

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time:- Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Membership:- Councillors Steele (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Allen, Baggaley, Blackham, Brent, A. Carter, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Tinsley and Yasseen.

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 meeting Wednesday 11 March 2026 of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Pages 7 - 28)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 11 March 2026 and to approve them 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.

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 13 April 2026. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. Community Governance Review (Pages 29 - 97)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.
2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.
4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.
5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.
6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

7. Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 (Pages 99 - 147)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.
2. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

8. Crisis and Resilience Fund (Pages 149 - 183)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

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

Crisis Support

- a. £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme
- b. £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer holidays
- c. £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments
- d. £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme
- e. £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement
- f. £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations
- g. £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

Resilience Services

- h. £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham
- i. £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

Community Coordination

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

Administrative Costs

- k. £81,699 for DHP administrative costs

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.
4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the fund.

9. Climate Emergency Annual Report (Pages 185 - 261)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.
2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.
3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

For Information/Monitoring:-

10. Work Programme (Pages 263 - 265)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

11. Work in Progress - Select Commissions (Pages 267 - 273)

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future:

- Health Select Commission
- Improving Lives Select Commission
- Improving Places Select Commission

12. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Link to: [Browse plans - Forward Plan of Key Decisions, 2025 - Rotherham Council](#)

13. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As part of their role the Chair and Vice Chair of OSMB are appointed to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of OSMB is the Vice Chair on this committee.

This committee holds the MCA to account and ensure that all aspects of the decision-making process are transparent, inclusive and fair. The Committee are responsible for checking that the MCA is delivering its objectives and that the decisions made in policies, strategies and plans have been made in the best interests of the residents and workers of South Yorkshire.

The published agenda packs and minutes can be accessed via: [South Yorkshire MCA](#).

Members who have comments and queries regarding any item on any agenda should refer this to the Chair of OSMB and the Governance Manager at the earliest opportunity to ensure they're reflected in debate during the relevant public meeting.

14. Call-in Issues

To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

15. Urgent Business

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

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edwards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 11 March 2026

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon (Vice-Chair), Adair, Allen, Blackham, Brent, A. Carter, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Tinsley and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baggaley.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

113. MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026 OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 3 February 2026 be approved as a true record.

114. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026 OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 4 February 2026 be approved as a true record.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

116. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

No questions were received. The Chair explained in relation to the enquiry received last month from a member of the public, it was forwarded on to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The Mayoral Combined Authority subsequently responded and requested that the individual contact them directly. The member of public had been informed of this requirement.

117. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no reasons to exclude the press or public.

118. BEST START PLAN 2026-2029

At the Chair's invitation the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Cusworth, introduced the report which provided an overview of the Rotherham Best Start Local Plan for 2026–2029. The plan brought together existing early years support across Rotherham, outlined how it had been developed, and set out the key

steps required to achieve local ambitions.

It was noted that the Department for Education (DfE) had set a national target for 75% of children to reach a good level of development by 2028, supported by new data tools, funding, and expectations through the Best Start in Life and Plan for Change programmes. All councils were required to publish a Best Start Local Plan by March 2026.

Rotherham's approach was guided by early intervention, partnership working, and community-based support, aligning with the Council Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Children and Young People's Transformation Programme, and the Early Help Strategy. It was highlighted that Rotherham had already established an early year's education strategy ahead of national guidance.

To support development of the plan, a Best Start Summit was held on 1 December 2025, bringing together partners from health, education, early years, and community organisations. The summit reviewed local needs, heard from families, and generated ideas that shaped the plan's priorities.

The plan was framed around the four cornerstones of the Rotherham Charter of Co-production: welcome and care, value and include, communicate, and work in partnership. The full plan included detailed outcomes, milestones, and measures, with progress to be monitored through the Best Start and Beyond Steering Group and reported through the relevant governance structures.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality, Helen Sweaton noted that, under usual circumstances, the development of a plan of this nature would involve a full co-production process with families, parents, carers and, where appropriate, young children. However, the version presented was an initial plan, produced within a very short timeframe set by Central Government and the DfE.

To meet the publication deadline of the end of March, stakeholders were brought together at a summit held in December 2025. Attendance included representatives from the 0-19 service, public health, early years education, academies, education inclusion, commissioning, family help, early help, social care, the voluntary sector, the Parent Carer Forum, and partners involved in culture, sport, libraries, and the Children's Capital of Culture programme. These participants were selected based on their experience and their ability to contribute meaningfully to identifying current activity and future opportunities.

The summit considered a comprehensive needs analysis, prepared by public health, drawing on both national data and local intelligence. From this, and in line with government expectations, key priorities were identified to strengthen Rotherham's approach and support improved outcomes in early years development.

It was noted that the Council had raised concerns with the DfE regarding the national target set for Rotherham, as the formula used did not sufficiently reflect local context, including levels of disadvantage and the higher-than-average proportion of children with special educational needs. While many children with SEND do achieve a good level of development, some did not meet the benchmark at the age of five, when the national measure was taken. Despite these concerns, the DfE confirmed that local performance would be judged against the national formula-based target.

The plan therefore focused on maximising available and anticipated resources to ensure that as many children as possible achieved a good level of development.

The Chair noted that the matter had been discussed at the Improving Lives Select Commission Chairs' quarterly meeting, where it was agreed that scrutiny of the developing action plan, including key activities and KPIs, would be helpful during the first six months. The Commission aimed to demonstrate progress by year-end, and the item has been added to the Improving Lives work programme for around September. The report was presented at this meeting because it was scheduled for Cabinet on Monday 16 March 2026 and could not be considered by the Improving Lives Select Commission within that timescale.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries.

It was explained that, when reviewing reports, Councillor Brent liked to summarise them into three key words beginning with the same letter. After reading the report and appendices, he identified "home, health and happiness" (with 'happiness' used to reflect well-being). Councillor Brent noted that while the report referenced well-being, health and home learning programmes, it did not address the home environments in which these programmes take place, which can be challenging for some children. Councillor Brent asked what could be done to consider this, given the focus on ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Helen Sweaton, Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality reported extensive ongoing work to identify children living in unsuitable home environments, beyond the home-learning programmes referenced in the strategy. This included joint work with Housing to ensure appropriate accommodation for children in the borough, and work with Health, Early Help, Family Help and Social Care to raise awareness of issues such as damp, mould, and available support.

Practitioners continued to monitor factors such as household functioning, parental relationships, sibling dynamics, signs of early neglect, and the general upkeep of the home. Rotherham had maintained a strong Early Help offer, supported by robust universal visits undertaken by the 0–19 service, with high completion rates within required timeframes. Practitioners knew how to access support when concerns were identified.

As children grew and transitioned through different settings, close work with early years providers and schools ensured that any emerging concerns about home environments were regularly identified. Not all ongoing activity was included in the plan, as the focus was on the key elements requested, including the home learning environment. The service confirmed that all commitments within the Family Help strategy continued to be delivered.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children & Young People noted that the use of the term plan, rather than strategy, had been a deliberate decision to support pace and visible progress. It was confirmed that the plan was designed to align closely with existing strategies.

In relation to the Best Start Family Hubs, early identification remained a priority. Work continued to register families, ensure engagement with hub services, and provide outreach support in the home, creating opportunities to identify issues as early as possible. The standalone Early Years Education Strategy also aimed to ensure early identification of additional needs, family help requirements, or social care concerns. Together, these approaches were designed to interlink effectively with wider strategies, providing an additional layer of assurance.

Councillor Monk thanked officers for the comprehensive report and noted the early identification of a significant gender gap within the needs assessment. Further information was requested on what was known about the causes of this gap, and how the plan would specifically target boys, given that boys did not appear to be represented within the other priority groups identified. Councillor Monk requested more detail on how this issue would be addressed within the plan.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality explained that the underperformance of boys in this assessment reflected a national pattern, and that Rotherham boys were not atypical. Nationally, boys tended to score lower in early years assessments, though the gap often shifted as children moved into secondary education.

She confirmed that, despite this wider trend, the service intended to target boys specifically to improve good-level-of-development outcomes and meet local targets. While the core work would not differ significantly, certain aspects required emphasis. Some areas of the assessment relied on children remaining seated and focused for extended periods, an element boys typically found more challenging, whereas they often performed better in physical activities.

The awareness campaign, including joint work with libraries, would place a particular focus on encouraging reading with boys. Early Years Inclusion and School Improvement services were also working with assessors to ensure teaching approaches and assessment methods reflected boys' strengths and supported their progress. The approach would therefore

include targeted actions, recognising this as an area requiring specific attention to achieve parity with girls.

Councillor Yasseen built on Councillor Monk's comments regarding the disadvantage experienced by boys, particularly working-class boys on free school meals, in their development. She welcomed the ambition of the work but was not fully convinced by how it was being presented, acknowledging that government deadlines had contributed to it being rushed.

Councillor Yasseen reiterated ongoing concerns about how equality impact assessments were being completed, stating that by 2026 the approach must improve. She noted that the assessment in this report repeated information from the main body rather than demonstrating how equality considerations had shaped the proposal from the outset. She emphasised that meeting equality duties was mandatory, not optional, and that this was not evident in the report.

Councillor Yasseen highlighted two key gaps. First, despite the report stating there was no ethnicity data, national census and Department for Education data were publicly available and should have been used. Second, she noted that the attainment gap for boys was even wider in Rotherham than nationally. She also raised that the Roma community in Rotherham was around five times larger than the national average, with significantly low Good Level of Development (GLD) scores (around 35%), which were lower than those of boys on free school meals. She stressed that a targeted approach, referenced in the report, could only be effective if informed by accurate equalities data. She asked why the equality information had been omitted and how the forthcoming delivery plan would ensure equality considerations were fully embedded.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality noted the points raised and agreed to take them on board for future reports. They explained that, at the time the plan was drafted and the summit was held, the detailed analysis now available had not yet been completed. They confirmed that a comprehensive family help needs analysis had since been developed, covering all children and young people up to age 25.

This analysis included specific data on communities, families and engagement levels down to postcode level, including service engagement and achievement. It had identified clear target areas for focus, including boys on free school meals, the Roma community, and several smaller communities within the borough.

It was confirmed that this needs analysis would inform the targeting of interventions within the programme to increase engagement and improve children's chances of achieving a good level of development. It was acknowledged the point raised regarding the equality impact assessment.

Councillor Yasseen reiterated their support for the ambition of the

programme and proposed a recommendation. She noted previous work, alongside Councillor Currie, in leading a motion that resulted in the council coordinating interventions on poverty, leading to the *No Families Left Behind* initiative.

She stated she were strongly invested in this issue and believed that, due to the targeted nature of the interventions and the variation across the borough, progress should be monitored at neighbourhood level. Given the three-year timeframe, she felt closer oversight was needed to ensure the right people were being reached and that the work was making a measurable difference. She emphasised the significance of the policy for the council.

Councillor Blackham raised concerns that nurseries were not referenced in the report, noting their crucial role alongside schools in children's early interactions. He emphasised the importance of ensuring nurseries were included in the work.

He highlighted the ambitious target of an 8.3% improvement over three years. He also expressed concern about wording in section 2.4.6, noting that while supporting the most disadvantaged children was important, resources should not be focused so narrowly that the majority were overlooked. He suggested that small improvements across the wider population could also make a significant contribution to achieving the overall target.

Councillor Cusworth confirmed that nurseries played a significant role in the work, as early years education for under-five-year-olds takes place in nurseries and childcare settings. She agreed to take the point back and consider referring to these collectively as "educational settings."

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children & Young People went on to say that the initiative and the Best Start Plan focused on targeting support and improving good levels of development. She explained that work was already underway across the borough to improve children's attainment, but there remained clear gaps between girls and boys, children on free school meals and those who were not, and between girls and boys receiving free school meals. She noted that Rotherham had already been addressing these issues, and the additional funding would help extend that work.

She highlighted that the early years education strategy had been in place for around two years, ahead of recent guidance for councils to introduce such strategies. This had already helped identify and target support for vulnerable children. She acknowledged comments about the wording referring to schools rather than nurseries, although all early year's settings were included.

Drawing on her experience as a qualified teaching assistant, she noted that assessment of development often reflected school environments that

historically suited girls more than boys and had changed little over the past century. She concluded that this was a government initiative and a statutory duty, which was why the report reflected that focus.

In the report and plan, the Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality explained they chose to use the terms *early years settings* or *early years provision* rather than specifying nurseries, private nurseries, or childminders.

This was based on feedback from the sector, particularly from childminders and nurseries that only support children under two, who felt excluded when it referred only to nurseries. However, it was accepted that the wider public may not understand what an early year's setting was, so the Council may need to reconsider that terminology, as it used more familiar terms in previous plans.

Regarding targeting, a significant amount of activity was already taking place, and much of what the Council planned focused on children already accessing provision. By provision, the Council meant not only nurseries, childminders, and schools but also libraries, voluntary-sector groups, and private groups operating across the borough. Much of this provision already supported the majority of children, whose parents and carers were able to access it. Improving the quality of this provision would further support children's development.

One reason the Council asked Debbie from Grimm to attend its summit was to understand what was already being delivered. It recognised that some families were less likely to access those opportunities, and the intention in targeting engagement activity was to ensure that those families were also able to benefit and that it helped level the playing field.

In response Councillor Blackham explained his concern was that the report focused so heavily on minority groups and those underachieving that the Council risked overlooking the majority. The Council's approach to government was meant to raise overall standards, not only standards in specific areas. He agreed that the Council should address the needs of minority groups with particular issues but felt it should not become so focused on them that it failed to consider where improvements could also be made for the majority.

Councillor Cusworth reiterated that this initiative was exactly about that focus. The service was already doing substantial work to raise overall attainment, but without concentrating on the targeted elements within this initiative, it would not have met the statutory duty placed on it to address those gaps. There were significant and concerning disparities between cohorts who were achieving and those who were not. Councillor Cusworth indicated she was not sure whether the comment was directed at the Council as a local authority or at national government for creating the initiative, but the Council's role was to deliver the initiative it had been given and to meet the criteria attached to the grant funding.

Councillor Blackham clarified that he was not suggesting the Council overlook children with specific needs but emphasised that the focus should not be solely on targeted groups. He stressed the importance of also raising attainment for all children under five, noting that doing so would have a significant impact overall. He reiterated that support for children with particular issues should continue, alongside wider improvement for the whole cohort.

Councillor Yasseen acknowledged Councillor Blackham's comments and clarified that the policy was not a generalist one. She noted that national data, provided by schools, clearly identified priority areas where overall performance did not meet required standards. She emphasised that this was a targeted intervention in response to outcomes falling below the national average, rather than a broad, generalist approach.

She stated that issues such as low attainment among boys on free school meals, predominantly white working-class boys, were borough-wide and should be treated as general concerns. She expressed frustration that the report did not reference ethnicity and suggested this may have been due to the report being produced quickly. She concluded that the intervention was deliberate and not intended as a generalist policy. Councillor Steele asked officers to respond and to explain why the six priorities had been chosen.

Nicola Curley, Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services explained that national policy direction required both universal and targeted measures, and further guidance from the DfE had been received during the meeting. She noted that government policy aimed to align a suite of programmes intended to raise outcomes for all children and young people, particularly in areas such as Rotherham where broader community-wide improvement was needed.

The current universal work, including the Universal Rise Programme and regional phonics initiatives across South Yorkshire was highlighted. She clarified that the policy under discussion formed the targeted element of this wider national approach, recognising that specific groups in different areas required focused support. For Rotherham, these groups included white working-class boys, the Roma community, and smaller communities not yet engaging fully with family hubs or early years provision.

It was emphasised that the ambition was challenging and would require accelerated progress for these groups, alongside continued universal support for all children. She referenced additional national developments, including the new education white paper and changes to the SEND agenda, noting the pace and at times limited coordination of government initiatives.

The Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services acknowledged the points raised regarding equality impact assessment,

confirming that further work would be incorporated into the action plan.

The Chair asked how the six priorities had been determined and whether they were driven by government requirements or local data. The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality explained that the priorities arose from a combination of government direction and local evidence. Despite limited time, officers brought together key stakeholders from the recent summit, who were presented with government requirements for the DfE and Best Start Plan, alongside local needs analysis.

She noted that local data came from Public Health, the 0–19 Service, and feedback from families and practitioners. Stakeholders also contributed professional insight on what was working well, where gaps existed, and which groups were less engaged. Collectively, the group developed shared principles and agreed the six priorities.

Councillor McKiernan asked about the funding (0.6, 0.3 and under £2m per year). He noted that the delivery plan had not yet been shared and queried where the funding would be allocated, expressing concern that the amount did not seem sufficient to make a meaningful impact borough-wide. He also asked whether the funding would support existing activity or be used to recruit staff and sought clarity on the intended use of the money.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality explained that the additional funding was intended to enhance existing delivery with a specific focus on the new plan, particularly targeting vulnerable groups. It was noted that separate funding for family hubs and family help was already in place and continuing, ensuring universal access and support without needing to draw on this new allocation. She highlighted that Rotherham had a strong starting point, with well-funded voluntary sector provision, good-quality early years providers, embedded training, sufficient childcare places and strong outreach.

She confirmed that final decisions on the specific use of the additional funding would be made through the delivery plan but emphasised that the priority would be addressing gaps for specific cohorts identified through needs analysis. This included work on engaging families not currently prioritising early development activities, raising awareness through community-led campaigns and supporting children identified by health visitors as having early developmental concerns. The new funding would be used to fill these targeted gaps, alongside other existing funding streams supporting the wider Best Start Local plan.

Councillor McKiernan raised a second question regarding the governance structure. He commented that the structure shown on page 89 appeared overly complex, with numerous boards, plans and task-and-finish groups, and noted that he did not usually scrutinise children's services. It was asked whether the governance arrangements had been reviewed and if

there was scope to simplify them.

Councillor Cusworth commented that the complexity of the governance arrangements reflected the current approach of the DfE, with programmes such as Best Start 0–5, Family Hubs and Healthy Babies spanning multiple disciplines. She noted that this work did not sit neatly within a single area, with Public Health also playing a key role. She explained that many cabinet members for children and young people were not typically involved in infant-focused programmes, making this a new and evolving area. She felt the cross-disciplinary approach was positive in reducing silo working, but acknowledged it contributed to the complexity of the governance structure. She highlighted the involvement of the Health and Wellbeing Board and her own and the Executive Director for Children and Young People's Services representation on it. She concluded by noting that everyone was still adjusting to this new way of working.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality reassured members that although the task-and-finish groups appeared clustered together in the governance diagram, they consisted of operational managers and staff who were focused on delivering specific actions collaboratively. She explained that the more complex section above this was managed by senior officers and was familiar territory. She noted that not having these groups in place would risk losing alignment and awareness across related workstreams, which would create greater challenges than managing the complexity itself.

The report's focus on parental and carer mental health and highlighted national concerns about inadequate postnatal mental health provision. Councillor Keenan asked how the Council was working with mental health providers on this issue and whether there was an opportunity for further scrutiny of postnatal mental health care in Rotherham, potentially through the Improving Lives or Health Scrutiny Committees. She stressed that this was an important issue, particularly for babies aged 0–5.

It was confirmed that postnatal mental health was a key priority. Although it was not referenced as explicitly within this specific plan, it was a clear focus within the Best Start Family Hubs programme, where Rotherham had been working as a pilot area. The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality acknowledged the significant challenges nationally and locally in addressing both perinatal and postnatal mental health needs and reiterated that this remained a core element of the wider Best Start Family Hubs work.

Councillor Monk asked about the subjectivity of the assessment scores, noting that the 2–2½-year review was carried out in the home by primary care professionals who spent more one-to-one time with the child than teachers completing assessments two years later. She queried how this difference in context and assessor familiarity was being addressed.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

acknowledged the point raised by Councillor Monk and confirmed that Niall Devlin, Education Inclusion Service Director, had been working closely with schools, nurseries and early years settings to address disparities in assessment practice. It was noted that inconsistencies existed both locally and nationally, including variation in how teachers interpreted specific requirements of the five-year assessment. Work was already underway through the early years team and with academy partners, including leadership from White Woods, to ensure a more consistent and fair approach and to give children the best opportunity to demonstrate their abilities accurately.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children & Young People added that the Rotherham Education and Strategic Partnership had been established to drive improvements in attainment across the borough. She reported strong buy-in from schools and multi-academy trusts, with at least two Multi Academy Trust (MAT) CEOs involved, including the Chief Executive of White Woods, who had recently attended a conference in Blackpool and shared the learning with the partnership. She highlighted this as a positive example of collaborative working. Members were also reminded of the Early Years Festival taking place the following week at the Rockingham Development Centre, with a range of events available for those wishing to attend.

Councillor A Carter built on earlier points regarding perinatal and postnatal mental health. He noted that specialist services provided strong support for parents experiencing severe conditions, such as psychosis or suicidal ideation, but expressed concern that parents with mild to moderate postnatal mental health issues were often directed to IAPT talking therapies due to service capacity. He highlighted the potential negative impact this could have on infants in their first two years and asked whether more targeted work was needed to support parents with mild to moderate mental health needs.

The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality agreed with Councillor Carter's concerns and explained that the Best Start Family Hubs programme had already identified the need to improve support for parents with mild to moderate perinatal and postnatal mental health needs. Although investment had been committed to build additional capacity, they had not yet been able to secure the required specialist expertise to deliver this support at the right level. Addressing this gap remained a priority and would continue under the Family Hubs programme, which was why it was not referenced explicitly in this report. The aim was to provide accessible, stigma-free support within the Family Hubs offer rather than expecting parents to seek help in separate settings.

Members discussed earlier comments regarding terminology in the Early Years Plan, specifically the reference to "nursery settings." They considered whether the wording should be updated to better reflect the full range of early years provision or whether a glossary should be added for clarity. The Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

advised that adding a glossary would be the most effective approach and confirmed that this would be undertaken, with new terms added as needed.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Note the activity to date to improve early years outcomes and tackle inequalities.
2. Approve the Best Start Local Plan for implementation from April 2026.

An additional recommendation to Cabinet was that:

- Agree that CYPS work with the DPSE to identify information in relation to specific neighbourhoods, and this informs the development and work of the Best Start Local Plan.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- CYPS agreed to include a glossary to clarify terminology for the public.

119. TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27

At the Chair's invitation the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, Councillor Williams presented the 2026–27 Transport Capital Programme ahead of Cabinet consideration. He introduced Lucy Hudson as the new permanent Head of Transportation Infrastructure and thanked Nat Porter for his interim leadership.

The programme set out planned investment in highways and transport, including maintenance, road safety, active travel, structures work and sustainable transport. Key schemes included ward-level road safety funding, Old Flatts Bridge repairs, the annual maintenance programme, design work for Fleet Bridge and new pedestrian crossings, continued minor works and design work for Treeton Lane crossroads. Funding was also allocated to develop improvements at school crossing patrol sites. Any underspend would support other approved projects or future design work.

The Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Simon Moss, noted that Members had already discussed the schemes and allocations referenced in recommendation 1, agreed through the recent Council budget. Simon then outlined the funding position relating to recommendation 2, covering the schemes in section 2 of the report. This represented the final year of a five-year block transport funding programme, comprising £344,000 for local transport and £426,000 for highway structures. The £344,000 allocation, shown in table 1, focused on pedestrian crossings, which remained a key community priority. A further £15,000 was allocated for monitoring and evaluation, £4,000 for school crossing patrol improvements, and the remaining structures funding was set out in section 2.2.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Bacon raised questions regarding the Treeton Lane crossroads. He noted that, in previous years, he had been advised that making changes at the junction would simply relocate the problem elsewhere and was therefore not considered worthwhile by the service or the Cabinet Member at that time. He asked what had changed since that earlier position.

In response it was explained that congestion-relief schemes were challenging to design because satellite navigation systems could redirect additional traffic through improved junctions, which was likely the basis of the earlier advice given. While this remained a consideration, he noted that other factors, such as traffic movements and junction geometry, would now be examined through the planned study to identify potential improvements at the Treeton Lane crossroads.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy added that the decision to invest in design work for the Treeton Lane crossroads was a positive step. He confirmed that the long-standing concerns about the junction were recognised and that funding had now been allocated to develop and assess preferred improvement options, addressing issues that had been raised over many years.

The Vice-Chair sought clarification on why the departmental view on the Treeton Lane crossroads had changed, noting that previous advice suggested improvements would be ineffective. He asked whether this shift resulted from a political decision or a change in officer assessment and requested further detail on what the £150,000 allocation would deliver.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy responded that the investment reflected recognition of long-standing concerns at the junction. He stated that, while all decisions had a political element, the budget process had provided the opportunity to commit funding for a study to identify preferred improvement options. Officers were to provide further detail on the scope of the planned work.

In his response the Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport explained that the £150,000 allocation would fund initial feasibility work, including analysis of junction geometry, traffic flows and potential treatment options. This work would be used to design a preferred option. He noted that the next steps would depend on the scale of the intervention identified: lower-cost solutions could progress further into detailed design within the same funding, whereas larger schemes would require more extensive design work and the development of a business case to secure additional funding.

The Vice-Chair asked whether, following the feasibility work, the Council would be prepared to prioritise and fund any resulting scheme, noting the risk of spending £150,000 on design work without delivering improvements. He sought assurance from Councillor Williams that the

project would remain a priority once the preferred option and its costs were known.

Councillor Williams responded that the same challenge applied to ward road safety plans: investment in design work needed to lead to deliverable schemes. He stated that officers were confident that additional funding, through the next five-year South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) settlement, would be available to support future projects once the current five-year programme ended. While he could not make firm commitments at this stage, he was confident that, having chosen to fund the design work for Treeton Lane crossroads, the Council would look to progress the scheme when further funding became available.

Councillor Yasseen sought clarification on the pedestrian crossings programme, noting that the report referenced five schemes. She asked which five locations had been identified, how these priorities had been determined, and whether Broome Lane was included. In response Councillor Williams explained that the Transportation Service had undertaken a borough-wide assessment of approximately 60 pedestrian crossing requests over the past year. The prioritisation report was due to be published shortly and would set out the full ranked list. He confirmed that funding had been allocated to deliver the highest-priority crossing and, separately, to design five additional crossings so they were ready for construction when further funding became available. The Service Manager, Transport Planning & Policy added that the Broome Lane zebra crossing was already being reviewed as part of the funded CRSTS major scheme on Broome Road and Wickersley Road, including the neighbourhood streets element. Design work for this upgrade was already underway. The additional funding referenced in the report related to further pedestrian crossing schemes beyond those already included in the existing programme.

In a further question Councillor Yasseen emphasised the importance of ensuring high-quality design by incorporating local knowledge alongside expert input. She cited recent infrastructure schemes where residents felt changes had reduced safety or usability, highlighting the example of the Masbrough Street/Centenary Way junction and issues reported on Sheffield Road's cycle lane layout. She stressed the need for closer engagement with communities to understand how public spaces are used in practice and asked whether residents could be more involved in the development of future public realm schemes.

The Chair asked officers to explain how safety was considered in the design of road, roundabout and crossing schemes. Simon Moss responded that all projects were required to meet national technical guidance and safety standards. He acknowledged the importance of community consultation and noted that local input was a key part of scheme development, particularly for programmes such as ward road safety plans and minor works, which were shaped from the ground up.

Councillor Adair echoed concerns raised earlier and noted that he had long campaigned for improvements at the Treeton Lane crossroads. He expressed hope that the issue could now be resolved.

Councillor Allen asked two questions. She first sought clarification on how schemes were prioritised, noting references to prioritisation for school crossing patrol improvements and, separately, within the Transportation Minor Works Programme. She queried whether prioritisation was based solely on technical assessment or whether community pressure played a role, particularly given that minor works often responded to issues important to local residents.

The Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport clarified that pedestrian crossing schemes and minor works were prioritised using technical criteria, though the two programmes operated at different scales and costs. He noted that while public requests were an important source of information, the volume of requests alone did not determine priority. It was confirmed that the minor works process had been reviewed, with data gathered to support consistent prioritisation. Lucy Hudson added that she was assessing all aspects of the service to ensure an appropriate balance between technical assessment and community voice and would continue collaborating with councillors to deliver programmes that met both local needs and evidence-based requirements.

In her follow up question Councillor Allen asked about the role of ward members in scheme development and consultation. She noted that while community engagement was referenced, it was unclear how ward member input was incorporated. She queried whether, once schemes were prioritised, officers would return to ward members or committees such as Improving Places before decisions were finalised, or whether decisions would rest solely with Cabinet. She also expressed concern about the scale of delegations proposed within the preferred option.

The Chair reminded members that decisions were made for the whole authority, not individual wards, and agreed that officers should explain to ward members when requests could not be taken forward.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy added that the ward road safety plans were designed to strengthen the role of ward members by formally setting out each ward's priorities, concerns and resident feedback. He explained that this process would help identify which issues could be addressed through minor works and which might require larger schemes. He noted that officers, had already been engaging directly with residents and local representatives, and stressed the commitment to ensuring members had a strong voice in shaping road safety priorities.

Councillor McKiernan welcomed the planned Old Flatts Bridge repair, noting it had been a longstanding concern. He then asked whether resurfacing decisions took account of planned nearby developments, for

example, whether roads in poor condition were intentionally not resurfaced if upcoming construction traffic was expected to damage a newly laid surface.

Simon explained that the Council co-ordinated highway maintenance with planned development activity to avoid resurfacing roads shortly before they might be disturbed by construction traffic. He confirmed that discussions between services took place to avoid unnecessary rework, though they would not normally delay maintenance for prolonged periods; a delay of up to two years would be considered excessive. Decisions were made on a case-by-case basis, with input from relevant services and ward members.

Councillor McKiernan asked about the future of the five-year transport funding programme (LNTCP), noting it had now ended and seeking information on what would replace it. The Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport explained that the Local Neighbourhood Complementary Transport Programme, previously funded through the CRSTS settlement, had concluded. The new five-year funding stream would be the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). Colleagues at SYMCA were developing a regional transport vision and a new Local Transport Plan, which would guide future allocations across South Yorkshire. It was confirmed that further detail would come forward in next year's programme report.

Councillor Tinsley BEM sought reassurance that findings from the ongoing school road safety review at Improving Places would be reflected in ward road safety plans and school crossing improvements. He also asked whether clear guidance would be provided on the types of measures considered effective, noting that previous reviews had found certain visual interventions (such as road markings) to be ineffective compared with physical traffic-calming measures like speed humps or speed cameras. He requested clarity on what interventions were considered effective and deliverable.

It was confirmed that the school crossing patrol review was being aligned with ward road safety plans and that each ward would receive a safety masterplan, including at least one scheme developed to funding-ready stage. It was stressed that measures implemented would be those capable of delivering meaningful improvements. While evidence on the effectiveness of smaller interventions could vary, it was noted that decisions balanced technical data with community perceptions of safety. The aim of working with ward members to reach consensus on appropriate and effective measures was emphasised.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy noted that the service had recently placed greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of delivered schemes. He acknowledged that this had not been done consistently in the past but confirmed that the interim head had strengthened this focus. He highlighted that £15,000 had

been allocated in the Transport Capital Programme specifically for monitoring and evaluation work, including assessment of the new cycle lane and pedestrian crossing at Wath.

The Vice-Chair stated that he remained unsatisfied with the explanations provided regarding how the decision to progress the Treeton Lane crossroads study had been made. He requested that a written response be provided from the department setting out who made the decision, how it was reached, and what had changed since the earlier position. He then asked why the ward road safety plans were being developed over two years rather than one and sought clarification on how many schemes were expected to progress to delivery following completion of the plans.

In response the Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport explained that the ward road safety plans were phased over two years because of the scale of the work and the volume of issues typically raised during ward-level discussions. Spreading the work over two years ensured sufficient time and resources to develop the plans properly. Each ward would have at least one scheme developed to a funding-ready stage, with the intention of delivering as many schemes as future budgets allowed. It was noted that the number and pace of delivery would depend on the scale and cost of the interventions identified through the process.

The Chair noted that the committee did not require a formal recommendation to Cabinet, as the request concerned officers providing the information to the Vice-Chair directly. The Service Director, Planning, Regeneration and Transport agreed to provide a written explanation outlining how the decision regarding Treeton Lane crossroads had been made and what, if anything, had changed. The Vice-Chair then asked how long the previous LNRS (Local Neighbourhood Road Safety) schemes had taken to develop and whether the reference to learning from earlier programmes related specifically to the LNRS process. In response Simon confirmed that the learning referenced did relate to the previous LNRS programmes (LNRS1 and LNRS2). He noted that experience from those programmes, particularly from LNRS1, had informed the decision to phase the ward road safety plans over two years, as this was considered a more practical and effective approach.

Councillor Blackham sought clarification on delegated powers and how they would affect spending. It was explained that delegated authority was being requested for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to approve schemes within the minor works programme and school crossing patrol improvements, as these were small projects requiring timely decisions. Delegation was also requested to allow the reallocation of any programme underspends to other approved schemes or to progress future pipeline projects. In response to questions from the Chair, it was confirmed they would inform ward members of any proposals relating to their areas before decisions were taken.

In his supplementary question Councillor Blackham sought further clarity

on the scope of the delegated powers, expressing concern that the wording in the report appeared too broad. He asked why the delegations could not be explicitly limited to the specific schemes referenced, such as minor works and school crossing patrol improvements, rather than framed more generally.

Councillor Williams explained that the Cabinet Member's role came at the final stage of the process. Ward members would identify priorities and work directly with officers on minor works proposals long before schemes reached him for approval. He assured members that ward input would shape decisions early on, with his role providing final oversight and audit. Councillor Blackham maintained that the delegated powers described in the report were too broad and should be more narrowly defined to improve clarity and reassure members.

The Chair noted he disagreed, commenting that Cabinet Members were elected to take responsibility and should retain final decision-making powers.

Going back to an earlier comment the Vice-Chair suggested that it would be useful for this committee, or for Improving Places Select Commission, to receive information on the lessons learned from previous programmes such as LNRS, and for this to be shared publicly so residents could also understand what had been learned. In response it was confirmed that officers were happy to provide information on lessons learned from previous schemes, such as LNRS, to the Improving Places Select Commission.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Notes the schemes and allocations of funding, as set out in paragraph 2.3, subject to approval of the Council Budget on 4 March 2026.
2. Approves the schemes and allocations of funding outlined in Section 2 of this report, including the reallocation of savings made on capital projects delivered within budget as described in paragraph 1.6.
3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 through to 2029-30 with the Minor Works allocation, subject to approval of the Council Budget in March 2026.
4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the schemes to be delivered in 2026-27 with the School Crossing Patrol Improvements allocation referred to in paragraph 2.2.6.
5. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, to determine the use of

any underspends across the Transport Capital Programme to fund the delivery of other approved transport programmes, or the progression of designs for potential future projects.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- Councillor Bacon requested that the service provide, in writing, an explanation of who had made the decision to progress the Treeton Lane Crossroad proposal, detailing what had changed from the previous departmental advice.
- The Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) would receive an update on lessons learned from the LNRS (Local Neighbourhood Road Safety) programme.

120. WORK PROGRAMME

The Governance Manager began by providing an update on Water Safety Equipment and Bylaws Review Group noted that the group met recently to review the status of the 2022 motion on life-saving equipment and related bylaws. They concluded that the motion had already been discharged and that the current review duplicated earlier work. Members agreed that issues around life-saving equipment were largely resolved, with little evidence of ongoing problems. They instead raised broader concerns about outdated bylaws, inconsistent park rules, antisocial behaviour, and the potential use of PSPOs.

Officers advised that updating bylaws would require significant resources and robust supporting evidence. The group agreed to close the current review and use the Discrete Need Prioritisation Matrix to determine whether a wider review of public space enforcement measures, including bylaws and PSPOs across parks and country parks, was justified. The Chair had contacted all councillors to gather borough-wide evidence on park issues to inform future discussions.

The Vice-Chair questioned the robustness of the evidence feeding into the scrutiny topic prioritisation matrix. He expressed concern that relying mainly on the Chair's email survey of members would make it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions and might result in a lower matrix score that could prevent further examination of bylaws and PSPOs. He asked whether the Chair intended to follow up with non-responding members and whether additional evidence, such as antisocial behaviour and crime data, would also be included.

The Chair confirmed that he did not intend to call members who had not responded, as they had been given sufficient time and could still approach him if they wished. He stated he would use the information received appropriately within the matrix. He agreed to raise antisocial behaviour issues with officers to identify what data could be supplied. He reiterated that elected members needed to engage if they wanted issues to be taken forward.

Councillor McKiernan reminded the group that the previous review was closed because it had become too broad and noted that the current process aimed to focus on specific, evidence-based issues. This was why the Chair had written to all members requesting clear priorities.

The Vice-Chair maintained that antisocial behaviour was clearly a wider concern for the Council and welcomed the commitment to include additional evidence in the matrix. His concern remained that the email exercise alone would not be sufficient.

The Governance Manager clarified that scrutiny members, including the Vice-Chair, would have the opportunity to participate directly in the prioritisation discussion that informs the matrix. This session would take place in closed session at a future meeting, either next month or the following one, depending on the agenda being considered.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be approved.

121. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

Health Select Commission update:

The Chair informed members that preparation of the Menopause Scrutiny Review report was nearing completion and would be presented to the Health Select Committee on the 14th. The group had already completed its site visit to Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Centre at Rotherham Hospital, while the joint lung clinic visit with Barnsley had been postponed and rescheduled.

It was also noted that the South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance Lung Clinic Update, along with SDEC Implementation Update and the Confirmation of Supplementary Public Health Grants for 2026/27, would be discussed at the next meeting.

Improving Lives Select Commission update:

The Chair highlighted the Ofsted inspection outcome considered in February. Members had examined the detail of the findings and made recommendations regarding the approach to care leavers. No further updates were added beyond what had already been recorded in the written report.

Improving Places Select Commission update:

The Chair noted that the most recent meeting had taken place before publication of the accompanying report. An update was provided on several recent items considered by the committee. The flooding alleviation update had been well received, with members recognising the significant amount of work the Council was undertaking to reduce flood risk. While not all schemes were affordable, the Council was progressing those it

could.

The Thriving Neighbourhoods report generated some discussion and differing views, but all questions were ultimately addressed. The market development item was positively received, and members valued the opportunity to visit the site in person rather than relying solely on meeting-based updates.

The Chair also provided an update on the meeting held the previous day on the review of events and the draft Playing Pitch Strategy. The session lasted longer than expected due to the high level of interest and the number of detailed questions raised, which members felt led to a constructive and worthwhile discussion. An update on this work would be presented at the next meeting.

122. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Before outlining the forward plan, members were reminded of the items already scheduled for consideration at the April meeting: the Climate Emergency report and the Community Governance Review, both forming part of pre-decision scrutiny, along with a progress update on the future RotherCare model requested at the meeting on 9 October 2024.

The committee then reviewed items proposed for consideration by Cabinet in April. Members considered whether the Council Plan Update and the Year Ahead Plan 2026–27 should be added to the April agenda for pre-decision scrutiny, as OSMB would normally review these items. There was broad support for including it.

Members discussed overall agenda length, the feasibility of adding an additional item and the potential need to move or defer items.

The Monitoring Officer suggested that the Community Governance Review could be removed from the April agenda if necessary, noting that this would be the beginning of a lengthy process with further opportunities for member involvement. Some members felt April would be too soon for the Council Plan items.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that the Council Plan Update and the Year Ahead Plan were best considered together, as reviewing past performance alongside future planning offered clearer context.

Following discussions, members agreed to move the Progress Update on the Future RotherCare Model to a later meeting, leaving three main items on the April agenda. A show of hands confirmed the committee's agreement.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Agreed that the following items would be added to the March

agenda as part of OSMB's pre-decision scrutiny work:

- Climate Emergency Annual Report – Pre-decision Scrutiny
- Community Governance Review – Pre-decision Scrutiny
- Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 – Pre-decision Scrutiny

2. Agreed to defer consideration of the progress update on Future Rothercare Model to the meeting on 6 May 2026.

123. SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report at this meeting.

124. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

125. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title

Community Governance Review

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)

Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager
01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Boroughwide

Report Summary

The Council has a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes, including town and community councils. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to commence a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.

Following initial consultation, a draft recommendations report will be brought to Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2026, to be followed by a further consultation. Following this consultation on the draft recommendations, a final recommendations report will be brought to Cabinet. It is a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the commencement of a Boroughwide Community Governance Review.
2. Approves the Terms of Reference of the review as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approves the timetable for review as set out in Appendix 2.

4. Approves that should any Community Governance Reviews be triggered by petition during the Boroughwide review, Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the Terms of Reference as appropriate.
5. Note that a draft recommendations report will be brought for approval following the first round of consultation.
6. Note that a final recommendations report will be brought for approval following the second round of consultation. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend the report to Council.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 Community Governance Review Timetable
- Appendix 3 Part A – Initial equality screening assessment form
- Appendix 4 Carbon impact assessment CIA 609

Background Papers

[Guidance on community governance reviews](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, March 2010]

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Governance Review

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils.
- 1.2 A Community Governance Review (CGR) is the legal process that a principal council must follow to consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented. The former Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission have produced Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.
- 1.3 A CGR can consider one or more of the following:
- the creation, merger, alteration or abolishment of a parish
 - the naming of a parish and the style of a new parish
 - the electoral arrangements for a parish (i.e. the ordinary year of election; council size; number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding)
 - the grouping or de-grouping of parishes; and
 - other types of arrangements including parish meetings.
- 1.4 The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to conduct a review every 10-15 years.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The last Boroughwide review in Rotherham took place in 2008. Since then, there has been significant new development and population movement across the Borough. The Borough has also been in dialogue with Ravenfield Parish Council who have expressed a desire to have a reconsideration of their Parish Boundaries.
- 2.2 Following the good practice arrangement set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, conducting a Boroughwide review would allow any approved recommendations to come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1:** That the Council undertakes a Boroughwide CGR as outlined in the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The review would cover the whole of the Borough, whether currently parished or not. The review would consider fundamental issues such as whether

parishes should be created in parts of the Borough which do not presently have them, whether current parish boundaries should be altered other than merely to address anomalies, whether existing parishes might be amalgamated, or whether new parishes might be created from within existing parishes.

- 3.3 Carrying out a review would help ensure that parish boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities they serve, are meaningful, and facilitate the delivery of effective and convenient services.
- 3.4 **Option 2:** The Council does not undertake a Boroughwide CGR. This option could be considered as not meeting the Council's duty to keep its parish arrangements under review.
- 3.5 Not commencing a review would mean the Council would not be following the good practice timeframe for conducting a review, given the last one took place in 2008. It is also possible that an area wishing for a review could require this through the processes available to them in the legislation.
- 3.6 It is recommended that Option 1 is followed.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Section 93 (3) of the Act requires that the principal council must consult the following:
- (a) the local government electors for the area under review.
 - (b) any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the principal council to have an interest in the review.
- 4.2 The review would be Boroughwide and involve consultation with electors in parished and unparished areas, parish councils, elected members, local MPs, and other interested parties.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The CGR will be conducted in four stages.
- **Commencement: 1 May 2026**
 - Publication of Terms of Reference
 - **Stage 1: 1 May to 26 June 2026**
 - Public consultation on the current arrangements
 - **Stage 2: July to September 2026**
 - Consultation submissions considered and draft initial recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet
 - **Stage 3: October 2026 to November 2026**
 - Publication of draft recommendations
 - Public consultation on draft recommendations

- **Stage 4: December 2026 to April 2027**
 - Consultation submissions considered and draft final recommendations prepared for approval by Cabinet
 - Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council
 - Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order for any approved recommendations

- **Implementation** of approved recommendations at the scheduled elections: 4 May 2028

The full CGR timetable is set out in Appendix 2.

- 5.2 **Commencement:** The CGR would commence with the Council publishing the Terms of Reference for the review (Appendix 1) on 1 May 2026. If any modifications to the Terms of Reference are required during the review, these must also be published.
- 5.3 **Stage 1:** An eight-week public consultation will commence on 1 May 2026, to allow any interested parties to comment on the current arrangements and make proposals for change. The consultation will be available on the Council website, as well as paper copies in libraries across the Borough and parish council buildings. Responses can be submitted online, paper response form, email, or letter.
- 5.4 Interested persons, including Borough and Parish Councillors, Parish Councils and MPs will be notified of the commencement of a CGR.
- 5.5 An Officer Working Group will review the consultation responses. If necessary, clarification will be sought from respondents about their proposals and where appropriate, discussions will take place with any parishes and community groups that could be impacted by them.
- 5.6 **Stage 2:** The Officer Working Group will prepare a set of initial draft recommendations for approval by Cabinet in Autumn 2026.
- 5.7 **Stage 3:** Following approval by Cabinet, the draft recommendations will be published, interested persons informed and a second eight-week consultation period will commence in October 2026. The aim of the consultation is to gather any opinions for or against the draft recommendations.
- 5.8 Consideration will be given to targeted consultation where significant changes may be proposed in the draft recommendations, such as the abolishment or significant change to an existing parish, or the creation of a new parish.
- 5.9 **Stage 4:** Following the consultation on the draft recommendations, the Officer Working Group will review the responses and produce final recommendations for Cabinet to approve and recommend to Council in early 2027.

- 5.10 The final recommendations which could be made to Cabinet and Council following the review are:
- a) The constitution of new parishes. This might include the establishment as a parish of any area which is presently not a parish or part of one. It could also include the aggregation of such an area with one or more existing parishes or parts of parishes, the amalgamation of two or more parishes or the separation of part of any parish;
 - b) The abolition of a parish, with or without the distribution of its area among other parishes; or
 - c) The alteration of the area of a parish.
- 5.11 If the Council makes any recommendation for the constitution of a new parish, they must include recommendations for the establishment of a new parish council. However, if the population of the new parish recommended would include fewer than two hundred local government electors, the Council is not obliged to recommend the creation of a new parish council for that area, although it may do so.
- 5.12 Council to consider the final recommendations and resolve to make an Order to implement the approved recommendations, which would come into force at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.
- 5.13 Consideration will be given to conducting a Polling District and Polling Places review during 2027, following the completion of the CGR.
- 5.14 The aim of a Polling District and Polling Places review is to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that every polling place is accessible to all electors who are disabled. It will also provide the opportunity to review the existing polling district boundaries to support the implementation of the approved recommendations from the CGR review.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that the cost of staffing any CGR or consultation process will be absorbed within the existing Electoral Services budget.
- 6.3 As far as possible consultation documents will be made available online, however some printing and posting will be required and the costs associated with this will depend on the scope of the consultation and representations received during the review. Any costs relating to the consultation will be absorbed within the Electoral Services budget.
- 6.4 The cost of parish elections is incurred by the Council but is recharged to the parishes where a contested election is held. As it is envisaged that any changes to electoral arrangements would be implemented at the scheduled

elections in 2028, there should be no additional election costs arising from any agreed recommendations.

