • Tackle Drug use/dealing.
	2	<p><u>Help maintain an attractive and welcoming environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce fly-tipping - Community skip days, signage, enforcement. • Reduce dog fouling - signage, enforcement. • Reduce litter - signage, litterpicks, enforcement. • Promote recycling - posters, education.
	3	<p><u>Improving and enhancing community facilities, green spaces and the town centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with consulting local business and stakeholders. • Work with partners to develop best results from the Levelling Up Fund. • Support existing community groups and encourage new groups, promoting affordable activities for people of all ages. • Continue to build social infrastructure, bringing people together to improve wellbeing and prevent loneliness and isolation.
	4	<p><u>Promote the achievements of our young people, supporting and developing activities and events for teens and young adults</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop and promote activities for young people and teens. • Improve existing facilities. • Develop projects to support young entrepreneurs.

Appendix 3 - Summary of Ward Priorities (2024-26)

Ward	No.	Priorities
Wickersley North	1	<p><u>Improving our streets and green spaces, so the community can access and enjoy them</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including, improving roads, pavements and street cleanliness • Enhancing green spaces and parks • Organising clean-up days and skip days with the community
	2	<p><u>Improving community safety by addressing crime and anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting regular Community Action Partnership meetings, working collaboratively with partners, including South Yorkshire Police and Housing • Working with partners to improve road safety, including regular speed watches and activities to address parking concerns • Take part in community walkabouts and street surgeries, encouraging residents to report issues from their neighbourhood
	3	<p><u>Promote opportunities for bringing people together, enhancing community spirit and improving mental and physical wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting activities and groups within Neighbourhood Centres and community centres across Wickersley North • Support projects & activities for children and young people • Supporting projects/initiatives that promote positive mental health and wellbeing • Promoting services that provide financial advice and support, particularly in response to fuel poverty

More information regarding neighbourhood working and activities taking place within wards can be found here - [Your neighbourhood – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Improving Places Select Commission

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report (2024/25)

Page 103

27th January 2026



Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

The Strategy was approved in 2018, refreshed in 2022, and scheduled to be updated in 2026.

Our vision - Every neighbourhood in Rotherham to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life.'; 'Ensuring communities are at the heart of everything we do to make people feel happy, safe and proud.'



Council Plan

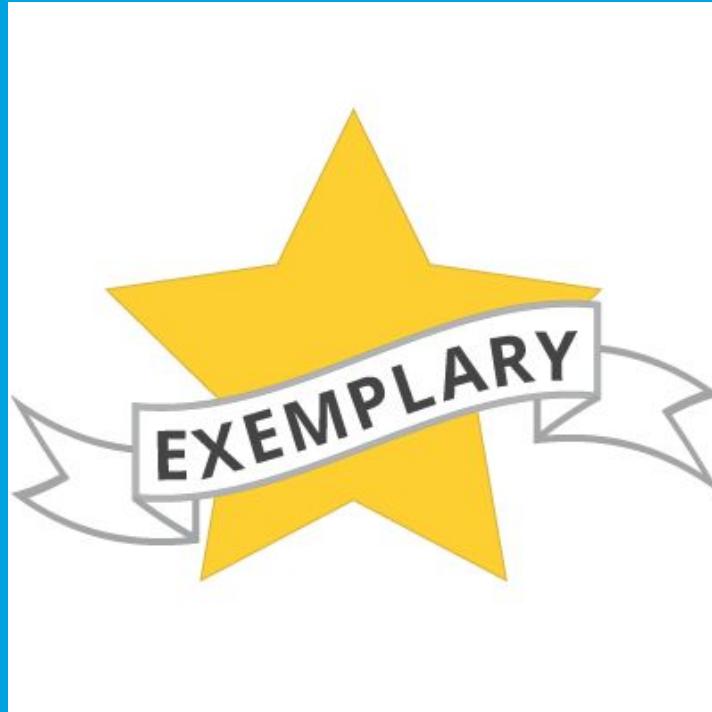
Strategy contributes to all of the Strategic Outcomes in the Council Plan. In particular -

Places are Thriving, Safe & Clean

- Creating vibrant communities
- Better public places
- Revitalising the town centre
- Helping people to feel safe in their community.



LGA Corporate Peer Challenge - 2023



*'The Council's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aspires to strengthen the role of ward members as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and those delivering service in communities to bring about the changes that communities want to see. The peer team was impressed by the **exemplary approach to community engagement** at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead.'*

Councillors as Community Leaders



- Member Development & Support –
 - ward induction
 - 24/7 ward briefings
 - 1-2-1s and check-ins
- Ward Priorities & Plans – published October 2024
 - ward data
 - input and advice from council services and partners
 - local community intelligence

Councillors as Community Leaders – Devolved Ward Budgets

- £1,038,290 available
- £275,116 spent on activities, projects and services, including £62,371 allocated to 160 community groups
- Remainder carried over into 2025/26



Community Engagement



- Website - 4,826 unique views
- E-bulletins – 11,829 subscribers (March 2025); 241 editions issued; 76% engagement rate
- Community groups – supported on 462 occasions
- Community events – 316 arranged or supported
- Communities with protected characteristics – 232 activities supported

Partnership Working



- Tackling ward priorities - 618 neighbourhood / ward partnership and network meetings
- Parish Councils – 25 out of 31 directly supported
- Town Centre -
 - Community Co-ordinator
 - Strategic Action Plan
 - Pride in Place

Impact?!