- 6.5 Any changes to the boundaries may affect the parish precept that residents affected by a boundary change will pay; any changes to precepts and council tax bills would be applied from the date the adopted recommendations from the review become effective. In line with Para. 14.5 of the Terms of Reference (appendix 1) for this review, changes will be implemented on 1st April 2028.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The process which the Council must follow when undertaking a CGR is set out in Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and this is followed in the body of the report in respect of the proposed CGR.
- 7.2 As referred to above, Government guidance states that a CGR covering the whole of a Local authority's area should be undertaken every 10 to 15 years and as such it is appropriate for this CGR to be commenced. Further the Terms of Reference as drafted are consistent with the legislation above and the relevant Government guidance.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for Human Resources.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no implications for equalities and human rights arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The implications for CO2 emissions and Climate Change are low. A Carbon Impact Assessment is set out in Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The 2007 Act requires that local people are consulted during a CGR, that representations received in connection with the review are considered and that steps are taken to notify respondents of the outcomes of such reviews

including any decisions. When undertaking the review, the Council must have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and it is effective and convenient.

- 13.2 Following consultation, there may be representations from individuals or parish councils where the proposals are in conflict or contradictory. This may present a risk that a local amicable solution will not be possible, and the Council will have to adjudicate.
- 13.3 There is potential for requests for new parishes, and it will be necessary for the Council to ensure they would be sustainable and there would be enough interest from local people to serve as councillors. To mitigate and manage these risks, support and guidance is available from Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the Council, and the local Parish Network.
- 13.4 Without effective consultation there is the risk that recommendations arising from the review would not reflect the identities and interests of local communities or effective and convenient community governance. That risk is sought to be mitigated by the proposed consultation.

14. Accountable Officers

Phillip Horsfield, Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	18/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	12/03/26

Report Author: Mike Thomas, Electoral Services Manager
01709 823268 or mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk

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



Community Governance Review

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rotherham Council is undertaking a Boroughwide Community Governance Review (CGR) which covers all parished and unparished areas of the Borough.
- 1.2 In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by:
 - Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
 - The relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
 - Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
 - The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 and Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008.
- 1.3 Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review.
- 1.4 These terms of reference set out how the review will be conducted and the matters on which the review is to focus.

2. Why is the Council carrying out this Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 Guidance on CGRs from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England states that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years. The last Boroughwide CGR in Rotherham took place in 2008.
- 2.2 It is therefore considered to be an appropriate time to review arrangements for community governance in Rotherham.

3. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 3.1 A CGR is the process that is used to consider parish arrangements. A CGR is carried out by the principal council and is used to look at the whole or part of the district.

4. Scope of the Review

- 4.1 The review will cover both parished and unparished areas of Rotherham, to enable us to consider if any changes are needed to the existing parish arrangements.
- 4.2 The Review will consider whether community governance arrangements across the Borough are:
 - Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
 - Effective and convenient to the community in that area.
- 4.3 It will make recommendations with regard to:
 - Creating, abolishing, merging, or altering parishes
 - The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
 - The electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of election, the number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding; and
 - Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping existing parishes
- 4.4 The review is required to take into account:
 - The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

5. What is meant by the term Community Governance?

- 5.1 The term 'community governance' is used to describe the variety of ways in which local communities are able to take more responsibilities for local issues affecting their area. A key aspect of community governance is community empowerment, and the ability of local people and organisations to see through specific projects to tackle local issues.
- 5.2 In parished areas, both the principal council and the parish council have a formal democratic role in terms of community governance. However, a variety of different structures and organisations can also contribute to community governance at a local level - including, for example, local residents' associations and community or neighbourhood forums, all of which make a distinct contribution to the community.
- 5.3 The review needs to consider all current and any future plans for community governance in making recommendations about parish arrangements.

6. What do Parish Councils do?

- 6.1 Parish Councils represent the most local form of government and can own land and assets, employ staff, and provide services at a local level. They can raise funds to meet the costs of administration and provision of services through setting a precept which forms part of council tax bills levied on council taxpayers in the parish.
- 6.2 Parish councils can take different forms but usually are made up of local people who stand for election as parish councillors to represent their area, with elections taking place every four years. They can be the voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to co-ordinate and deliver services and work to improve the quality of life in the area.

7. Parish governance in our area

- 7.1 At present, there are twenty-eight parish and town councils and three parish meetings in Rotherham.
- 7.2 Eleven of the parish and town councils are divided into parish wards.
- 7.3 Appendix A sets out the details of each parish and town council, with maps in Appendix B.
- 7.4 The Council believes parish councils play a key role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure parish governance in our district continues to be robust and representative. Furthermore, the Council wants to ensure there is clarity and transparency to the area's parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

8. Issues considered in the Boroughwide Community Governance Review

8.1 Parish Boundaries

- 8.1.1 Parish boundaries should be easily identifiable and reflect the separation of settlements recognised locally as having their own identity. These boundaries should generally reflect the areas between communities with low populations or physical barriers such as water courses or man-made features such as railways or motorways.
- 8.1.2 A review of parish boundaries is an opportunity to put in place strong boundaries, tied to firm ground detail, and remove anomalous parish boundaries.

8.2 Council size

- 8.2.1 Council size is the term used to describe the number of parish councillors to be elected to the whole parish council. The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) specifies each parish council must have at least five parish councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards, but each parish ward must have at least one parish councillor.
- 8.2.2 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population being represented. NALC recommended a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers the practical minimum should be seven. It considered local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, and business convenience makes it appropriate to suggest the practical maximum should be twenty-five.
- 8.2.3 Within those minimum and maximum limits, the following allocations were recommended by NALC:

Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
1,400	8
2,000	9
2,700	10
3,500	11
4,400	12
5,400	13
6,500	14
7,700	15
9,000	16
10,400	17
11,900	18
13,500	19
15,200	20
17,000	21
18,900	22
20,900	23
23,000	24
Over 23,000	25

- 8.2.4 In considering the issue of parish council size, each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to its historical picture, population, geography, and the pattern of communities.

8.3 Parish warding

- 8.3.1 Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing parish councillors, including the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards.
- 8.3.2 In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the legislation requires that consideration be given to whether:
- a) The number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of parish councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
 - b) It is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.
- 8.3.3 There is a need to consider not only the size of the electorate in the area but also the distribution of communities within in it.
- 8.3.4 When contemplating parish ward boundaries there is a need to ensure that consideration is given as to the desirability of fixing of boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

8.4 Names of Parish wards

- 8.4.1 In considering the names of parish wards, thought should be given to existing local or historic places so that, where appropriate, these are reflected.
- 8.5 The number of parish councillors to be elected for parish wards.
- 8.5.1 If it is proposed that a parish should be warded, consideration should be given to the levels of representation between each ward i.e. the number of parish councillors to be elected for each ward and the number of electors they represent.
- 8.5.2 It is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or parish councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

8.6 Ordinary year of election

- 8.6.1 Ordinary parish elections are held once every four years with all parish councillors being elected at the same time.
- 8.6.2 The first elections under any new electoral arrangements will take place in the regular cycle of Parish Council elections after the conclusion of the Review, currently scheduled to be held on 4 May 2028, alongside Borough and South Yorkshire Mayoral elections.

8.7 Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

- 8.7.1 Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under the Local Government Act 1972. “Town” status continues to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act offers a further choice of alternative styles for a parish: community, neighbourhood, and village. However, for as long as the parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.
- 8.7.2 The ‘name’ of a parish refers to the geographical name of the area concerned, whereas its status or ‘style’ allows for that area to be known as a town, community, neighbourhood, or village, rather than as a parish. The status or style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish, the parish meeting, and the chair or vice-chair of the parish meeting or of any parish council. For example, the council of a parish which uses the style ‘village’ will be known as the ‘village council’ and its councillors as the ‘village councillors’.
- 8.7.3 As far as existing parishes under review are concerned, the review must make recommendations as to whether the geographical name of the parish should be changed, but it may not make any recommendations for the parish about alternative style. It will be for the parish council or parish meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles.

8.8 Grouping of parishes

- 8.8.1 Under Section 91 of the 2007 Act a CGR can recommend the grouping or de-grouping of parishes. In some instances, it may be appropriate to group parishes to allow a common parish council to be formed.
- 8.8.2 De-grouping may also offer the reverse possibility where local communities have expanded. Any grouping or de-grouping needs to be compatible with the retention of community interests, and it would be inappropriate to use it to build artificially large units under single parish councils. However, it could offer a possibility for parishes with less than 150 electors to be grouped with other parishes under an elected parish council despite being unable to form a parish council in their own right.

9. Who will undertake the review?

- 9.1 As the relevant principal authority, Rotherham Council is responsible for conducting any CGR within its electoral area.
- 9.2 On 14 April 2026, Cabinet agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance.
- 9.3 While there is a delegation in place to the Chief Executive it is proposed that both the initiation and the outcomes will be considered by Cabinet, and recommendations made to Council who will determine the outcome.
- 9.4 A comprehensive consultation process will form part of the Review to take account of the views of those living and working within the borough.
- 9.5 Formal decisions on the final recommendations arising from the review will be made by Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

10. The Consultation process

- 10.1 In coming to its recommendations in the Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Council must:
 - Consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review; and
 - Take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 10.2 This will consist of two phases of consultation. The first will seek the initial views and desires of local residents, groups, and stakeholders, and will form the basis of the draft recommendations. The second phase will seek views upon those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.
- 10.3 The Council will:
 - Publish a notice and these Terms of Reference on the Council's website and arrange for copies to be made available for public inspection at the following locations during their normal opening hours:
 - Aston Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Worksop Road, Sheffield S26 4WD
 - Brinsworth Community Library, Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG
 - Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington S25 2PP

- Greasbrough Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
 - Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
 - Kiveton Park Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Wales Road, Kiveton, Sheffield, S26 6RB
 - Maltby Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Braithwell Road, Maltby S66 8JE
 - Mowbray Gardens Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Mowbray Gardens, East Dene, Rotherham, S65 2UH
 - Rawmarsh Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Barbers Avenue, Rotherham S62 6AE
 - Riverside Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE
 - Swinton Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
 - Thorpe Hesley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley S61 2QJ
 - Thurcroft Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD
 - Wath Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 4 Sandygate, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7LW
 - Wickersley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ
- Send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all town and parish clerks.
 - Seek to arrange for the notice to be published on parish council websites and notice boards.
 - Send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to all local Members of Parliament.
 - Promote the consultation among electors using social media and press releases.

10.4 Before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure

that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

- 10.5 The Council will notify any persons or bodies who have made written representations of the outcome of the Review.
- 10.6 The Council will treat any petitions received during this review as a consultation response and the lead petitioner will be recorded as the point of contact. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, a Council debate shall not be listed in relation to matters upon which the Council is currently undertaking a consultation process.
- 10.7 Representations will be welcomed by the following methods:
- By completing an electronic survey on the Council's website: www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections
 - By email to electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk
 - By letter or consultation form to Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

11. Timetable for the Community Governance Review

11.1 The Council should complete a Community Governance Review within twelve months from the day on which the Council publishes the Terms of Reference. A Community Governance Review is concluded on the day on which the Council publishes the recommendations made by the Community Governance Review. The indicative timetable is shown below.

Stage	Event	Date
Commencement	Publication of Terms of Reference	1 May 2026
1	Public consultation period	1 May 2026 to 26 June 2026
2	Submissions received are considered, and draft initial recommendations are prepared and considered by Cabinet.	July 2026 to September 2026
3	Draft recommendations are published. Public consultation period on draft recommendations.	October 2026 to November 2026
4	Submissions are received and considered and final recommendations are prepared	December 2026 to February 2027
	Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council	March 2027
	Final recommendations are considered by Council and a decision taken on the outcome of the review. Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order (if required).	April 2027
Implementation	Scheduled parish elections	4 May 2028

12. The present structure of Parish Councils and their electoral arrangements

12.1 Appendix A sets out the present structure of the parishes and their electoral arrangements, including polling district(s), councillors, electorate, and wards where applicable.

13. Electorate forecasts

- 13.1 When considering the electoral arrangements of the parishes in the area the Council must consider any likely future change in the number or distribution of electors within five years from the day the review starts.
- 13.2 Appendix A includes an electorate forecast for the next 5 years for each parish and town council of 1.25%. This is based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) [Population projections for local authorities by single year of age and sex, England](#) data for all ages for Rotherham.
- 13.3 Appendix A also accounts for an increase in electorates where housing is under construction or planned for construction in the next 5 years. This information has been taken from the [Rotherham Housing Lane Supply Monitoring Report published in October 2025](#).

14. Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and commencement

- 14.1 When all the required consultation has been undertaken and the review completed the Council may make an Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. If the Council decides to take no action, then it will not be necessary to make an Order.
- 14.2 If an order is made, copies of the order, supporting maps and documents setting out the reasons for the decisions taken will be placed at the following locations and on the council's website. They will be publicised in accordance with the requirements of the 2017 Act:
 - On the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections

Copies will be available at the following libraries during their normal opening hours:

- Aston Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Worksop Road, Sheffield S26 4WD
- Brinsworth Community Library, Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG
- Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington S25 2PP
- Greasbrough Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
- Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
- Kiveton Park Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Wales Road, Kiveton, Sheffield, S26 6RB

- Maltby Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Braithwell Road, Maltby S66 8JE
- Mowbray Gardens Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Mowbray Gardens, East Dene, Rotherham, S65 2UH
- Rawmarsh Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Barbers Avenue, Rotherham S62 6AE
- Riverside Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S601AE
- Swinton Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
- Thorpe Hesley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley S61 2QJ
- Thurcroft Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD
- Wath Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 4 Sandygate, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7LW
- Wickersley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

14.3 All parishes will be informed of the outcomes of the review.

14.4 Copies of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order will also be sent to:

- The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- The Office of National Statistics
- The Director General of Ordnance Survey

14.5 The financial and administrative provisions of the reorganisation order will be come into force on 1 April 2028.

14.6 The electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force on 7 May 2028.

15. Consequential matters

15.1 If an Order is made it may be necessary to cover certain consequential matters in that Order. These may include:

- The transfer and management or custody of property.
- The setting of precepts for new parishes.
- Provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights, and liabilities.
- provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions, and other staffing matters.

15.2 In these matters, the Council will be guided by the relevant legislation.

16. Date of Publication

16.1 These terms of reference will be published on 1 May 2026.

Appendix A: Details of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

Current electorate figure based on the electoral register published 2 March 2026.

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Anston Parish Council			7,281	16	1:485	7,372
	Anston North	ANA, ANB & ANC	5,297	11	1:482	5,363
	Anston South	AND	1,984	4	1:496	2,009
<hr/>						
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council			11,602	15	1:773	12,187
	Aston-cum-Aughton North	AUA, AUF & AUG	3,729	5	1:746	3,776
	Aston-cum-Aughton South	ASA, ASB & ASC	5,673	7	1:810	6,180
	Aston-cum-Aughton West	AUC & AUD	2,200	3	1:733	2,228
Aston-cum-Aughton South includes an estimated 436 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
<hr/>						
Bramley Parish Council			5,965	13	1:469	6,528
	Bramley North	BRB & BRC	2,634	6	1:439	3,155
	Bramley South	BRA	2,136	4	1:534	2,163
	Bramley West	WYF	1,195	3	1:398	1,210
Bramley North includes an estimated 488 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
<hr/>						
Brampton Bierlow Parish Council		HOA & HOJ	3,609	11	1:328	3,716
Includes 62 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
<hr/>						
Brinsworth Parish Council		BWB, BWC, BWD & BWE	6,605	11	1:600	6,688
<hr/>						
Catcliffe Parish Council		RVA	1,727	9	1:192	1,749
<hr/>						
Dalton Parish Council			7,711	16	1:482	7,888
	Dalton East	WYA, WYB, WYD & WYE	4,299	9	1:478	4,353
	Dalton North	DAD, DAE & DAF	2,577	5	1:515	2,609
	Dalton South	WYC	835	2	1:418	926
Dalton South includes an estimated 81 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
<hr/>						
Dinnington St. John's Town Council			7,313	15	1:488	8,613
	Dinnington Park Avenue	ANF	359	1	1:359	363
	Dinnington Town	DIC, DID, DIE & DII	6,924	14	1:497	8,250
Dinnington Town includes an estimated 846 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Firbeck Parish Council		DIH	288	5	1:58	292
Gildingwells Parish (Parish Meeting)		DIF	73	0	n/a	74
Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council		WAA & WAE	1,657	9	1:184	1,678
Hellaby Parish Council		HEA	650	5	1:130	672
Includes an estimated 14 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Hooton Levitt Parish (Parish Meeting)		HEE	98	0	n/a	99
Hooton Roberts Parish (Parish Meeting)		BRE	149	0	n/a	151
Laughton-En-Le-Morthen Parish Council		DIA	1,002	7	1:143	1,015
Letwell Parish Council		DIG	104	5	1:21	105
Maltby Town Council			12,142	18	1:675	13,038
	Maltby East	MAA, MAB, MAC, MAD & MAE	6,631	10	1:663	7,458
	Maltby West	HEB, HEC, HED & HEF	5,511	8	1:689	5,580
Maltby East includes an estimated 744 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Orgreave Parish Council		AUB	560	7	1:80	567
Ravenfield Parish Council		BRD	2,321	7	1:332	2,500
Includes an estimated 150 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council		ANG	379	5	1:76	384

Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Thrybergh Parish Council			2,964	15	1:198	3,001
	Thrybergh North	DAA & DAB	1,625	8	1:203	1,645
	Thrybergh South	DAC	1,339	7	1:191	1,356
Thurcroft Parish Council			5,894	18	1:327	6,016
	Thurcroft North	THB & THC	4,416	15	1:294	4,520
	Thurcroft South	DIB	1,478	3	1:493	1,496
Thurcroft North includes an estimated 49 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Todwick Parish Council		ASD	1,412	9	1:157	1,430
Treeton Parish Council		RVC	2,611	9	1:290	2,644
Ulley Parish Council		AUE	143	5	1:29	145
Wales Parish Council			5,682	15	1:379	6,170
	Kiveton Park	WAC & WAF	2,220	7	1:317	2,364
	Wales	WAB & WAD	3,462	8	1:433	3,806
Kiveton Park includes an estimated 116 additional electors from current and potential housing construction. Wales includes an estimated 301 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Waverley Community Council		RVB & RVD	3,391	7	1:484	5,284
Includes an estimated 1,851 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Wentworth Parish Council			1,148	9	1:128	1,177
	Harley	HOF & HOG	593	4	1:148	600
	Wentworth	HOB, HOE & HOH	555	5	1:111	562
Whiston Parish Council		SIE, SIF & SIG	3,798	9	1:422	4,423
Includes an estimated 578 additional electors from current and potential housing construction.						
Wickersley Parish Council			6,331	16	1:396	6,410
	Wickersley North	WYG	3,075	9	1:342	3,113
	Wickersley South	THA	3,256	7	1:465	3,297

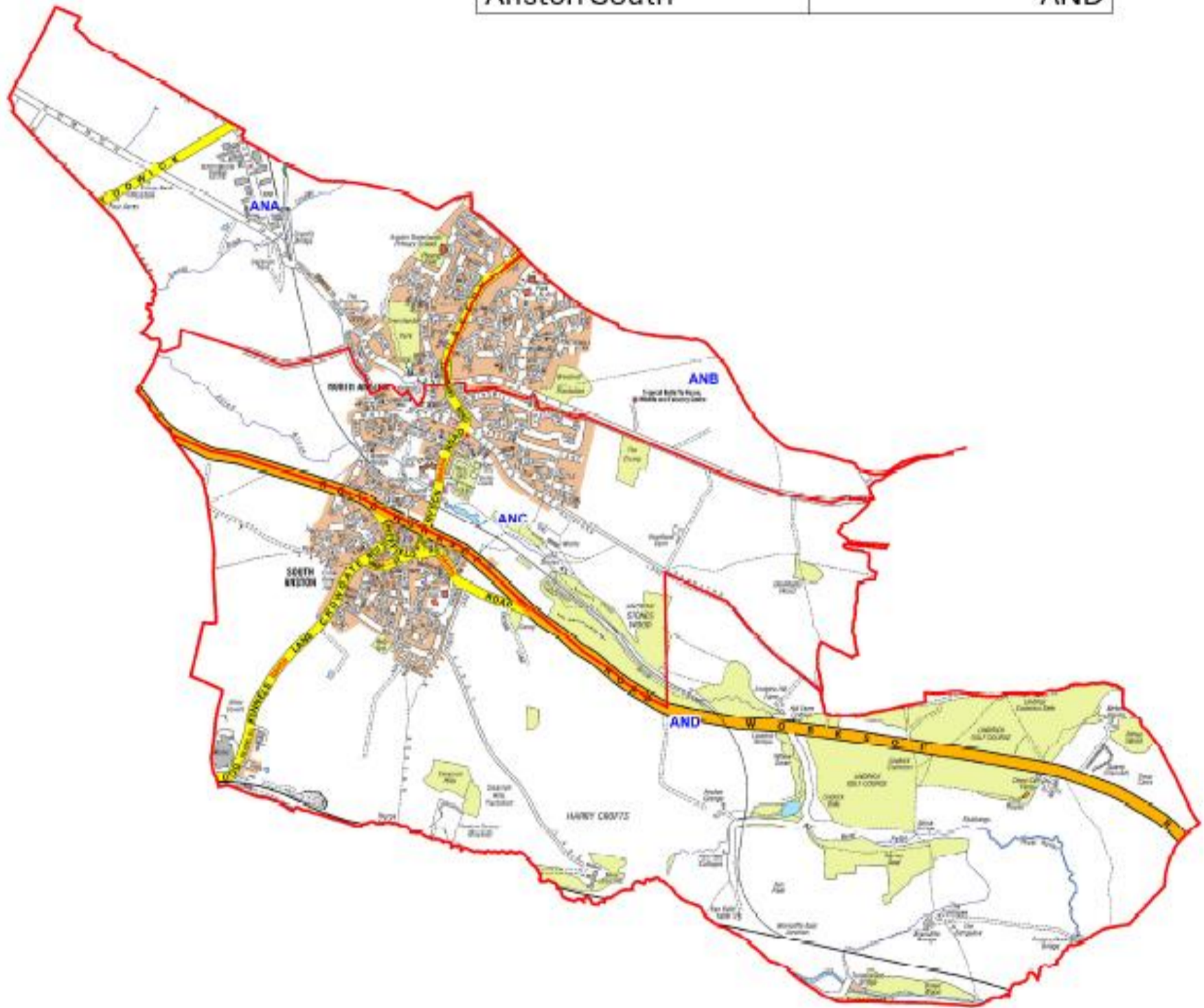
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Woodsetts Parish Council		ANE	1,395	9	1:155	1,412

Appendix B

Maps of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

Anston Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Anston North	ANA, ANB & ANC
Anston South	AND



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Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

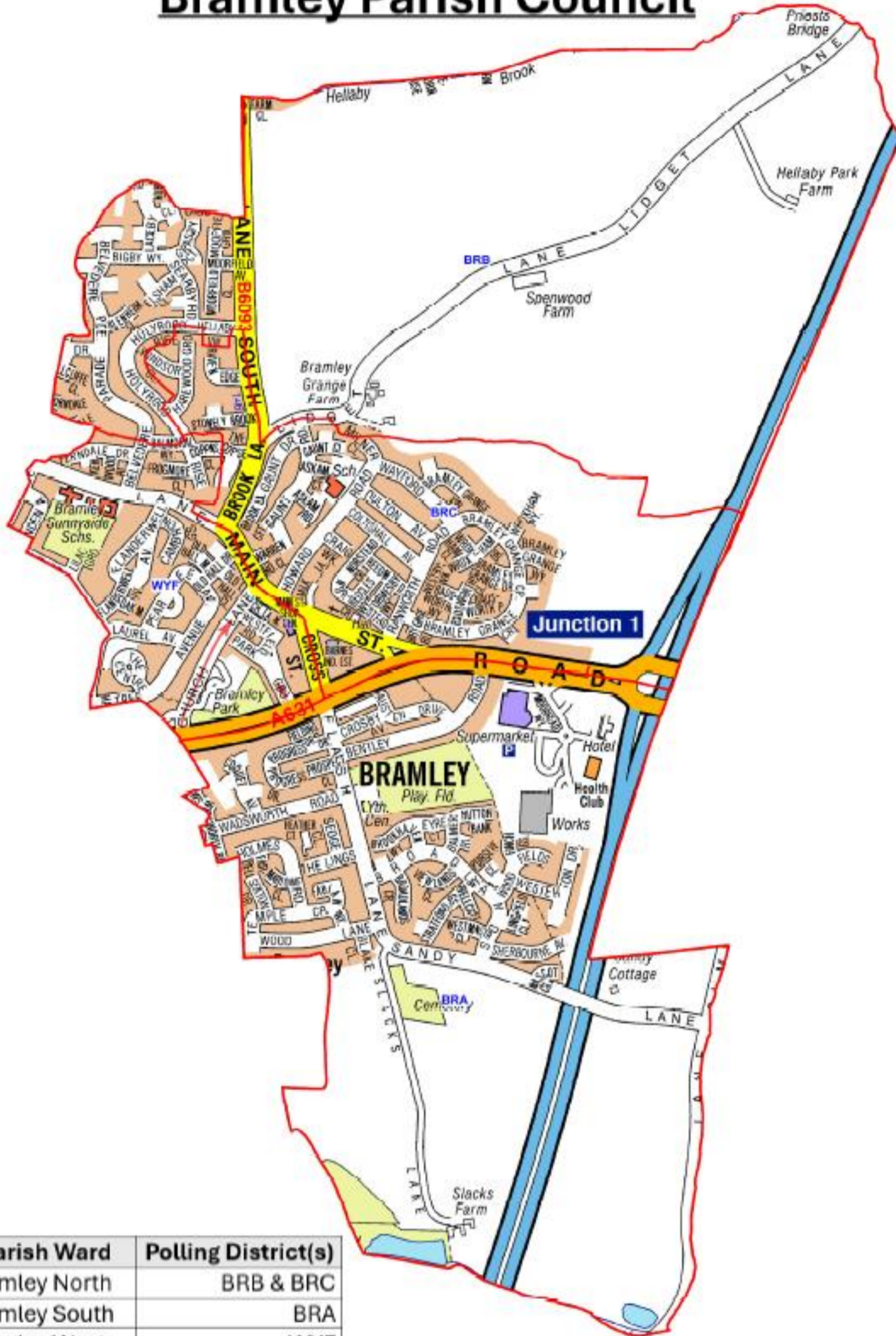
Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Aston-cum-Aughton North	AUA, AUF & AUG
Aston-cum-Aughton South	ASA, ASB & ASC
Aston-cum-Aughton West	AUC & AUD



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Bramley Parish Council



Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Bramley North	BRB & BRC
Bramley South	BRA
Bramley West	WYF

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Brampton Bierlow Parish Council



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Brinsworth Parish Council



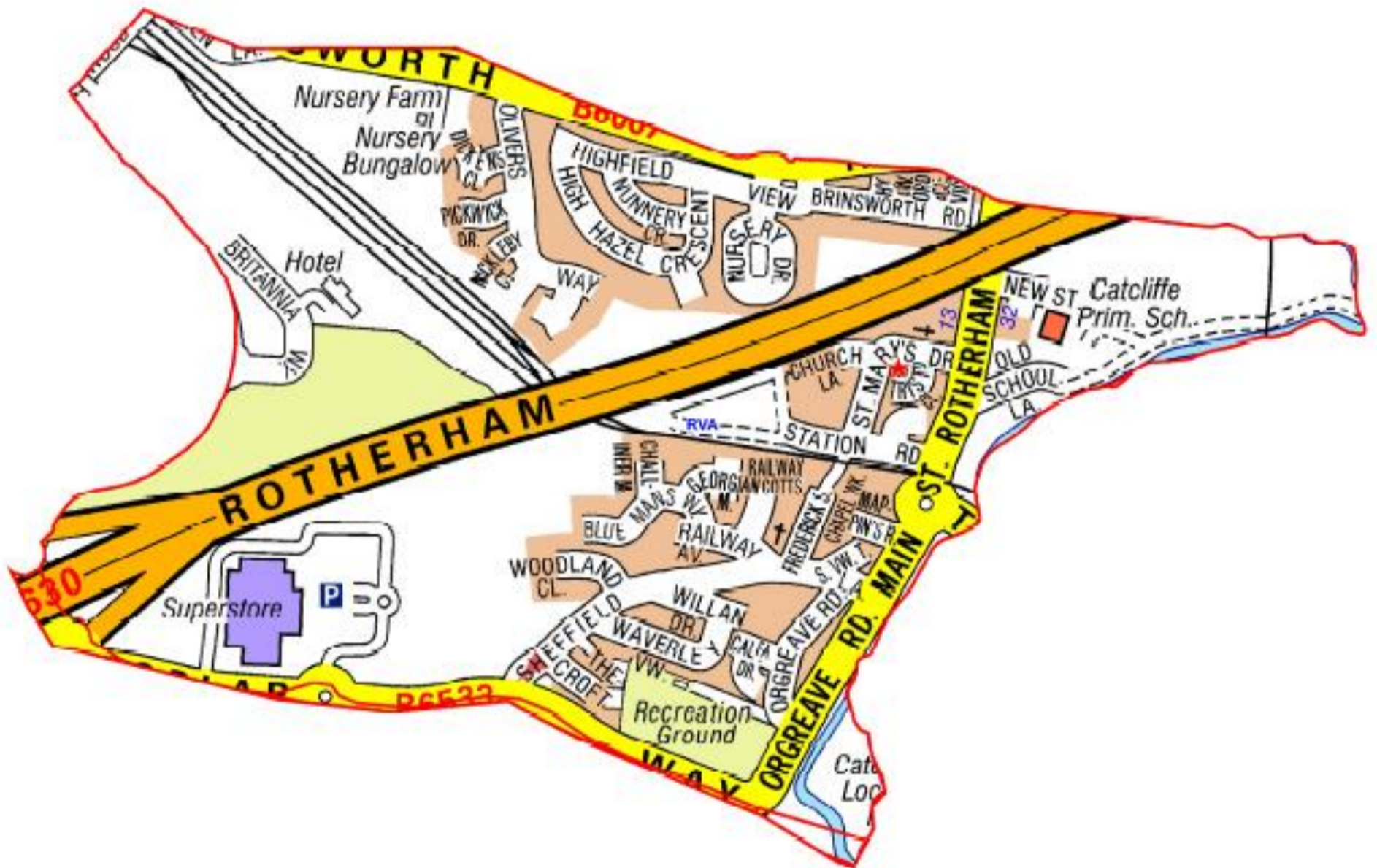
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Catcliffe Parish Council



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Dalton Parish Council

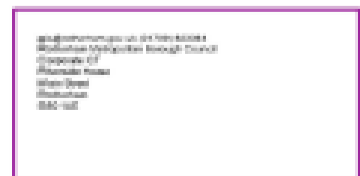
Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Dalton East	WYA, WYB, WYD & WYE
Dalton North	DAD, DAE & DAF
Dalton South	WYC



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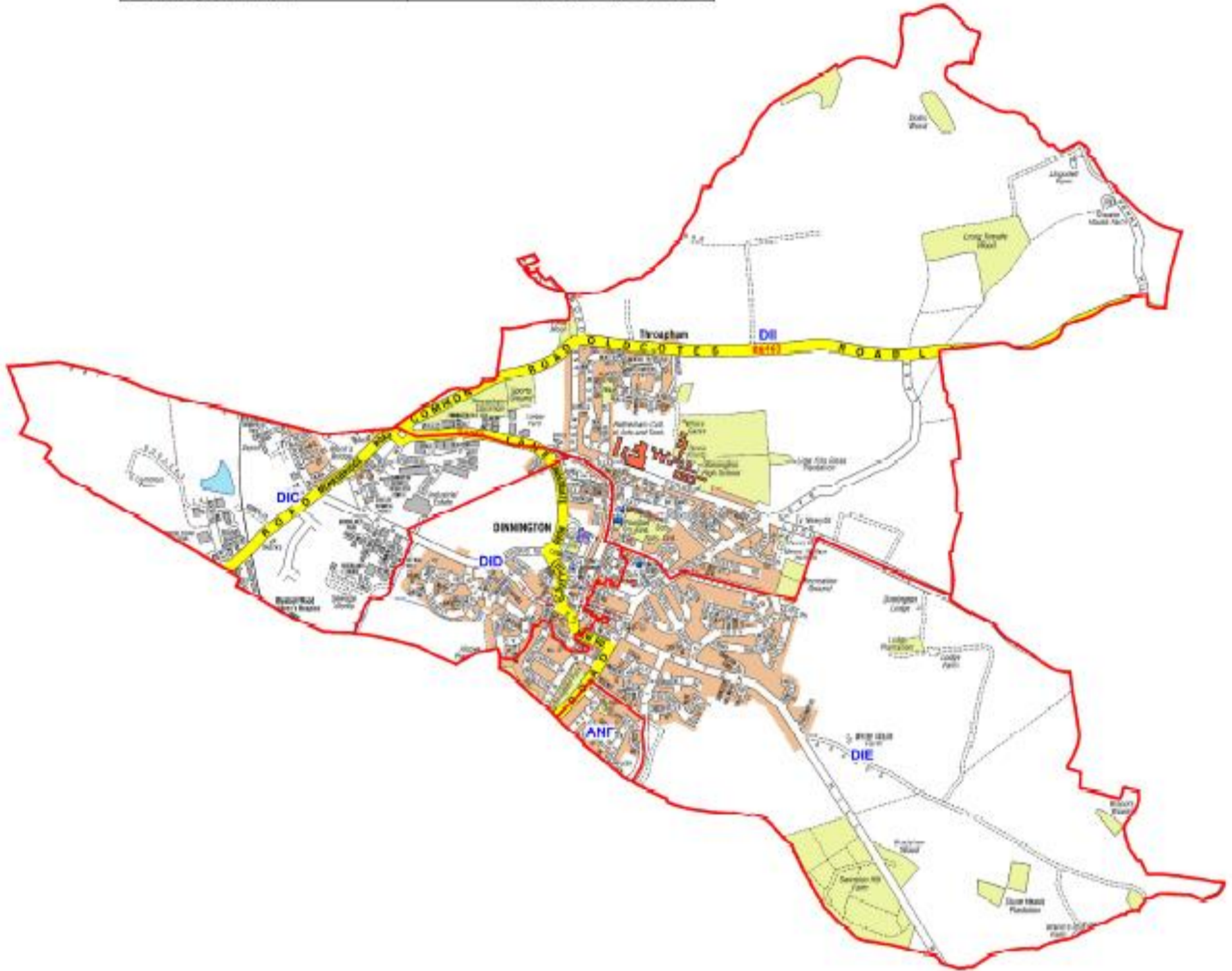


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Dinnington St John's Town Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Dinnington Park Avenue	ANF
Dinnington Town	DIC, DID, DIE & DII



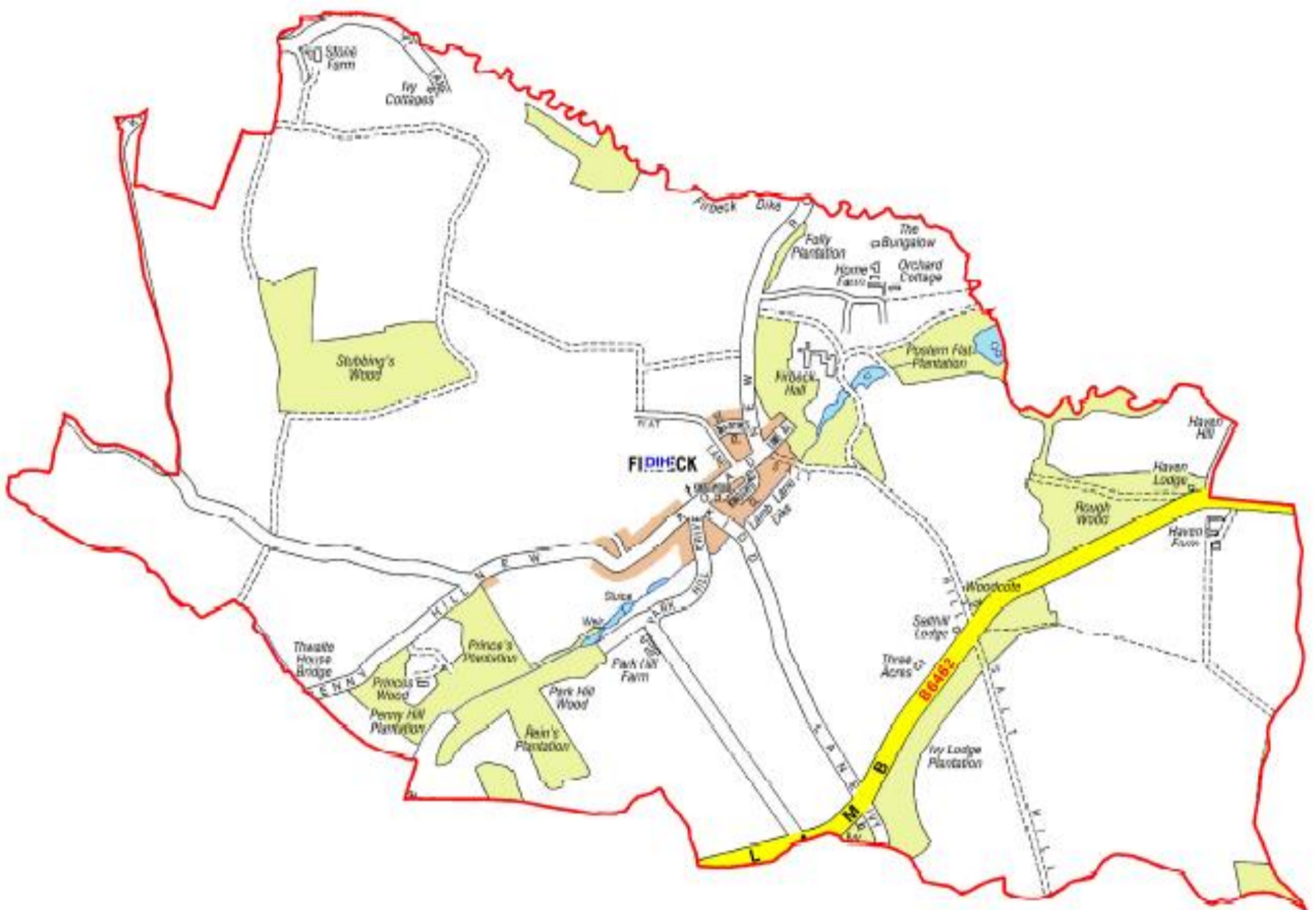
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Firbeck Parish Council



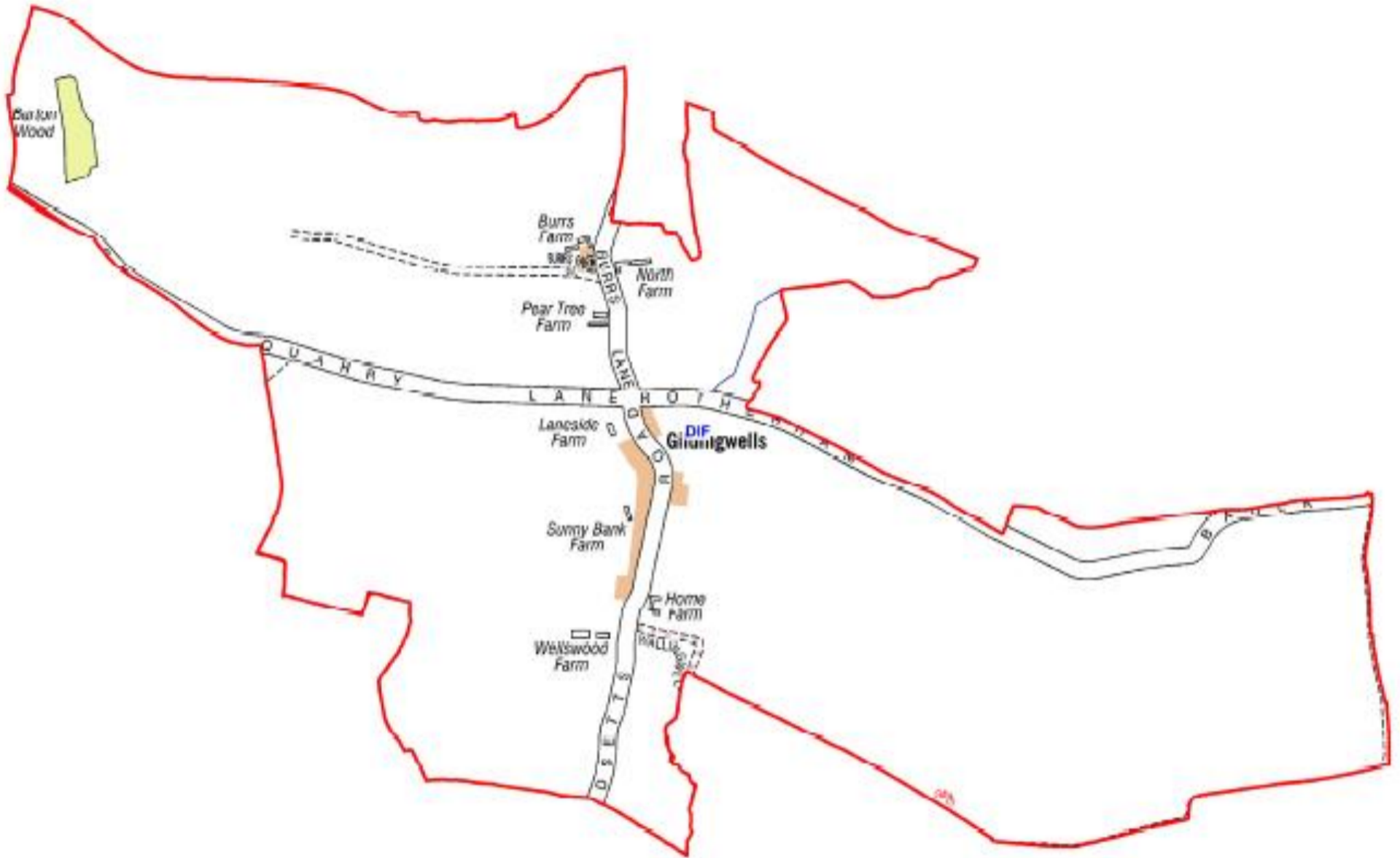
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Gildingwells Parish



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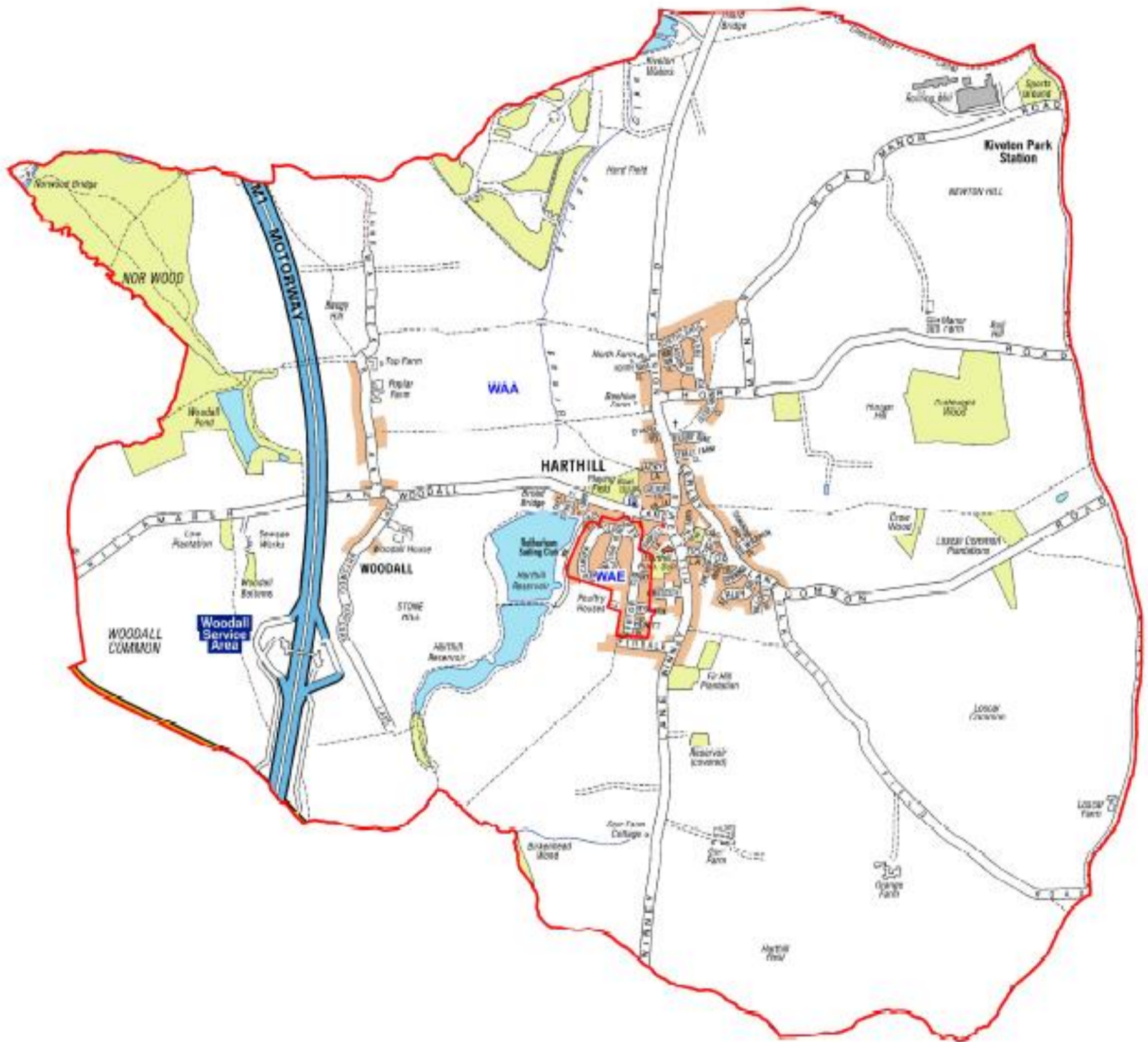


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Harthill with Woodall Parish Council



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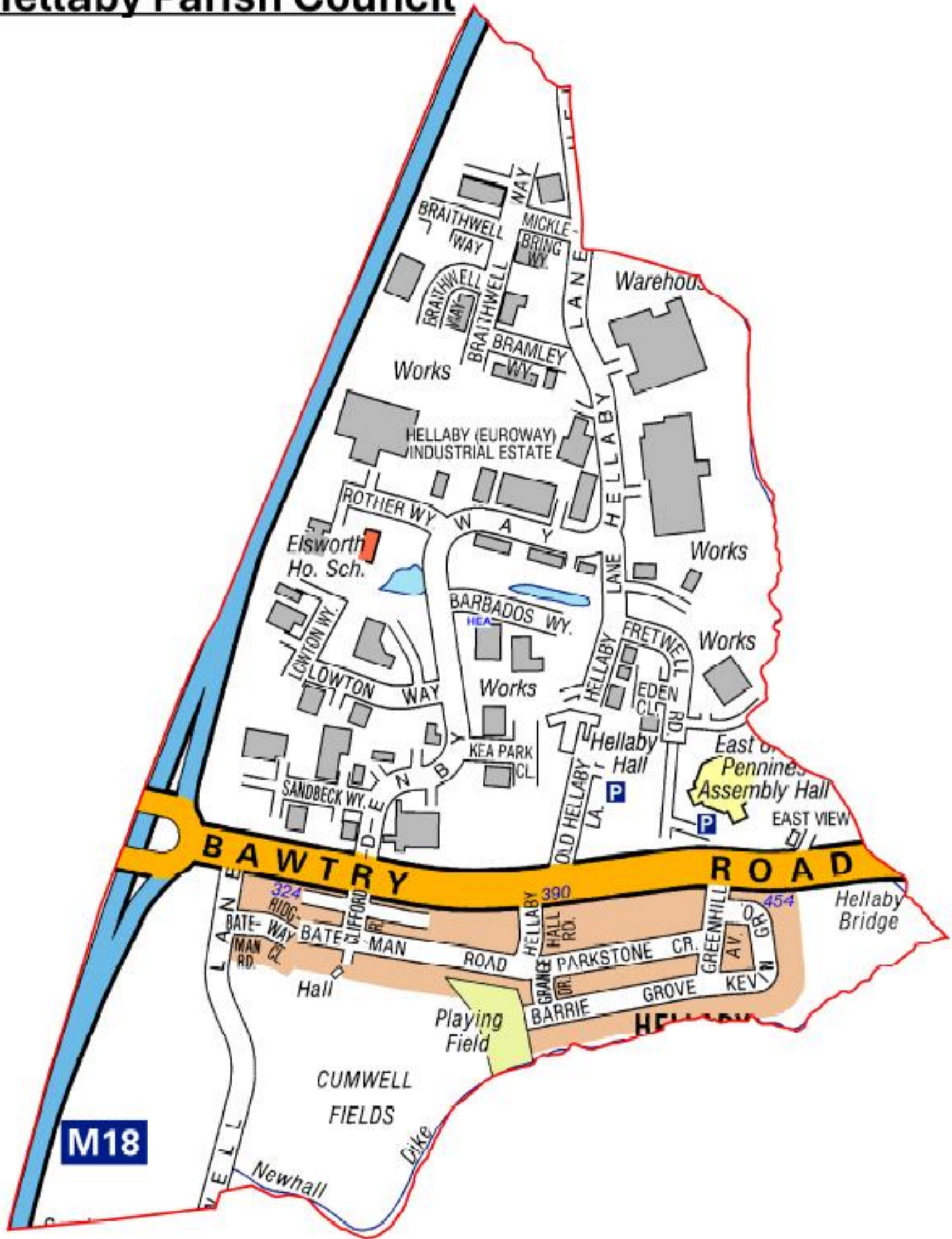


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Hellaby Parish Council



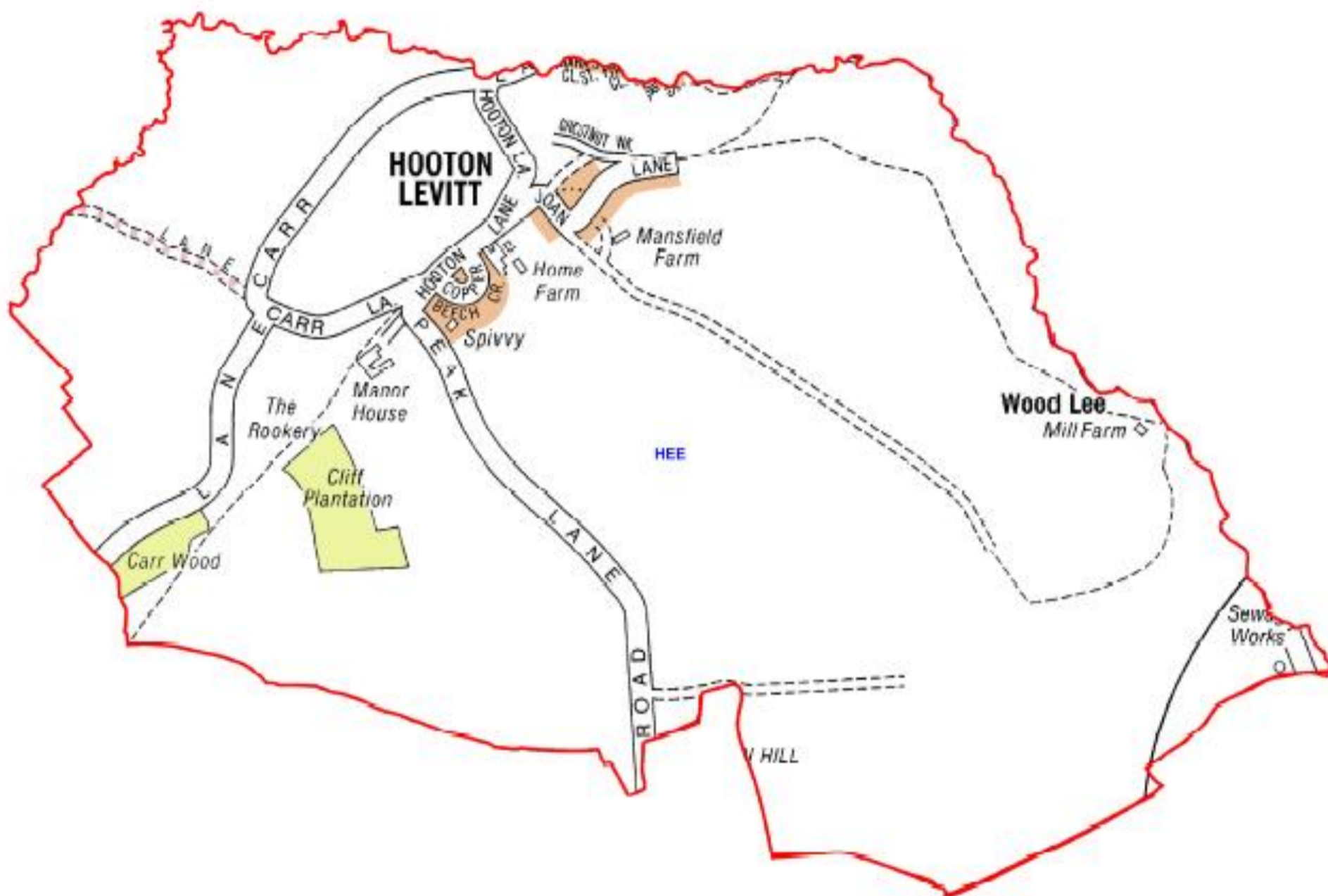
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Hooten Levitt Parish



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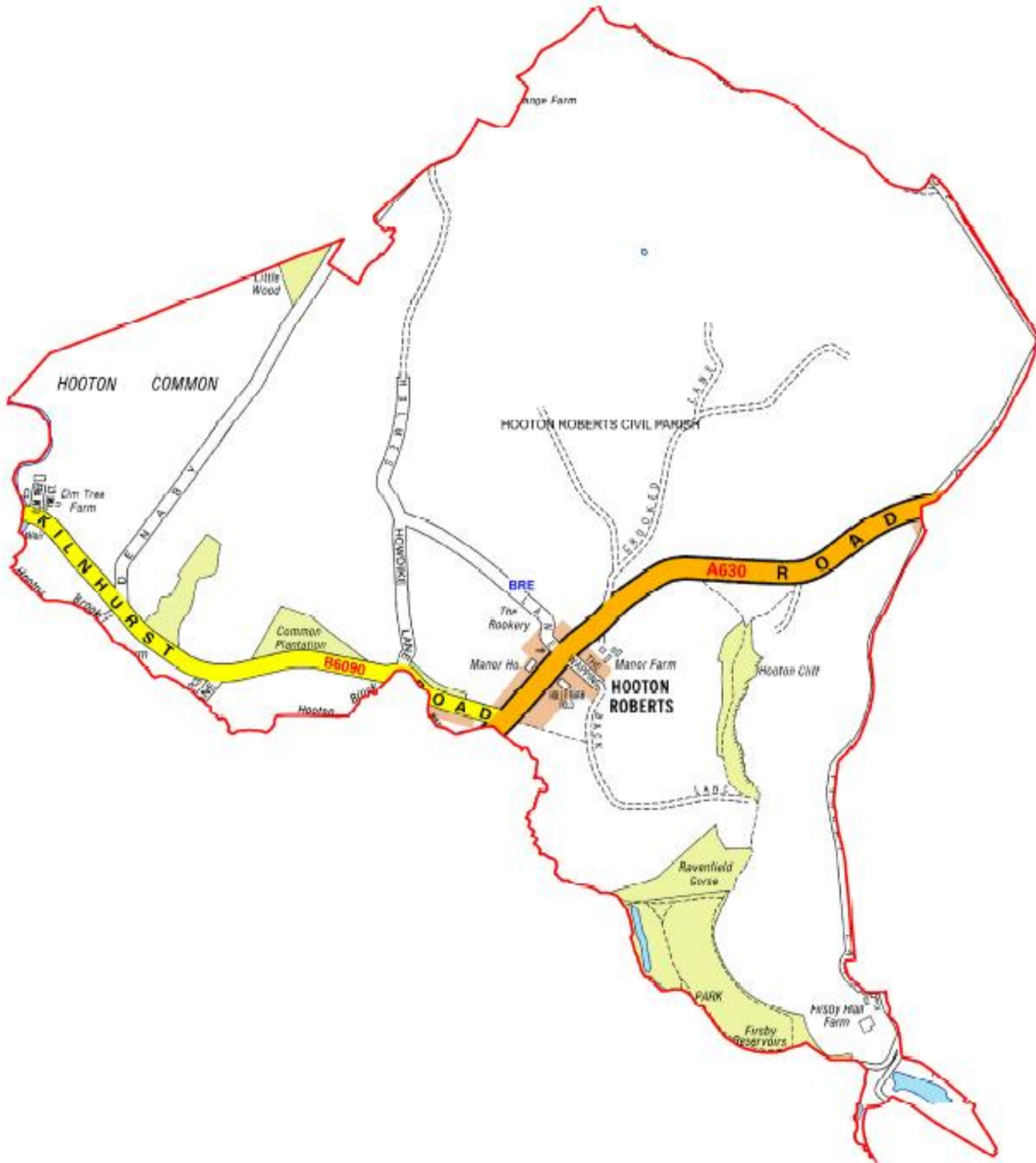


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Hooten Roberts Parish



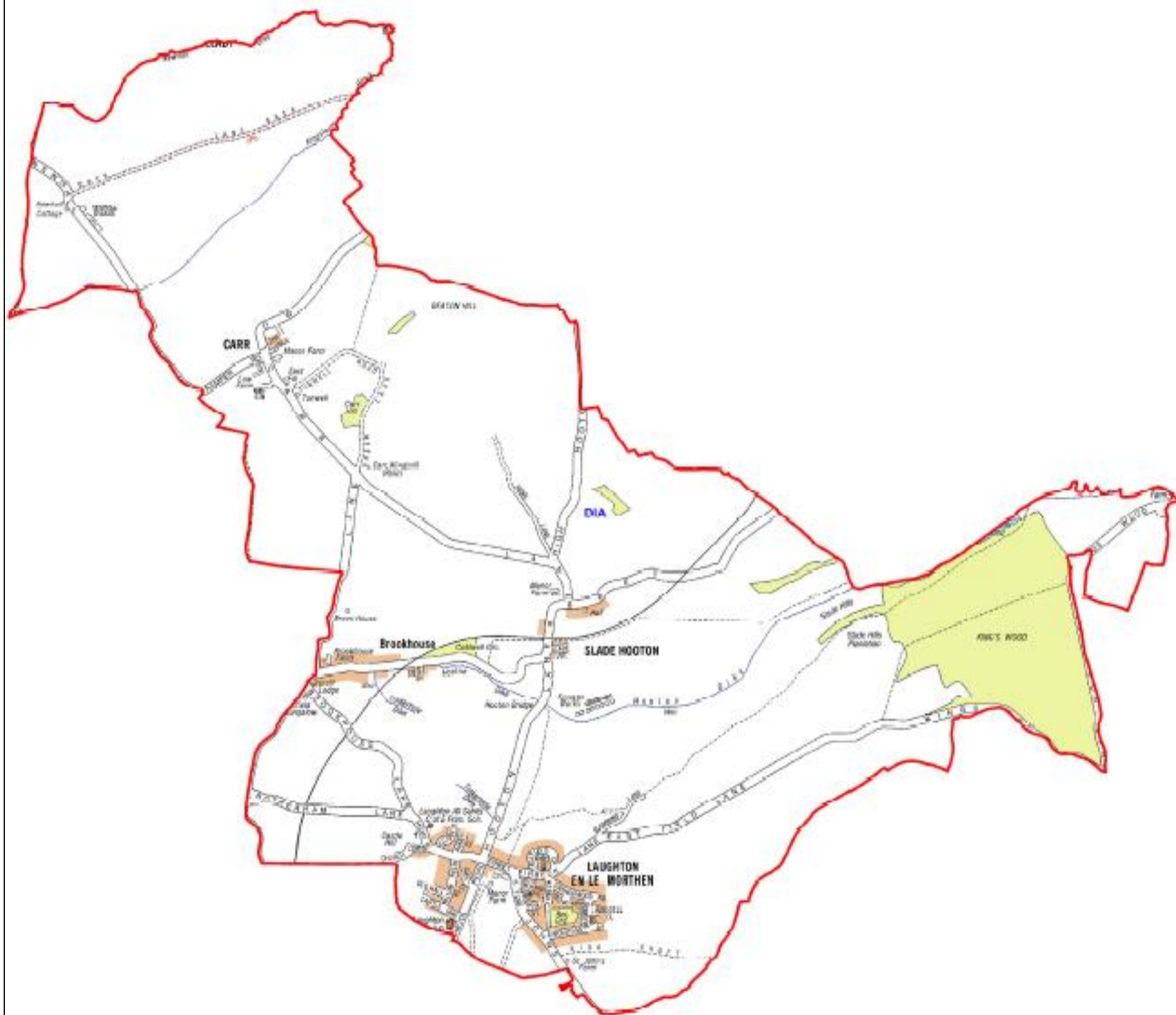
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Laughton-en-Le-Morthen Parish Council



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Letwell Parish Council

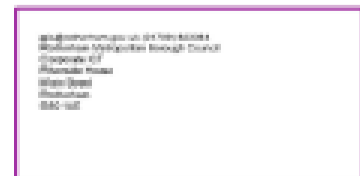


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Maltby Town Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Maltby East	MAA, MAB, MAC, MAD & MAE
Maltby West	HEB, HEC, HED & HEF



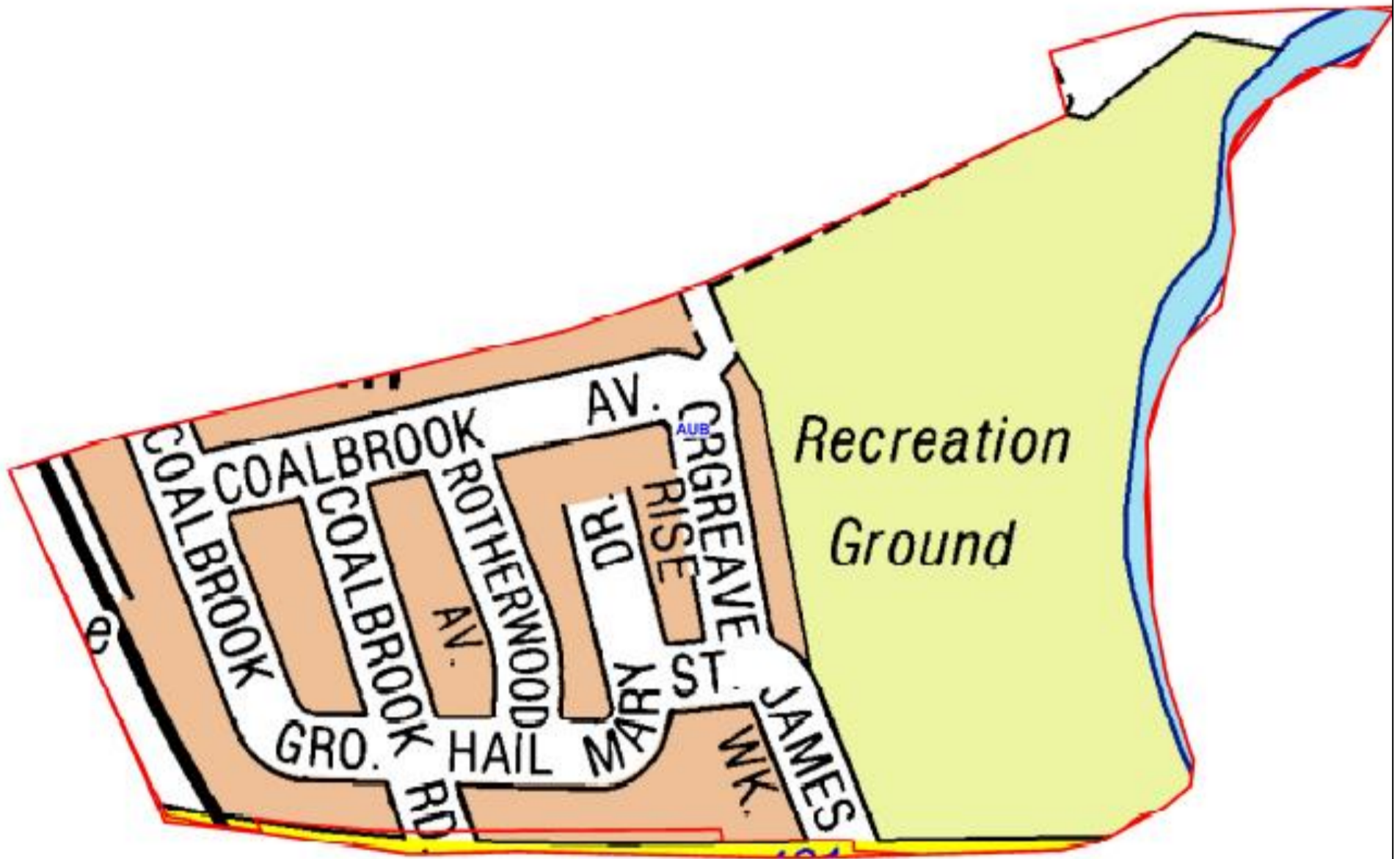
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Orgreave Parish Council



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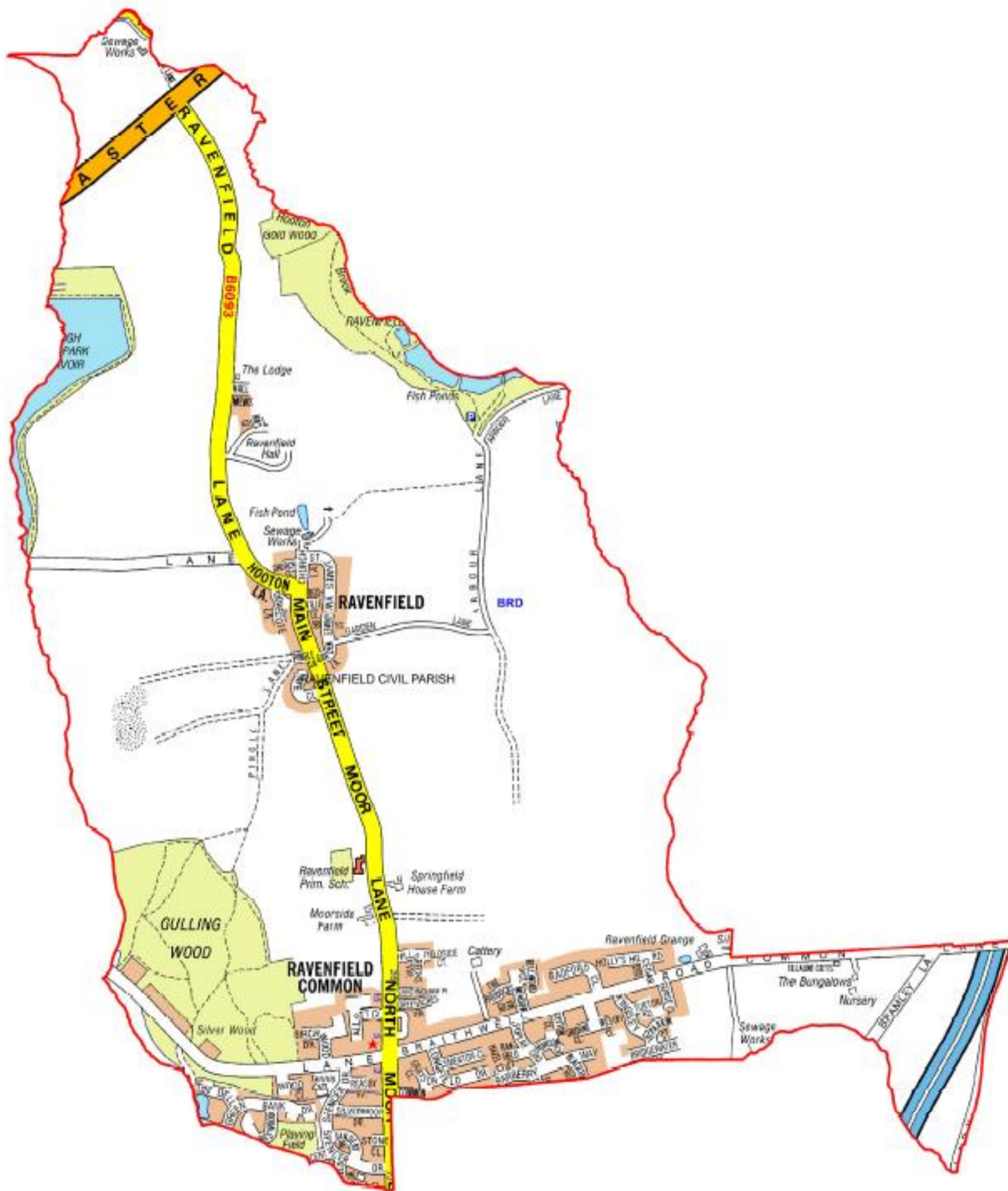


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Ravenfield Parish Council



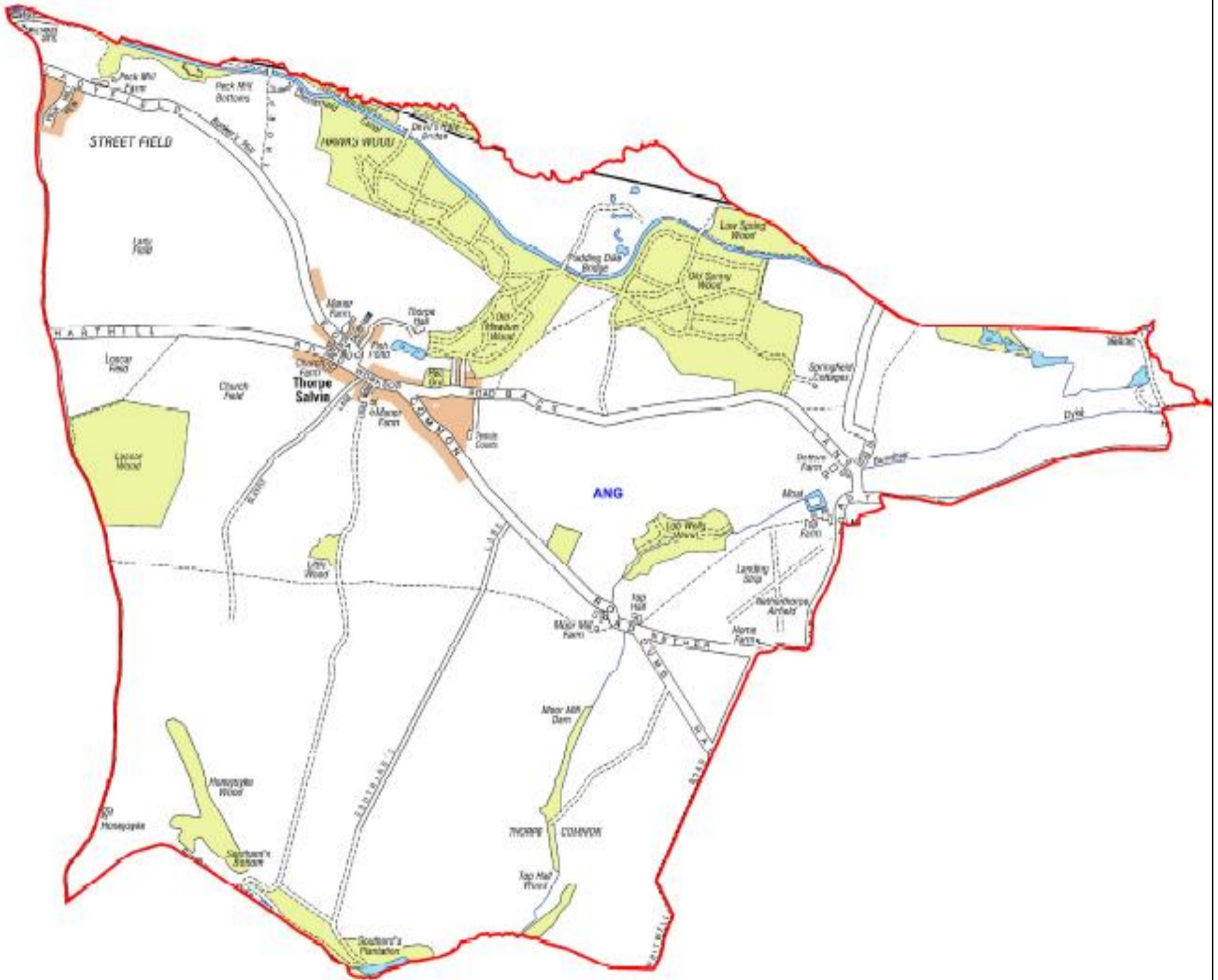
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Thorpe Salvin Parish Council



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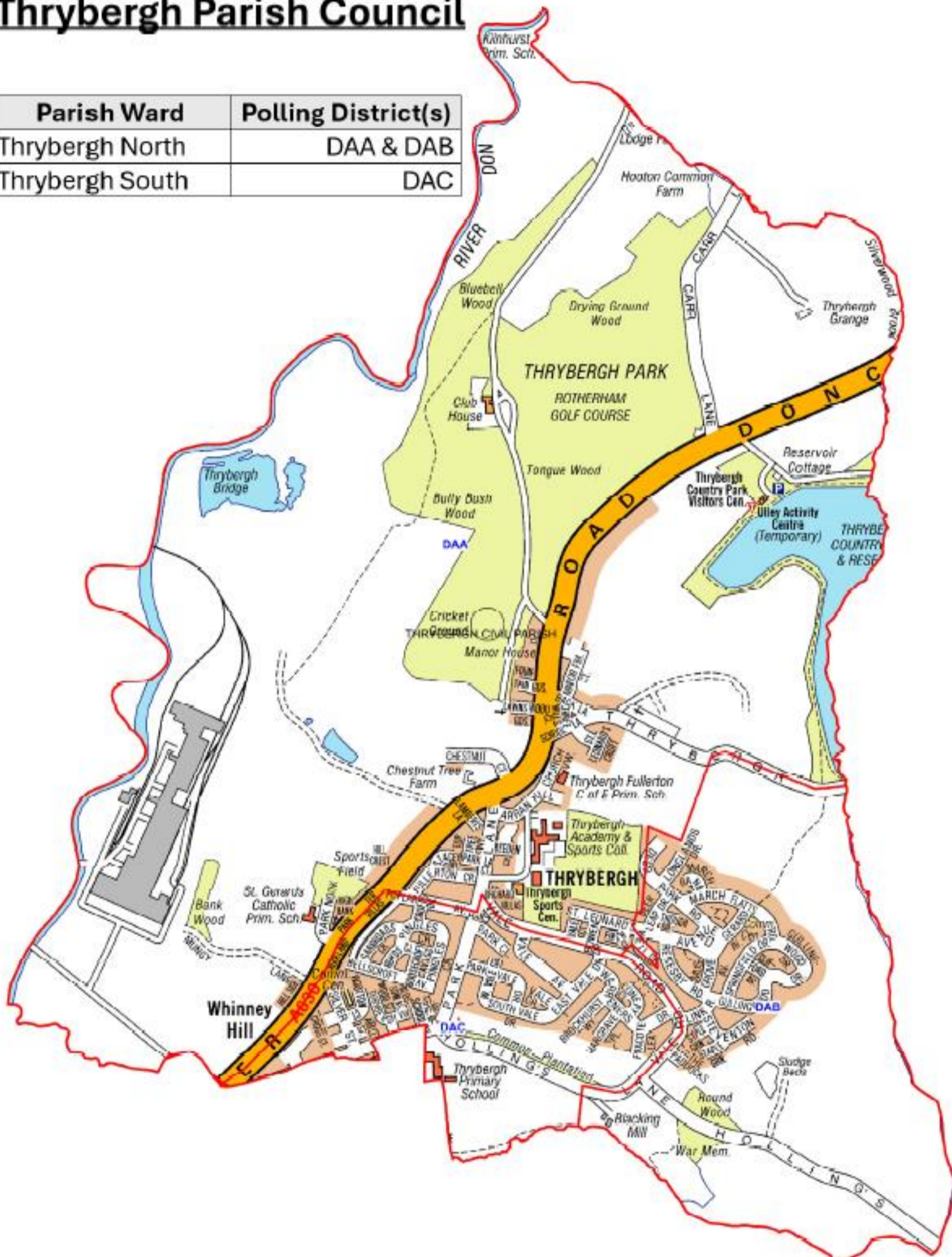


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Thrybergh Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Thrybergh North	DAA & DAB
Thrybergh South	DAC



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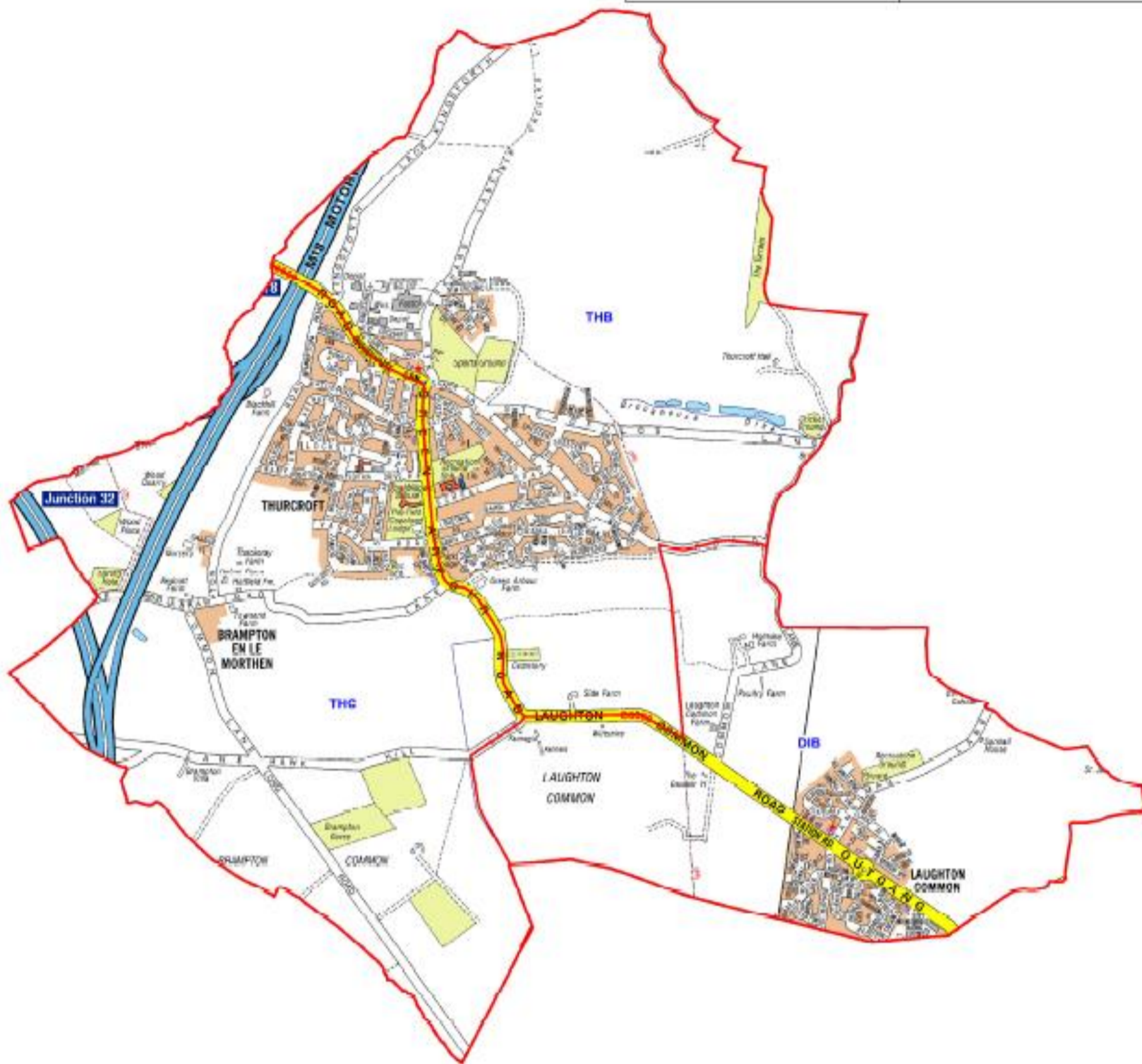


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Thurcroft Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Thurcroft North	THB & THC
Thurcroft South	DIB



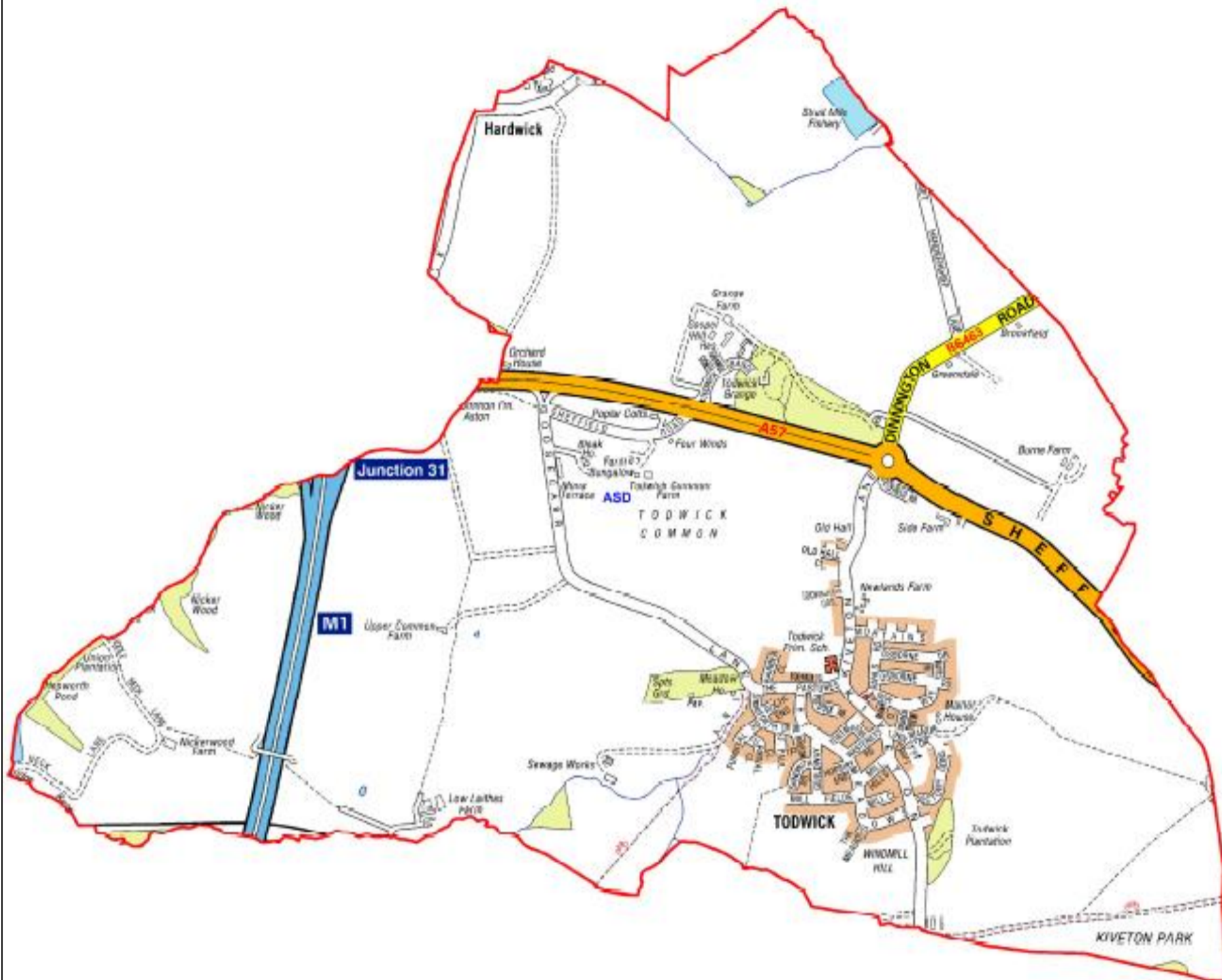
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Todwick Parish Council



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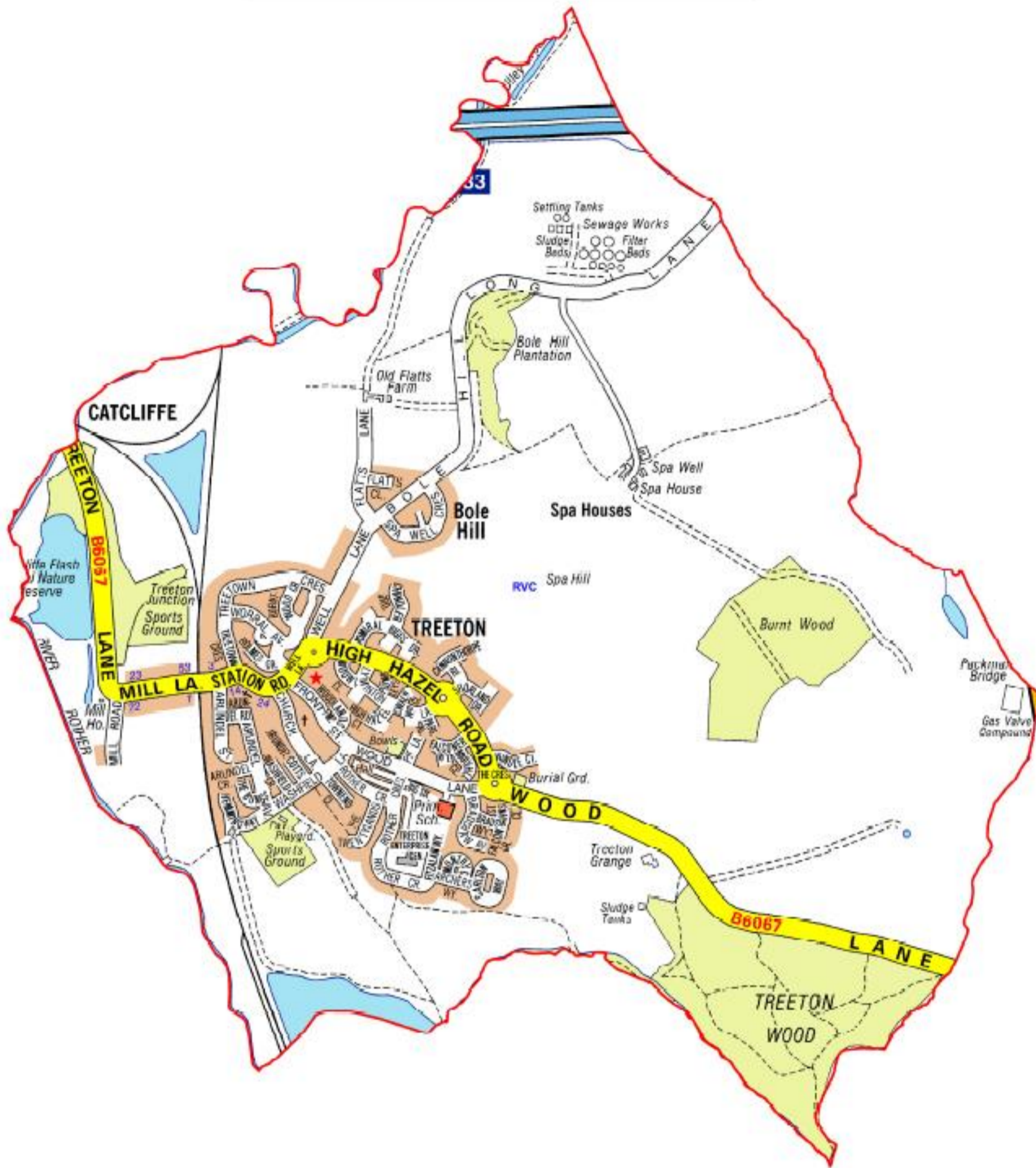


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Treeton Parish Council



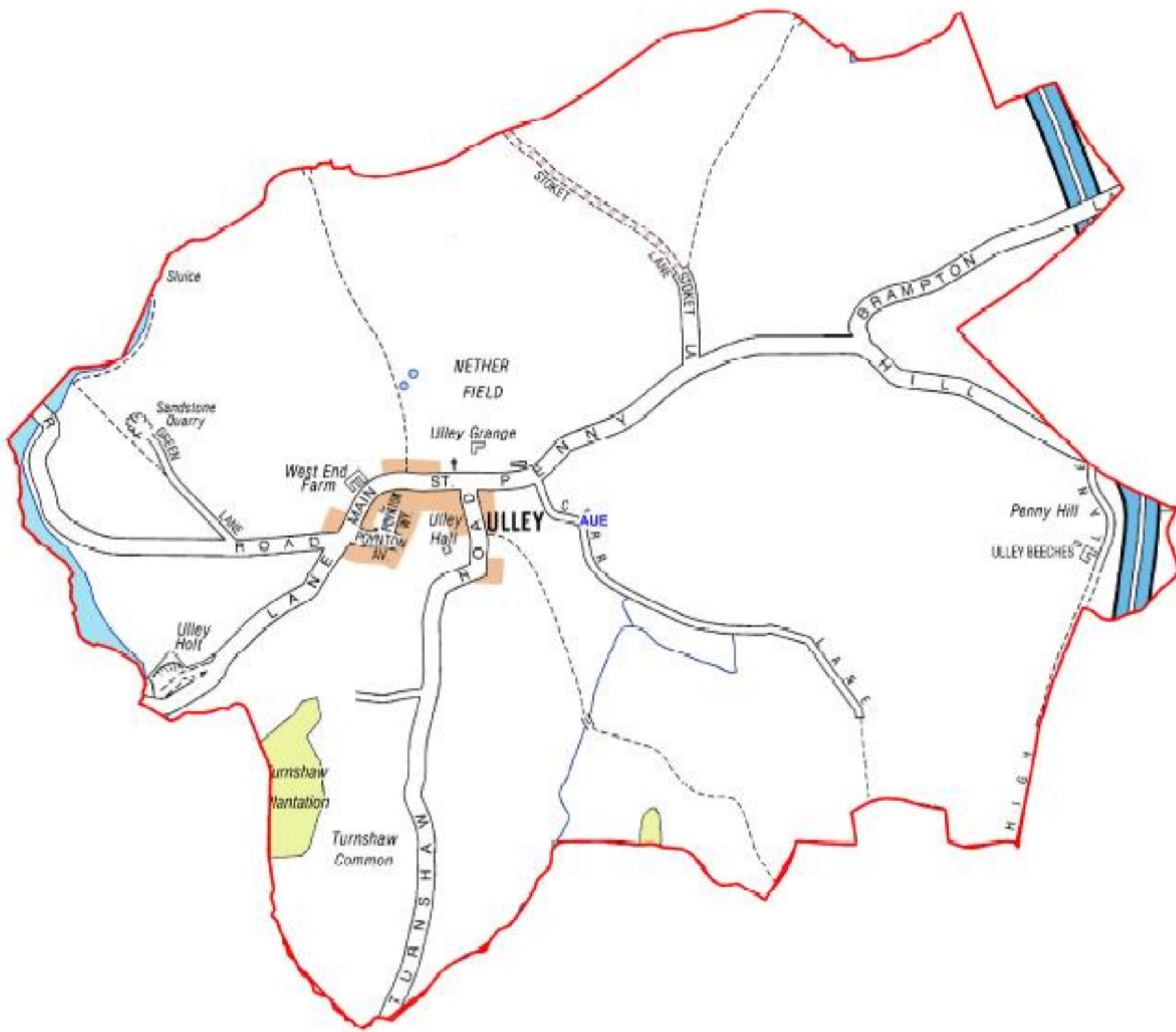
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Ulley Parish Council