Continued Improvement

Corporate Peer Challenge Recommendation –

Building on the Neighbourhood working model, develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working across the public sector

- Locality Working Board
- North, Central and South Locality Managers Groups
- Neighbourhood Development & Improvement Plans (Selective Licensing)
- National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme
- Strengths-Based Working
- Consultation & Engagement
- Community Cohesion



Thank you & Questions

Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2025-26

Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Governance Advisor: Kristianne Thorogood

Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley
Link Officer: Andrew Bramidge

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

Establish as a starting point:

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

Agree principles for longlisting:

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

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria, e.g.

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

Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
Tuesday 10 June 2025	Chris Willis John Holman, Sarah Watts Governance Advisor Governance Advisor	Independent Review of the Muslim Burial Provision in Rotherham Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy Housing Strategy 2022-25: Action Plan Update/ Final Report Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 8 July 2025	John Holman, Luke Chamoun, Levi Karigambe Governance Advisor	Tenant Scrutiny Review on Tenancy Health Checks Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 2 September 2025	John Holman, Sarah Watts, Garry Newton Andrew Bramidge, Emma Ellis Simon Moss, Megan Hinchliff Governance Advisor	Housing Strategy 2025-2030 Review of Selective Licensing 2020-2025 Plan for Neighbourhoods 2025-2035 Work Programme 2025-2026
Wednesday 15 October 2025	Andrew Bramidge, Emma Ellis	Selective Licensing - Joint with OSMB
Friday 17 October 2025	Governance Advisor	School Road Safety Review - initial meeting
Tuesday 21 October 2025	John Holman, Sarah Watts, Garry Newton Simon Moss, Lorna Vertigan Governance Advisor	Housing Strategy 2025-2030 - Draft Action Plan Pride in Place Programme for Rotherham Central (previously Plan for Neighbourhoods) 2025-2035 Work Programme 2025-2026
Thursday 4 December	Paul Walsh/Cllr Beresford	ASB Workshop (Housing/Tenancies) @ Town Hall
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Phil Horsfield / Bal Nahal / Ashleigh Wilford Governance Advisor	Bereavement Services Annual Report Work Programme 2025-2026

Tuesday 27 January 2026	Kyle Heydon, Richard Jackson Martin Hughes Governance Advisor	Flooding Alleviation Update Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Chris Siddall/Rachel Stothard Polly Hamilton/Leanne Buchan Governance Advisor	Draft Playing Pitch Strategy Review of Borough-wide Events Work Programme 2025-2026
Tuesday 21 April 2026	Polly Hamilton Simon Moss/Lorna Vertigan Governance Advisor	Allotments Annual Update Update on Maltby East Pride in Place Programme Work Programme 2025-2026
Substantive Items for Scheduling		
Jun-26	Sarah Clyde	Update on Housing Stock Survey
TBC	Simon Moss	Town Centre Strategy
TBC	TBC	Nature Recovery Strategy – South Yorkshire Mayor Combined Authority
every July	Sarah Clyde	Housing Strategy Action Plan Annual Report
Late 2026/early 2027	Andrew Bramidge	Rotherham Gateway - Mainline & Tram/Train station
Reviews in Progress		
In Progress	Governance Advisor & Kevin Fisher/Nat Porter	Scrutiny Review - School Road Safety
Potential Off-Agenda Briefings		
Spring 2026	Simon Moss	Update on Our Places Fund projects across the Borough
Autumn 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Street Safe Team - Off-Agenda Briefing (joint with OSMB) providing an update on progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team.
Autumn 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Waste Service Route Optimisation - Off-Agenda Briefing (joint with OSMB) providing an update on progress following implementation of the programme
TBC	Andrew Bramidge	Briefing/workshop on Bassingthorpe Farm development/lessons from Waverley
Potential Site Visits		
Feb-26	Simon Moss, Lorna Vertigan	Market/library redevelopment - see below, joint with OSMB item/visit
Early 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Hellaby Depot
Items for Future Consideration		
Late 2026/early 2027	Andrew Bramidge / Sam Barstow	Outcome of waste policy pilot.
Jun-26		Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel
Cross Commission scrutiny opportunities		
Feb-26	Andrew Bramidge	<p>Joint with OSMB - Town Centre Developments (Markets & Library Redevelopments):</p> <p>An initial site visit to be arranged to consider a midterm evaluation of the Market's redevelopment including a briefing detailing information on construction costs, the retention of market traders along with information on the plan for encouraging new businesses. The site visit is to involve Councillor Williams, Councillor Steele, Councillor Bacon, Councillor McKiernan, Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Jones, Councillor Sheppard, Cabinet Members and officers from R&E.</p> <p>Then to be followed by an off-agenda briefing providing a progress update for these projects, indicating if slippages had occurred, if there was underspend or overspend on any of the schemes and the proposed mitigates, if any.</p>
TBC	Ian Spicer / Sarah Clyde	<p>Joint with OSMB - Energy Efficiency:</p> <p>An off-agenda briefing to be provided to members of OSMB and IPSC to provide information on the energy efficiency retrofits in social housing. This should cover aspects such as the feasibility and prioritisation of upgrades to heating systems and insulation across the borough. It would include details on how these retrofits align with the Council's net-zero goals, what potential funding was available to support this and timescales for implementation.</p>