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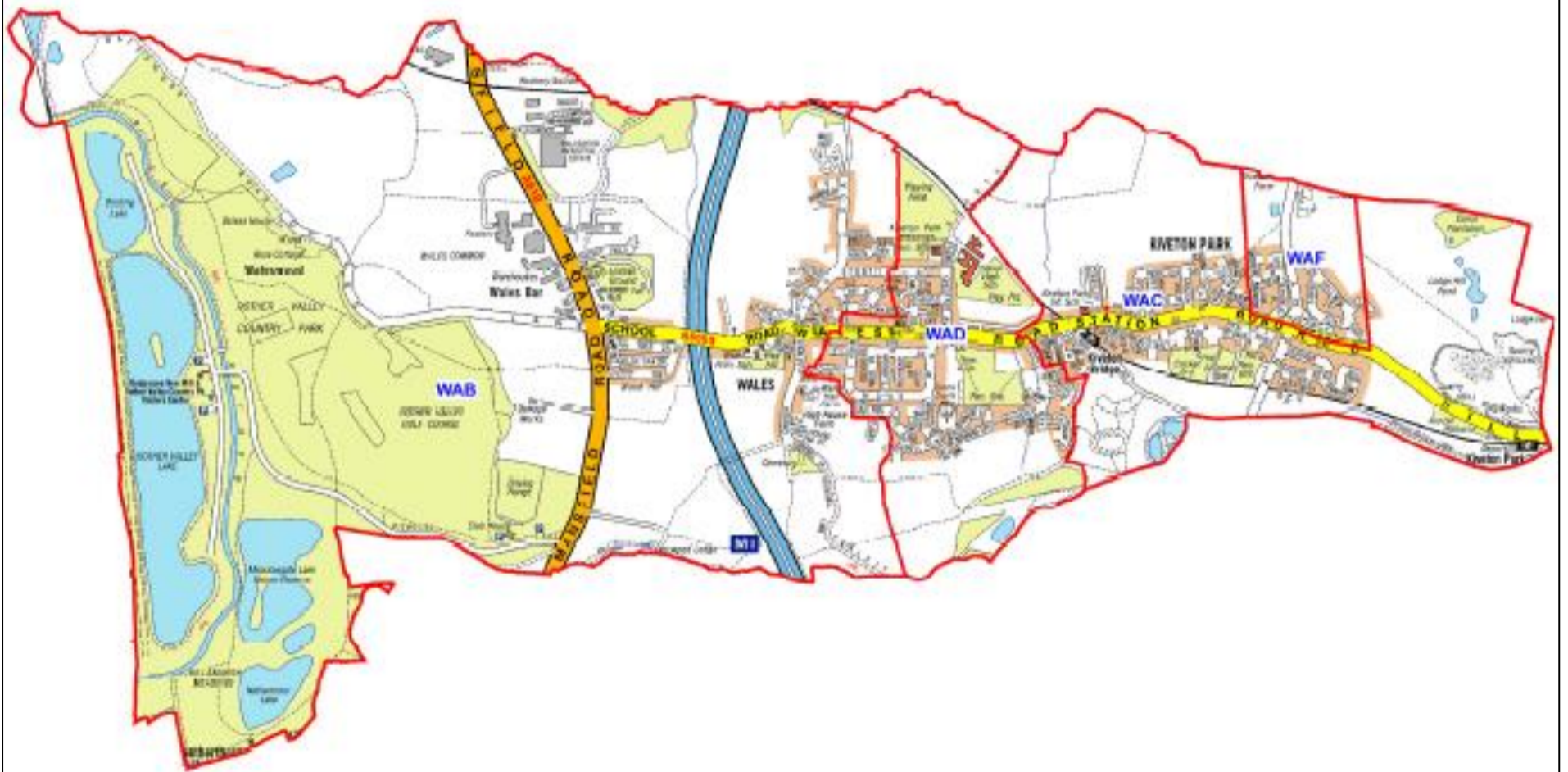
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Wales Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Kiveton Park	WAC & WAF
Wales	WAB & WAD



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Waverley Community Council



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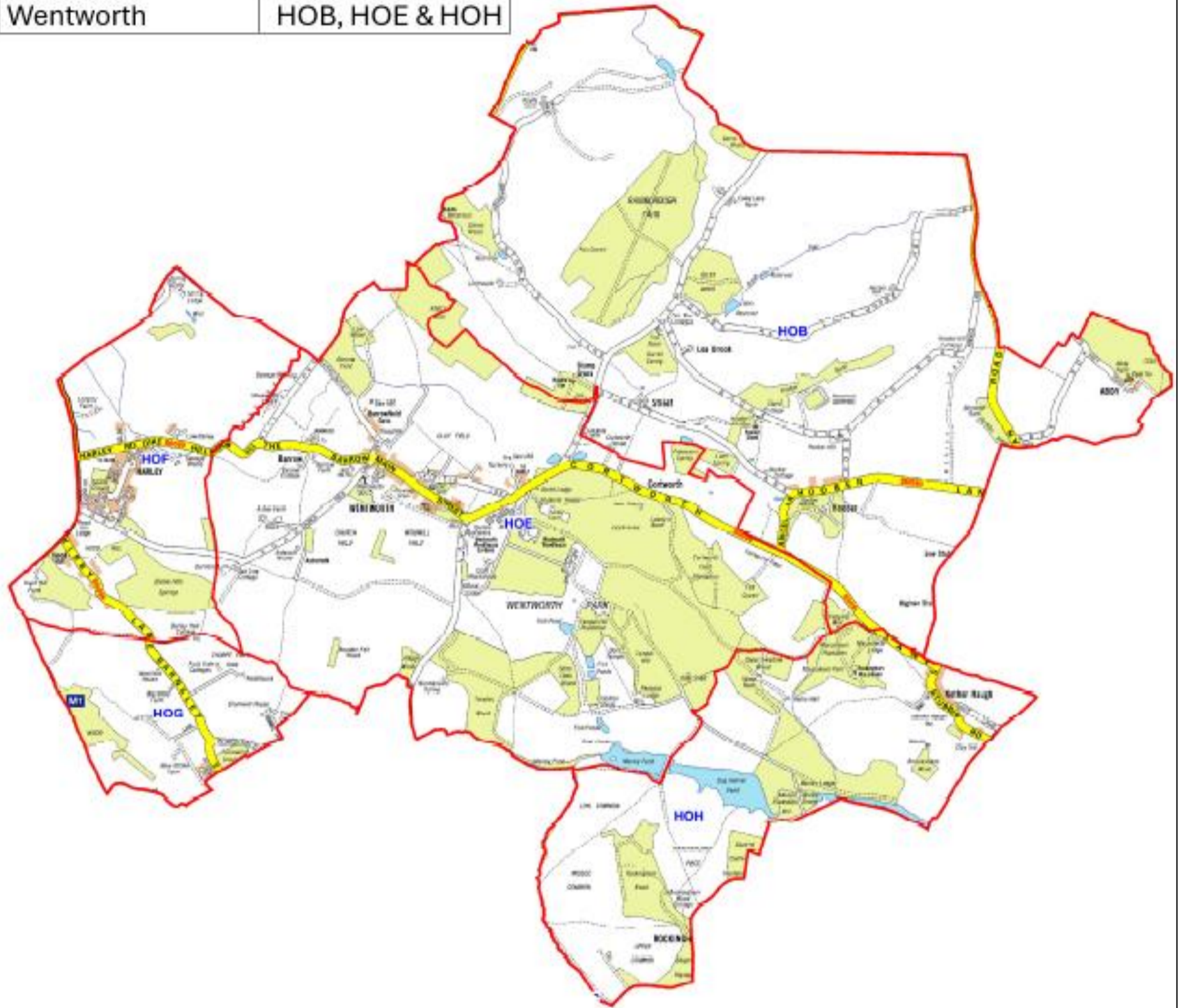
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Wentworth Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Harley	HOF & HOG
Wentworth	HOB, HOE & HOH



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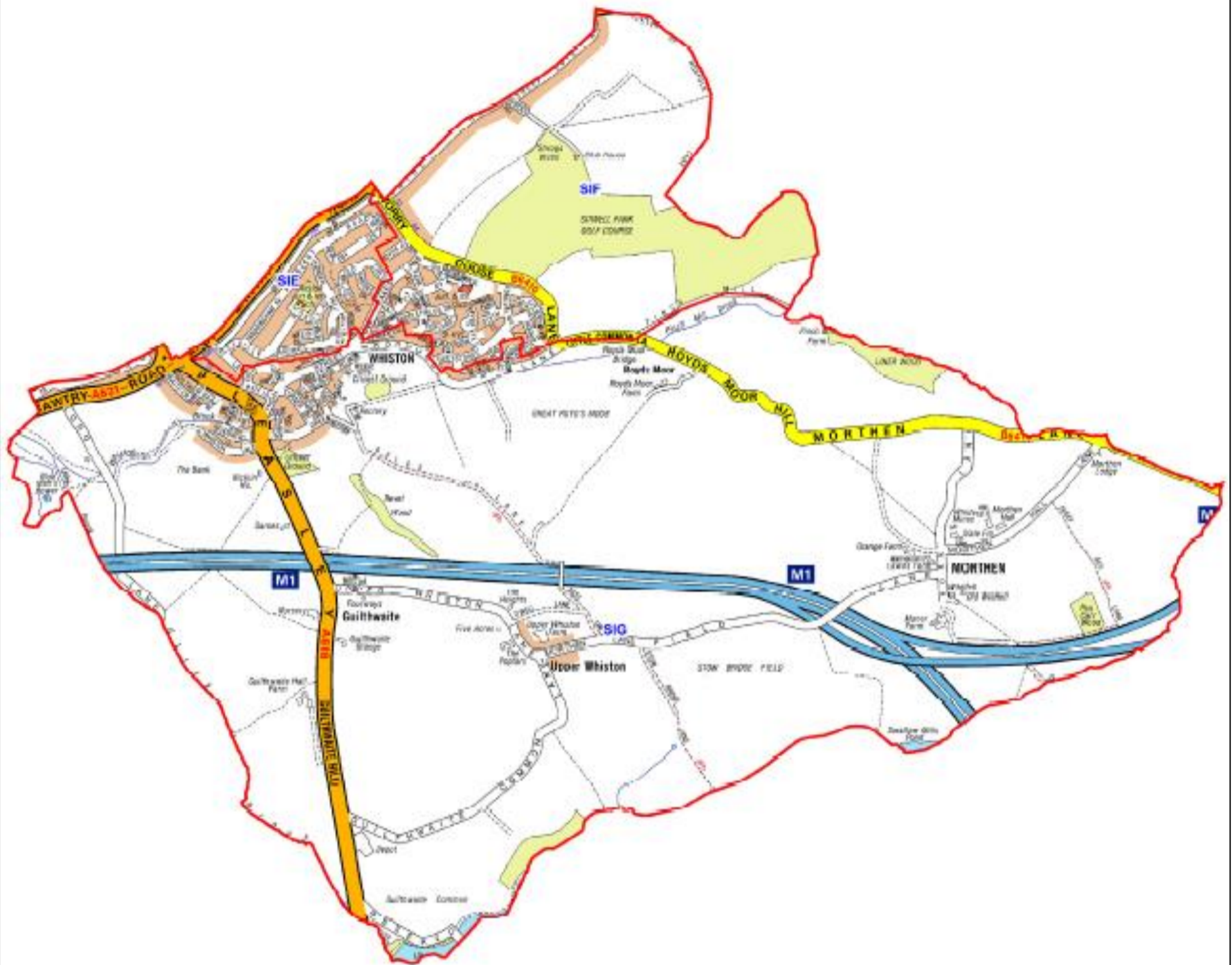


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Approved for publication by the Council
 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
 Corporate IT
 Planning Services
 17/03/2026
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Whiston Parish Council



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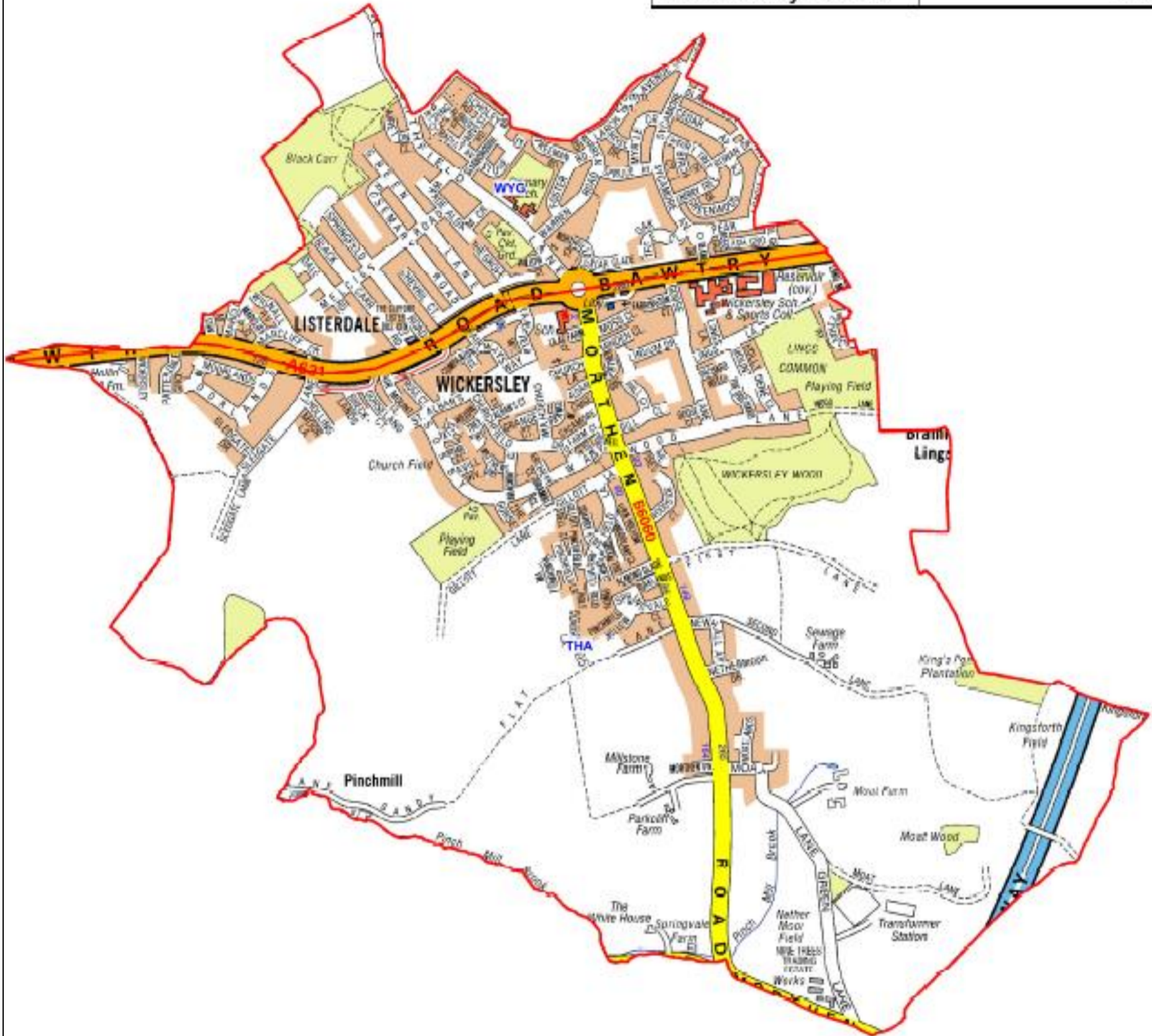


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Wickersley Parish Council

Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Wickersley North	WYG
Wickersley South	THA



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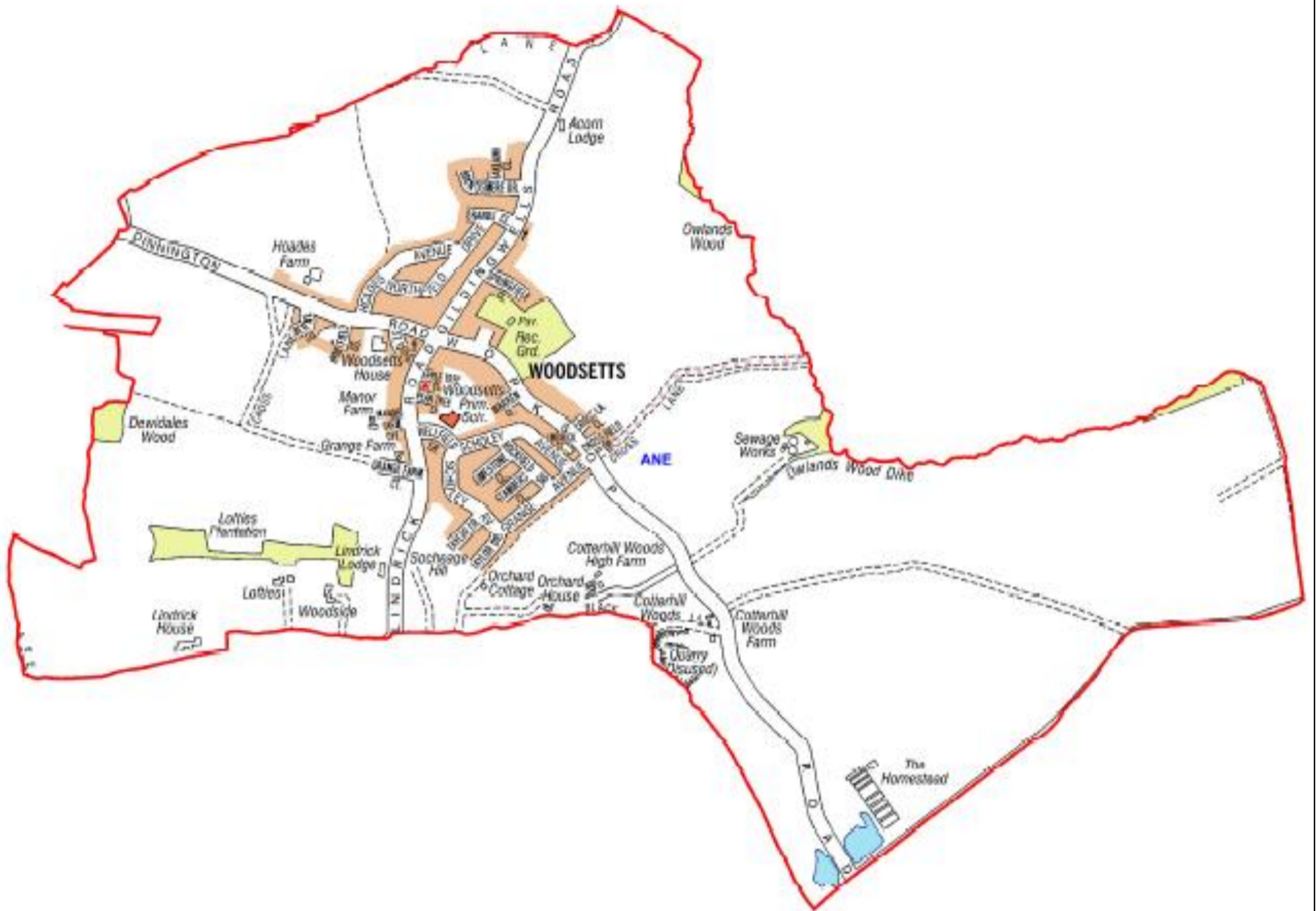


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Information on the Wickersley
 Wickersley Parish Council
 Corporate IT
 Website: www.wickersley.gov.uk
 Email: info@wickersley.gov.uk
 0114 272 1000

Woodsetts Parish Council



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Appendix 2 - Community Governance Review Timetable

Stage	Event	Date
Commencement	Publication of Terms of Reference	1 May 2026
1	Public consultation period	1 May 2026 to 26 June 2026
2	Submissions received are considered, and draft initial recommendations are prepared and considered by Cabinet.	July 2026 to September 2026
3	Draft recommendations are published. Public consultation period on draft recommendations.	October 2026 to November 2026
4	Submissions are received and considered and final recommendations are prepared	December 2026 to February 2027
	Cabinet to make final recommendations to Council	March 2027
	Final recommendations are considered by Council and a decision taken on the outcome of the review. Council resolves to make a reorganisation Order (if required).	April 2027
Implementation	Scheduled parish elections	4 May 2028

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title

Title:

Community Governance Review

Directorate:

Corporate Services

Service area:

Electoral Services

Lead person:

Mike Thomas

Contact:
Mike.thomas@rotherham.gov.uk
01709 823 268

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify: Statutory public consultation

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

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes and abolishment of parishes to principal councils.

The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. The review process is known as a Community Governance Review (CGR).

When carrying out a CGR, regard must be given to the 2010 Communities and Local Government and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's

Guidance on community governance reviews as set out in section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007.

CGRs are undertaken to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to facilitate effective and convenient local governance and reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

In developing final recommendations for local governance arrangements for parish and town council areas the Council seeks to ensure that proposals:

- reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
- are effective and convenient; and
- take into consideration any other arrangements that might facilitate community representation and engagement.

A Community Governance Review may look at the following in respect of parishes:

- amending existing parishes / parish names
- establishing parish councils
- councillor numbers
- grouping / de-grouping / amalgamating parishes
- creating / abolishing parishes
- recommendations in respect of electoral arrangements (including warding arrangements, name of wards and councillors to be elected to parish wards)

Following the review, the final recommendations must go to Council for approval and resolve to make an Order to bring any approved recommendations into effect at the next scheduled elections on 4 May 2028.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x

Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

A CGR is a statutory process that provides all stakeholders an opportunity to contribute their views about the existing parish council arrangements. The outcome of the review can include the amendment, creation or abolishment of a parish council. The CGR process does not have any specific impact on equality and diversity.

The consultation will be available online and printed copies in all Rotherham libraries. Consultation drop-in events will also be held in different areas of the Borough to provide the opportunity for all residents to take part.

Information can be requested in alternative formats, including large print and different languages.

An Equality Analysis (Part B) is not required at this stage of the CGR processes; however, it may be required depending on the impact of the draft recommendations, which will be developed following the initial round of public consultation.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**
N/A
- **Key findings**
N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions N/A 	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Horsfield	Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services	10/03/2025

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	03/03/2026
Report title and date	Community Governance Review, 27/02/2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Community Governance Review, 03/03/2026 – publication date (Cabinet on 13 April 2026)
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	03/03/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	During the consultation, it may be necessary for Electoral Services staff to travel to different parts of the Borough to conduct visits and consultation events, resulting in vehicle emissions from the journeys. It is likely that this impact will be very small.	There may be some vehicle emissions from residents choosing to travel by car to any public consultation events or their local library to view a hardcopy of the consultation documents.	<p>The consultation will be available online.</p> <p>For those wishing to view a hardcopy of the consultation, copies will be made available in all of Rotherham's libraires.</p> <p>Electoral Services staff will car share where possible, when conducting any visits or consultation events around the Borough.</p> <p>Where possible, any consultation events will take place in locations across the Borough to minimise travel distances for residents.</p>	No additional monitoring possible. Where vehicles utilised are officers' personal vehicles emissions will be monitored as part of the Council's annual reporting process through the mileage claim process.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	A small increase in waste may be produced from paper copies of consultation materials. This is likely to have a negligible impact on the Council's emissions.		Hardcopies will be only available where necessary to ensure all relevant parties across the Borough are able to access the consultation, noting variances in digital accessibility and proficiency.	Impacts are likely to small to measure.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: N/A					

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

There are no significant impacts expected relating to resilience as a result of this decision.

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

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years.

When carrying out a review, the Council must consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. As well as carrying out online consultation, hardcopies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel to view it.

To minimise the distances residents, would have to travel to any consultation events held as part of the review, the locations will be chosen to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough. When travelling to consultation events, where possible, Electoral Services staff will car share.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Mike Thomas Electoral Services Manager Electoral Service Corporate Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 609 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title

Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk

Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager

Katie.stead@rotherham.gov.uk

Chloe Harrop, Corporate Improvement Officer

Chloe.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In May 2025, the Council adopted a new Council Plan for 2025-30, 'Forging Ahead'. The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

A Year Ahead Delivery Plan is created annually to enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the priorities and commitments. It builds upon the previous year's progress and takes account of recent budget investments and external changes.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 sets out the activities to be delivered over the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, and associated measures of performance for this time period.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Agree the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026-27.
2. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026-27

Appendix 2 – Equality Analysis

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment.

Background Papers

Council Plan 2025-30 approved by Council on 21 May 2025.

Council Plan 2025-30 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025-26 considered by Cabinet on 19 May 2025.

Mid-Year Report on Council Plan 2025-30 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2025-26 considered by Cabinet on 19 January 2026.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026-27

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 is a key document, which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.
- 1.2 To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the priorities and commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan is created annually to set out the activities and performance measures required.
- 1.3 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan is the second delivery plan that has been produced to deliver this Council Plan. It sets out the key activities to be delivered over the upcoming financial year ending 31 March 2027.
- 1.4 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan has been informed by the most recent review of performance and progress against the delivery of the 2025/26 Year Ahead Delivery Plan, the budget investments agreed for 2026/27, the Council's risk register and changes in the external environment.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan 2025-30 sets out medium-term priorities and actions to make improvements for local people and places. The Plan is framed around the following five outcomes:
 - Places are thriving, safe, and clean.
 - An economy that works for everyone.
 - Children and young people achieve.
 - Residents live well.
 - One Council that listens and learns.
- 2.2 Alongside the 5 strategic outcomes, the Council Plan identifies 17 priorities to be delivered, including defined differences that will be seen between 2025 and 2030. Meanwhile, the 30 long-term measures of success set out the changes to be realised across the Borough through the delivery of the Council Plan.
- 2.3 The 2026/27 Year Ahead Delivery Plan includes 81 priority actions and 35 performance measures, alongside a further 12 social care measures. Priority actions are broken down as follows.

2.4 ***Places are thriving, safe and clean***

32 priority actions and 6 performance measures.

Measures to help people feel safe in their communities include producing draft ward road safety plans, commencing work on tranche 2 of the local neighbourhood road safety programme and delivering the work of the Street Safe team. Council investment in public spaces and community facilities across the Borough is accompanied by a varied cultural programme of events to support and reflect vibrant communities. Essential bridge repairs and flood alleviation schemes are included, alongside the phased replacement of Council fleet vehicles as part of a suite of measures to create better public spaces. The continuing commitment to town centre revitalisation sees Rotherham Central Library opening and Riverside Gardens completed.

2.5 ***An economy that works for everyone***

8 priority actions and 8 performance measures.

Partnership work continues to progress the Don Valley Corridor development, including Rotherham Gateway and Waverley station opportunities. More than 600 businesses will be supported by investment into business centres and targeted advisory services and grants to aid growth and local employment opportunities. The Council continues to support the wider skills agenda by delivering apprenticeship opportunities within its workforce, as well as supporting 1,000 residents into training and/or employment.

2.6 ***Children and young people achieve***

10 priority actions and 7 performance measures.

Reflecting the Council's commitment to ensuring children and young people have fun things to do an extra 10,000 places are being made available on the Healthy Holidays activity programme and over 1,200 youth work sessions are being provided by the voluntary and community sector. The Council is also investing in improvements to 8 playgrounds and Crowden Outdoor Activity Centre facilities. Financial support is being made available for eligible families through the Crisis and Resilience Funding in the summer holidays and baby packs will continue to be delivered. Two registrations will be submitted for 2-bed homes for children in care.

2.7 ***Residents live well***

19 priority actions and 10 performance measures.

As part of its commitment to better physical and mental wellbeing, the cost of swimming for the over 65s is being discounted, and the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium is being renewed. The Council is continuing to provide a Council Tax support top up scheme and crisis support scheme for residents struggling with the costs of living. The Council is also delivering a further 150 new council houses as part of its commitment to create 1,000 Council homes and bringing 25 empty homes back into use.

2.8 ***One Council that listens and learns***

12 priority actions and 4 performance measures.

To create a better customer experience, residents will receive improved online services, including new systems for complaints, trees and housing repairs. The Council will continue to work with its partners to launch the new Rotherham Plan and gain tenant engagement accreditation. An action plan will be developed around the areas of improvement from the employee opinion survey as part of the priority to create a workforce that is ambitious and proud. Actions to respond to climate change include investing in solar panels on the town centre market and library buildings, energy conservation measures in council premises and tree planting.

2.9 ***Social care measures***

12 performance measures

The Council regularly reviews performance against these key strategic measures in adult and children's social care. For 2026/27 a new measure, SC5 'the proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met' is proposed for inclusion. This will replace the SC2 measure 'number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people as a rate per 100K population' that had been included in the 2025/26 plan, given the duplication of that measure with SC3, where this is expressed as a number. The measures regarding children's social care remain unchanged on the 2025/26 plan.

2.10 **Monitoring Performance**

Six-monthly progress reports will be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports will include progress and performance updates on the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. The year-end progress report will include an update on the long-term measures of success. It is proposed that the mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, is reported to Cabinet in January 2027 and year-end report for the period October 2026 to March 2027 is reported to Cabinet in July 2027.

Service plans have been produced for every Council service, and these are reviewed annually alongside the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan to ensure a 'golden thread' runs from the Council Plan through to each service. This complements the 'My Year Ahead Delivery Plan' Performance Development Review (PDR) process at individual officer level.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 was developed in consultation with Elected Members and officers across all directorates and informed by public consultation.

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Agree the Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27.

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

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The programme of public consultation and engagement to support the development of the Council Plan took place between September and November 2024. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups (internal and external), and a series of short interactions and engagement activity at a number of locations across the borough. There were 214 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,960 interactions in total across all methods of engagement.
- 4.2 The consultation and engagement activity included speaking with voluntary and community groups which represent protected characteristic groups, as well as attendance at the Parish Council Network, direct engagement with the public and a session open to all elected members.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 A six-monthly progress report will be presented to Cabinet in January 2027. A year-end progress report will be presented to Cabinet in July 2027, this will incorporate the annual update on the long term measures of success.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are designed to help steer the use of Council finances, balanced against the wider funding backdrop for the Council and the broader context of national local government finance and policy. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report, but the plan's delivery will require close financial management to ensure that financial implications are within budget, and longer-term implications that may be generated by the Plan are factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.2 The Council operates in a constantly changing environment. It will be important to ensure that ambitions and performance targets remain realistic in the context of central government policy, legislative changes and the financial position of the Authority. The financial impact of delivery of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan will therefore need to be monitored as part of the Council's financial management arrangements and considered alongside the Council's overall financial position.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. Where the engagement of third party suppliers is required to deliver the year ahead delivery plan, these must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Procurement Act 2023 or The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023)

dependent on the route to market selected as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council to have a Performance Management Framework and Council Plan, being clear about the Council's ambitions gives staff, partners, residents, and central Government a clear understanding of what it seeks to achieve and how it will prioritise its spending decisions.
- 7.2 An effective and embedded Council Plan is also a key part of the Council's performance management and continual improvement.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report, however, should any workforce matters emerge during the delivery of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, these will be managed in line with the Council's established HR policies and procedures, including consultation with staff and Trade Union representatives where appropriate. No issues are anticipated at this stage, and any requirements relating to staffing, training or changes to working practices will be addressed through normal management processes.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Council Plan has a core focus on the needs of children and young people and vulnerable adults, and this is embedded throughout all outcomes of the plan, particularly 'children and young people achieve' and 'residents live well'.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Three cross cutting policy drivers run throughout the plan. One of these includes 'opportunities are expanded to all' to ensure that the Council creates new opportunities, with help targeted to those who need it the most, so no one is left behind. All outcomes aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs.
- 10.2 A detailed Equality Analysis is attached (see Appendix 2).

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The 'one council that listens and learns' outcome has a focus around reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and the environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome also includes actions focussed on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas.

11.2 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been produced (see Appendix 3).

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Working with partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors is integral to the delivery of the Council Plan, and partners have been consulted as part of its development. All the outcomes require multi-agency approaches to some degree and the Council will continue to show effective leadership, operating through a range of strategic partnership bodies.

12.2 The Rotherham Plan 2025, the overarching partnership plan for the Borough, will be replaced with an updated plan in 2026. The Rotherham Plan will align with and complement the Council Plan, setting out partners' joint ambitions to improve outcomes for local people.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register is aligned to the new Council Plan outcomes and the process of updating and identifying strategic risks is already designed to manage risks connected to the plan.

13.2 Progress reports will continue to note the risks associated with actions at risk of not being delivered, or those that have missed the deadline, as well as performance measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/03/26
Service Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	23/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	23/03/26

Report Author:

*Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Chloe Harrop, Corporate Improvement Officer*

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

Outcome: Places are thriving, safe and clean						
Ref	Priorities	Activity	Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
P1	Helping people to feel safe in their communities	Commence works on site for all projects in tranche 2 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P2		Produce drafts of the first 12 Ward Road Safety Plans, ahead of public consultation in 2027–28.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P3		Tackle hate crime incidents and the drivers of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 children and young people to attend group sessions • 55 one to one sessions 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P4		Deliver at least 50 enforcement interventions, including formal warnings, FPNs and notices	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P5		Ensure that a minimum of 70% of enforcement (formal or informal) actions across the Community Protection Unit result in compliance or cessation of Anti-Social Behaviour. <i>Enforcement actions include (but are not limited to): Formal ASB interventions, Community Protection Warnings/Notices, Fixed Penalty Notices, abatement notices, statutory enforcement letters, and prosecutions issued by Community Protection and Environmental Health team</i> <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P6	Creating vibrant communities	Delivery of Ward Plans – members to complete a mid-term review of their ward priorities and the activity within plans to address them.	Quarter 1	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
P7		Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy – how the Council supports members in their community leadership role within their wards.	Quarter 2	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
P8		Refresh the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy - how the council and partners will continue to integrate services at a	Quarter 4	Head of Neighbourhoods	Policy, Strategy &	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

		neighbourhood level, take a strength-based approach and maximise the opportunity to involve communities in the co-production of service delivery, projects and initiatives			Engagement	Children and Young People
P9		Complete Our Places Fund work at Maltby.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P10		Complete Our Places Fund work at Swinton.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P11		Appoint contractor for Our Places Fund cenotaphs and Memorials improvements.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P12		Appoint a contractor to deliver works, including public realm improvements, to civic centres as part of Our Places Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street and Haugh Road in Rawmarsh, • Broad Street in Parkgate and • Gray Avenue in Swallownest. 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P13		Deliver a varied cultural events programme for the borough, including events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roots • St George's Day Celebration • WOW Rotherham • Uplift Urban Sports Festival • Rotherham Show • Bonfire Night • Christmas Lights' Switch On • Winter Story Festival • Civic events 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P14		Recruitment of a Supporting High Streets team, of 3 Business Advisors. Focused primarily on Town Centre, Dinnington, Maltby, Wath and Swinton.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P15		Appoint contractor for construction of Dinnington High Street regeneration project.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P16		Complete the demolition of Wath library.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P17		Complete the £600k investment in community facilities across the borough to sustain and enable the participation in activities and engagement within them. <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Black Hut • Clifton Learning Centre • Oaklea Retreat • The Meeting Place • United Multifaith Community Centre 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property & Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastwood Community Centre • Artworks 				
P18	Better public spaces	Commission a contractor to enable construction works on the Old Flatts Bridge Parapet Repair to begin.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P19		Complete design work for replacement of building at Ulley Country Park.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P20		Procure a contractor for the Treeton Lane, Catcliffe Bridge Replacement project detailed design.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P21a		Commence works for the Whiston Brook Flood alleviation scheme.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P21b		Complete the design and approval phase for the Eel Mires Dyke Flood Alleviation Scheme.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P22		Complete the recruitment of the new Roadside Cleaning team phase 2, linked to 2026/27 budget investment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P23		Complete the in-sourcing of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P24		<p>Complete redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country Park including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the new café and events space • Deliver improvements to the play area • Appoint new staff to enhance the overall visitor experience. 	<p>Quarter 1</p> <p>Quarter 1</p> <p>Quarter 2</p>	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P25		Purchasing of new machinery to ensure green spaces site can be maintained to the highest standards.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
P26		Complete draft designs for five pedestrian crossings in preparation for consultation.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P27		Complete feasibility work to develop potential interventions at Treeton Crossroads and engage with local stakeholders to inform the preferred scheme design, ahead of design completion in 2027/28.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
P28		Deliver prioritised minor transport improvements brought forward by Ward Members and communities.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy

P29a		Maintain the proportion of 'Principal' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair) <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P29b		Maintain the proportion of the 'Non-Principal' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P29c		Maintain the proportion of the 'Unclassified' road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P30		Issue a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P31		Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
P32	Revitalising the Town Centre	Open the new Rotherham Central Library to the public.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P33		Complete construction works for Health Hub phase 1.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P34		Complete construction of Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
P35		Complete consultation and produce the draft Town Centre masterplan.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

Outcome: An economy that works for everyone

Ref	Priorities	Activity	Timescales for completion (Quarter)	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
E1	Developing the economy	Launch of the Don Valley Corridor development partnership and proposition at UKREiiF.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E2		In accordance with the Council's Capital Programme, carry out a number of improvement works to Business Centres across the Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Century Business – Roof works, including provision of solar panels, decoration and fire and compliance upgrades. • Dinnington Matrix – Decoration and fire/compliance improvements within the building. 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E3		Support up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other high streets through the Shop Unit Grants programme. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E4		Help 60 new businesses to start up by providing support through Business Centres and Launchpad. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E5		Provide advice and support to 550 local businesses <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E6		Provide targeted support through a key account management service to 60 medium/large and/or high-growth local businesses, recognising their role in driving local growth and local employment. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E7		Enhancing skills	Through Pathways to Work, commence a programme of subsidised work placements, supporting young people (16-30 yrs), currently NEET, to move towards, and into employment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment
E8	Develop an apprenticeship plan which tracks employment in the Council once new starter apprentices have completed their apprenticeship.		Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council

E9a		Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: a) 40% progressing into work or training. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E9b		b) 25% progressing into meaningful employment. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>				
E9c		c) 35% progressing into training <i>(KPI output measure)</i>				
E10		Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5%. <i>(Schools data will continue to be reported in this output but detailed as a separate figure)</i> <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
E11	Connecting people to opportunity	Agree the contracting strategy for the design and delivery of Rotherham Gateway rail infrastructure.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E12		Produce a regeneration plan to improve the public realm and consider land uses along the corridor from Rotherham Gateway Station to the Town Centre.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E13		Work with SYMCA to progress an enhanced OBC for a new station at Waverley.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration & Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
E14		Embed early careers approaches by increasing engagement with directorates around work experience, internships and graduate schemes which supports future workforce and inclusion activity across the Council.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council

Outcome: Children and young people achieve

Ref	Priorities	Activity	Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
C1	Ensuring children and young people have fun things to do	Deliver an extra 10,000 places throughout the year as part of Healthy Holidays Activity programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C2		Continue to embed the legacy and learning from Children's Capital of Culture through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of an Alumni programme for previous trainees from the programme to continue their professional development in Rotherham. The development of a Creative Learning Strategy to support creative and cultural education in school settings. The creation of a Participation & Engagement post to be hosted by Rotherham Civic and continue the delivery of Arts Award supporting 100 young people to gain qualifications and confidence. 	Quarter 3 Quarter 4 Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport & Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
C3		Deliver improvements to eight playgrounds across the borough as part of the ongoing Children's Playgrounds Programme.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport & Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
C4		Refresh the self-catering and recreational facilities at Crowden Outdoor Education Centre to improve and enhance facilities for children using the centre.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education and Inclusion	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C5		Commission the voluntary and community sector to deliver 1275 universal youth work sessions so that young people have access to activities across the borough. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Service	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C6	Enable children and young people to thrive	Deliver a scheme to provide financial support for families with children during the school summer holidays as part of the measures agreed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).	Quarter 1	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
C7		Increase permanent staffing by 2 FTE Educational Psychologists to create capacity for a targeted early intervention offer that supports schools to implement a whole	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education and Inclusion	Children & Young People's	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

		school inclusive approach for children with SEND			Services	
C8		Implement the new education case management system.	Quarter 3	Joint Service Director of Commissioning, Quality and Performance	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C9		Deliver Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people to increase independence, through the Home to School Transport Policy. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C10		Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges, to enhance their career provision through the Careers Hub project. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C11		Deliver Baby Packs to all eligible Rotherham Families who have requested one. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C12		Ensure that at least 80% of families register their children with a Family Hub, within 6 months of birth. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C13		Family Help Outreach and Engagement to deliver 1900 support sessions to families with children aged 0-5 years. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C14		Issue 65% of Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective support when needed, in quarter 4 <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Education & Skills	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C15a	Keeping children and young people safe from harm	Provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough. Submit registration for a fifth two-bedroom home. (W)	Quarter 1	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

C15b		Submit registration for a sixth two-bedroom home. (N)	Quarter 3		Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
C16		Implement the new Families First delivery model which includes early intervention, a whole-family approach, and strengthened multi-agency partnerships to provide targeted, timely support that keeps families together (as currently defined by Department for Education).	Quarter 4	Service Director of Family Help	Children & Young People's Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Outcome: Residents live well

Ref	Priorities	Activity	Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
R1	Better physical and mental wellbeing	Pilot half price discount on swimming for over 65s at all Rotherham leisure centres (Aston, Maltby, Rotherham and Wath).	Quarter 1	Service Director Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
R2		Submit a bid for Sport England Place Expansion main award grant funding to support continued Moving Rotherham delivery.	Quarter 3	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R3		Renew the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
R4		Ensure delivery of 8,500 NHS Health Checks to Rotherham residents per year. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R5		Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to set a smoking quit date per year. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Director of Public Health	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R5	Assisting people to live independent, safe and well	Achieve endorsement at Cabinet for the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-29.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R6		Deliver the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, providing up to £131.44 to working households in receipt of council tax support.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R7		Deliver a Crisis Support Scheme to provide a one-off payment to support residents that are in financial difficulty.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R8		Co-design with voluntary and community sector partners and agree a new three-year crisis support scheme.	Quarter 3	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy & Engagement	Leader of the Council

R9		Launch the Adult Social Care Involvement Framework to strengthen the voice of people with lived experience in the shaping and delivery of services.	Quarter 1	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R10		Amplify the voice of people with lived experience through establishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A voice sub-group to the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board. - A mental health partnership board to ensure the voice of people with mental ill health can shape local services (Mental Health Strategy Priority) - Voice forums as part of the delivery of the Learning Disability Strategy 2024-27 and the All-Age Autism Strategy 2024-27. <i>(Peer Review Recommendation)</i>	Quarter 3	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration Service Director of Strategic Commissioning	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R11		Launch Thrive at Castle View, our new day opportunities service to meet complex care and support needs closer to home.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R12		Empower people in their adult social care journey by launching an online self-assessment.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
R13		Support 1,300 residents per year with specialist Welfare Rights, advice and appeals. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R14		Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
R15		Ensure 98% of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support are dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Financial Services	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
R16	Good quality, affordable homes for all	Establish and effectively operate Selective Licensing Stakeholder Panels, including the recruitment of the Community Impact engagement roles agreed as part of the 2026/27 budgets, with quarterly meetings and annual reporting on compliance, property standards and engagement.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Housing
R17a		Start on site for the delivery of 20 new Council homes on the Tenter Street site in Thornhill.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R17b		Start on site for the delivery of 31 new Council homes across 2 sites at Eastwood	Quarter 1	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing

R18a	Complete the delivery of 27 new Council homes on the Addison Road site in Maltby	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18b	Complete the delivery of 16 new Council homes on the Larch Road site in Maltby.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18c	Complete the delivery of 6 new Council homes on the Valley Drive site in Wath.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R18d	Deliver 101 new Council homes through acquisition (from private sector housebuilders as part of their planning obligations or direct from the open market) or through our innovative Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R19	Complete the refurbishment works across existing council homes in Kimberworth Park, The Lanes, East Herringthorpe, Richmond Park and Swinton Fitzwilliam	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R20	Bring at least 35 long term private sector empty homes back into use through Council support or intervention. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R21	Complete full stock condition surveys of 6000 properties during 2026/27. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R22	Reduce the average length of stay in Council Temporary Accommodation to less than 6 months. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R23	98% of repairs completed in time (emergency) <i>To align with TSMs. To be confirmed</i> <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
R24	Deliver year 2 of the Warm Homes retrofit scheme providing insulation, solar panels and ventilation to 350 council homes.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing

Outcome: One Council that listens and learns

Ref	Priorities	Activity	Timescales for completion (Quarter and month)	Lead officer	Lead directorate	Lead Cabinet Member
1	Better customer experience	Deliver an improved and wider range of online services for our customers including a new Complaints system (qtr1), a new Trees system (qtr1) and improvements to Housing Repairs (qtr3).	Quarter 3	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
2		Ensure strong cyber security is in place across all IT systems and data managed by the Council by recruiting two new cyber security officers	Quarter 2	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
3		Customer telephone wait time in the corporate contact centre averages 2.5 minutes or below. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Customer, Information & Digital	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
4		Respond to 85% or above of complaints within timescales. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
5		Reduce the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management to <190. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
6	Working in partnership with our communities	Develop and launch the new Rotherham Plan with partners at a showcase event.	Quarter 1	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Leader of the Council
7		Secure Tpas Exemplar Status. Tpas (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) is England's leading tenant engagement organisation who offer independent accreditation.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Housing	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	Cabinet Member for Housing
8	A workforce that is ambitious and proud	The recruitment approach will be flexible to ensure our strategy reflects the communities we serve and is aligned with year one deliverables on the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan.	Quarter 4	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Leader of the Council
9		Agree an action plan around required areas of improvement arising from the employee opinion survey.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
10	Responding to Climate Change	Reduce reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre.	Quarter 3	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy

11		To work with a number of partners in developing a broader climate sustainability strategy including those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	Quarter 4	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
12		Deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan, through the provision of energy conservation measures (solar, heat pumps, insulation etc.) to the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library • Peacock Lodge Children's Home 	Quarter 2	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
13		Conclude the procurement of all vehicles from the Phase 1 Fleet Replacement Programme.	Quarter 2	Service Director of Community Safety & Street Scene	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety
14		Deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan to 16 sites that are proposed in the Council's Climate Energy Annual Report (2026/27).	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
15		Install the Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure at the following sites utilising existing EVI Council Capital: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, S65 2HR • Rosehill Victoria Park, S62 7HJ • Parking on Highway, Woodlaithes, S66 3ZL 	Quarter 4	Service Director of Property and Facilities Service	Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and Local Economy
16		Plant at least 500 trees across the borough. <i>(KPI output measure)</i>	Quarter 4	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism	Regeneration & Environment	Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety

Social Care performance measures					
Ref	Social Care performance measure	Good is	Lead officer	Service area	Target
SC1	Proportion of adults with social care support, remaining at home.	N/A	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration	Adult Social Care	n/a
SC3	Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people.	Low	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		330
SC4	Proportion of Adults who were enabled to be independent after short term at home support	N/A	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		90%
SC5	Proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support.	Better than national average	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		Better than national average
SC6	The proportion of adults involved in a safeguarding enquiry who felt their personal outcomes were at least partially met.	High	Service Director of Adult Care & Integration		97%
SC7	Number of 0-17year old children who are a Child in Need as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding		Children and Young People
SC8	Number of 0-17year old children with a child protection plan as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	<55.0	
SC9	Number of 0-17year old children in care as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	<90.0	
SC10	Number of 0-17year old children open to the Family Help service as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	n/a	Service Director of Family Help	n/a	
SC11	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	n/a	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	n/a	
SC12	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CSE)	n/a	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	n/a	
SC13	Proportion of children and young people being referred to social care services for a second of subsequent time within 12 months.	Low	Service Director of Children's Safeguarding	<22%	

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PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): March 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Fiona Boden	Contact number: Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Oscar Holden	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer
Amy Walker	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement and Risk Officer
Chloe Harrop	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer
Kellie Rodgers	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Research Officer
Katie Stead	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager

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

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

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's strategic vision for the organisation, the borough and its communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery. It was approved by Council at its meeting in May 2025.

The Council Plan focuses around five strategic outcomes and aims to improve the lives of every resident in the borough. This means focusing extra attention where it is needed, ensuring that everyone can achieve their potential. Outcomes include:

- Places are thriving, safe and clean
- An economy that works for everyone
- Children and young people achieve
- Residents live well
- One Council that listens and learns

Year Ahead Delivery Plans are created to support delivery of the Council Plan 2025-30 by outlining the headline priorities, outcomes and measures each year. This Year Ahead Delivery Plan covers the 2026/27 financial year. It is the second Year Ahead Delivery Plan within the current Council Plan period.

The report focuses on the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27, which contains 81 priority actions/milestones and 35 headline performance measures that best demonstrate progress in achieving the five key outcomes.

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

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as from the 2021 census, and consultation on the Council Plan is provided here.

Population

- The borough's population is ageing with 52,228 residents aged 65 or over. At 19.6% of the total population, an increasing proportion of residents fall within this age bracket, which is also above the national average of 18.4%. This proportion of the population aged 65 or over is forecast to increase further to around 21% by 2026, with a particularly large increase in the number of people aged over 75.
- Population estimates suggest the population is continuing to increase in its diversity. The 2021 census indicates the proportion of residents from ethnic minority communities increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British, with 3.8% of residents in 2021 and 6.3% of school pupils in 2024/25.
- Rotherham's ethnic minority population is highly concentrated within the inner areas of the town centre in areas such as Boston Castle, Rotherham East and Rotherham West where 63.3% of the residents across the three wards are from White British backgrounds. The outer areas of Rotherham, however, are 93.6% White British in 2021. 39.7% of residents from ethnic minority backgrounds live in areas that are amongst the most deprived 10% of boroughs in England with that figure increasing for certain backgrounds (IMD, 2025). Whereas only 21.4% of the boroughs total population lives in the 10% most deprived areas.
- There is a decreasing trend in the number of residents who hold religious beliefs. In the 2021 Census, 39.8% of residents identified as holding no religious beliefs, compared to 22.5% in 2011. The number of people reporting Christianity as their religion has decreased from 66.5% in 2011 to 49% in 2021. The number of people reporting their religion as Muslim has increased from 3.7% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2021.

Economy

- 22% of Rotherham residents live within the 10% most deprived areas of England and the borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England. 11,904 children were living in "absolute poverty" (DWP, 2022/23).
- According to the Office of National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings in 2024, Rotherham women's gross full-time earnings averaged £570 per week, which equates to 79.6% of men's full-time earnings locally and 84.7% of women's full-time earnings nationally.
- During the 2025 Council Plan consultation as part of the counter exercise, the majority of respondents (90.3%) agreed that the Council should help to create new jobs, compared to not delivering this service (9.7%)

Health and Wellbeing

- The 2021 Census recorded Rotherham as having 56,177 residents with a long-term health problem or disability with 9.8% responding that this limits their activity a lot, above the England average of 7.3%. There was an overall decrease in people with a disability from 12% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2021, but despite this health inequality remains.

- Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Rotherham is 9.9 years lower for men and 9.5 years lower for women than in the least deprived. Gaps in healthy life expectancy are greater at over 18 years for men and nearly 20 years for women.

Resident Satisfaction Survey

The Council Plan includes a number of measures from the 2024 Resident Satisfaction Survey.

- **Satisfaction with Local Area as a Place to Live** – 75% of respondents reported feeling ‘very satisfied’ or ‘fairly satisfied’ with their local area as a place to live. This is the same as the national average (75%).
- **Satisfaction with Rotherham as a Place to Live** – 66% of respondents said that, overall, they were ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ satisfied. This was above the average across all the previous surveys (61.5%), although there has been considerable fluctuation in the responses to this question. Respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to feel satisfied with Rotherham as a place to live, with 74% satisfied. Respondents aged 25-34 had the lowest level of satisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live, with only 52% satisfied. Dissatisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live was highest amongst people aged 45-54.
- **Feelings of Safety** – 85% of respondents in Rotherham said they felt ‘very safe’ or ‘fairly safe’ during the day when outside in their local area (lower than the figures observed nationally at 91%). Feelings of safety in the local area after dark were lower (57%), when compared to the national average (71%). There was a significant gender difference in feelings of safety after dark – 62% of men but only 54% of women said they felt ‘very safe’ or ‘fairly safe’.
- **Feelings of Optimism** – 53% of respondents reported feeling ‘very optimistic’ or ‘fairly optimistic’ about the future of Rotherham as a place to live, slightly below the 54% average across all surveys. Younger respondents (aged 18-24) were the most likely to be optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live (70%) and women are more optimistic than men overall. Fewer respondents (27%) felt optimistic about the future of Rotherham Town Centre and 35% of respondents were not optimistic at all about the town centre. The cohort most optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre were young people aged 18-24 (46%), whereas people aged 55-64 were most likely to not be optimistic.
- **Keeping Residents Informed** – 45% of Rotherham respondents said that the Council keeps residents ‘very well’ or ‘fairly well’ informed about the services and benefits it provides. This is below the most recent national result (52%) and below the average percentage across all Rotherham surveys (50%). Younger respondents (aged 18-24) and older respondents (65+) were the cohorts most likely to think that the Council keeps residents well informed. It should be noted that this measure covers not only corporate communications but could also refer to face to face or any other types of council touchpoint that the customer experiences.
- **Responsiveness of Rotherham MBC** – 52% of respondents in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which RMBC acts on the

concerns of residents (i.e. 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount'). This is the highest response across all surveys and similar than the national average (47%). Respondents aged 25-34 were most likely to think that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents (60% responded positively) whilst those aged 55-64 were least likely to have this view.

- **Provisions of Values for Money** – 38% of Rotherham residents agreed that the Council provides value for money, an increase from the previous year (36%). This is the same percentage as the national figures (38%) and the first time that Rotherham and national data have aligned on this measure.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan

When the Year Ahead Delivery Plan is developed, services set out the action to be taken to ensure consideration of equality, diversity, and inclusion, including timescales for delivery for each individual milestone. These actions are reviewed as part of the milestone setting process and progress captured as part of the reporting process.

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

Consultation Engagement Profile

There was a total of 214 responses to the postal and online surveys for the Council Plan. This was a return rate of 8%, above the national average for postal survey responses of 3-4%. Overall, there were more responses from women than from men, more from older people than from younger people, and more from those identifying as White British than those from BAME backgrounds, as compared to the Rotherham population.

Women made up 59% of the respondents, compared to 41% male respondents. Compared to the age profile of the borough, respondents were older – 39% over 65s, as compared to 20% - and only 2% of respondents were under 24, compared with a borough figure of 29%. There was a good representation of the middle age groups (25–34-year-olds and 35-44-year-olds), whilst 21% respondents were aged 45–54-year-old, a figure above that of their proportion of the borough's population of 12%.

The religious make-up of respondents differed from Rotherham figures, with less of the respondents identifying as Christian (56% compared to 49%), and more stating no religion (36% compared to 40%). 2% of the respondents identified as Muslim, compared to the borough-wide figure of 5% (2021 Census). In terms of sexuality, 96% respondents identified as heterosexual, a proportion above the borough figures of 92%, 1% as bisexual, gay or lesbian, and 2% as prefer not to say.

95.4% of online and postal respondents identified as White British and 4.6% identified as an ethnic minority group. This included 2.3% Asian or Asian British, 0.8% Black or Black British, 0.8% White – Western European and 0.8% White – Other. To put this into context, in the 2021 Census, 88.3% of Rotherham residents identified as White British and 11.7% identified as ethnic minority groups.

Out of the respondents, 34% reported to have a disability. This compares with 21% of Rotherham residents who reported a long-term illness or disability in 2021. 19% of respondents stated they were unpaid carers.

Protected Characteristic Focus Groups

The consultation focus groups included a session with voluntary and community groups, which represented protected characteristic groups to participate in the discussions. Amongst these invitees was at least one group that work with communities representing each of the protected characteristics, however not all invited organisations attended.

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

Progress updates on the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan are published twice a year and considered by Cabinet and Scrutiny. They include progress in relation to actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and key performance measures. Supporting case studies are also provided.

As part of this monitoring process, services are required to set out progress on the delivery of equalities, diversity and inclusion outcomes for each individual action in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. These updates are reviewed and challenged as part of the monitoring process. They are reported as part of the internal monitoring and are also used to inform the public monitoring reports.

In addition, as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities are implemented, services are required to complete an equality screening and/or analysis to ensure due regard has been given and that there is an understanding of the effects of a strategy, policy, service or function on those from a protected characteristic group, where this is applicable to do so.

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

To help inform the priorities and actions in the Council Plan 2025-2030, various consultation exercises took place between September and November 2024. There were 1,963 interactions across all engagement methods. The consultation was part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public.

Engagement was made with residents through a variety of ways including online and postal surveys, focus groups and short interaction exercises to inform the Council and its partners' priorities over the next few years. The results have been analysed, and the findings were presented to Council, alongside the new Council Plan in May 2025.

Residents are consulted and engaged with in different ways by services when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities. The performance measures monitored include the Resident Satisfaction Survey, which is conducted annually. In July and August 2024, a statistically representative random sample of 500 Rotherham residents (aged 18 or over) was polled by landline telephone using quotas set by age and gender. The data was further weighted to reflect the age, gender and social grade profile of Rotherham. This ensures that the sample is as representative of

	adults in the borough as possible as there are often biases in the profile of people who respond to any survey. See results from 2024 survey above. The results from the 2025/26 survey are currently being analysed.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<p>Engagement with staff was undertaken through directorates with regards to identifying actions for the Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27. Staff also provided performance data and contributed to the equality actions and information.</p> <p>Drafts have been shared with the Service Director Group and Strategic Leadership Team.</p> <p>Throughout the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27, Cabinet Members are briefed.</p> <p>Staff at all levels were consulted as part of the consultation process for the new Council Plan 2025.</p>

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

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Of the five guiding principles, two in particular aim to meet residents and communities' differentiated needs:

- An economy that works for everyone
- Residents live well.

Residents live well encompasses the Council's priority to tackle inequality striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving. This will be done by striving to achieve the best outcomes for local people, ensuring that local residents are actively involved in the things that matter to them, and designing services based on input of those who use them. It also focuses on delivering tangible outputs, such as enhancing the quality of homes and supporting the overall health and wellbeing of residents. To complement this approach, an economy that works for everyone ensures that it connects residents to opportunity, providing work, education and financial opportunities in an inclusive manner that meets the needs of its population.

There is also an outcome focussed on helping people to feel safe in their communities within the 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome. This will involve providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need and taking a universal approach where appropriate whilst also providing target support to those who need it the most.

Furthermore, the underlying 'one council' theme encompasses two specific areas, which ensure different needs are met:

- Better customer experience.
- Working in partnership with our communities.

The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and inclusion. This will involve working with services and partners to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone. The commitment to work in partnerships with our communities embodies our commitment to utilising a strengths-based approach to improve the Council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

Three cross cutting policy drivers also run throughout the plan. One of these includes 'opportunities are expanded to all' to ensure that as new opportunities arise, the Council target help to those who most need it, so no one is left behind.

Within the **five outcomes of the Council Plan**, a series of universal offers are aimed at all of Rotherham's residents, while several actions are specifically aimed at tackling inequalities and issues of access. The following expands both on the universal and the targeted offers within each theme.

Places Are Thriving, Safe and Clean

Activities in this area are aimed at meeting the needs of all residents and ensure they benefit from thriving neighbourhoods. The priorities of making neighbourhoods welcoming and safe, neighbourhoods to be cleaner and greener, local people having access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces, improved local town and village centres, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving street safety are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Residents, organisations and businesses are encouraged and enabled to use their skills and resources to help others.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 includes the following actions aimed at improving equality, diversity and inclusion within this outcome:

- Tackle hate crime incidents and the drivers of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: 600 children and young people to attend group sessions, 55 one to one sessions.
- Progress on the delivery of ward plans through the continuation of the programme of ward member reports presented to Council from April 2026, which have been informed by local communities. Ward profile and census data (including details of communities with protected characteristics) have informed the development of ward plans. Ongoing conversations with Rotherham's communities have identified and recognised their strengths, understood what is important to them and jointly agreed how to table those priorities, including the delivery of integrated, accessible and responsive services that meet diverse needs.
- Refresh the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy which will reflect how the Council and partners will continue to integrate services at a neighbourhood level, take a strength-based approach and maximise the opportunity to involve communities in the co-production of service delivery, projects and initiatives.

- Our Places Fund work at Maltby and Swinton, both projects include resurfacing paving to provide a safer and more accessible surface for vulnerable users such as elderly residents and parents with prams. The public realm at Swinton is designed to deliver tactile paving that is suitable for visually impaired/disabled people, walking surfaces will also be even and accessible.
- Our Places Fund cenotaphs, memorials and Civic Centres, funding will focus on accessibility reparation works to future proof each location, improved green spaces and rest areas. Designs will include implementation of better disabled access routes, such as ramps, more seating and rest areas and adjusting ground levels where possible.
- Deliver cultural events in varied locations across the borough, including events such as Roots, WOW Rotherham, Uplift Urban Sports Festival, Rotherham Show and other civic events. There is a year-round programme of events which is underpinned by a series of programming principles which ensure events are accessible, representative of their communities and inclusive to all. The events are co-created with a range of communities in order to facilitate inclusion. Equalities monitoring is included in the evaluation of events.

Individual services, such as parks, libraries, cultural offers and neighbourhood working will each undertake an equality analysis, where required to do so, to identify gaps, making sure that any physical, cultural, language or other access barriers are identified, and all residents have offers meeting their needs.

An Economy that Works for Everyone

Actions under this outcome include a growing economy that provides decent jobs and chances to progress, places rejuvenated by regeneration that brings investment and opportunity, people have opportunities to learn, develop skills and fulfil their potential, working with partners and suppliers to create more local jobs, apprenticeships, paid at the living wage or above, strengthened digital infrastructure and skills which enable access for all. Contributing to these actions are programmes supporting vulnerable residents to gain skills and access, stay in or progress in employment.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 includes the following actions aimed at improving equality, diversity and inclusion within this outcome:

- Commence a programme of subsidised work placements supporting young people (16-24 yrs), currently NEET, to move towards, and into employment. The programme is aimed at specifically supporting young people, who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET) to access the labour market and move closer, or into, employment.
- Develop an apprenticeship plan which tracks employment in the Council once new starter apprenticeships have completed their apprenticeship.
- Support 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: 40% progressing into work or training; 25% progressing into meaningful employment; and 25% progressing into meaningful employment.
- Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5%.
- Embed early careers approaches by increasing engagement with directorates around work experience, internships and graduate schemes which supports future workforce and inclusion activity across the Council.

Equality analysis and monitoring will be carried out where appropriate to ensure vulnerable residents sharing protected characteristics benefit from this support.

Children and Young People Achieve

Actions under this outcome are aimed at children having the best start in life, children and young people having a voice and feeling listened to, young people empowered to succeed and achieve their aspirations, and children and young people having fun things to do and safe places to go. Activities in the early years aim to address educational inequalities, collaborative working with schools to give children the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of ability, including vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and reconnect those disengaged from education to opportunities and training.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:

- Delivering an extra 10,000 spaces as part of the Healthy Holidays Activity programme.
- Continue to embed the legacy and learning from Children’s Capital of Culture through:
 - The development of an Alumni programme for previous trainees from the programme to continue their professional development in Rotherham.
 - The development of a Creative Learning Strategy to support creative and cultural education in school settings.
 - The creation of a Participation & Engagement post to be hosted by Rotherham Civic and continue the delivery of Arts Award supporting 100 young people to gain qualifications and confidence.
 - All activities related to skills and learning will be supported with an Equalities Action Plan which will replace the previous Children’s Capital of Culture Action Plan.
- Deliver improvements to eight playgrounds across the borough as part of the ongoing Children’s Playgrounds Programme. In schemes where space allows, accessible play equipment (including BSL panels and accessible swings) will be included which ensures include, free outdoor play. Consultation will be carried out with Ward Members, local residents and children/young people before each play area improvement to ensure designs reflect local needs and are inclusive.
- Delivering a scheme to provide financial support for families with children as part of the measures agreed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.
- Increase permanent staffing by 2 FTE Educational Psychologists to create capacity for a targeted early intervention offer that supports schools to implement a whole school inclusive approach for children with SEND.
- Implement the new education case management system. An effective education system will provide support to identified cohorts to have enhanced education opportunities and provide support in order that all children and young people have the strongest possible preparation for adulthood.
- Deliver Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people to increase independence, through the Home to School Transport Policy. Independent Travel Training is a programme specifically designed to promote independence and preparation for adulthood by supporting individuals with specialist education needs, often due to disability.

- Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges, to enhance their career provision through the Careers Hub project.
- Issue 65% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective support when needed, by quarter 4.
- Provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough, including submitting for a sixth two-bedroom home.
- Implement the new Families First delivery model which includes early intervention, a whole-family approach and strengthened multi-agency partnerships to provide targeted, timely support that keeps families together (as currently defined by Department for Education).

Services contributing to this outcome, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data.

Residents Live Well

Actions in this area are aimed at protecting everyone's physical and mental health, while focusing on the most vulnerable. Within actions to ensure that people have good mental health and physical wellbeing, programmes to tackle loneliness and isolation will have benefits to older people and those living with disabilities. Within the priority for children, families and adults to feel empowered, safe and live independently for as long as possible, actions focus on children in care, people with learning disabilities, independent living and adult social care ensure that the needs of these vulnerable groups are prioritised. Actions further include for everyone to have access to affordable, decent housing.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:

- Launch half price discount on swimming for over 65s at all Rotherham leisure centres (Aston, Maltby, Rotherham and Wath). Leisure centres are fully wheelchair accessible, hoists for the pools, accessible changing options and hearing loops installed.
- Submit a bid for Sport England Place Expansion main award grant funding to support continued Moving Rotherham delivery.
- Achieve endorsement at Cabinet for the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences/Abuse Strategy 2026-29. Domestic abuse causes isolation and exclusion, by tackling domestic abuse, the well-being and life chances of survivors is improved. Equality monitoring of DA services ensures that any barriers to access and engagement in services experienced by people from protected characteristic groups is identified and remedial actions taken. An Equality Analysis will be prepared to go alongside the Cabinet report.
- Deliver the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top up scheme, providing up to £131.44 to working households in receipt of council tax support. Access to the scheme is governed by the Council's approved Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme is open to all residents who are financially vulnerable and due to the criteria outlined in the Council's Local Council Tax Support policy are eligible for support.
- Deliver a Crisis Support Scheme to provide a one-off payment to support residents that are in financial difficulty.
- Co-design with voluntary and community sector partners and agree a new three-year crisis support scheme. The crisis support scheme will provide additional

assistance for our most vulnerable residents when needed. Equalities information will be collected, where appropriate, regarding those accessing the scheme.

- Launch the Adult Social Care Involvement Framework to strengthen the voice of people with lived experience in the shaping and delivery of services.
- Amplify the voice of people with lived experiences through establishing a voice sub-group to the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board. This includes a mental health partnership board to ensure the voice of people with mental ill health can shape local services (Mental Health Strategy Priority) and voice forums as part of the delivery of the Learning Disability Strategy 2024-27 and the All-Age Autism Strategy 2024-27.
- Launch Thrive at Castle View, the new day opportunities service to meet complex care and support needs closer to home. The design of the service has been produced with people with lived experience through engagement events.
- Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered. Support is accessible and inclusive by tailoring engagement to the diverse needs of victims including those facing cultural, language, disability, LGBTQ+ or socioeconomic barriers. The service uses trauma informed and culturally competent approaches, provide accessible communication formats and work with specialist community organisations to improve engagement among under-represented groups. Equalities monitoring is included in quarterly data reported to the governance group.
- Reduce the average length of stay in Council Temporary Accommodation to less than 6 months.

Ongoing monitoring and improvement of the services contributing to this outcome will be key, as the most vulnerable often face the most barriers. Monitoring will identify and address gaps in provision, and ensure that individuals sharing several protected characteristics, and thus potentially facing multiple barriers, can access the support they need.

One Council that listens and learns

This outcome encompasses the ways in which the organisation operates and how it presents itself to the communities of Rotherham. The standards that service users experience from the Council, and our partner organisations will be attributable to this outcome for monitoring. This outcome also encompasses reductions in carbon emissions, working towards net zero targets.

Key actions within this Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 under this outcome include:

- Deliver an improved and wider range of online services for our customers including a new complaints system, a new trees system and improvements to housing repairs.
- The recruitment approach will be flexible to ensure our strategy reflects the communities we serve and is aligned with year one deliverables on the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan.
- Agree an action plan around required areas of improvement arising from the employee opinion survey.
- Develop and launch the new Rotherham Plan with partners at a showcase event.

Services contributing to this outcome, again, will carry out equality analyses where appropriate and monitor equality data.

The Inclusion Strategy 2026-30 sets out how the Council will embed equality, diversity and inclusion across all services, focusing on reducing inequalities, improving accessibility, and ensuring decisions are shaped by strong community insight. It is built around four themes: Working Together, Responsive Services, Welcoming Places and Employer of Choice. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27 aligns with these themes, including a specific HR action to ensure the Council's recruitment approach reflects local communities, supporting the strategy's ambition to be an inclusive and representative employer. Other Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions, such as improving customer accessibility to online services, increasing co-production with communities, and delivering targeted support for vulnerable groups all directly support the Inclusion Strategy's aims and objectives.

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

No problems or barriers have been identified or flagged as part of the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

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

Yes, details found above.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

No negative impacts expected – any targeted activities are based on known needs and vulnerabilities.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2026/27
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement, Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Summary of findings:
The Year Ahead Delivery Plan addresses inequalities in several of its key outcomes, and guiding principles, with the aim to reduce inequalities and for the council's services to deliver for all residents. Equality and access data will need to be monitored closely, as these are areas of considerable existing inequalities, which will make it more difficult for some individuals and groups to access opportunities and services.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Provide update reports to Cabinet twice a year, including consideration of the equality implications.	All	Six monthly
All services to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor.	All	Ongoing
Continue to obtain updates from directorates, regarding what has been done to consider equalities when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/activities.	All	Quarterly

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Chris Paddock	Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	19/03/26
Cllr Chris Read	Leader	27/03/26

7. Publishing

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

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	16/03/26
Report title and date	Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 Cabinet – 13 April 2026
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	18/03/26

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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts.	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out.
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	<p>Actions included within the 'Responding to climate change' theme of 'One Council that Listens and Learns' to decarbonise the Council's estate will reduce the Council's emissions.</p>	<p>Programmed improvement works to a number of business centres across the borough in line with the Capital Programme could increase emissions.</p> <p>Supporting up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grants' programme will incur carbon emissions due to construction processes. Where replacement windows are included this might reduce operational emissions in a small way.</p> <p>Helping 60 new businesses to start up by providing support through Business Centres and Launchpad could increase</p>	<p>The YADP for 2026-27 includes new actions which will contribute to reducing carbon emissions of the Councils estate such as through reducing reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre.</p> <p>The Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan will provide energy conservation measures such as solar, heat pumps, insulation at sites including 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens, Swinton CSC & Library and Peacock Lodge Children's Home.</p> <p>Business Support Officers are also able to</p>	<p>Carbon Impact Assessments are required for all Cabinet reports.</p> <p>All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly annually.</p> <p>Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p>

			emissions from non-domestic buildings is also likely to increase emissions.	signpost businesses to Low Carbon Grants as part of their work which may further mitigate emissions arising as a result of construction projects associated with non-domestic buildings.	
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	<p>Supporting 1,000 Rotherham residents to access employment pathways with at least: 40% progressing into work or training; 25% progressing into meaningful employment; and 25% progressing into meaningful employment will have an impact on the number of people travelling to, from and for work. This will increase the Council's emissions from Transport associated with business travel.</p> <p>Concluding the procurement of all vehicles from the Phase 1 Fleet Replacement Programme which currently includes 64 EVs will reduce emissions.</p> <p>Commencing works on site for tranche 2 Local</p>	Production of a masterplan for the corridor from Rotherham Gateway Station to the Town Centre. This scheme is expected to reduce transport emissions in the long term.	<p>The Independent Travel Training Programme is in place to support children with special educational needs or disabilities who would normally access the Council's Home to School transport services. This initiative is promoting more sustainable travel and transport solutions.</p> <p>The carbon impact will need to be considered of each individual scheme to fully understand the carbon emissions outcome.</p>	<p>Approaches to monitoring vehicle usage, emissions, and fuel efficiency. Carbon Impact is included within the Fleet Replacement Programme.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>Progress reports for the YADP to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p> <p>Gateway Station project will include CIA as part of its process of development.</p>

		Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme is likely to increase emissions.			
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	<p>There may be increased waste generated as part of construction schemes though it is not currently possible to quantify this.</p> <p>Targeting a deduction in the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management would incur a slight increase in waste reduction output in terms of carbon and other emissions.</p> <p>It is likely that a number of schemes associated with the YADP will increase waste including events, construction, consultations and other Council operations.</p>	<p>A series of events and activities, including St George's Day Celebration, Women of the World Rotherham, Winter Story Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On, Bonfire Night, Rotherham Show, Signals Festival, Uplift, Roots Rotherham and civic events could increase the amount of waste.</p> <p>There may also be increased waste generated as part of construction schemes though it is not currently possible to quantify this.</p>	<p>Events should consider the waste management hierarchy as part of standard processes. This is built into the guidance provided to Events teams to be used when managing large events. See actions outlined in previous column for context.</p> <p>Completing the in-sourcing of the Household Waste Recycling Centres will give the Council more autonomy over decision making regarding waste practices and related emissions implications.</p> <p>Increase in the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45% is targeted in the Plan. This is just the percentage of kerbside waste that is collected for recycling, not overall recycling rates.</p>	<p>Improved information and data to take further action in reducing waste, improving recycling rates and reducing contamination.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p> <p>Local and internal waste carbon emissions are assessed annually.</p>

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	<p>Bringing at least 35 long term empty homes back into use through Council support will increase Carbon emissions through having an increased number of domestic properties in use throughout the borough.</p> <p>The commitment to provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough will see a fifth and sixth two-bedroom homes registered, the construction of which will have a carbon impact in the near future.</p>	The emissions identified in the previous column will impact on Borough emissions dependent on long term ownership of the new sites.	Mitigations will need to be reviewed on a case by case basis and will be dependent on the property affected. The Council already has a programme in place for delivery of emissions reductions (to EPC C) in its Council housing stock by 2030	<p>Completion of a full stock condition surveys of 6000 properties during 2026/27 will establish housing stock emission baselines, consolidate the available intelligence and gather further data as required, using existing data on council-owned housing stock, and developing intelligence on the wider housing stock across the Borough.</p> <p>Climate Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p>
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	<p>Delivery of a further 150 new council homes as part of the Housing Delivery Programme reaching 925/1000 target during 2026/27 will incur significant construction emissions.</p> <p>Plans for large scale developments and improvements, such as the Our Places Fund</p>	<p>The works detailed in the previous column will increase overall borough emissions.</p> <p>As per the impacts on the Council and its contractors.</p>	<p>See actions outlined in previous two columns.</p> <p>Specific mitigations to be incorporated into individual schemes.</p>	<p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p>

	<p>programmes in Maltby and Swindon may all have significant effects on carbon emissions. Appointment of contractors for Cenotaphs and Memorials and Civic Centres aspects of the programmes will increase construction emissions.</p> <p>Improving 8 play areas across the borough as part of the Children's Playgrounds Programme will incur construction emissions.</p> <p>Renewing the track at Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium will incur further development emissions.</p> <p>Commissioning a contractor to enable construction works on the Old Flatts Bridge Parapet Repair will incur carbon emissions.</p> <p>Commencing works on site for tranche 2 Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme.</p> <p>The demolition of Wath</p>			
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		<p>library to make way for new facilities will incur construction carbon emissions.</p> <p>Implementation of Phase 1 of the Our Places Fund by starting work on the Swinton and Maltby schemes will incur construction carbon emissions.</p> <p>Appointing a contractor for construction of Dinnington High Street regeneration project will increase emissions.</p> <p>Large scale developments and improvements, such as the construction of the new market and library in the town centre could significantly increase carbon emissions.</p> <p>Plans connected to the construction of flood alleviation schemes and barriers, such as reaching 'shovel ready' status for the Whiston Brook, Eel Mires Dyke and Kilnhurst flood</p>			
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		<p>alleviation schemes will all entail emissions.</p> <p>Support up to 50 businesses to improve shop units in town centre and on other principal high streets through 'shop units grants' could potentially increase emissions.</p>			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	<p>At least 500 trees will be planted across the borough by the end of the 2026/27 financial year. This quantity of trees will not provide substantial carbon sequestration benefits when compared with the scale of emissions.</p> <p>Reduction in reliance on grid energy and carbon through the delivery of a roof top solar project on the Market and Library building in the town centre.</p>	As per the previous column.	N/A	<p>The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions. The trees planted will sequester carbon, however, it is unlikely that tree planting as part of the plan will provide substantial benefit overall due to the existing scale of emissions expended.</p> <p>Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.</p> <p>Future YADP progress reports to Cabinet will include an updated CIA.</p>

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

The reduction of carbon emissions and working towards net zero targets, is part of the One Council theme in the Council Plan 2025-30 under the section 'Climate Change', the Council Plan informs the YADP by acting as the strategic document providing direction to the actions delivered throughout the year.

Actions under this theme encompass plans to decarbonise Council buildings by adopting new technologies; cutting down on activities that waste energy and resources; transitioning towards environmentally friendly vehicles in the transport team and using the Council's influence to encourage partners, local businesses, anchor organisations, and our residents to be mindful of their environmental impact and to be more sustainable. However, it should be noted that there may be some increases in emissions due to other schemes that are included within the plan, especially with reference to new buildings, construction and housing development. The growth of the Rotherham economy, a theme within the YADP also aims to deliver increased productivity amongst businesses, motivating people into work and increasing the offer of the Borough for local residents, all of which would see increases to emissions in the Borough through business activity and increased output.

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

The commencing of works for Flood Alleviation Schemes at Whiston Brook and Eel Mires Dyke will mitigate the impact of climate change and as a response of the impact of flooding in Rotherham in catchment areas impacted by flooding events in 2007 and 2019. A priority in the YADP due to the predicted impacts of a changing climate exacerbating the risk of flooding, and the need for strategic solutions. Alongside the threat of flooding, also poses a threat to energy infrastructure at high risk from flooding events, and disruption to urban drainage systems.

Building standards incorporated within housing strategies will improve resilience through better quality insulation and solar power where appropriate. This will make for more resilient communities when delivered.

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

The majority of larger schemes will have separate climate impact assessments undertaken as part of their approval process. Where individual schemes require Cabinet approval a project specific climate impact assessment will be created and further mitigation on a project-by-project basis may be included.

The 'One Council that listens and learns' outcome is focused around reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The 'Places are thriving safe and clean' outcome also includes actions focused on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas.

The YADP will be monitored, reviewed, and updated every six months. Each update will include an accompanying Climate Impact Assessment. The overarching impact of the YADP is likely to be one of increase given the number of construction schemes planned.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Oscar Holden Corporate Improvement Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Climate Change Action Plan Local Authority Climate Report Met Office – Climate Report for Rotherham Directorate Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers and Performance Data for 2025/26.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not directly relevant for this report but individual actions arising from both the Council Plan and the YADP will include measurement where relevant.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 616 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title

Crisis and Resilience Fund

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

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer

michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk

Sunday Alonge, Policy Officer

sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

Report Summary

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029.

The new fund has broader aims than the HSF. Instead of focusing primarily on crisis support to vulnerable households, it puts more emphasis on building financial resilience and creating a more connected local support system. The CRF also incorporates Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).

Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 is £5.2m. This represents an increase of around £300,000 on the combined HSF and DHP allocation for 2025/26.

This report sets out specific proposals for use of the funding in 2026/27 and a broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

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

Crisis Support

- a. £1m for an application-based crisis support scheme
- b. £1,402,600 to support families with children during the summer holidays
- c. £407,584 for Discretionary Housing Payments
- d. £1.7m towards the costs of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme
- e. £60,000 to local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to support vulnerable households over Christmas / New Year through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement
- f. £20,000 to provide parcels of household items to be distributed via VCS organisations
- g. £18,000 additional funding for FareShare/food providers to meet increased food costs

Resilience Services

- h. £370,000 for Open Arms Rotherham
- i. £90,000 to provide additional financial support to care leavers

Community Coordination

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

Administrative Costs

- k. £81,699 for DHP administrative costs

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF. This will include provision for other eligible actions in 2026/27 to ensure best use of the funding.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve amendments to existing service level agreements and approve new agreements where required, in relation to the allocations above.
4. Agree to receive a further report in December 2026 setting out specific proposals for future years of the fund.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Equality screening
- Appendix 2 Equality analysis
- Appendix 3 Climate impact assessment

Background Papers

The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Crisis and Resilience Fund

1. Background

- 1.1 The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) was announced in the June 2025 government spending review. It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029.
- 1.2 Whilst its aims are broader, the CRF replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF), which was first launched in October 2021 to support households adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 The HSF evolved from providing pandemic-related relief to offering cost-of-living support for low-income and vulnerable households during periods of rising inflation and economic uncertainty.
- 1.4 Primarily, it has helped residents facing financial hardship to meet essential living costs, particularly food and energy. Between April and December 2025, the HSF programme has:
- distributed around 130,000 food vouchers during school holidays for families with children eligible for free school meals
 - contributed to the Local Council Tax Support scheme top up, supporting approximately 16,000 households
 - helped over 2,000 households to manage fuel bills through the energy crisis support scheme
 - provided financial support for 237 young care leavers
 - worked with VCS organisations to provide nearly 600 families with Christmas and New Year food hampers
- 1.5 An evaluation of Rotherham's HSF programme was carried out in 2025. Learning points from the evaluation are summarised below and have informed the proposed approach to the CRF.

2. Key Issues

2.1 CRF guidance

Having involved local authorities and other organisations in a co-design process, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published detailed guidance for use of the CRF in January 2026. This guidance was subsequently updated in March 2026.

- 2.2 The overarching objective is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term. There is a specific focus on the outcomes summarised in the table below.

Outcome	Purpose
1. Provision of effective crisis support	To ensure timely, needs-based assistance for individuals and households experiencing financial shocks, including support for those who are struggling to meet their housing costs
2. Improving people's financial resilience	To strengthen financial resilience and empower people to manage financial shocks, reducing the risk and occurrence of crises
3. Bolstering the local support landscape	To strengthen local systems, joining up support services and ensuring there are clear support pathways

2.3 These outcomes reinforce the CRF's dual aims of providing immediate relief where needed, whilst also building the capacity of people and communities to avoid or mitigate future hardship.

2.4 Funding must be allocated across four distinct elements:

- **Crisis payment** – providing support to those in crisis
- **Housing payment** - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs
- **Resilience services** - funding for services that improve financial resilience
- **Community coordination** - investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape

Further details are provided below, based on the requirements and objectives set out in the government guidance.

2.5 Crisis payment

This will provide rapid, flexible, and person-centred assistance to those on low incomes who experience a financial shock, based on the following principles.

- **Broad eligibility and local discretion** - local authorities retain the flexibility to define local criteria and tailor support.
- **Person-centred, needs-based approach** - awards should respond to individual circumstances rather than rigid eligibility rules or blanket provision of support.
- **Cash-first model** - cash payments are preferred, as they offer dignity and choice, with vouchers or goods in-kind as alternatives.
- **Families with children** – after the current school year, support for families with children should not automatically be through the blanket provision of vouchers to those on free school meals. Relative need should be assessed and families should be directed to wraparound services to build their financial resilience.

- **Accessibility** - at least two application channels should be provided (e.g. online, phone, or in-person) and support should be easy to find.
- **No wrong door principle** - residents should receive assistance regardless of where they first seek help.

2.6 **Housing payment**

This will replicate and build on the existing DHP (Discretionary Housing Payments) model. It will ensure that households facing acute or ongoing housing pressures receive timely and targeted assistance to prevent homelessness, sustain tenancies, and reduce hardship linked to housing insecurity.

2.7 In the medium term, the aim is to integrate DHPs within the broader CRF programme, promoting coordination between crisis support, housing stability, and financial resilience initiatives.

2.8 Existing DHP arrangements will be maintained in years one and two. In year three (2028/29), all CRF funding will be brought together, with increased flexibility on the housing element, which will no longer have a separate allocation.

2.9 **Resilience Services**

A major focus shift within the CRF is the requirement to allocate a 'significant amount' of funding to long-term financial resilience building. What constitutes a 'significant amount' is not quantified in recognition of the differing local contexts across the country. Authorities are encouraged to determine what constitutes significant within the context of their local needs and existing provision of resilience services.

2.10 Resilience services are based around achieving the following outcomes:

- Increased savings
- Maximised income
- Reduction in priority debts
- Reduced need for emergency food parcels
- Reduced need for crisis payments
- Increased access to quality advice services
- Reduced experiences of material deprivation

2.11 Services that could be provided include community supermarkets or advice services, benefit application support, jobs-related support, enabling access to affordable credit and supporting financial education.

2.12 Local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with the VCS to extend reach and strengthen delivery. There should also be referrals from crisis and housing payment schemes to resilience services.

2.13 **Community coordination**

This element of CRF encourages local authorities to invest in the underlying structures, partnerships, and support pathways that enable effective

responses to crisis and help to build resilience. Essentially, this is about connecting services that are part of the local welfare system.

2.14 Activities that might be funded include:

- enabling roles to strengthen partnership working and improve coordination across organisations, services and programmes
- improved communication e.g. user-friendly websites and targeted outreach campaigns
- digital tools that help to map activity or support referrals and service integration
- costs of service design and co-production
- co-location of services
- capacity building for delivery partners

2.15 **Guidance summary**

In summary, the CRF guidance emphasises the following:

- A person-centred approach that allows for dignity and flexibility.
- An increased focus on outcomes and addressing underlying needs.
- Integration of services within a single delivery framework offering easy access to support.
- Improved coordination and strong collaboration with the VCS.

2.16.1 **HSF evaluation**

Last year, the Council carried out an evaluation of HSF activity in Rotherham. This has provided valuable insights into what works well in delivering cost-of-living support, as well as areas for improvement in future programmes. Key findings included:

2.16.2 • **Building on existing systems enhances efficiency**

Utilising established systems ensures continuity, simplifies delivery, reduces administrative burden, and enables residents to access support more easily. Integrating new initiatives into familiar frameworks – e.g. the energy crisis support scheme - also helps to scale interventions efficiently and maintain consistency.

2.16.3 • **Flexibility and collaboration strengthen delivery**

Flexibility and collaboration are key enablers of effective implementation. The Christmas food hampers initiative demonstrated how partnership working, particularly with the VCS, can expand reach. VCS partners are instrumental in engaging hard-to-reach groups, especially individuals who may distrust statutory bodies.

2.16.4 • **Raising public awareness is crucial**

While existing programmes have been effective, there is a concern that many eligible households remain unaware of the support available. This is particularly true for individuals without internet access or those disconnected from formal communication channels.

Improving public awareness through more proactive, community-based outreach is essential to ensure equitable access. Future delivery models should prioritise clear communication strategies, utilising trusted community networks, local media, and face-to-face engagement to ensure that information reaches those who need it most.

2.16.5 • **Addressing root causes, not just symptoms**

Stakeholder feedback emphasised that while HSF interventions have been vital, they often address the symptoms of financial crisis rather than its root causes.

Greater emphasis should be placed on preventive and capacity-building measures, such as skills development, financial literacy, and pathways to employment, that reduce dependency on crisis support.

2.16.6 • **The need for a more integrated welfare system**

The evaluation highlighted the fragmented nature of some local welfare provision. For example, the DWP currently cannot make direct referrals to food banks, creating unnecessary barriers for those in need. This lack of interconnectivity forces individuals to navigate a complex and often confusing network of services.

A more integrated and seamless system, where agencies share information and coordinate interventions, would enable more comprehensive and user-friendly support for vulnerable households.

2.16.7 • **Strengthening data and evidence systems**

Consistent data capture and management is essential for effective programme delivery and evaluation. Current monitoring arrangements vary across schemes, making it difficult to assess overall impact or identify gaps.

Introducing standardised and centralised data collection would improve coordination, enhance the targeting of beneficiaries, and provide a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions.

2.17 **Summary**

Informed by the CRF guidance and the findings from the HSF evaluation, it is proposed that the following principles inform the design and implementation of Rotherham's CRF programme over the three years:

- Build on what has worked well, utilising existing systems and interventions where they enable effective support to be provided in an efficient way.
- Aim to gradually shift resources from primarily crisis interventions to resilience building and integrated community-based support in line with government guidance i.e. addressing causes rather than symptoms.

- Improved monitoring and data management to inform an evidence-based approach - measure improved outcomes and impact as well as monitoring outputs.
- Ensure there is a strong emphasis on accessibility supported by awareness-raising, outreach, and improved referral systems – a ‘no wrong door’ approach.
- Co-design the programme with partners and communities wherever possible.
- Seek greater alignment of programmes and resources geared towards addressing crisis and building resilience.

2.18 Local welfare system

It is recognised that a range of advice and support services – ‘resilience services’ in the context of the CRF - are already operating in Rotherham. This includes Council services such as the financial inclusion team and money and benefits advice service, and many VCS services provided by organisations such as Citizens Advice Rotherham, Rotherham Federation and Age UK Rotherham.

2.19 The Council currently provides an annual advice services grant of £240,000 per year to Citizens Advice Rotherham. This is a three-year agreement ending in March 2027 and has been augmented with funding for immigration (£20,000 per annum in 2025/26 and 2026/27) and pension credits advice (£38,000 per annum in 2025/26 and 2026/27). Age UK Rotherham also receive £58,000 per annum to provide pension credits advice to residents.

2.20 The Open Arms Rotherham project, which has been operating in libraries and other community venues since 2022, has a particular focus on supporting residents from a financial inclusion or resilience perspective. This was funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund until the end of March 2026.

2.21 In addition to these, the Council has developed a model of providing crisis support to people in communities, which is VCS-led but underpinned by the Council. The Council’s crisis support contract with FareShare Yorkshire, Voluntary Action Rotherham and Laser Credit Union (a total of £108,000 in 2025/26) includes the provision of crisis loans as well as food supplies for local foodbanks and community supermarkets. This three-year agreement ends in March 2027.

2.22 Further support is provided through Food Works. The Council is providing £30,000 per year to this initiative from April 2026, initially to establish ten ‘Just Meals’ hubs across Rotherham. The hubs offer affordable ready meals made from quality surplus ingredients, helping residents stretch budgets while cutting food waste.

2.23 It should also be noted that employment support services are part of the overall picture of available support. Under the overarching Pathways to Work programme, the Council provides £700,000 per year for Employment Solutions and £88,000 for Supported Employment, which helps residents with autism, ADHD or learning disabilities. This is combined with government funding for the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer (£1.7 million) and

Connect to Work (£475,000). Altogether, the programme supported 1,096 residents in 2025/26, helping 224 people into sustained employment and delivering 315 training interventions.

- 2.24 Other support provided by the Council includes, but is not limited to:
- Childcare support and vouchers, including improved take up of free childcare for two-year-olds
 - Family hubs offering neighbourhood-based support for new parents
 - Healthy Holidays programme providing free activities and meals for eligible children
 - School uniform vouchers
 - Rothercard scheme offering discounts for some Council services and leisure centre activities
- 2.25 Whilst the CRF guidance expects local authorities to use a significant amount of their total allocation on resilience services, it also acknowledges that areas will have different contexts and levels of existing provision. In year one of the CRF, the proposed approach is to utilise the above and other existing support services rather than using the limited funding to create new resilience services.
- 2.26 It is noted that much of the support delivered by VCS organisations relies on short-term funding, which creates challenges for the stability and sustainability of the local welfare system.
- 2.27 There is also a risk that referring crisis payments scheme applicants (see paragraph 3.4 below) to Council and external support services will create capacity issues. This will be monitored and assessed as the CRF programme is implemented, including by continuing to work closely with VCS partners.
- 2.28 The current global context has created further uncertainty and risk to the successful implementation of CRF. Alongside the deployment of CRF, the Council will continue to monitor the impact of increased energy costs and wider inflation on the cost of living and financial resilience of residents.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The preferred option is outlined below. This is informed by previous experience of 'what works' in the implementation of the HSF, findings from the HSF evaluation, and the CRF guidance.
- 3.2 The recommended allocations are for the first year of funding only. The rationale is that 2026/27 will be a transitional year, allowing more time to assess levels of need and the effectiveness of interventions. This will also enable the Council to work with VCS partners to co-design proposals for years two and three. It also aligns with the timescale to undertake a co-design process for the provision of advice services and crisis support from April 2027.

3.3 The specific year one (2026/27) proposals are:

Crisis support

3.4 **Crisis Support Fund - £1m**

In line with the CRF guidance, the proposed allocation will allow for an application-based crisis payments scheme offering support to people facing a financial shock or crisis. This will adapt the energy crisis scheme funded via the HSF. Crucially, applicants will receive referrals to support services to help them in addressing underlying issues with a view to increasing their financial resilience.

The CRF guidance requires that a crisis payments scheme be made available throughout the financial year. The proposed scheme will offer fixed payment amounts linked to the nature of the financial crisis and repeat awards will only be provided in exceptional circumstances. This will help to ensure that the funding allocation is sufficient to last for twelve months. However, the Council will need to close the scheme once funding from the CRF has been fully allocated and re-open the scheme in the new financial year.

It is envisaged that the risk of closing the scheme can be mitigated by the payment structure and payment values, though on a discretionary demand-led scheme such as this, there is an inherent risk that the funding may be exhausted before the end of the financial year.

The proposed scheme will look to support households that have been faced with a sudden financial crisis situation. The scheme will allow the Council to review and assess each claimant's situation, potentially provide a payment to contribute towards the financial crisis, and provide referrals into support services to help in addressing any underlying issues.

There will be two tiers to the payments: £80 for contributions towards financial crisis events such as an accident or health emergency; and £200 for contribution towards failure of white goods or where people are unable to pay their fuel bills. These examples are not exhaustive and cases will be assessed on their own merits.

All applicants to the Crisis Support Fund will also be signposted to other support – i.e. resilience services – to help them address any underlying issues.

3.5 **Targeted support for families with children - £1,402,600**

The CRF guidance states that the blanket provision of vouchers/payments to those on free school meals is not necessarily the most effective way of supporting families in crisis, as some free school meal eligible families may not routinely need crisis support during every school holiday.

Authorities are also expected to use 'a significant amount' of their CRF allocation on resilience services, whereas the current holiday voucher scheme would be classed as crisis payments.

That being the case, there is insufficient funding available to continue the holiday voucher scheme previously provided via the HSF. This scheme will therefore be discontinued after the Easter holidays.

The allocation above will provide for a one-off payment of £95 to support free school meal eligible families with the costs of the summer holidays.

As part of developing proposals for years two and three of the CRF, consideration will be given as to how targeted support for families with children could be provided. This will take into account other support for low-income families with children, particularly Healthy Holidays (funded through the government's Holiday Activities and Food programme). In 2026/27, the Council has invested an additional £350,000 in the Healthy Holidays programme. This is expected to create an additional 10,000 free places for children to enjoy a range of holiday activities and receive nutritious meals.

3.6 Discretionary housing payments - £407,584

This will continue to offer application-based support for people who need short-term help with their housing costs.

3.7 Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme - £1,700,000

To reflect the ongoing pressure on household budgets due to high inflation and energy prices, the Council agreed in March 2026 to extend the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme into 2026/27.

As in previous years, the scheme will provide an additional award on top of the 2026/27 support to working age claimants provided via the Council's Local Council Tax Support scheme. Based on current caseloads, this is expected to provide additional support to at least 14,400 households. This means that where a claimant has a Council Tax bill of £131.44 or less, their bill will be reduced to zero (this currently applies to around 11,000 households).

The estimated scheme costs are between £1.7m and £1.9m and will be funded by £1.7m from the CRF allocation, with the remaining £200,000 funded through the Local Council Tax Support Grant reserve. The actual cost will not be known until the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

3.8 Christmas hampers - £60,000

This will continue the VCS-delivered initiative providing food hampers to vulnerable households over Christmas and the New Year. Based on previous allocations, it is estimated that this allocation will enable around 600 hampers to be provided.

Consistent with how this has been administered previously, it is proposed that this would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support service level agreement (SLA).

3.9 Wider household essentials support - £20,000

This will maintain – at a reduced level – a supply of non-food essential items (e.g. cleaning or personal hygiene products) to vulnerable households, distributed primarily through local food banks and social supermarkets. This would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support SLA.

3.10 Food in crisis – £18,000

Additional funding to cover the increased cost of food as part of the Council's food in crisis contract with FareShare Yorkshire and local providers. This would be facilitated through a supplement to the crisis support SLA.

Resilience services

3.11 Open Arms Rotherham - £370,000

Open Arms Rotherham is a community-based project delivered by VCS partners. It offers regular drop-in sessions in local libraries focusing on financial support in the context of cost-of-living pressures.

As an existing, VCS-led project with an established presence in local communities, Open Arms reflects several of the key elements of success highlighted by the HSF evaluation.

In 2026/27, the intention is to include sessions in local foodbanks as well as libraries.

3.12 Support for care leavers - £90,000

This proposal continues the HSF scheme, providing financial support to make it easier for young people leaving foster or local authority care to live independently.

Community coordination

3.13 Community Coordination - £50,000

The HSF evaluation indicates that while existing programmes have been effective, there is concern that many people remain unaware of the support available. Providing dedicated resources within this element will help to raise awareness of the available support, as well as joining up services and improving referral systems.

3.14 Administration – £81,699

As was the case with the HSF, it is proposed to minimise administrative costs in order to prioritise support for residents.

There is a specific allocation of £81,699 for DHP administrative costs. For the wider CRF programme, administrative costs will be absorbed by the Council.

3.15 Balance of spend

It is likely that actual spend will vary from that allocated to specific uses dependent on demand. It is proposed that to ensure full spend for the year,

any balancing sums be applied through the Crisis Support Fund.

3.16 Other options

Alternative options are summarised below.

3.17 Continue with the current HSF programme

Whilst the evaluation found that several aspects of HSF delivery are working well, the CRF signals a change of focus, including activity across several defined elements (see paragraph 2.4 above). For that reason, continuing with the current programme in its entirety is not recommended, as this would not be in accordance with government guidance.

3.18 Equal splits across CRF elements

Another option is to immediately introduce approximately equal allocations across the various elements of the fund. For year one at least, it is felt that a significant – and abrupt – reduction in current ‘crisis’ interventions to enable a substantial increase in resilience services or community coordination risks pushing people into crisis. This would obviously be counter-productive to the aims of the CRF.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Officers in relevant Council services, along with VCS partners, have been engaged in developing the approach to the use of this funding allocation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Arrangements are being put in place to implement the range of support measures so that residents can begin to access the benefits as soon as possible. In particular, multiple teams are working to adapt the energy crisis support scheme process to ensure that the new crisis support fund is in place following Cabinet approval.

5.2 The CRF programme will be overseen by the Policy, Strategy and Engagement directorate.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The value of the Crisis and Resilience Fund grant has been confirmed for 2026/27, with an allocation for Rotherham of £5.2million. The proposed spend detailed above reflects this allocation and is in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. The grant provides flexibility to local authorities on how the fund should be administered, in line with the guidance provided, though progress on spend will need to be monitored to ensure that government requirements are met.

6.2 Spend will be closely monitored as part of management of the CRF programme across the various elements to ensure that the overall grant allocation is not exceeded. As set out in the report, the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme may require £200,000 of additional funding from

reserves (Local Council Tax Support Grant) for this demand-led element. This will be closely monitored through the financial year.

- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in the report. Where support is being provided via third party organisations, this is being facilitated via grant agreements, which are outside the scope of procurement legislation. If there is a need to enter into contracts for goods/services to support this delivery, this must be undertaken in line with both the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules (FPPR's) and relevant procurement legislation (namely the Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, whichever is applicable).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The recommended proposals are in accordance with the conditions of use of the fund. Further, the scheme is consistent with relevant public law principles, in particular it is lawful, fair and rational.

- 7.2 The Council can support this type of local welfare provision under the "Local authority's general power of competence", as set out in S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20). Further, local authorities have the ability to act in this area under powers contained in other legislation, for example, section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to provide financial assistance to any individual.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The recommended use of the Crisis and Resilience Fund includes support for families with children, as well as targeted support for care leavers. Whilst still substantial, the level of dedicated support for families with children is reduced from previous HSF allocations due to a change in the government guidance.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The objectives of the use of the grant and targeting towards vulnerable households, including families with children, will contribute to addressing economic and social inequalities.
- 10.2 Equalities data will be collected as part of administering the programme of support. An equality analysis has been completed and is appended.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no significant implications for CO2 emissions or climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. Partner organisations, particularly VCS organisations, are a crucial part of the local welfare system. As part of the proposals above, VCS organisations will be involved in both providing direct support to those in financial crisis as well as helping to build people's resilience by addressing the underlying causes of financial crisis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 A key risk relates to the new crisis support fund/crisis payments scheme. It is hard to anticipate the level of demand for this scheme, which the CRF guidance makes clear should aim to be available all year round.
- 13.2 To mitigate this, as described in section 3.4 above, the scheme will have fixed payment amounts and limited access to repeat awards. A case management system will be used to monitor applications and decisions, including the volume of awards and the types of crisis situation applicants are experiencing. This will enable the scheme to adapt and respond to demand.
- 13.3 A further risk is that the proposals do not reflect a 'significant' investment in resilience services, as envisaged in the guidance. As described in paragraphs 2.18 to 2.28 above, the initial approach is to mainly utilise the wide range of existing support services. This will be reviewed over the course of 2026/27, working with relevant Council teams and VCS partners.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy Performance and Intelligence

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/03/26
Service Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	23/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	23/03/26

Report Author:

Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer,

michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk;

Sunday Alonge, Policy Officer,

sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk

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

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Crisis and Resilience Fund	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead person: Sunday Alonge	Contact: sunday.alonge@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has been made available to local authorities (LAs) in England to support low-income households who encounter a financial shock and to support activity that builds individual and community financial resilience. This funding covers the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029. This includes specified funding for housing support.</p> <p>The CRF is classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP) and could be used to enhance existing Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) schemes. However, it is not</p>

Appendix 1

intended to replace existing LWA schemes, which play an important role as established discretionary crisis support mechanisms. Rotherham's CRF allocation for 2026/27 is £5.2m.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The report provides information on the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which was announced in the June 2025 government spending review as a successor to the Household Support Fund (HSF). It will initially operate for three years, from April 2026 to March 2029. The fund is to be used to support vulnerable households in three main areas of Crisis Support, Resilience Services and Community Coordination.

Rotherham has been awarded £5.2m for the borough for the 2026/27 financial year. The report sets out specific proposals for use of the funding in 2026/27 and a broad approach to determining the best use of the funding over the full three years in order to support vulnerable individuals and households in the borough.

- **Key findings**

Addressing inequalities is central to the implementation of the CRF. Based on the guidance provided, the CRF will represent a significant evolution in the government's approach to local welfare provision. Building on the experience of HSF, the CRF introduces a more sustainable, integrated, and outcomes-focused framework that balances short-term crisis response with long-term financial resilience.

- **Actions**

A full equality analysis screening (Part B) has been carried out and attached.

To further ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion, consideration will be given to how the Council can deliberately target disadvantaged groups and those with protected characteristics in the implementation of the CRF, and to particularly target families with children who need crisis support to cope with the ongoing high cost-of-living.

Apart from crisis support, the CRF will offer free, confidential drop-in sessions, providing debt advice, energy-saving tips, and financial inclusion services in safe, welcoming spaces like local libraries and food banks. The aim will be to empower individuals to achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency. This is in line with the resilience services aspect of the CRF.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	March 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Michael Holmes, Policy and Strategy Officer

Appendix 1

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Michael Holmes	Policy and Strategy Officer	16 th March, 2026

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	16 th March 2026
Report title and date	Crisis and Resilience Fund
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	13 th April Cabinet meeting
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 th March 2026

Appendix 2

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026/27	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 13th March 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	Service area: Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager(s): Michael Holmes – Policy and Strategy Officer	Contact number: Michael.holmes@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

Appendix 2

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Michael Holmes	RMBC	Policy and Strategy Officer
Sunday Alonge	RMBC	Policy Officer
Paul Stafford	RMBC	Policy Officer

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) targets individuals who are facing severe cost-of-living pressures or specific financial shocks.

The overarching objective is to both provide a safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term. There is a specific focus on the outcomes summarised in the table below.

Outcome	Purpose
1. Provision of effective crisis support	To ensure timely, needs-based assistance for individuals and households experiencing financial shocks, including support for those who are struggling to meet their housing costs
2. Improving people's financial resilience	To strengthen financial resilience and empower people to manage financial shocks, reducing the risk and occurrence of crises
3. Bolstering the local support landscape	To strengthen local systems, joining up support services and ensuring there are clear support pathways

These outcomes reinforce the CRF's dual aims of providing immediate relief where needed, whilst also building the capacity of people and communities to avoid or mitigate future hardship.

Funding must be allocated across four distinct elements:

- **Crisis payment** – providing support to those in crisis

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- **Housing payment** - providing financial support towards housing needs for those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs
- **Resilience services** - funding for services that improve financial resilience.
- **Community coordination** - investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape

A crisis payment scheme must be introduced, offering rapid, flexible, and person-centred assistance to those on low incomes who experience a financial shock. The scheme should be based on the following principles:

- **Broad eligibility and local discretion** - local authorities retain the flexibility to define local criteria and tailor support
- **Person-centred, needs-based approach** - awards should respond to individual circumstances rather than rigid eligibility rules or blanket provision of support
- **Cash-first model** - cash payments are preferred, as they offer dignity and choice, with vouchers or goods in-kind as alternatives
- **Families with children** – after the current school year, support for families with children should not automatically be through the blanket provision of vouchers to those on free school meals. Relative need should be assessed and families should be directed to wraparound services to build their financial resilience.
- **Accessibility** - at least two application channels should be provided (e.g. online, phone, or in-person) and support should be easy to find.
- **No wrong door principle** - residents should receive assistance regardless of where they first seek help.

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

Inequality and inclusion remains a significant challenge for the borough. National Energy Action estimates that 19.4% of all households in Rotherham, equivalent to 7,672 homes, are in fuel poverty. This is substantially higher than both the regional and national averages.

Recent figures suggest that around 31% of children in Rotherham live in poverty, meaning nearly one in three children face significant financial hardship. Income deprivation affecting children is particularly stark. Public Health England's local authority profile shows that 21.8% of children (10,910) live in low-income families.

As set out in Rotherham's joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA), the borough contains 36 lower super output areas (LSOAs) ranked in the top 10% most deprived in England, alongside 59 LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived. These clusters of concentrated deprivation reflect structural issues around income, health, education, community infrastructure, and living conditions.

The South Yorkshire labour market analysis indicates an unemployment rate of 4.4% in Rotherham (2025), marginally above the national figure of 4%.

ONS statistics show that 28.7% of Rotherham's working age residents (16–64) are economically inactive. Of these, 35.2% are inactive due to long-term sickness, substantially above the national level of 27.2%.

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In terms of evidence of local need, information collected from community food organisations (i.e. foodbanks) as part of the Council's food in crisis contract indicates that a steady volume of food parcels provided over the past year, with peak distribution in June 2025 (723 parcels) and strong sustained demand between April and October 2025. Monthly figures remained above 500 parcels in all the months (April – December 2025), indicating that there is still high demand for food parcels.

Almost 1,000 first-time users accessed food parcels within the reporting period, with the highest intake in October 2025 (137). This suggests continued identification and engagement of new residents experiencing food insecurity. However, the majority of food parcels were issued to returning users, indicating ongoing reliance on food support among some residents. This suggests sustained need rather than short-term crisis usage.

The number of people applying for crisis loans in the borough has been consistent over time. In the past year, about 700 individuals applied for loans to cater for food, bills, and other essential costs. This again indicates the level of poverty among the residents in the borough.

The Council has conducted previous engagement to gain a better understanding of the extent to which the residents of the borough need support to cope with cost-of-living crisis. An evaluation of the Household Support Fund programme has helped to identify what works. This has informed the CRF proposals.

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

The above data does not represent all aspects of inequality relating to Rotherham residents. The data may not fully capture the true impact of the extent of the ongoing high cost-of-living and the levels of support needed in Rotherham.

Some of the statistics referenced are based on sources published up to 2025 and may have since changed in the intervening period, as support needs continue to evolve.

There is also the need to more consistently collect data by protected characteristic in relation to cost-of-living or crisis support initiatives such as those proposed as part of the CRF programme.

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

Data plays an important role in targeting and transparency. The HSF evaluation highlighted inconsistencies and gaps in the collection and reporting of data across the range of interventions.

To improve data collection and utilisation, there is a need to standardise monitoring requirements and data collection across all CRF schemes and complementary programmes. Data should be brought together and stored in a way that makes it accessible and easy to analyse, in accordance with regulations regarding data protection. This will

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help to give a more holistic view, to strengthen strategic oversight, leading to better informed decision-making.

The approach to the CRF programme should also go beyond monitoring outputs, aiming to better understand the impact on individuals and households. Partly due to the government's reporting requirements, this was not a feature of the HSF programme.

For example, the school holiday voucher scheme has no data on the percentage of households redeeming the vouchers or any assessment of how it has positively impacted families, including how this might differ for those with protected characteristics such as disabilities.

As part of the implementation of the CRF programme, efforts will be made to collect qualitative information, including feedback from service users on how they've benefited from the various interventions. Where possible, data will be collected by protected characteristic to help identify whether particular demographic groups are accessing and benefiting from the programme.

The HSF evaluation indicated that some residents are reluctant to share personal information, and for those who are not digitally connected, the process can be difficult to navigate. There is a concern that people are missing out on support because they find the system too complex or invasive. This points to a need for more sensitive and accessible application methods that can reach the most vulnerable members of the community who may not engage with formal processes.

Accessibility and awareness-raising will be important aspects of the approach to CRF.

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

During the evaluation of the HSF in August and September 2025, partner organisations including Citizens Advice, Rotherfed, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and other partners operating food banks across the borough were engaged to understand how effective HSF interventions have been and to better understand how the cost-of-living crisis can be effectively responded to in Rotherham. This has provided insights into what works well in delivering cost-of-living support, as well as areas for improvement in future programmes. Key points include.

- **Building on existing systems enhances efficiency**
Leveraging established systems – e.g. the council tax support scheme - ensures continuity, simplifies delivery, reduces administrative burden, and enables residents to access support more easily. Integrating new initiatives into familiar frameworks also helps local authorities to scale interventions efficiently and maintain consistency across funding rounds.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Flexibility and collaboration strengthen delivery</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders underscored that flexibility and collaboration are key enablers of effective implementation. The Christmas food hampers initiative demonstrated how partnership working, particularly with the VCS, can expand reach.</p> <p>• Raising public awareness is crucial</p> <p>While existing programmes have been effective, there is concern that many eligible households remain unaware of the support available. This is particularly true for individuals without internet access or those disconnected from formal communication channels.</p> <p>Improving public awareness through more proactive, community-based outreach is essential to ensure equitable access. Future delivery models should prioritise clear communication strategies, utilising trusted community networks, local media, and face-to-face engagement, to ensure that information reaches those who need it most.</p> <p>• Addressing root causes, not just symptoms</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback emphasised that while HSF interventions have been vital, they often address the symptoms of financial crisis rather than its root causes.</p> <p>Greater emphasis should be placed on preventive and capacity-building measures, such as skills development, financial literacy, and pathways to employment, that reduce dependency on crisis support.</p> <p>• The need for a more integrated welfare system</p> <p>The evaluation highlighted the fragmented nature of some local welfare provision. For example, the DWP currently cannot make direct referrals to food banks, creating unnecessary barriers for those in need. This lack of interconnectivity forces individuals to navigate a complex and often confusing network of services.</p>
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	<p>A more integrated and seamless system, where public agencies, local authorities, and voluntary organisations share information and coordinate interventions, would enable more comprehensive and user-friendly support for vulnerable households.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening data and evidence systems Consistent data capture and management is essential for effective programme delivery and evaluation. Current monitoring arrangements vary across schemes, making it difficult to assess overall impact or identify gaps. <p>Introducing standardised and centralised data collection would improve coordination, enhance the targeting of beneficiaries, and provide a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions.</p>
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>As part of the HSF evaluation, engagement took place with colleagues from Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Children and Young Peoples' Services, and Corporate Services (finance). This engagement reinforced the importance of joining up similar programmes and collecting data consistently.</p> <p>A working group of officers from multiple services has helped to shape the CRF proposals.</p>

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

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The support proposed through the CRF is available to all residents and is expected to have particular benefits for those on low incomes.

Whilst the HSF evaluation revealed a shifting profile of those seeking support, including more working households and public sector staff, particular vulnerable groups include pensioners, single parents and ethnic minority communities.

The HSF evaluation has raised concern about access for certain groups. To address this, potential actions include expanding translation services, outreach, and face-to-face services to improve accessibility for minority groups, older people, and digitally excluded households.

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

As outlined in this analysis, there is a recognition that incomplete information and inconsistent data collection on similar programmes makes it difficult to fully understand the barriers for specific communities or groups.

There also potential barriers for some groups, particularly those who are digitally excluded or for whom English is not a first language.

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

Some barriers to access were evident in the implementation of HSF. Mechanisms to remove barriers to access will include:

- Increasing communication and raising public awareness of the programmes. This is important so that beneficiaries are aware of the nature of interventions and how they can access them.
- Access to the crisis support fund/payments scheme will be via an online form, phone or face to face. Help will be offered by Council officers to those who are unable to complete the application form.

By offering crisis payments together with referrals to resilience building services, the implementation of CRF will provide several positive impacts and help remove barriers for a wide range of individuals, particularly those who are struggling financially.

Delivering effective crisis support is intended to prevent the occurrence or escalation of individuals' crises. By offering timely, needs-based assistance to those with low incomes and vulnerable residents facing financial shocks, the proposals can reduce the risk of crisis need.

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By strengthening financial resilience among individuals, the proposals will empower residents to better manage financial shocks and mitigate the occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crises.

A joined-up, visible local support network is key to the CRF's approach. The programme will foster a culture of shared intelligence and joint working, improving referral pathways and enabling partners to adapt quickly to changing needs or circumstances. This, in turn, will help to ensure that those in crisis receive the support they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The approach to CRF will be guided by the following principles.

- **Person-centred** to ensure that people's preferences, needs and values stay central to professional decisions, providing support that is respectful to them.
- **Needs-based** to recognise the varied circumstances that individuals may experience, seeking to meet the underlying needs, not just the crisis symptoms.
- **Holistic** to provide integrated support that helps individuals or households access a wide range of services related to their assessed needs.
- **A no wrong door approach** that ensures individuals get the right service and support regardless of their initial point of contact.
- **Trauma informed approach** that creates a safe and empowering environment, emphasising safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment and cultural consideration.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

In general, the proposals should have a positive impact on community relations by helping to build partnerships, particularly through the community coordination element of CRF.

The effective co-ordination of statutory services, voluntary and community sector organisations, grassroots projects and place-based initiatives delivers benefits to both individuals needing support and the professionals involved, creating more financially resilient communities.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Crisis and Resilience Fund
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Lead Manager: Michael Holmes – Policy and Strategy Officer
Summary of findings:
The key finding is that improved data collection and use is crucial to the effective implementation of CRF in the longer term, enabling effective analysis of trends and impact, and improving targeting. Alongside this, it will be crucial to ensure that all groups, particularly those who may face barriers or risk exclusion, are aware of and can access the support available.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Implement a clear communication plan, including identifying awareness-raising activity that will help to ensure everyone at risk of financial crisis knows how to access the available support.	All	04/26
Ensure that multiple access routes are available for the crisis support fund / payments scheme, with support offered to help people complete applications.	All	04/26
Standardise data collection and reporting methods across CRF schemes, including information on protected characteristics, to identify trends and improve analysis and targeting	All	07/26

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Use qualitative impact measures to better understand the success of CRF interventions	All	07/26
Ensure the collaborative approach to CRF includes stakeholders who can effectively advocate for groups that may face barriers to access.	All	Ongoing

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	Job title	Date
Fiona Boden	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence	17/03/26
Chris Paddock	Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	20/03/26

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.	
If this Equality Analysis relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.	
A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	16.03.26
Report title and date	Crisis and Resilience Fund – 13 April 2026
Date report sent for publication	

Appendix 2

Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16.03.26
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Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Provision of food hampers and parcels with wider household essentials is a potential source of household waste.		Decrease in funding for wider household essentials from £100,000 to £20,000 in response to reduced levels of need reported by VCS partners mitigates the risk of wasteful provision	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	Crisis and Resilience funding will continue to support households with their energy costs via the Crisis Support Fund		Previous rounds of Energy Crisis Support have not resulted in referrals to the Council's Community Energy team, which provides energy advice and supports households to apply for energy saving grants – with the effect that households may have received hundreds of pounds to meet their	Relevant metrics may include (i) the number of households receiving Energy Crisis Support, (ii) the number of referrals to the Community Energy team, (iii) the number of referrals to the Community Energy team which result in further advice or support and (iv) any change in households' EPC rating,

				<p>immediate energy costs, without any help to manage those costs (and carbon emissions) in the longer term.</p> <p>To support the objectives of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, energy crisis and other forms of support should result in a referral to the Community Energy team, on the principle of <i>no wrong door</i>.</p>	where support received includes material improvements to homes' energy efficiency.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

Actions considered to improve data management, including the use of shared platforms may have carbon impacts from digital services, such as those arising from data centres' energy and cooling demands. Aligning the Council's and other actors' data capture, monitoring and reporting could mitigate such impacts by avoiding duplicated effort.

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

While there are no direct impacts of CRF implementation on climate change adaptation, many of the outcomes in respect of resilience building may improve local residents' resilience more generally and by extension could help to improve resilience to climate change.

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

Administration of the CRF does not have any significant climate impact. Where support involves material help with food and wider household essentials, lessons learned from the Council's previous implementation of the Household Support Fund will tailor support to meet actual local need and mitigate any risk of wasteful provision. To fulfil the principle of *no wrong door*, Energy Crisis and other forms of Crisis and Resilience support will result in referrals to the Council's Community Energy team, so that help with households' immediate energy costs may also improve their resilience to energy crises in the longer term – and so cut carbon emissions, from their domestic energy use.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Sunday Alonge Policy Officer Policy, Performance and Intelligence Strategy, Policy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029)
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 615 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 April 2026

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2026

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager

louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer

Arthur.king@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

On 30 October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set out its action plan covering seven policy themes of Monitoring and Measurement; Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; and Influence and Engagement. An Adaptation theme has been included since the 2022 annual report, to recognise work to prepare for the effects of climate change impacts and to mitigate those already being felt throughout the Borough of Rotherham.

At its meeting on 23 March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the following targets:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.
2. Approves the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan proposed in Appendix 2.
3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
4. Delegates allocation of the Council's Capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1	Climate Change Progress Report
Appendix 2	Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27
Appendix 3	Corporate Property Decarbonisation Plan
Appendix 4	Solar Project Amendment Proposal
Appendix 5	Climate Data Summary
Appendix 6	Equalities Screening Part A
Appendix 7	Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

- [Rotherham Council \(2020\). Responding to the Climate Emergency. Cabinet 23 March 2020:](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2021\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:](#)

- [Rotherham Council \(2021\) Budget & Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update - Appendix 3 Proof of Concept Project](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2022\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 25th April 2022:](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2022\) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. Cabinet 17th October 2022.](#)
- [Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 25th October 2022.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Climate Emergency Annual Report 20th March 2023](#)
- [Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 19 September 2023, 1.30 p.m. - Rotherham Council](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Council Building Decarbonisation Programme Cabinet Report - Monday 18 September 2023](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Expansion. Cabinet 16th October 2023](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Cabinets Response to the Improving Places Scrutiny Review - Nature Recovery Monday 16 September 2024](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Section 19 Report for Storm Babet, Improving Places Select Commission, Tuesday 22 October 2024.](#)
- [South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority \(2024\) Net Zero Update. Audit, Standards and Risk Committee. Tuesday 26 November 2024.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2023\) Transport CO2 emissions in Rotherham](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2024\) Waste Collections Policy. Cabinet 16th December 2024](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2025\) Protecting Our Farmland and countryside by prioritising solar panel installations on roofs and car parks. Council Meeting 15th January 2025.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2025\) Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 10th February 2025.](#)
- [Climate Change Committee \(2025\) Progress in Adapting to Climate Change 30 April 2025.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2025\) Local Development Scheme. Cabinet 15th September 2025.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2025\) Rotherham \(SYMCA\) Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(LEVI\) Fund. Cabinet 15th December 2025.](#)
- [Rotherham Council \(2026\) Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 27 January 2026.](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2026

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2019, at a full Council meeting, a motion was passed declaring a Climate Emergency in Rotherham. In March 2020, a report and policy statement 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' were approved by the Council's Cabinet and the following 'Net Zero' targets adopted:
- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
 - Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)
- 1.2 Since then, annual Climate Change Reports and Action Plans have sought to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own activity and across the Borough of Rotherham, to mitigate climate change. The Council's annual action plans focus on eight key themes including Monitoring, Energy, Transport, Housing, Waste, Built and Natural Environment, Influence and Engagement and Adaptation.
- 1.3 In 2022, Full Council resolved to declare a Nature Crisis, noting that approximately half of UK wildlife is in decline, with 15% of species at risk of extinction. It was also noted that the nature and climate crises are linked. Both nature and humanity are at risk from climate change, yet nature can provide some of the solutions which humanity needs to mitigate climate change: capturing and storing carbon, intercepting storm water flows, cooling and shading urban environments and mitigating air pollution. This report therefore aligns strategically with biodiversity action and provides a short summary of linked action, though an in-depth review is provided as part of the Council's Statutory Biodiversity Duty report, published in March 2026.
- 1.4 In 2024, Cabinet approved the Rotherham Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy which details the Council's commitment to secure a comprehensive future network so that all residents are included in the transition to electric vehicles.
- 1.5 This report therefore provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Council throughout 2025/26 (up to the end of quarter 3) and presents an action plan with associated recommendations for the delivery of the next phase of the Council's Decarbonisation Programme.
- 1.6 **National Policy Background**
- 1.7 There have been recent changes to the funding available for public sector building decarbonisation. In June 2025, it was announced that the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) would not continue after its latest iteration, Phase 4. This means that there is no obvious funding route for future schemes which do not provide a short-term return on investment, such as heating decarbonisation.
- 1.8 The Council has been successful in its application through the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for the Mayoral Renewables Fund to apply solar

panels to the new Outdoor Covered Market and Library in Rotherham Town Centre. Funding for renewables appears to be the primary available funding source at present, though the Council will continue to review opportunities as they arise to supplement its existing decarbonisation budgets.

- 1.9 At its meeting on 15 January 2025, full Council approved a motion regarding solar farms built on agricultural land. Council noted that an increased use of renewable energy sources is critical in meeting the UK's net zero commitments and tackling climate change but that agricultural land and green belt land provide a valuable natural resource for food security, biodiversity and the rural economy. Council resolved in favour of rooftop, brownfield and car park solar installations which will have implications for future schemes that the Council may bring forward, though will not affect the Council's determination of planning applications which must have due regard to the National Planning Policy Framework which supports the development of renewable energy.

2. Progress Report

- 2.1 The following sections provide an overview of the progress and activities undertaken throughout 2024/25.

2.2 Monitoring and measurement

- 2.3 The Council continues to monitor its emissions annually. The table below represents the Council's performance measures which measure progress against its Net Zero by 2030 targets. It should be noted that the data presented here relates to the 2024/25 period, to 31 March 2025. This is due to the way in which data is made available and subsequently internally validated through energy billing.

2.4 Net Zero by 2030 Performance Measures

KPI	UoM	Reporting Year					RAG
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Heating (Natural Gas, Biomass etc.)	tCO ₂ e	1,741	1,818	1,766	1,694	1,758	Red
Fleet Vehicles, Plant & Tools	tCO ₂ e	2,531	2,522	2,504	2,446	2,521	Red
On Site Diesel Generation	tCO ₂ e	3	4	0	0	-	Green
Fugitive Emissions from RACHP Plant	tCO ₂ e	138 [‡]	138 [‡]	138 [‡]	90	54	Green
Electricity Use in Buildings	tCO ₂ e	2,077	1,930	1,810	1,945	1,904	Yellow
Street Lighting	tCO ₂ e	1,530	1,384	1,267	1,356	1,343	Yellow
Grey Fleet Mileage & Business Travel	tCO ₂ e	221	273	384	396	413	Red
Total NZ30 Emissions	tCO₂e	8,242	8,068	7,869	7,927	7,993	Red
Annual Percentage Change*	%	-	-2.11	-2.47	0.74	0.83	Red
Cumulative Percentage Change [†]	%	-	-2.11	-4.53	-3.82	-3.02	Yellow

* Change in total, annual NZ30 emissions compared with the previous year.

[†] Change in emissions compared with 2020/21. The NZ30 target was adopted in March 2020.

[‡] In the first three reporting years from 2020, fugitive emissions were estimated from an inventory of air conditioning plant. Since 2023/24 inclusive, a material balance method has been applied, using data supplied by the Council's repair and maintenance contractor.

Table 1. NZ30 Emissions Performance measures 2024/25. Blue indicates complete; Green indicates on track; amber indicates progress but delayed; red indicates off-track; and grey indicates that no target has been set.

- 2.5 Annual greenhouse gas emissions within scope of the Council's Net Zero by 2030 climate change target (scope 1 and scope 2 emissions and scope 3 emissions from official business travel) were equivalent to 7,993 tonnes CO₂, in the 2024/25 municipal year: approximately 3% less than emissions in the 2020/21 baseline year, but a marginal increase year on year, from the previous annual reporting period. Compared with 2022/23, when annual greenhouse gas emissions were at their lowest level in five years of emissions accounting, emissions from heating and vehicles, plant and tools were almost unchanged. Emissions from business travel (grey fleet mileage) account for some of the increase, having increased year-on-year, every year, since 2020/21.
- 2.6 The Council's 'NZ30' scope boundary was determined with reference to government departments' minimum sustainability reporting criteria. As of the 2025/26 reporting year, government departments are no longer required to report scope 3 (indirect) emissions from business travel. Removing these emissions from the Council's carbon accounting of the last five years, emissions in 2024/25 would be reported at 120 tCO₂e or 1.27% greater in 2024/25 than at their lowest point, in 2022/23. The decrease observed in 'fugitive emissions from RACHP plant' (leaks from refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps) is in fact due to a change in methodology: whereas previously these emissions were estimated by applying standard factors to an inventory of air conditioning plant, they are now calculated by applying a material balance method to data supplied by the Council's repair and maintenance contractor. If these emissions had been excluded from the Council's reporting process an increase in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from 2022/23 to 2024/25 closer to 180 tCO₂e, or 2.45% would have been reported.
- 2.7 94% of the observed increase is due to increased greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use, in Council buildings and for streetlighting. The Council's electricity use actually decreased over the two years from 2022/23 to 2024/25, by 1.44%; however, the greenhouse gas conversion factor for UK electricity increased by 7.07%, over the same period. Greenhouse gas conversion factors, which reference the carbon intensity of the UK's energy systems and enable the Council to assess the carbon impact of the energy it uses, are determined two years in arrears, such that factors for the 2022/23 and 2024/25 reporting periods are calculated from 2020 and 2022 data years, respectively. A 2025/26 conversion factor 14.5% less than in 2024/25, reflecting the relative carbon intensity of the UK electricity system in 2023, has already been published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and will be reflected in the February 2027 report.

- 2.8 Based on the conversion factor for UK electricity alone, the Council's NZ30 emissions can be expected to fall 5-6% year-on-year in 2025/26, or 8-9% compared with a 2020/21 baseline. This underlines the extent to which progress towards the Council's climate change target has been driven by this factor. By 2030/31, UK electricity system decarbonisation alone cannot be expected to cut the Council's annual emissions to a level much less than 5,650 tCO_{2e}.
- 2.9 Projects which could have materially decreased the carbon intensity of Council operations in 2024/25 have not yet been implemented, with the consequences reflected in annual carbon accounts. It should be noted that work is underway to progress these but there is a lag between approval, procurement and delivery, especially in the case of building decarbonisation.
- 2.10 Of these key decarbonisation activities, as individual building projects result in generally small carbon reductions on a site by site basis, a significant carbon saving could be achieved by extending the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biodiesel to more of the Council's fleet. Notwithstanding a successful trial, extending HVO use to vehicles which have not yet been approved for replacement by electric models will be subject to feasibility assessment, especially with respect to financial implications, with a decision on investment expected in the 2026/27 municipal year (see also Appendix 2). Projects are underway which will materially decrease the Council's carbon emissions and these are detailed in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.45.
- 2.11 **Net Zero by 2040 Performance Measures**
- 2.12 The table below presents the 2024/25 performance measures relating to the Net Zero by 2040 target.

2.13

Net Zero by 2040 Performance Measures							
KPI	UoM	Reporting Year*					Status
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	
Local Area Emissions	ktCO _{2e}	1630	1534	1440	1364	-	
Annual Percentage Change	%	-8.06	-5.88	-6.16	-5.23	-	
Percentage Change from 2005 Baseline	%	-44.33	-47.6	-50.83	-53.41	-	
Fossil Fuels as a Share of Energy Mix	%	80.41	79.81	79.21	78.88	-	
Renewable Generation Installed Capacity	MW	90.6	92.9	94.4	97.3	99.6	
Residences within 3.0mi of RMBC EVCP	%				90.0	99.7	

Residences within 1.5mi of RMBC EVCP	%				48.9	79.0	
Council Homes Rated at least EPC Band C	%		46.5 [†]	50.9	53.9	55.7	
Household Recycling Rate	%	43.3	45.0	44.5	44.9	-	
Recycling Contamination Rate	%	7.70	6.70	6.40	7.00 [‡]	-	
Residual Waste per Household	kg·yr ⁻¹	506.8	495.0	473.0	480.5	-	

* Local area greenhouse gas emissions and energy statistics are reported by calendar year. Calendar years are aligned with the Council's municipal year reporting periods according to which comprises the greater part of each e.g., 2020 NZ40 emissions appear under 2020/21 in the above table. Local area emissions data is provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero two years in arrears. Therefore 2024/25 data will be available in June 2027.

[†] 46.5% of Council homes rated EPC band C or above as of October 2021.

[‡] Estimated rejects as a proportion of all household waste collected for recycling is no longer published as a standalone statistic since the closure of Oflog (Office for Local Government) and its data explorer. An equivalent metric is calculated from local authority collected waste management data published by Defra. Recycling material recovered from residual waste is factored into this and Oflog's previous metric, such that contamination of kerbside recycling bins may be under-reported.

Table 2. NZ40 Performance Measures to 2024/25. EV data presented is to year end 2025. Blue indicates complete; green indicates on-track; amber indicates progress but delayed; red indicates off-track; and grey indicates that no target has been set.

- 2.14 The Council continues to measure several Key Performance Indicators in relation to the Borough's performance. In general, emissions are declining, however the portion of fossil fuels in the Borough's energy mix remains high. UK-wide action to develop a net zero National Grid by 2030 will only affect approximately 20% of the Borough's energy emissions, which means that local action to transition to low carbon heating types, such as air source heat pumps or heat networks is key to reaching net zero.
- 2.15 It is expected that the above performance measures may evolve as work to develop the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy continues. Work with partners to co-create this Strategy has already commenced with workshops taking place throughout October and November 2025. Actions proposed in the 2026/27 action plan associated with this report will also support the development of these measures.
- 2.16 A more in-depth overview of the Council's emissions is provided in Appendix 5.
- 2.17 **Energy**
- 2.18 In January 2025, the Council was successfully awarded funds as part of the final iteration of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS 4) to deliver

decarbonisation works to three Council buildings - 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens Community Centre and Swinton Customer Service Centre and Library. The contract for these works has now been awarded, with final designs approved and works scheduled to commence in late March or early April. Decarbonisation works at these sites and at Peacock Lodge Children's Home all have expected completion dates in June 2026. It is expected that this project will reduce emissions by 35.35tCO₂e per annum.

- 2.19 In addition, the Council is also progressing with several solar projects which include solar panels as part of the Town Centre Markets and Library and a solar canopy over the visitor parking bays at Riverside House. The works at Riverside House are expected to commence in April 2026 with completion by early June, while the Markets solar project will be completed by May 2026, according to current contractor estimates. These projects align with the Council Motion to prioritise solar panels on rooftops and are estimated to provide a cumulative saving of 77.8tCO₂ per annum. The projects will also reduce revenue requirements for the lifetime of their use.
- 2.20 In 2021 Cabinet approved a scheme to develop and deliver a 1MW pilot solar farm project within the Borough on Council land. Unfortunately, the planned project site fell through due to legal complications relating to restrictive covenants held by the Coal Authority. Since then, the Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search and basic feasibility assessments Borough wide. There are currently no suitable sites available and given the recent increase in solar developments locally and the recent Council motion to focus on car parks and rooftops, it has been identified that this project will not be possible to deliver in its current form. It is therefore proposed that a similar scheme, focussed on an 'invest to save' rooftop and canopy project, is approved for delivery instead. The project proposes to deliver renewables, i.e., solar panels to a number of different property types across the Council's wider corporate property portfolio, specifically targeting properties that are not included within the Council's existing heat decarbonisation plan. More details relating to the proposed approach and property eligibility is provided in Appendix 4. The Local Area Energy Plan, the commissioning of which is a proposed action for 202/27, may also present further opportunities for renewable energy generation across the Borough and, if so, proposals will subsequently be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.
- 2.21 It is important to manage the acquisition, refurbishment and build of new corporate Council sites to ensure compliance with the Council's net zero ambitions. As such, a Decarbonisation Standard has been produced which will act as a client specification to ensure new build properties conform to the highest available efficiency and monitoring standards.
- 2.22 The Council continues to provide support to residents with energy advice and information relating to grants. As of end February 2026, the Community Energy Team have signed off 1,610 ECO4-Flex grants since the scheme started in 2022, supporting the most vulnerable residents to access home insulation and other energy efficiency measures. 206 were approved between March 2025 and end February 2026. On average these projects have saved residents £6,500 per installation, based on average installation costs.

- 2.23 In the Autumn budget, the Government announced its plans to close the ECO (Energy Company Obligation) scheme at the end of March 2026, without a direct replacement. A recent announcement in January 2026 confirmed an extension of this scheme until December 2026, but applications for this scheme are now tailing off with only two Rotherham FLEX approved installers having funding remaining. However, the government also announced a plan to provide an additional £1.5 billion capital investment to tackle fuel poverty through the Warm Homes Plan, in addition to the £13.2 billion of funding allocated at the Spending Review 2025. It is not clear at present whether the Council will administer this fund, which plans to focus on the delivery of air source heat pumps and solar, but it is hoped that this information will be made available when the detail around the delivery of the Warm Homes Plan is announced in coming months.
- 2.24 The cessation of the ECO scheme will result in a reduction in residents' energy bills as the scheme will no longer be funded as a levy on customers' bills, but it is not yet known what the impact will be on local trade organisations which have previously been mobilised to deliver the works associated with this fund. The scheme itself provided energy efficiency improvements to the most vulnerable residents throughout the Borough, particularly those vulnerable to living in cold homes. As in previous years, from 1 November, the Council also offered an Energy Crisis Support Scheme which can support residents in fuel poverty with a payment of up to £250. Whilst this does not directly contribute to decarbonisation, it is designed to support vulnerable residents to manage during the winter months. Links with the existing home grants schemes can also be made, supporting warmer, more efficient homes in future years.
- 2.25 **Transport**
- 2.26 **Fleet Transport**
- 2.27 The procurement of Electric Vehicles (EV) as part of the Fleet Replacement Programme has been subject to delays. The number of EVs to be included is still being finalised as part of the procurement activity, however as committed to Cabinet previously, the Council is seeking to replace 64 vehicles. Since the original Cabinet decision, at least two of those vehicles are no longer required for service delivery so will not be replaced. There have previously been challenges with electrical reliability at Hellaby Depot, relating to load balancing on site; vehicles which are currently taken home by employees due to their working arrangements must also be considered, while several other depot sites are being assessed for EV charger installation. Although maintenance of EVs is generally required less frequently than their ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) alternatives, the delivery of a training programme for workshop maintenance on EVs will also be considered when the final details are confirmed. These challenges are currently being worked through across Fleet, Climate and Facilities Services and the ambition remains to convert a greater proportion of the fleet to EVs in line with the original Cabinet decision. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in due course to confirm the outcome of this work.

2.28 For vehicles which are not planned to be EVs, or may not be suitable at this stage due to performance, the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) may be a feasible alternative which could reduce operational carbon emissions by up to 90% in the vehicles consuming this alternative fuel. The larger, heavier vehicles that form part of the Council's fleet would be an example of potential users due to low battery performance associated with heavy loads. However, HVO is more expensive than diesel and petrol and therefore requires careful consideration prior to any approval and roll out. A review of the costs of moving to greater reliance on HVO and the options around future EV charging infrastructure needs, will be undertaken early in the 2026/27 financial year. This will provide options for the roll out of further EVs in line with previous plans.

2.29 **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

2.30 In June 2023, Cabinet approved the delivery of a solar PV canopy and electric vehicle hub to be installed at Drummond Street Car Park and funded by the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. As part of this, the Council was awarded £1.29 million for the canopy and electrical infrastructure, requiring £300,000 minimum investment from a contractor to deliver the EV infrastructure and manage and maintain the hub as a concession.

2.31 This project experienced significant delays and, due to the complex nature of the scheme and the type of procurement, required additional external legal support to ensure a robust contract and procurement process. This has now completed and the company Wenea Ltd were awarded the project in December 2025. The project is now in the design and planning phase and is expected to be completed by September 2027. In order to ensure continued access and availability of the Drummond Street Car Park during this time, a phased approach to construction will be undertaken which may lengthen delivery timeframes.

2.32 The Council is also involved with a further regional LEVI scheme, designed to improve the South Yorkshire region's EV infrastructure, particularly for those without access to off street parking. In December 2025, Cabinet approved the Council's involvement in this scheme and work continues with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to deliver this procurement. This contract takes a similar, concessionary approach, where a contractor will be appointed across the region to utilise grant funding administered by SYMCA, supported by the Council's EVI Officer to approve site selections and design within the borough, but self-managed by the awarded contractor.

2.33 The following EV chargepoints have also been delivered during 2025/26 utilising the Council's allocated capital budget: Constable Lane, Dinnington; Mowbray Gardens, Greasbrough and Kiveton Park Libraries; Greenlands Park, North Anston; Laburnum Parade, Maltby. In addition, 6 twin fast and 1 twin rapid charger have been installed at Rother Valley; as of end February 2026 Rother Valley's 12 Fast chargers are now live and the Rapids are installed but currently awaiting commissioning. At Maltby, 2 Rapids (4 sockets) are now live and the remaining 22kW Fast chargers are pending final commissioning.

Groundworks are complete at Clifton Park which has experienced delays due to issues with the planned cable route and the charge points are now awaiting final electrical supply to install and commission.

2.34 This programme places 99.7% of Rotherham households within 3 miles of a Council operated EV Charger and 38,152 households (32%) within 0.5 miles - approximately a 10-minute walk from a charger. The target for delivery of 95% of residents to be within 3 miles of a Council operated EV Charger by 2025 has now been met. Further metrics are available in Appendix 5 and in section 2.12 above.

2.35 **Mode Shift**

2.36 Schemes to improve residents' ability to walk, wheel and cycle continue to be considered and will be brought forward as feasibility studies are completed.

2.37 The Council also commissions several cycling schemes to encourage users across all age groups to become more confident to cycle and switch to cycling as a more frequent mode of travel.

2.38 This includes the Bikeability scheme which works with Rotherham's schools to improve access to cycling proficiency and the Journey Matters Hub which provides a number of services including adult cycle training, Dr Bike sessions and cycle trials and loans.

2.39 A bid has also been submitted by Sheffield Cycling 4 All to Active Travel England's Active Travel Innovation Fund following their successful trial of six Inclusive Cycling Sessions in Herringthorpe Playing Fields between April and July 2025. These sessions provided opportunities for disabled people and those with long term health conditions to access cycling in a safe, supportive and social environment. 99 cyclists engaged with this scheme, plus 44 supporters, 32% of whom attended more than one session. Participants reported joy, pride and increased confidence in their ability to cycle. The sessions provided not only physical activity, but vital social connection and a sense of freedom for those who face barriers to sport and mobility. If the bid is successful, further sessions may be available for Rotherham residents to access Inclusive Cycling in the future.

2.40 **Housing**

2.41 The Council's commitment to achieve EPC Band C by 2030 has been recently supported by a successful bid to the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund. The Council was awarded £8.8 million from the Department for Energy and Net Zero, to be used alongside Council match funding to deliver energy efficiency measures to 996 homes.

2.42 However, in June 2025 changes to the method for assessing EPC bands, known as RdSAP 9 (Reduced data Standard Assessment Procedure) were announced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The transition from RdSAP 9 to RdSAP 10 represents a fundamental shift in the methodology used to calculate Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. This updated

approach incorporates more stringent criteria and revised assumptions about property characteristics and energy use. As a result, as the Council has re-evaluated its housing stock using the new RdSAP 10 framework, 1,941 homes were downgraded from an EPC Band C or above to EPC Band D or below. This widespread reclassification lowers the Council's baseline for energy performance and significantly increases the scale of intervention required to achieve the 2030 Band C target. Consequently, more homes will require comprehensive retrofitting and energy efficiency improvements, increasing both the scope and cost of the decarbonisation program. Accurate data and adaptive planning are required to ensure the best retrofitting strategy is adopted per property and as such this change is being addressed as part of the wider housing stock retrofitting plan. This information and its impact on the Council's target, will be presented in future Climate Emergency Annual Reports as the data affected is after June 2025.

2.43 The Rotherham Housing Strategy 2025 -2030 was published in December 2025. Priority 2 of the strategy is "Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes". The Strategy re-iterates the Council's target of all Council properties achieving Band C by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty. The Strategy states the Council's continued support to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency across the Borough's housing stock, develop the council housing decarbonisation plan and hold landlords accountable for the condition of their properties, including energy efficiency.

2.44 **Waste**

2.45 The implementation of Simpler Recycling in the Business Waste Service is currently underway. Contracts are currently being procured to cover dry mixed recycling and food waste. At present Simpler Recycling only applies to businesses with 10 or more employees. However, from 1 April 2027 this will be extended to all businesses. Rotherham Business Waste, the Council's waste service which provides waste disposal to commercial organisations, will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Simpler Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review its corporate building portfolio with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.

2.46 **Built & Natural Environment**

2.47 The Council is now progressing with the making of a new Local Plan and as such the action to update the Core Strategy with a view to improving climate change policy cannot be completed. A Local Development Strategy for preparation of a complete new Local Plan was approved at Cabinet on 15 September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change mitigation: an action to this effect is proposed in the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan.

2.48 The Council continues to progress its Tree Planting Programme, with a cumulative total of 53,119 trees planted since 2021. The tree planting season

falls between November and April and as such work was still in progress at the time of preparing this report. As of February 2026, 10,120 trees and hedgerows had been planted this season, of which 672 were in urban areas.

2.49 Biodiversity

2.50 A South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is currently being devised by SYMCA, supported by the four South Yorkshire local authorities. Council officers continue their contributions to this work, providing evidence and insight into the process including information relating to the Borough's habitats and proposed species of interest. Consultation on the LNRS can be expected in Spring 2026: publication is not expected before March 2027.

2.51 In 2024, the Improving Places Select Committee undertook a review of Nature Recovery In Rotherham and proposed 13 actions for delivery between 2024 and March 2027, 10 of which were subsequently approved by Cabinet, with the remaining 3 deferred subject to further trials. These actions cover a breadth of different topics and services and include actions such as member support, prioritising local wildlife sites and continuing work already underway such as community engagement, tree planting and verge management. The below provides a brief overview of some of the nature recovery progress to date, however the Council will publish a more in-depth report in March 2026 as part of its Statutory Biodiversity Duty reporting requirement.

2.52 An online training course on the Council's Virtual College is now available for all staff and Members which details information relating to the climate and nature emergencies and how staff can take their own action to reduce carbon emissions and encourage a nature recovery.

2.53 One deferred action proposed was to cease all use of glyphosate pesticides. Instead, the Council proposed to trial the use of glyphosate-free alternatives to reduce non-essential use of pesticides as part of the Council's maintenance programme prior to further consideration. The trial had been expected to be undertaken during 25/26 but as alternate methods of weed management require an increased resource requirement and a small seasonal window this was not possible and as such has been deferred to 2026/27. Alternatives have been researched by the Climate Team to be used as part of the trial when possible.

2.54 The Council's Green Spaces service has also worked closely with several partners including Butterfly Conservation, Water Life Recovery Trust, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Rotherham & Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Froglife and internal services, to undertake surveys, develop biodiversity schemes and Local Wildlife Site designations.

2.55 Influence And Engagement: Children's Capital of Culture

2.56 Children's Capital of Culture, Rotherham's year-long festival engaging, including and inspiring young people has led to many opportunities for Rotherham's young people to explore the climate and nature agendas, to become more active and to celebrate Rotherham's natural heritage through its

theme 'A World Beneath our Feet'. Encouraging the uptake of active travel for health, the environment and more importantly for fun, has formed a key element of this festival.

- 2.57 Children's Capital of Culture has led on play-based activities, creating opportunities for learning and interaction using the medium of play such as through street games and play streets. A primary school project utilised a dance company called Speedwell to create a show called 'The Mountain Witch'. This show gently introduces themes around climate change in an engaging and creative way. As part of wider activity, Rotherham Symphony Orchestra delivered a 'World Beneath Our Feet' concert, taking inspiration from the natural world including writing and illustrations from young people to support. Rotherham also hosted The Royal Horticultural Show at Wentworth Woodhouse in July 2025, with young children producing two flagship gardens which have since been replanted into the primary school responsible afterwards. Care experienced young people supported by Affinity planted a 'Young Designers' Garden. The young people involved in this have since achieved horticultural roles showing the value of their experience gained through the Children's Capital of Culture festival.
- 2.58 The project has also enabled community activity, through the provision of micro-grants to VCSE groups related to the natural world. Schemes funded include the Friends of Brampton Graveyard Community Day which included a general site clear up and the creation of bug hotels and other nature-based crafts. Youth drama work continues at the Civic Theatre, with a redramatising of 'The Snowflake' and large visual artworks have also been commissioned. Artist James Brunt has also been commissioned to create artwork with schools and community groups, utilising natural materials to be used in the Children's Capital of Culture closing ceremony in March.
- 2.59 The Remade in Rotherham field at Rotherham Show 6-7 September 2025 showcased different ways in which residents and young people can get involved in environmental action. The Show featured a range of craft activities, re-use opportunities and environmentally-themed workshops including Junk Jodie, a storyteller and artist using recycled materials for artwork and the Made in Rotherham Horticultural Show. The Trees Service and Climate Change Team also attended, sharing information about the borough's woodlands, low carbon home improvements and grant schemes alongside EV information, an EV Showcase by the Yorkshire EV Club and a multitude of performances such as Bamboo by NoFit State. There was also a focus on physical activity including Moving Rotherham and Journey Matters Dr Bike service.
- 2.60 Supported by Neighbourhoods Officers and Members, nature and climate themed engagement activity continues in Rotherham's communities. Examples include tree planting and green space improvements, working with schools and using recycled rubbish or natural materials to create art, green themed library sessions such as at Mowbray Gardens Library and energy efficiency advice at events to support people living in cold homes.
- 2.61 Finally, three workshops have been undertaken with members of the Rotherham Together Partnership gathering insight from across a variety of

sectors and anchor institutions to begin the co-creation of the Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. This work aims to develop the Council's approach and priorities for achieving its Net Zero by 2040 target. Future actions to shape this Strategy further include technical analysis to identify routes to Net Zero in the transport and energy sectors throughout 2026/27.

2.62 Adaptation

2.63 Climate Change Adaptation refers to the ability of an organisation to respond to the expected impact of climate change by reducing vulnerability or risk by effective planning, but also by putting physical measures in place to manage buildings and infrastructure in the face of increasing risk of storms, flooding and excessive heat. A report by the Climate Change Committee to Parliament in April 2025 shared its concerns regarding the country's preparedness for future climate impacts. The effects of flooding and excessive heat on homes and livelihoods due to unchecked climate change could impact the UK economic output by up to 7% of GDP by 2050 impacting long term growth ambitions. It is therefore of greater importance that the Council continues to include adaptation and climate risk assessments as part of its climate change programme moving forward.

2.64 The Council's adaptation work builds on the regional pilot programme steered by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and aims to develop an understanding of the likely future impacts of a warming climate on the Council's services. A programme of training and risk assessment has been developed and is progressing to plan. In April 2025, the Council's earlier carbon impact assessment template was revised, to include consideration of adaptation and resilience to climate change in all Cabinet and Officer Decisions.

2.65 Furthermore, since the publication of the second National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) in January 2025 (after the last Climate Emergency Annual Report was compiled) risk of flooding from rivers and risk of flooding from surface water datasets published on the Rotherham Data Hub website have been updated to account for the effects of climate change, by mid-century. By 2040-60, the number of residential properties in Rotherham at high risk of flooding from rivers (defined as having at least a 1 in 30 annual probability of flooding) is predicted to increase by 11.36%.

2.66 An update on the Council's flood alleviation schemes is also provided in Appendix 1, to provide a holistic account of the Council's action on climate change and to recognise the increasing likelihood of flood risk as a result of climate change. This was reported separately and in more detail in a report to Improving Places Select Commission in January 2026.

2.67 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan

2.68 A proposed climate change action plan for the 2026/27 period is presented in Appendix 2. The below section outlines some of the key activities proposed and their impacts.

- 2.69 A critical piece of work will be the commissioning and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan. This work will span the Rotherham Borough, provide proposed pipeline projects for the delivery of the Net Zero by 2040 target and directly feed into the Council's Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. It will also provide an opportunity for the development of investment proposals for renewables as part of the Council's wider estate.
- 2.70 A proposal for the delivery of actions to decarbonise the Council's estate over the next five-year period is also presented. 53 buildings are included, of which 17 smaller properties are proposed for delivery in 2026/27, with a forward plan for 36 remaining properties up to 2030. It is recommended that the plan as presented at Appendix 3a, associated procurement and delivery should be approved, alongside a recommendation to utilise funding from various sources such as SYMCA and DESNZ, should it become available. It is proposed that the 2026/27 works utilise approximately £2.5 million of the Council's allocated decarbonisation budget.
- 2.71 The original £6.4 million allocated capital decarbonisation budget was designed as a match funding contribution and is not sufficient to cover the remaining property works required to achieve net zero. As such a need to access alternative external funding sources has been identified now that the PSDS is closed. Based on the programme provided in Appendix 3a, it is expected that the Council's budget will be fully utilised part way through the 2027 proposed plan if further funding is not identified. The recommendation to pre-approve the full programme and its procurement subject to funding will enable a faster approval process to expedite delivery of individual building decarbonisation schemes given the short 4-year period remaining to deliver this programme.
- 2.72 It should also be noted that there is a risk that these works may result in an initial increased revenue requirement, based on current electricity prices. This is due to current market conditions, where electricity remains more expensive than gas. This presents a financial risk, though the carbon emissions of the sites will be reduced and the energy security of the sites where solar is feasible will be improved. Sites will also be subject to energy efficiency improvements such as building energy management systems and increased insulation, which will further mitigate the financial risk, alongside ongoing solar feasibility assessments across the Council's portfolio. Sites will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- 2.73 Works included within this plan include design work, insulation, LED lighting, solar panels, energy management system installation and heating system replacements - which for the most part is recommended to be air source heat pumps, though final designs will recommend the most appropriate and cost-effective measures available.
- 2.74 Three sites have been selected for the installation of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure; these are identified in Appendix 2. However, a number of other sites have also been put forward as potential sites should feasibility and internal demand allow. Due to the Council's successful installation programme to date, most Council-owned public car parks either meet current demand for

EV charging or pose challenges for delivery. These remaining sites are generally more complicated and may have shared occupancy or tenancy agreements. Assessments will be undertaken at each site to confirm the appropriate specification of charger delivered at each site based on expected dwell time at each location and likely use. Risk of anti-social behaviour and vandalism will also be assessed to determine most appropriate charger type installed. The Council is currently trialling cable protectors (known as Cable Guards) at its existing Rapid charge points to understand whether this prevents or deters against theft of Rapid charger cables. These devices are cut resistant and contain pressurised Smart Water dispersion if the Cable Guard is breached. If successful, this will enable further Rapids to be installed as part of the programme. It is also expected that the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme approved by Cabinet in December 2025 will further increase the Rapid provision throughout the Borough. The aim across both projects is to ensure a varied network of charge point types at suitable locations to complement the approximately 300 device private sector provision already in the Borough.

2.75 A full forward plan of proposed actions for 2026/27 is available in Appendix 2.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1. Do Nothing.

3.1.1 This option proposes that Cabinet notes the progress made so far but does not take any further action.

3.1.2 This option is not recommended as it is inconsistent with the Council's 2019 motion and committed policy statement on responding to the Climate Emergency.

3.2 Option 2. Approve the Climate Change Action Plan and associated recommendations.

3.2.1 This action proposes the following, that Cabinet:

1. Notes the key achievements and progress made as detailed in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.
2. Approves the Climate Change Action Delivery Plan proposed in Appendix 2.
3. Delegates the specification, procurement, contract award and subsequent delivery of (i) the Corporate Property Decarbonisation Programme, Appendix 3a, (ii) the EV Infrastructure Programme, Appendix 3b and (iii) works referenced under the Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2027, Appendix 2, as well as any changes to these programmes and works, to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

4. Delegates allocation of the Council's capital Decarbonisation Budget and EV Infrastructure Capital Budget and the acceptance of any available funding streams such as from SYMCA, Great British Energy or other Government schemes for delivery as per Appendices 3a and 3b to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. Approves an amendment to the £1m renewable energy pilot project approved by Cabinet on 15 February 2021, to deliver instead an invest-to-save renewable energy scheme comprising rooftop or car park canopy solar PV, as detailed in Appendix 4 and section 2.20 below; and also delegates authority for site selection, procurement and delivery of the amended scheme to the Service Director of Property and Facilities Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

3.2.2 This is the recommended option, enabling the Council to continue to make progress towards its net zero targets and providing improved authority to utilise funding for approved schemes.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Internal stakeholders have been consulted on the Council buildings which form part of the proposed corporate decarbonisation plan and the actions associated with the forward climate change action plan 2026/27 available in Appendix 2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report provides an update on past actions and presents an action plan for the 2026/27 financial year in Appendix 2. It is anticipated that the majority of actions will be completed in year but where this differs the 'Target Date' presented in Appendix 2 will indicate expected completion date.

5.2 The Climate Change Action plan collates action from across Council services and as such individual services are responsible for the delivery of the actions assigned to them. This information is also presented in Appendix 2 for accountability purposes.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report and its appendices outline numerous different workstreams which are working towards achieving the Council's net zero targets. These will have to be funded through existing and approved revenue and capital budgets. Where additional financial resource is required, this will have to be identified as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.

6.2 As Services prepare for the procurement of contracts, it will be imperative that appropriate consideration is given to climate change in the design and development of the specification. In relation to the procurement activity detailed in this report, this must be undertaken in compliance with relevant

procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market selected as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Services must ensure early engagement and preparation of all procurement related activity.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target on the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2050. The 80% target was increased to a 100% target in 2019 (the net zero target) by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. Although there are currently no net zero statutory targets for local authorities, many (including the Council as set out in this report), have adopted commitments to reduce Carbon emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.
- 7.2 The Council's commitment to net zero and the actions towards this as set out in the report are consistent with the Government's Net Zero Strategy and are indicative of the important role local authorities play in achieving net zero.
- 7.3 There will be legal implications for each of the projects referred to within the Climate Change Action Plan, which will include compliant procurement, appropriate contractual arrangements and adherence to funding requirements. These matters will be addressed within the governance and decision-making processes for each project.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resource implications as a result of this report. It is expected that the proposed plan can be undertaken using the current resource.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Children, young people and vulnerable adults may be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change. As such, the services directly interacting with vulnerable groups are prioritised in the Council's adaptation plan for earlier review.
- 9.2 The Council will continue to seek the viewpoints of young people through the various groups it has access to via representatives within Children and Young People's services.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 As this report is largely administrative in nature, there are minimal direct impacts on equalities and human rights.
- 10.2 Equality impacts may arise as the programme of works develops and as such consideration of equalities and human rights at the project level should continue throughout development, consultation and engagement to understand the potential impacts. Equality Screening and if required an assessment will be

undertaken before implementation of change or significant programmes of work particularly when planning adaptive measures for Council services or buildings in relation to climate change impacts. Programmes will therefore be managed to reduce service user impact.

- 10.3 Equalities implications might arise as part of future EV Infrastructure installations and are likely to be site specific. As per the Council's Public EV Strategy, the Council will continue to install EV charge points with PAS1899:2022 standard in mind to reduce impacts and ensure equitable access for all, where reasonably practicable.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The corporate property decarbonisation actions proposed for 2026/27 will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 183.12 tCO₂e, with a total expected reduction of 1,042 tCO₂e by 2030. The works to decarbonise the Council's estate and assess the Council's readiness for climate impacts will also improve resilience and knowledge surrounding the likely impacts of climate change on the Borough and Council services.
- 11.2 A Climate Change Impact Assessment is available in Appendix 7 and a summary of the Council's carbon emissions reporting is available within Appendix 5.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 To date, partners from across the Rotherham Together Partnership have been involved in several workshops to identify priorities, challenges and opportunities for the delivery of a Sustainable Rotherham Strategy. There will be further opportunities for the Council's partners to continue involvement in the co-creation of the Council's Sustainability Strategy as well as input into engagement relating to the Local Area Energy Plan.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The changing political and financial landscape poses a risk to the delivery of the Programme, in particular with regards to the availability of public sector funding for delivery of schemes where return on investment is not as favourable. The purpose of recommendation 4 is to mitigate this risk, enabling the council to utilise available funding sources as they arise.
- 13.2 The scale of change and costs associated with delivery may impact on the deliverability of the Council's net zero targets, in particular the target for Council operations to be Net Zero by 2030. This risk cannot be fully mitigated at this time.
- 13.3 The action plan proposed in Appendix 2 does not contain the full scope of actions required by the Council to achieve its net zero targets. As feasible emissions are reduced and as the 2030 target date draws nearer, consideration may also need to be given to budgets related to offsetting and funding for projects which may not have short returns on investment.

- 13.4 Similarly, the full scope of interventions to achieve the Borough's 'Net Zero by 2040' target is not currently identified. Actions to develop a Local Area Energy Plan and transport decarbonisation research will improve this and will focus future action within the Council's control. At this stage, the full investment requirement for this target is not yet identified and therefore remains a risk.

14. Accountable Officers

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	20/03/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/03/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	13/03/26

Report Author: Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager
louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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The action plan below details climate change actions undertaken during the 2025/2026 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

Legend - Status

	Complete
	On Track
	Delayed
	Will not be completed
	On hold

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting.	Ongoing	Climate		Scope 3 emissions have been enhanced to include emissions from the procurement of goods and services. See appendix 4 for further information.
	Review progress against the Council's net zero targets.	December 2025	Climate		This work has been completed. A report has been produced which identifies that although reaching net zero operations is possible within the next 5 years, the current uncertainty around government funding means that delivery is uncertain, particularly for the Council's corporate estate. Further detail about the Council's current emissions is also available in Appendix 4.
	Working with finance, policy and governance	March 2026	Climate		Stronger delegations have been discussed with finance, and governance and as such have been

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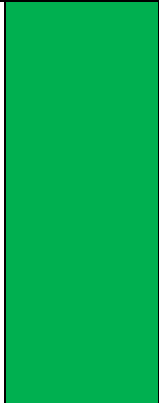
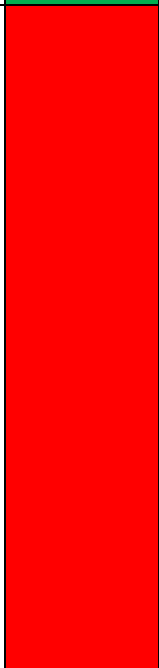

	<p>teams to improve the pace at which decarbonisation can be achieved through effective governance.</p>				<p>included within this report for Cabinet’s consideration. The delegations included within this report will enable the climate change team to set in place an overarching procurement for delivery of the full scheme and enable action as soon as funding becomes available.</p>
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ENERGY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	<p>Continue to deliver the Council’s Heat Decarbonisation Plan. Sites likely to be included in 2025 activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 Middle Lane South • Springwell Gardens • Swinton CSC & Library 	March 2027	Climate		<p>The Council was successfully awarded PSDS Phase 4 funding to undertake these works. A contractor has been appointed, and the project is now in design phase in readiness for construction to begin in March/April 2026.</p> <p>In addition, a further site, Peacock Lodge Children’s Home is also planned to be delivered during this time period following the successful completion of the first 3 sites. Full works are expected to be completed by June 2026.</p>
	<p>Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.</p>	March 2027	Climate		<p>This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council’s more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. Following the closure of the Rotherham Town Centre Heat Network Project, the Council has since submitted a funding request to commission a feasibility study to confirm whether, given the challenges the previous project experienced, a town centre heat network remains a viable option for this location. Unfortunately, this bid</p>

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					was not successful, so other funding opportunities are being considered for this piece of work.
	Create a Decarbonisation Standard for the Council's corporate estate.	March 2024	Climate		This action was originally delayed due to staff turnover, however this is now complete. The Standard covers larger refurbishment and new builds which are intended to form a future part of the Council's corporate property portfolio. It does not cover Housing stock for which other standards are available.
	Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow a real-life assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes.	March 2026	Climate		This action is linked with the 2025/27 decarbonisation programme. It is likely that the initial modelling will be complete shortly after the above project is finalised, so a three-to-four-month delay is anticipated. Monitoring of the property will then continue thereafter to assess the longer-term implications of the decarbonisation project. To date, initial site surveys have been undertaken for 115 Middle Lane South and design is underway.
Community Energy Support Scheme	Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost.	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate		As at the end of February 2026, the Council has signed off 1610 ECO applications, which on average save residents £6,500 per installation covering insulation, upgraded boilers and other energy efficiency works. 206 applications were approved between April 2025 and February 2026.
Recycling Fund	Trial use of internal Recycling fund sites to install solar PV on two Council owned buildings.	March 2026	Climate		This is an invest to save scheme utilising existing Capital budget which is then paid back over time through savings on energy bills. This has been subject to delays due to confirmation of site selection. Commissioning of this project is now expected to be in Quarter 3 2026/27.

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Renewable Energy	Review opportunities for improving uptake of rooftop solar PV throughout the Borough, and, if appropriate, draw up a business case for any resulting projects that arise from this work.	March 2026	Climate		<p>Rooftop Solar PV is becoming increasingly accessible and presents an opportunity to provide clean energy whilst reducing energy bills. Several options have been reviewed including a Solar Together type bulk buying model for those who are able to pay and increasing support for schools or community groups. A report has been created, and this work is being fed directly into the Net Zero 40 Strategy work to assess feasibility with likely partners. A business case will be drawn up thereafter.</p>
	Renewable Energy Pilot Project	March 2026	Climate		<p>In 2021 Cabinet approved a scheme to develop and deliver a 1MW pilot solar farm project within the Borough on Council land. Unfortunately, the planned project site fell through due to legal complications relating to restrictive covenants held by the Coal Authority. Since then, the Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search and basic feasibility assessments Borough wide. There are currently no suitable sites available and given the recent increase in solar developments locally, and the recent Council motion to focus on car parks and rooftops, it has been identified that this project will not be possible to deliver in its current form. It is therefore proposed in Recommendation 5 that a similar scheme, focussed on solar rooftop and canopy projects, is approved for delivery instead. More information regarding the proposed amendments to this project are available in section 2.20 of the report and Appendix 4.</p>
Local Area Energy Plan	Creation of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local	March 2026	Climate		<p>A LAEP is a plan which sets out the change required to transition Rotherham's energy system to net zero and will be instrumental in providing the project</p>

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	Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities.				pipeline to enable delivery of the Council's Net Zero by 2040 aspiration. This work is on track for completion by March 2026. A market engagement exercise has been undertaken to assess costs, and a business case is currently being drafted for approval.
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TRANSPORT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	Status	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Identify and bring forward further locations for EV Charging Infrastructure in line with the Council’s Public Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	March 2026	Climate		A number of sites have been identified for feasibility across several wards. These sites are included within the proposed forward plan in Appendix 2 and more detail on these and future sites is presented in Appendix 3B.
	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Scheme	March 2026	Climate		Procurement of this project has now completed. It is likely that this project will be on site by March 2026, however it is not expected that the full scheme will be complete until July 2027. This will therefore be rolled over into 2026/27 action plan.
Fleet Transport	Implement the fleet replacement plan including the procurement of 64 electric vehicles.	March 2026	Fleet		The fleet replacement programme has been subject to delays due to challenges relating to unreliable electrical infrastructure at Hellaby Depot, a need to install further infrastructure at other sites and in house training for maintenance of this type of vehicle. There is also a requirement to develop a policy for home charging in relation to Fleet vehicles which is not yet in place. The Council is working to resolve these issues and a report will be brought to Cabinet with an update in due course.
	If approved extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder	As per project timelines	Fleet Services		HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023 and

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	of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.				those vehicles continue to operate successfully with reduced maintenance required in winter periods due to the enhanced properties of the HVO versus petrol and diesel. Whilst this fuel offers up to 90% carbon emissions reduction, project timelines have not yet been set since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, and as such needs to be carefully considered prior to further action. Therefore a comprehensive review of options is planned for the 2026-27 financial year which will confirm whether HVO is a feasible alternative fuel for those vehicles which cannot yet be transitioned to Electric.
Transport Planning and Data	Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.	March 2026	Transport Planning		This project is currently delayed due to resource issues. A specification has been drafted but this has not yet been procured. It is estimated that following contract award, the project will take 6-12 months to deliver. This action will therefore be rolled over to 2026/27.
Transport Planning and Data	Continued development of schemes funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), including monitoring and evaluation of completed projects.	March 2026	Transport Planning		All CRSTS projects must contribute to overarching objectives, which include transport decarbonisation and promoting a modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling. Continued development of CRSTS schemes in the 2026/27 municipal year is expected to include ongoing consultation. Schemes are currently being drafted to business

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					<p>case, after which the relevant approvals will be sought.</p> <p>The work to monitor existing schemes is ongoing. Current data suggests schemes are underperforming relative to forecasts in respect of cycling - but note -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance appears good in respect of walking • Changes in background demand and growth of e-scooters thought to be confounding factors. • Full benefit not necessarily expected to be realised in year one.
	<p>Embed the use of a new DfT (Department for Transport) carbon emissions appraisal tool to support future scheme design.</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Transport Planning</p>		<p>DfT has developed a new tool to support the design of transport schemes, to mitigate their potential 'embodied' carbon impact through options appraisal. While the tool will need to be used for schemes funded by the Department, there is an opportunity to add further value by embedding its use in other schemes' design.</p> <p>This is now considered business as usual as this is required for all relevant business cases but is delayed due to other issues with current schemes having not progressed to this stage yet.</p>

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HOUSING					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Zero Carbon Housing	Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works and if successful utilise monies secured via Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. This should include performance measures to effectively track performance against 2030 target.	2030	Housing		The Council has been awarded £8.8m from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. This will be match funded with Council capital to deliver a £18.4m project to decarbonise 996 social homes, to improve energy efficiency, and reach EPC band C.

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WASTE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield councils.	July 2025	Planning Policy & Waste		The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. A Joint Waste Needs Assessment was completed in 2022, to provide supporting evidence for a Joint Waste Plan. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.
Business Waste	Continue to develop the Rotherham Business Waste service's paper and card, dry mixed recycling and food waste collections, ensuring compliance with Simpler Recycling regulations across the Council's corporate estate.	March 2026	Corporate Landlord & Waste		This is ongoing, with new bins ordered to improve existing facilities at Riverside with a view to roll out similar bins to its satellite sites after this. In addition, from 1 April 2027 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business

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					Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Single Use Plastics	Engage suppliers to address single use plastics in packaging materials.	March 2026	Climate		Work is underway to engage suppliers and consider future options for replacements of the Council's remaining plastic products. This might include reducing packing or utilising products which come packaged in cardboard as an alternative to minimise impact.

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Planning	Depending on the NPPF update, continue with the update to the core strategy with the climate change policy updates or begin the process of developing a new local plan which will give more flexibility to focus on climate change.	March 2026	Planning		The Council is now progressing with the delivery of a new Local Plan and as such this action to update the Core Strategy cannot be completed. A timetable for preparation of a complete new Local Plan was approved at Cabinet on 15 th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion and an action to ensure this is considered will be put forward for inclusion in the 26/27 climate action plan.
Planning	Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.	March 2026	Planning		This is an ongoing action, but considered completed for this year given the actions undertaken. Best practice from other Councils is periodically reviewed to consider how this might apply to the Council. The Council has also been involved with work undertaken by the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre to review the planning implications for embodied carbon and recommendations have been shared which may be considered in line with the new Local Plan update above. It is recommended that this action is considered business as usual for future action plans.
Green spaces	Plant 10,000 woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2026	Green spaces		At the time of writing this report, tree planting season is underway and is therefore not complete.

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					The Council has delivered 53,119 trees since the start of the tree planting programme in 2021. 10,120 trees and hedgerows have been planted since April 2025 up to end February 2026, with tree planting having commenced in October. 672 of these have been planted in urban areas.
Biodiversity	Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	March 2026	Green spaces		The Council continues to collaborate with SYMCA on the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. At present, SYMCA estimate a delay until March 2027 for its delivery. Consultation is expected from Spring 2026 onwards.
	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the units from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	March 2026	Green spaces/Planning		This is subject to delays due to resource issues. It is estimated that this will be delayed by 3 months. This project will require legal support to develop the agreements associated with the sale of the biodiversity units.
	Report upon and publish the Council's first report on Biodiversity Duty.	January 2026	Green spaces		This corporate report is currently being drafted and is expected to be published in March 2026. This is still in line with Statutory requirements. The next report will be due in 5 years' time, in 2031 though monitoring and measurement should be undertaken throughout this time.
	Continue to work towards the completion of the 11	March 2027	Various		The full actions approved as part of the IPSC review are considered separately though are complimentary to the action on

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	actions agreed as part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.				climate change. Each individual action has its own deadline. A robust natural environment is likely to be more resilient to climate impact and better able to absorb any residual carbon emissions emitted. Background papers are available in the main report. There are some actions which are delayed due to resource issues across services. A detailed report of each action will be published in March 2026.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Children’s Capital of Culture	<p>Continue to deliver a wide range of creative programming under the World Beneath Our Feet theme.</p> <p>To include management of the Place Partnership Fund bid to enable partners’ delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant of £105K to address creative health outcomes, including through engagement with nature 	Dec 2025	Children’s Capital of Culture Team		<p>The World Beneath our Feet is a theme chosen by young people as part of the Children’s Capital of Culture programme, which is a year-long festival to be delivered throughout Rotherham for and by children and young people during 2025. This theme incorporates nature and climate at its heart and has provided opportunities for young people to engage in nature and climate activities and to learn more about the world we live in through arts and culture.</p> <p>The Place Partnership Fund grant schemes are currently being administered by Wentworth Woodhouse and are expected to continue until the end of 2025.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of carbon emissions through activities that encourage physical activity and use of active transport, including a £105K grant supporting activity delivery around this. 				Section 2.57 provides more information about the activities undertaken throughout the Children’s Capital of Culture festival and how this links with climate change engagement and health.
Strategy	Work with the Council’s partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040. Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	March 2027	Climate		The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. This work is on track for completion by March 2027. Three workshops have taken place with partners involved in the Rotherham Together Partnership to co-create this strategy including visioning, prioritisation and action planning activities. Key priorities have been drafted, and the Rotherham Together Climate and Nature Steering Group will continue to refine these ideas whilst the technical work to understand the requirements for a low carbon energy and transport system are considered.
Supporting local communities	Continue to work with Members to support local communities to develop their action against climate	Ongoing	Climate & Neighbourhoods		Work to support Members and Parish councillors is ongoing. The online training course is available for all staff and Members to raise awareness of climate activities. A Members session is planned

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	change, particularly where Wards have identified climate or nature as a priority.				for March/April 2026 to share information on how Members can champion nature and climate action in their wards.
ADAPTATION					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Climate Adaptation	<p>Continue delivery of the Council’s programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios.</p> <p>Delivery of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to build on the public health pilot scheme to finalise outputs; • Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for adult services. • Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact 	March 2026	Climate		<p>Training for Property and Facilities Services Senior management Team and operational managers is scheduled for March 2026. This will include information relating to the Council building resilience and how adaptation activity can be embedded into corporate programmes of work.</p> <p>Work to produce a report on the outcome of the pilot, including challenges, gaps and opportunities is currently underway and is on track for completion prior to March 2026.</p>

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	review for Property & Facilities services.				
Climate Adaptation	Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams		<p>All six priority Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) are now designed to a shovel ready stage. The majority of planning pre-application submissions have been completed, including the most recent for a permanent pumping station at Catcliffe. This facility will enable the discharge of surface water into the River Rother during high water levels, eliminating the need for the Council's current temporary pumping operations. More advanced schemes are expected to progress to full planning prior to construction, with construction on Whiston Brook anticipated to commence within the 2025/26 financial year.</p> <p>A new scheme has also been included in the priority flood alleviation schemes list following devastating flooding of Storm Babet. The scheme will reduce impedance on the River Rother by making alterations to the existing bridge over Treeton Lane.</p>

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ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2025/26	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Events	Continue developing data capture of events carbon foot printing and building this into agreements and contracts with suppliers. Develop baselines for Roots Rotherham Street Carnival and WOW events.	March 2026	Events		The Events Team has signed up to Greening Event Code of Practice (GeCOP) which aims to develop and utilise a new tool for this. Gathering insight from suppliers has proved challenging to enable this piece of work. As such this action is delayed. It is expected that Roots Carnival, planned for March 2026 will utilise the new process for monitoring of this type of data.
	Use Roots Street Carnival and other events to promote other council initiatives including tree planting and biodiversity.	March 2026	Events		This action is complete.
	Ask artists and performers we work with to use sustainable practices and materials where feasible – for example reused or recycled materials and avoiding single use plastics.	March 2026	Events		This action is complete. This is embedded within programmes, however it is difficult to manage and confirm how this has been carried out from the third party. Actions have been included within the 2026/27 Action plan to expand upon this.
	Develop the Rotherham Show food and drink offer to promote more smaller local supplies and vendors who offer plant-based meals.	September 2025	Events		Additional vendors were invited to the Rotherham Show, and plant-based food were encouraged across non-vegan food vendors. Demand management was challenging for food vendors however and were often quickly out of stock.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2026/2027 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	<p>Continue to develop scope 3 emissions reporting. Trial carbon reporting with a willing contractor to understand better the challenges faced.</p>	Ongoing	Climate	Scope 3 emissions reporting is challenging, as many of the organisations the Council works with do not have the capacity to undertake accurate carbon accounting. This action will enable the Council to identify what can feasibly be asked of contractors and how this requirement can be incorporated into carbon related KPIs in future contracts.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

ENERGY				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	<p>Continue to deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan.</p> <p>16 sites are proposed to be delivered during the 26/27 period and are identified in Appendix 3.</p>	2030	Climate	<p>Proposed heat decarbonisation plan is available in Appendix 3.</p> <p>A budget of £2.5m is proposed to deliver these works, utilising the Council's allocated decarbonisation budget.</p>
	<p>Work alongside the private sector to encourage the installation of a heat network within the Town Centre.</p> <p>Identify a funding source for a heat network feasibility study.</p>	March 2027	Climate	This action relates to the decarbonisation of some of the Council's more challenging properties but also supports decarbonisation of other organisations throughout Rotherham. At present, following the closure of the Rotherham Heat network project, it is not currently clear whether a heat network is now feasible within the Borough.
	<p>Continue delivery of Markets and Library solar project.</p>	September 2026	FM	Utilising funding from the Mayoral Renewables Fund and Council match funding to deliver 297kwp solar. This project is dependent on the delivery of the Markets and Library Project.
Community Energy Support Scheme	<p>Continue to support residents to reduce energy and costs and promote any funding opportunities as they are made available.</p>	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.	Climate	The latest Budget announcements indicate that ECO4 will not continue past December 2026. Though it is indicated that further funding may be available through the Warm Homes Plan it is not yet confirmed how this will be administered and how Local Authorities can contribute.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

Schools Solar	Trial a school's solar project with one Local Authority maintained school to understand the challenges and scope of future projects.	March 2027	Climate	The scheme will be subject to school agreements and payback through reduced energy bills. This will require support from Legal and Procurement for delivery and will utilise the Council's existing Invest to Save Budget for delivery.
Local Area Energy Plan	Commission a Local Area Energy Plan	December 2027	Climate	This project will be delivered in a phased way so that data will become available throughout the process. Delivery is expected to take 6-12 months post procurement.
Renewables Invest to Save	Set up Renewables Invest to Save Project including Year 1 deliverables of	March 2027	Climate	Subject to approval as part of this Cabinet report, this scheme plans to deliver the key administrative outputs alongside project selection and at least 1 solar installation in year 1. See Appendix 4 for further information.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

TRANSPORT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Work with regional partners to complete procurement of the LEVI concession arrangement.	March 2027	Climate	This programme, approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 will replace the Council's EV Infrastructure delivery programme and will see installations Borough-wide through a mixture of LEVI grant funding and private sector investment.
	Install the following sites utilising existing EVI Council Capital to a budget value of £70K including any security measures such as CCTV and contingency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, S65 2HR • Rosehill Victoria Park, S62 7HJ • Parking on Highway, Wickersley, S66 3ZL 	March 2027	Climate	These are expected to be ruggedised Fast chargers of approximately 22kW with contactless payment inbuilt. Affects the following wards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Castle/Rotherham East • Rawmarsh West • Wickersley North
	Investigate the identified Highways, Housing and Non-Council Land locations as presented in Appendix 3B for EV Infrastructure feasibility and if appropriate, install utilising the remaining allocated EVI capital funds.	March 2027	Climate	Will require consultation with and support from Housing and Highways to complete and in some cases is dependent on landowner approval via lease agreement. At the time of writing this report it is not confirmed whether the sites proposed are identified for other priorities and further work is required to progress these schemes. However, spatial mapping indicates that the inclusion of these and the above sites will allow the Council to achieve 94% properties within 1.5m of a Council EV charger.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

	Completion of LEVI Drummond Street Solar PV and EVI Scheme.	September 2027	Climate	This is a rolled over action due to procurement delays. A new expected completion date has been provided.
Fleet Transport	To extend the use of HVO biodiesel to the remainder of the Council diesel fleet which are not intended to be replaced by EVs.	As per project timelines	Fleet Services	HVO has been successfully trialled in 10 corporate fleet vehicles since 2023. Since HVO has a greater unit price than conventional diesel, the decision to invest further needs to be carefully considered and is therefore likely to be made during the 2026-27 financial year.
	Assess the infrastructure requirements associated with a fleet transition to electric vehicles.	March 2027	Fleet Services & Facilities Management.	In future, the Council may not be able to procure vehicles with Internal Combustion Engines. A programme of infrastructure upgrades will be required to accommodate future changes and it should therefore be a priority to better understand the financial and delivery implications.
Transport Planning and Data	Commission work to determine how best to achieve Net Zero emissions from transport in Rotherham by 2040.	March 2027	Transport Planning	This is a rolled over action due to resource challenges. Transport emissions pose a challenge for decarbonisation due to the mismatch between UK and local targets and because an estimated 43% of emissions from road transport are from trips produced outside South Yorkshire. The commissioned study will make recommendations regarding the scope of the Council's NZ40 target as it applies to emissions from transport and will recommend priority actions to cut emissions, minimising cumulative emissions while seeking to deliver other local economic, social and environmental benefits. A new deadline of March 2027 is therefore proposed.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

HOUSING				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Zero Carbon Housing	Deliver the EPC Band C programme of works to 9308 properties that fall below Band C.	2030	Housing	This will be tracked by percentage EPC Band C delivery.
	Install Warm Homes measures to 996 homes.	2029	Housing	This project is funded by Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3. Progress will be tracked via project delivery metrics against the plan.
	Undertake optimisation studies on the Council's remaining 12 domestic heat networks.	March 2027	Housing	The study will result in a work package for all systems and ensure efficiency and compliance.
	South Yorkshire Energy Wellbeing Network. Work with regional partners to develop a retrofit one stop shop for access by residents as part of the SY Energy Wellbeing Network project.	TBC	Climate	The delivery of this scheme will depend on a successful regional funding bid to the Climate Action Fund. Rotherham Council's role will be to integrate existing fuel poverty and low carbon schemes into the wider project as well as to provide local input. Other partners include SYMCA, NEA, Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley Councils and South Yorkshire Climate Alliance.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

WASTE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Continue jointly to prepare a South Yorkshire Waste Plan with Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Councils.	Timetable to be agreed with SY authorities and SYMCA	Planning Policy & Waste	The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.
Business Waste	Engage smaller businesses now subject to the Simpler Recycling legislation to ensure understanding and provide support. Also ensure compliance within the Council's own estate.	March 2027	Corporate Landlord & Waste	From 1 April 2027 Simpler Recycling will be extended to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Rotherham Business Waste will support existing and prospective customers to comply with the new regulations, while learning from the deployment of separate collections to its larger customers. To ensure compliance with Recycling and its own Finance and Procurement Procedure Rules, the Council will review which of its sites are existing, internal customers of Rotherham Business Waste, with a view to ensuring all sites use the in-house service, in the first instance.
Sustainable Food	Continue to further expand the Food Works, 'Just Meals' hub model to	March 2027	Public Health,	It is expected that by March 2026, there will be ten sites across Rotherham where

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

	increase the availability of low cost, healthy meals and sustainable meals.		Neighbourhoods	Community Fridges are available for use by the local community to access good quality, sustainable, locally produced, healthy meals. This action builds on this work and expands to other sites and may include further place based local action including cookery classes, community growing and meals for children during the school holidays.
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Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Planning	Consider how more robust climate and adaptation policy could be included within the new Local Plan.	March 2027	Planning	The Council is now proceeding with the preparation of a complete new Local Plan, and a timetable was approved at Cabinet on 15 th September 2025. The new Local Plan presents opportunities for climate change inclusion.
Green spaces	Plant 10,000 woodland trees and hedgerows and 500 new urban trees.	March 2027	Green spaces	This is an annual target. Challenges with land availability may have implications for the delivery of this target. Planting season extends to March.
Biodiversity	Continue to collaborate with SYMCA and the four local authorities in the production and implementation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	March 2027	Green spaces, Planning	This is a delayed action from 2025/26. RMBC has continued to work with SYMCA throughout this period and delays are as a result of consultant timelines.
Biodiversity	Develop a pricing structure and a process for selling the credits from sites identified for biodiversity net gain.	August 2026	Green spaces	This is a rolled over action.
	Creation of a biodiversity focussed webpage on the Council's website to raise public awareness of the actions being undertaken.	March 2027	Green Spaces, Climate	This can also be utilised as a platform for publishing the Council's biodiversity duty report.
	Commission and deliver an updated Tree Strategy considering the latest information regarding the Council's tree cover and longer-term maintenance.	March 2027	Green Spaces	It is important to consider the longer-term climate implications as well as delivery and maintenance factors.
	Provide an annual summary of biodiversity related actions. This includes working towards the completion of the 11 actions agreed as	March 2027	Green Spaces and Planning.	A full review and update on these actions is expected to be published in March 2026 as part of the Council's statutory biodiversity duty report, after which the next report will

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

	part of the 2024 Improving Places Select Committee review of Nature Recovery.			be due in five years afterwards. This action proposes an annual review to encourage continued momentum.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Strategy	Work with the Council's partners to co-create a strategy to achieve net zero by 2040. Partners might include those already participating in the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Youth Cabinet, The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and other anchor institutions.	March 2027	Climate	The Council cannot deliver a net zero Borough alone. This action aims to put understanding, compassion and a just transition at its heart. Initial work has been undertaken during 2025 to engage stakeholders in this work. The LAEP and Transport studies described above will now support this work, with a view to a proposed Strategy completion date by March 2027.
Supporting local communities	Supporting Members to develop their Ward priorities with the climate and nature in mind.	Annual	Climate & Neighbourhoods	This might take various forms dependent on local need.
Children and Young People	Engage young people in discussions and activities around climate and nature topics.	March 2027	CYPS	This action utilises local groups already in establishment to ensure that young people have a voice in the climate and nature action undertaken throughout the borough.
Supporting education establishments	Support education establishments to continue making progress with climate and nature action plans.	March 2027	Climate	By the end of 2025, it is expected that all education establishments will have appointed a sustainability lead and have created a Climate Action Plan. It is important that this work is not merely a one-off exercise and progress continues to be made into the future.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Events	Continue to commission events with environmental themes in mind.	Ongoing	CST, Events	
	Create an artist agreement pack to include sustainable practice and information capture.	March 2027	Events	This pack will provide an opportunity to engage up front with artists, set expectations and share best practice. It will also enable an awareness of the data required to better capture the carbon emissions of events.
	Take part in the Green Events Code of Practice and pilot proposed process. Seeking alternative advice and sharing best practice to develop the events programme moving forwards.	March 2027	Events	Involvement in this project provides opportunities for shared learning and collaboration on environmental projects.

ADAPTATION				
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2026/27	TARGET DATE	SERVICE	COMMENTS
Climate Adaptation	Continue delivery of the Council's programme to improve the adaptation of Council services to future climate scenarios. Delivery of training, risk assessment and climate impact review for Housing service.	March 2027	Climate, Housing	Service input will be required from Housing. This is likely to require a multifaceted exploration of the climate impacts on the councils housing stock and community impacts.
Climate Adaptation	Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.	Various - as per project plan	Drainage & Flood Risk Teams	Work managed separately through the Drainage & Flood Risk Teams and reported annually through the Improving Places Selected Commission.

Appendix 2: Climate Change Action Plan 2026/27

<p>Climate Adaptation</p>	<p>Review opportunities for a Borough level Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CCRVA).</p>	<p>March 2027</p>	<p>Climate</p>	<p>It is not expected that the CCRVA will be delivered during this period, but costs, funding opportunities and content coverage will be explored.</p>
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Appendix 3b. EV Locations Presented for Delivery and Feasibility Assessments.

*Sites highlighted in green are proposed for delivery in 2026/27 subject to National Grid considerations; all other sites are for feasibility assessment and internal consultation and, if suitable, for delivery thereafter. Costs provided are estimates and will be subject to finalisation, programme will then be contracted to meet budget requirements. Sites proposed not considered suitable or surplus to budget allocation at present may be re-reviewed at a later date as part of the regional LEVI Mainfund Programme.

Area	Site	Post Code	Ownership / Service	Ward	Bays	Estimated Cost
Priority 1 (90% Res within 1.5ml)						
Thurcroft	Garage Plot, Arbour Dr, Thurcroft, OR Cedric Crescent	S66 9DU, S66 9PA	Council / Housing	Thurcroft & Wickersley South	2	£20,000
Wickersley	Highway, Adjacent to The Woodman, Rotherham S66 3ZL	S66 3ZL	Highways	Wickersley North	4	£25,000
Brinsworth / Catcliffe	Pike Road / Ellis street	S60 5DJ	Housing	Brinsworth	2	£22,000
Herringthorpe	Stadium Car Park	S65 2HR	Council / Leisure & Culture	Boston Castle / Rotherham East	2	£18,000
Kimberworth	Burgen Road Parking Area	S61 3JN	Council / Housing	Keppel	2	£25,000
Rawmarsh	Rosehill Victoria Park	S62 7HJ	Council / Parks	Rawmarsh West	4	£20,000
Thrybergh	Warrener Dr NC	S65 4DB	Council / Housing	Dalton & Thrybergh	2	£18,000
Blackburn	Garage Site, Thundercliffe Rd	S61 2BX	Council / Housing	Rotherham West	2/4	£25,000
Priority 2 (99% Res within 1.5ml)						
Brampton Bierlow	Wynmoor Cres 2 options or Parish Hall	S73 0UB, S73 0TX	Council / Housing, Parish Council	Hooper	2	£20,000
Laughton en le Morthen	Village Hall, Firbeck Ave	S25 1YD	Parish Council	Dinnington	2	£20,000
Kiveton Park	Viking Way NC	S26 6RX	Council / Housing	Wales	2	£18,000
Harthill	Leisure Centre Car Park or Car Park by Sports Pitch (currently tenanted)	S26 7SG, S25 5AE	Parish Council (TBC), Tenanted	Wales, Aston & Woodsetts	2	£19,000
Deepdale	Highway, Thornton St	S61 2LQ	Highway	Rotherham West	2	£18,000
Thorpe Hesley	Residents parking, Sough Hall Rd or New Street	S61 2QL, S61 2QR	Council / Housing	Keppel	4	£30,000
Whiston	Residents Parking, Stringers Croft or Garage Site, Hunger Hill Lane	S60 4DE, S60 4BD	Council / Housing	Sitwell	2	£20,000
Harley	Garage Site, 95 Occupation Rd or 1 of 2 identified non-Council sites in Wentworth	S62 7UQ	Council / Housing	Hooper	2	£25,000
Treeton	Holmes Cres	S60 5QH	Council / Housing	Rother Vale	2	£25,000
Total						£368,000
Contingency (20%) and internal fees (1%)						£77,280
Totals					40 bays	£445,280

The above delivery plan is subject to internal approvals and partnerships with external organisations as well as finalised feasibility studies and therefore actual delivery may differ. Charger type will be determined following site assessments including likely dwell time, risk of vandalism and grid capacity.

Appendix 4: Solar Project Amendment Proposal

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	Total
Invest-to-Save Renewables Pilot	Capital Expenditure	0.200	0.400	0.400	0.000	1.000
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources ask)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Finance and Customer Services	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.200	0.400	0.400	0.000	1.000
Project Description						
<p>It is proposed that the £1.0m capital budget, currently allocated to the Council’s solar farm project, is repurposed to establish an internal renewable invest to save pilot, focused on renewable energy and carbon reduction projects across a broader range of assets. Rather than being tied to a single large-scale generation site, this model would enable the Council to invest capital across multiple buildings and services, recycling the savings from energy bills to support further investment over time. In this format, renewables will be installed at selected sites and the occupying service will be charged a lower fee for power utilised to cover any maintenance and upkeep required, reducing energy bills and reducing carbon emissions. The Council will also benefit from any overspill which can contribute to the Council’s carbon reduction through offsetting. The scheme is designed to provide energy bills savings for the Council whilst also proving the concept for a wider roll out should it be successful in line with the original ‘proof of concept’ approach.</p> <p>This project will directly reduce the carbon emissions of the properties involved, supporting the Council’s ambition to deliver a net zero Borough by 2040 and the decarbonisation of its corporate estate by 2030.</p> <p>Scope of the Proposal</p> <p>The proposal focusses on delivery of renewable energy measures across the rooftops and potentially car park canopies of the following asset types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties landlord supplies (staircase lighting, lifts, and shared services). • District Heating boiler houses. • Non-Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) Council assets. E.g., properties that are already electrically heated and are therefore net zero ready. • Council owned properties that are not used for core Council services but remain within the authority’s asset base (rental units). • Schools where not eligible for Government or other funding routes • Leisure centres under PFI arrangements • Community buildings, subject to further consideration and feasibility assessments. • Car parks if feasible 						

The proposal explicitly excludes investment in individual homes or tenant electricity supplies and is restricted to the communal landlord-controlled systems only. These property types are excluded as the Council would be required to formally operate as an energy supplier and re-bill tenants for their usage which is not considered feasible at this time.

Outputs and Outcomes

This project will provide a blueprint for future potential schemes and roll out. It is hoped that a future business case can be brought forward for a more comprehensive solar programme following this trial, with the potential for a larger reaching scheme.

The use across different property types and ownership models will allow for the key challenges associated to be identified and worked through.

The scheme will reduce energy bills for the properties included within the pilot, provide a low-cost mechanism for accessing renewable power, improving resilience and reducing carbon emissions.

In addition to the carbon reductions and monetary savings, where the scheme is utilised to supply school-based renewables, the scheme has benefits for education with the use of an on-site visual example of sustainability that can be linked to the curriculum.

The pilot will be designed to position the projects to access any funding streams if they become available, to maximise the availability of the Council's initial investment. It is proposed that if grants become available from Great British Energy, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Department for Education or from regional sources such as SYMCA, the Council will provide support to apply for these grants, and the funding reallocated to another property instead. This will reduce the financial burden on the property and the Council and still result in carbon emissions reductions within the relevant timeline.

The proposed project is spread across 3 years with the following outcomes:

Year 1: Economic model and legal SLA's collated, sites identified plus 1 initial trial site delivered: £200,000

Year 2: Delivery of phase 1 projects: £400,000

Year 3: Delivery of Phase 2 projects: £400,000

Year 4: Project Evaluation and phase 2 business case if appropriate.

Solar panels are expected to be in operation for approximately 25 years. Many remain in operation longer than this. It is estimated that this investment will result in approximately 450-550kWp depending on the sites selected, which will generate in the region of 355,000 –

435,000kWh per year, saving £75,000 - £90,000 on energy bills annually based on current contract rates following payback. This will save approximately 70-80tCO₂e per annum.

Financial Implications

Until the locations are confirmed, and the technical site assessments are carried out, it is not clear what the exact expenditure per installation will be.

It is proposed that the following costs are assigned, across the sites to be delivered:

- £690,000 for installation, including DNO and planning costs.
- £150,000 contingency (15%)
- £150,000 for project management (15%)
- £10,000 capital fee (1%)

The payback mechanism associated with this scheme will include maintenance and checks associated with electrical safety as well as an element of ongoing project management. The scheme is not intended as an income generating project but will reduce energy bills and aims to pay for the resources it uses such as staff time, cost of loan, and maintenance.

The size of the solar installations can be scaled back to account for the budget available and projects will be chosen based on value for money, return on investment, existing grant funding eligibility and feasibility.

The scheme proposed operates as a ring-fenced recycling invest to save scheme, with the repayments to be invested again on additional PV projects and any potential periodic capital upgrades which may be required such as inverter replacement after a set number of years.

The asset life span of Solar PV is +25years, so once the investment has been paid off there will still be a benefit to the site for an additional 10-15 years.

Risks

It is important that projects are selected to reduce risk, and that effective project management is undertaken, therefore this will be assessed to minimise project risk through the expression of interest stage. Previous experience managing a previous scheme focussed on savings as a result of LED lighting enhancements demonstrates the team's ability to effectively manage this type of scheme and its associated risks.

Key risks include timely procurement, on site challenges and Distribution Network Operator (DNO – e.g., Northern Powergrid) connections which can result in cost escalation and slippage, early engagement with the DNO and careful project selection will reduce this risk exposure. The complications relating to any PFI arrangements may pose added challenges resulting in slippage or non-delivery for this type of

establishment. There will also be additional costs linked to the required approvals from the PFI funders and any hand over requirements which will require further analysis before a PFI related project can continue.

The project will also need to consider site specific risks and mitigate accordingly, for example installation is likely required to be undertaken during the school holidays for school projects or around key dates for other operational buildings. Project Managers will need to be aware of conflicting priorities during this time including other construction projects being undertaken and key staff absences.

Financial risk from repayment default by the property, due to budget constraints, academisation or generation utilisation lower than expected, this will be offset by a loan agreement and repayment schedule. This will require legal input.

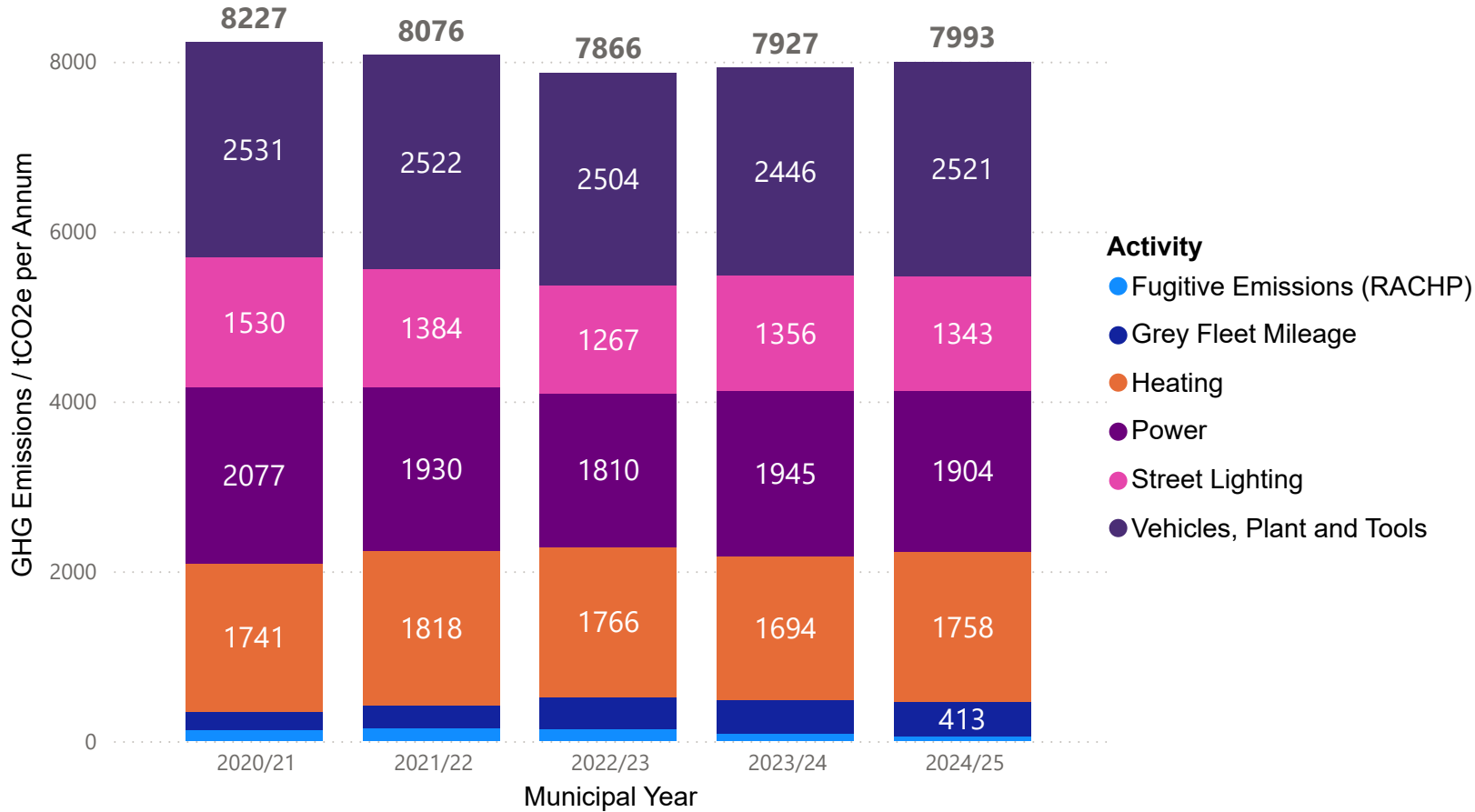
Technical performance of the system is a risk if they are not designed effectively for the site, which would result in lower output performance, therefore this will be covered by robust procurement evaluation, ongoing performance assessment, warranties and Operation and Maintenance agreements.

Overall project failure could result in a reputation risk for the Council, which would undermine the further roll-out and uptake of the scheme, therefore thorough project management due diligence will be undertaken, and careful monitoring and reporting of the scheme outputs are required. The pilot nature of the scheme allows this to be carefully considered and controlled prior to future larger scale programmes being brought forward.

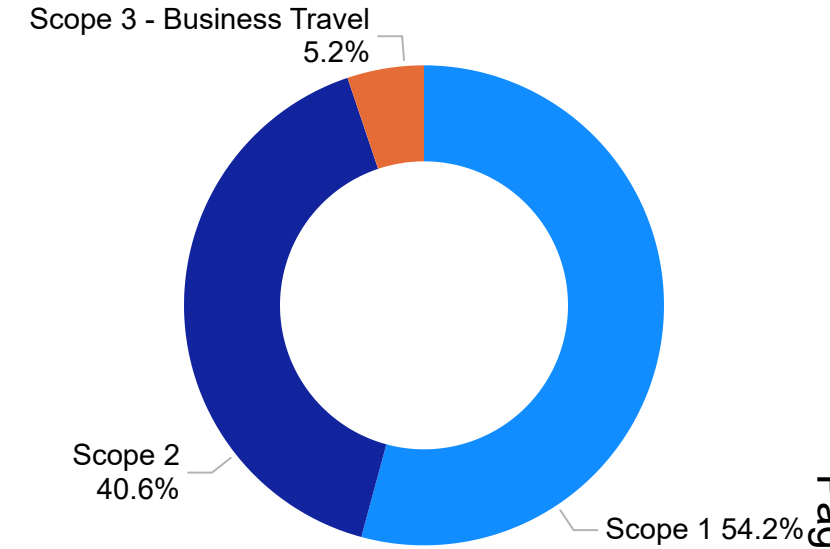
Rotherham MBC NZ30 Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Municipal Years 2020 - 2025

Greenhouse Gas Emissions within Scope of the Council's 'NZ30' Climate Change Target

Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2024, DESNZ.



Emissions by Scope, 2024/25 Municipal Year



7993

2024/25 NZ30 Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

• Scopes 1 and 2 and scope 3 emissions from business travel are the emissions considered within scope of the Council's 'Net Zero by 2030' climate change target, which emulates the scope boundary previously applied to government departments' mandatory emissions reporting. From the 2025/26 municipal year, departments no longer have to report their scope 3 emissions from business travel.

• Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions are emitted directly by the Council's operational activity e.g., as flue or exhaust gases from heating Council buildings or driving Council fleet vehicles; they may also be released by accident e.g., as leaks of refrigerant gases from Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pump (RACHP) equipment, in which case they are described as 'fugitive' emissions.

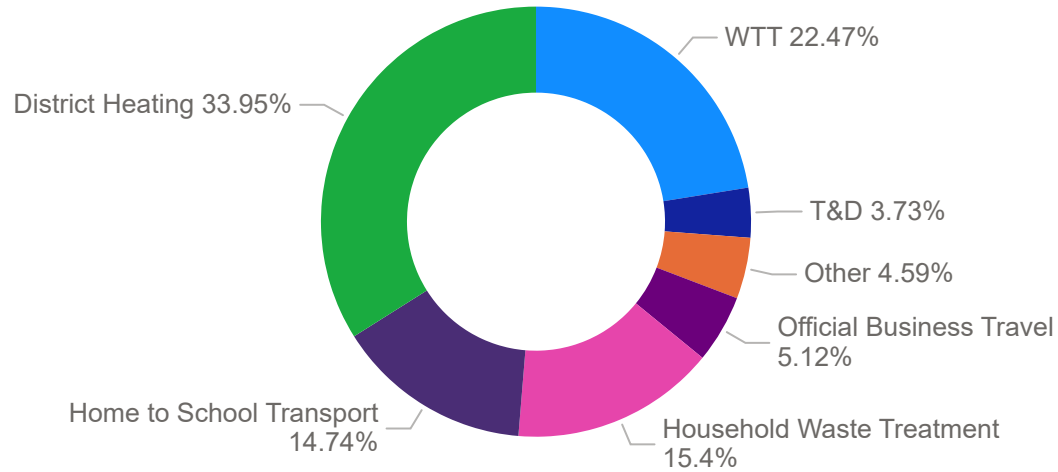
• Scope 2 emissions are from purchased energy: in the context of the Council's present emissions inventory, this refers exclusively to purchased electricity, principally for street lighting and diverse applications at Council sites, labelled 'Power' in the above chart.

Rotherham MBC Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2024/25 Municipal Year

Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are from sources which the Council neither owns nor controls, but which are a consequence of its activity e.g., business travel in employees' own vehicles, work done on the Council's behalf by a supplier or embodied in the production and transport of materials.

Share of 2024/25 Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source

Activity-based scope 3 emissions only: excludes the majority of emissions under contract. Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2024, DESNZ.



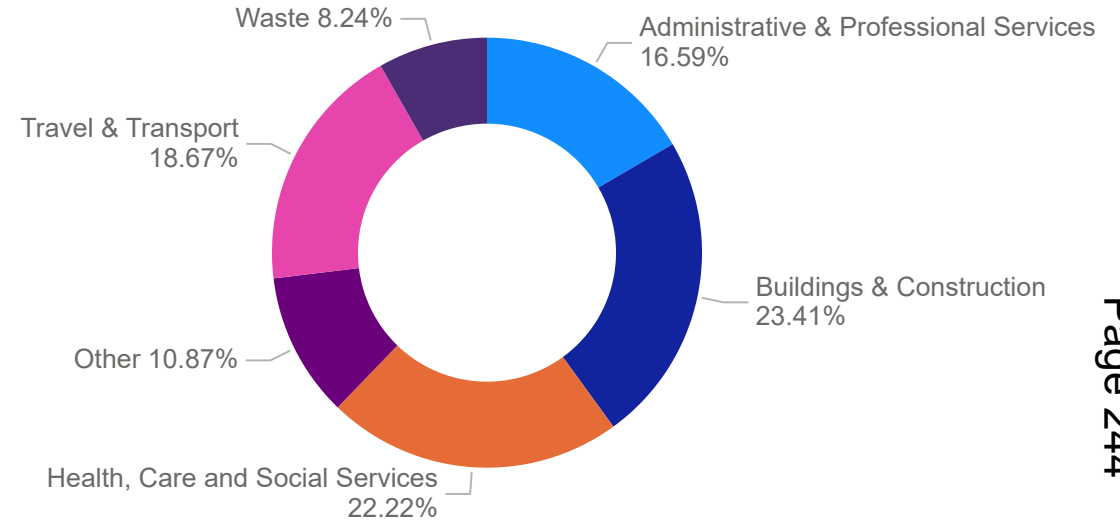
8,066

2024/25 Annual, Activity-Based Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

- **WTT** indicates **well to tank** i.e., greenhouse gas emissions from the production and supply of fuels. **T&D** indicates the greenhouse gas emissions associated with losses in the **transmission and distribution** of electricity.
- Where the Council holds sufficient data from its suppliers, it is possible to estimate scope 3 emissions from units of **activity** (e.g., units of energy, distance travelled, tonnes of material) in the same way as scope 1 and 2 emissions are calculated, by applying standard conversion factors.

Share of 2024/25 Consumption-Based Emissions by SIC Code

Suppliers' SIC codes are grouped into broad categories to aid interpretation. Conversion factors: Defra, 2025. UK and England's carbon footprint to 2022.



85,033

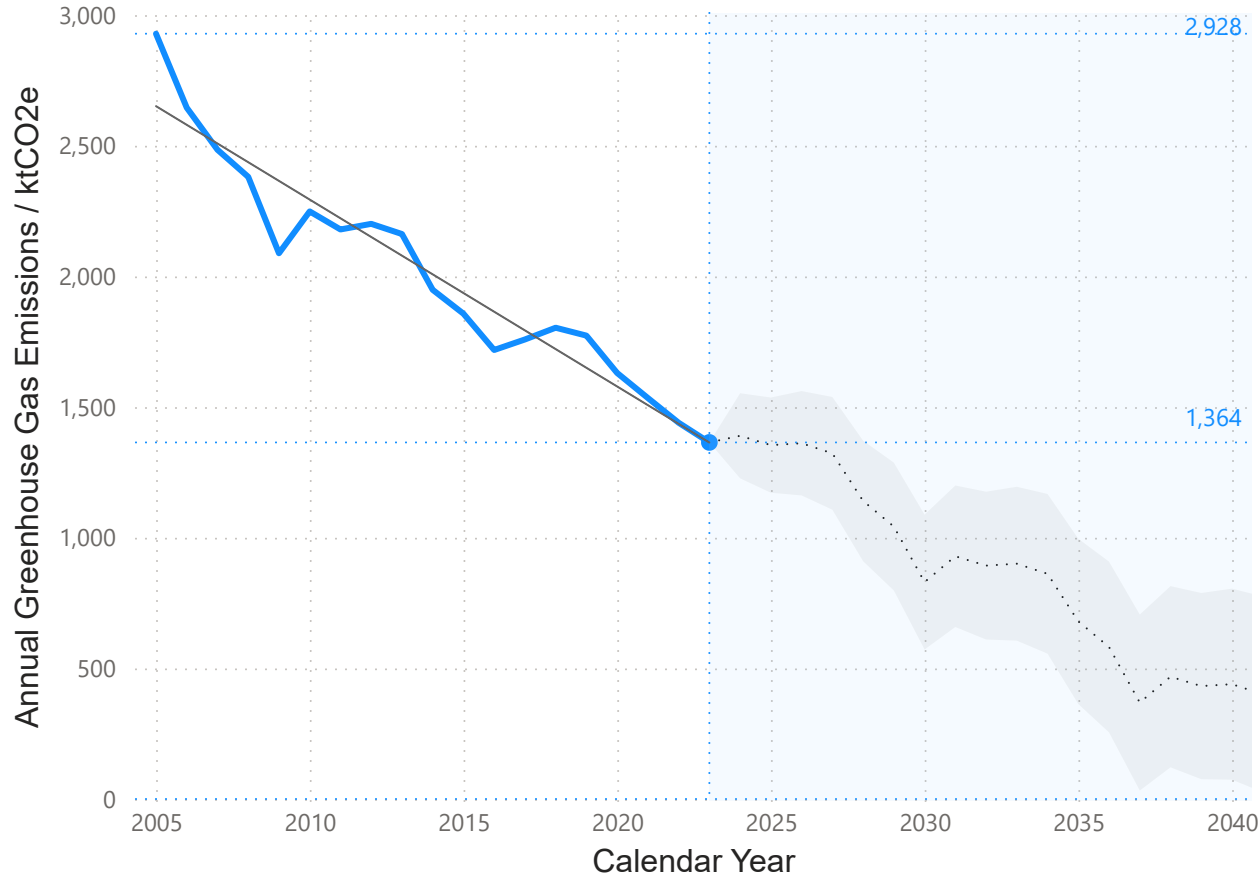
2024/25 Annual, Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions / tCO2e

- Activity data are not available to estimate scope 3 emissions from the majority of the Council's procurement and commissioning activity. **Spend-based** conversion factors yield indicative estimates, which can help to prioritise data collection in carbon-intensive or high-spending sectors, for more accurate monitoring.
- Spend-based conversion factors for different sectors, as classed by SIC (standard industrial classification) codes, are published by Defra alongside [UK and England consumption accounts](#) and applied to the Council's annual procurement spend.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Rotherham Local Area Emissions, 2005 - 2023

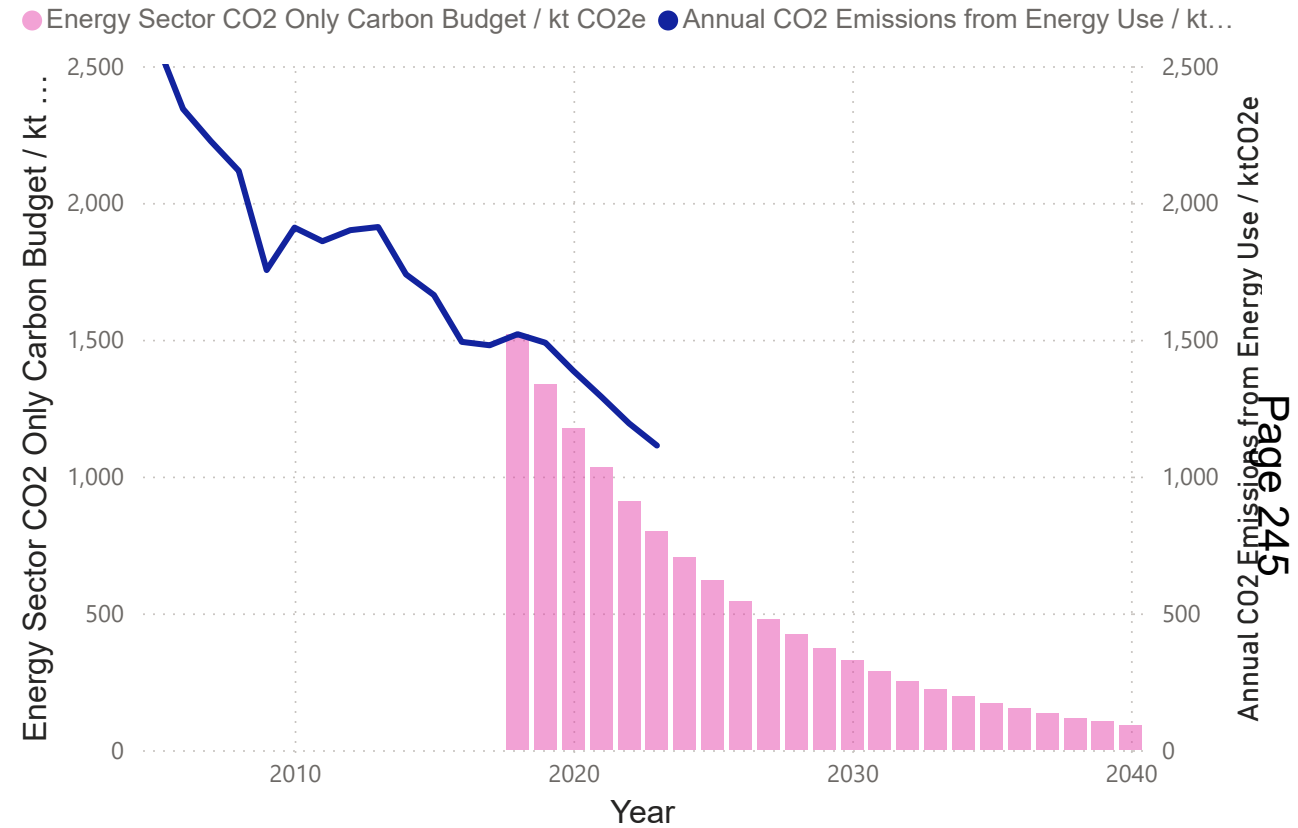
Source: DESNZ, 2025. UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023.



Greenhouse gas emissions from sources and processes within Rotherham - including e.g., surface transport which may only pass through the Borough - have fallen **53.4%** over the last two decades. In its March 2020 policy statement *Responding to the Climate Emergency*, the Council declared its ambition for Rotherham to be a 'Net Zero Borough' by 2040. **2023** is the latest year for which local authority greenhouse gas emissions statistics are available - but it also marks the halfway point between 2005, the first year in the data series and 2040, when the Council's 'NZ40' target matures. *An indicative forecast, based solely on local area emissions to date, is also presented.*

Rotherham Energy-Only Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2005 - 2023, versus an Annualised, Recommended Carbon Budget

Source: DESNZ, 2025. UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023.



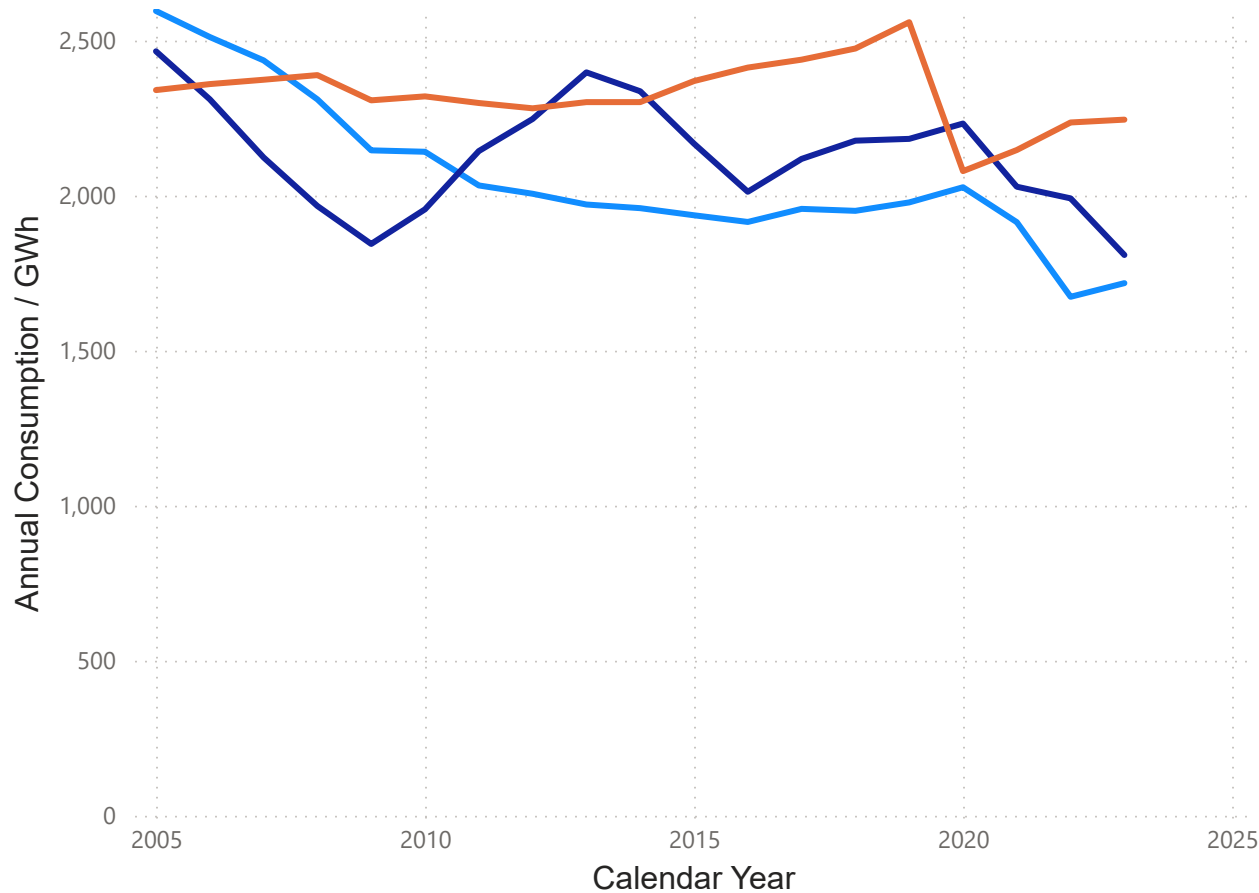
Recommended carbon budgets for local authorities, originally published by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (Kuriakose *et al.*, 2019), were a key reference for the Council as it adopted a 'Net Zero by 2040' (NZ40) climate change target for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough. Recommended carbon budgets were determined with reference to the Paris Agreement, by which 195 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are committed to 'holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels', translating this international commitment into climate action at the local scale.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Total Energy Consumption

Local Energy Consumption by Sector

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2023.

Sector (groups) ● Domestic ● Industrial, Commercial and Other ● Transport

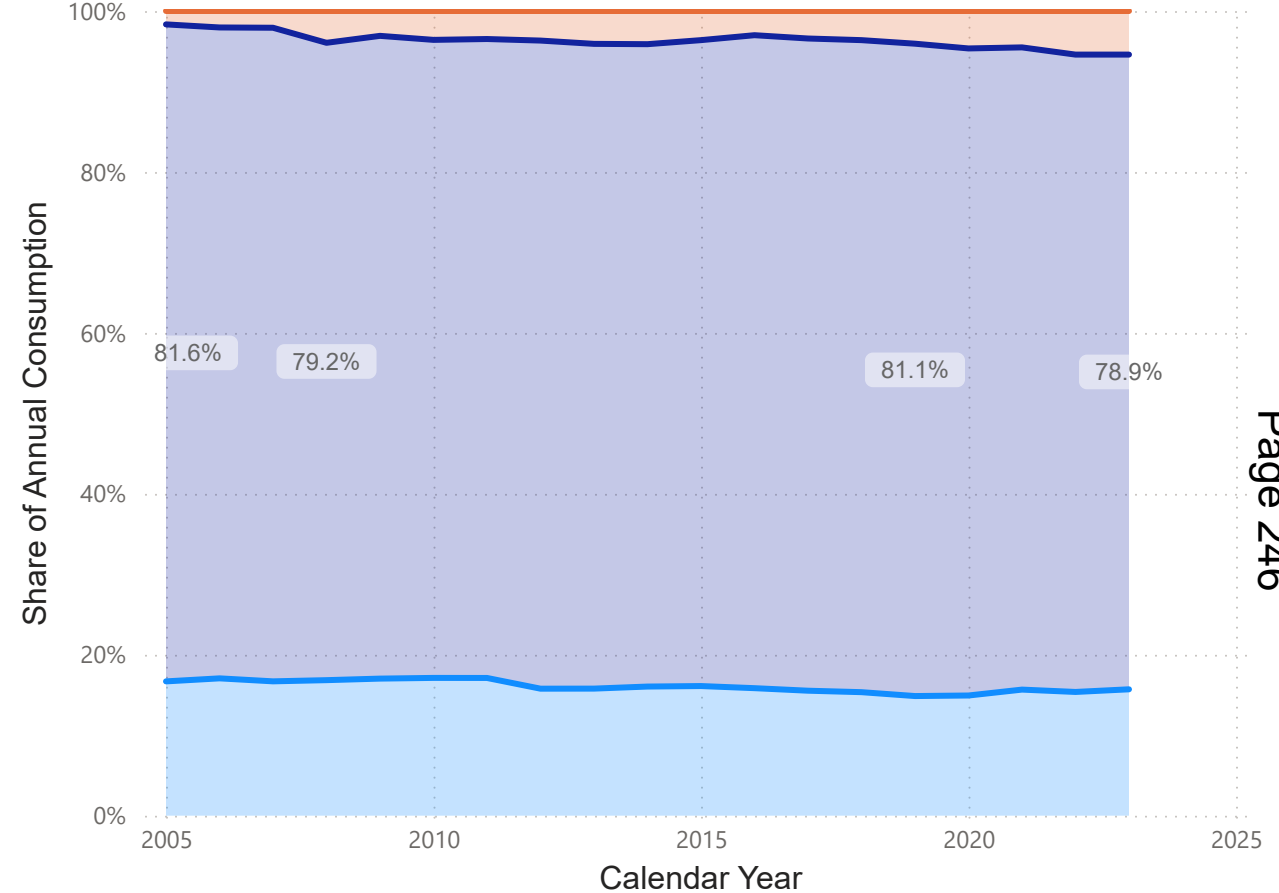


- Local authority energy consumption statistics have been amended for 2005, to enable comparison between all years of the dataset: in 2005, energy consumption by a 'single large industrial consumer' was assigned to the Rotherham local authority area, only to be excluded from every subsequent statistical release. Standard conversion factors were applied to NAEI (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory) point source emissions data, to attribute a share of annual energy consumption to this single consumer, as imputed from the NAEI dataset.

Share of Local Energy Consumption by Fuel Source

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2023.

Fuel Source ● Electricity ● Fossil Fuels ● Other

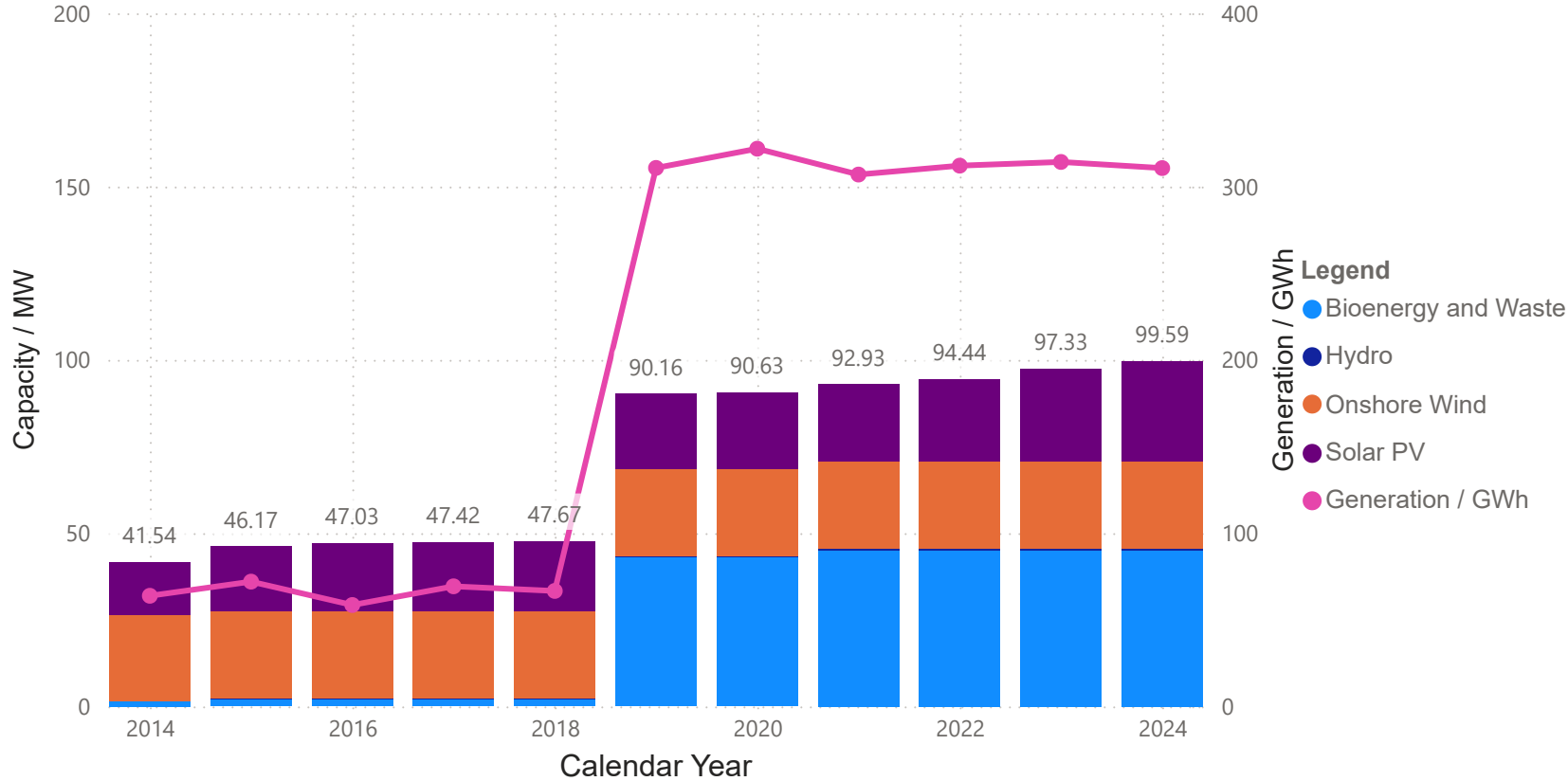


- For the last two decades, the share of local energy demand from fossil fuels has been consistent at **79-81%**: emphasising not only the twin challenges of electrification and electricity decarbonisation, but also the continuing importance of energy saving and energy efficiency as drivers of carbon reduction.
- Total energy demand in Rotherham was *ca.* 22% less in 2023 than at the beginning of the data series; in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was 9.2% less.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Renewable Energy Generation and Installed Capacity

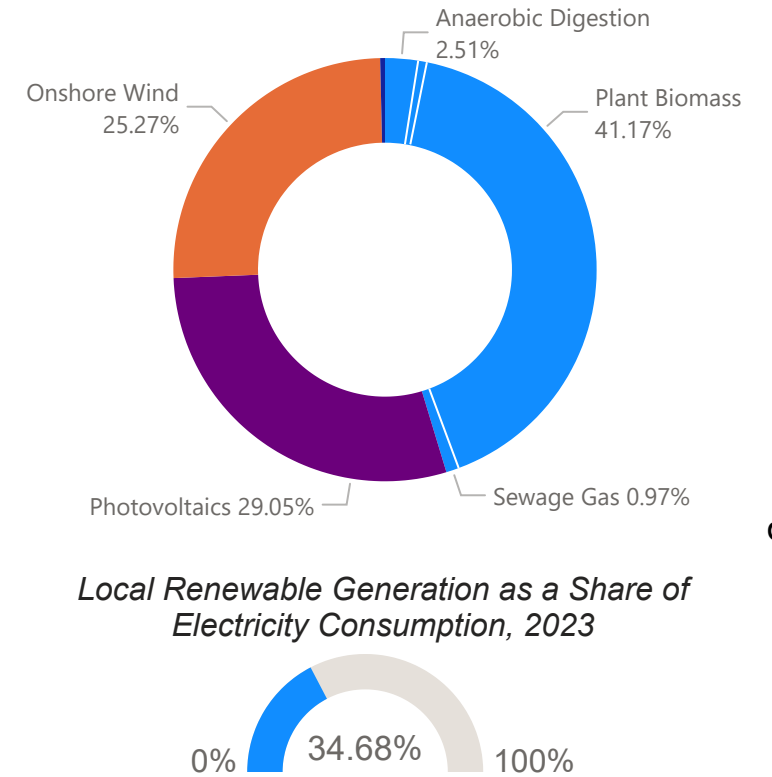
Renewable Generation and Installed Capacity, 2014 - 2024

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Regional Renewable Statistics.

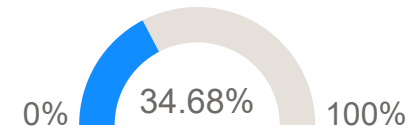


2024 Installed Renewable Capacity by Type

Source: DESNZ, 2025. Regional Renewable Statistics.



Local Renewable Generation as a Share of Electricity Consumption, 2023



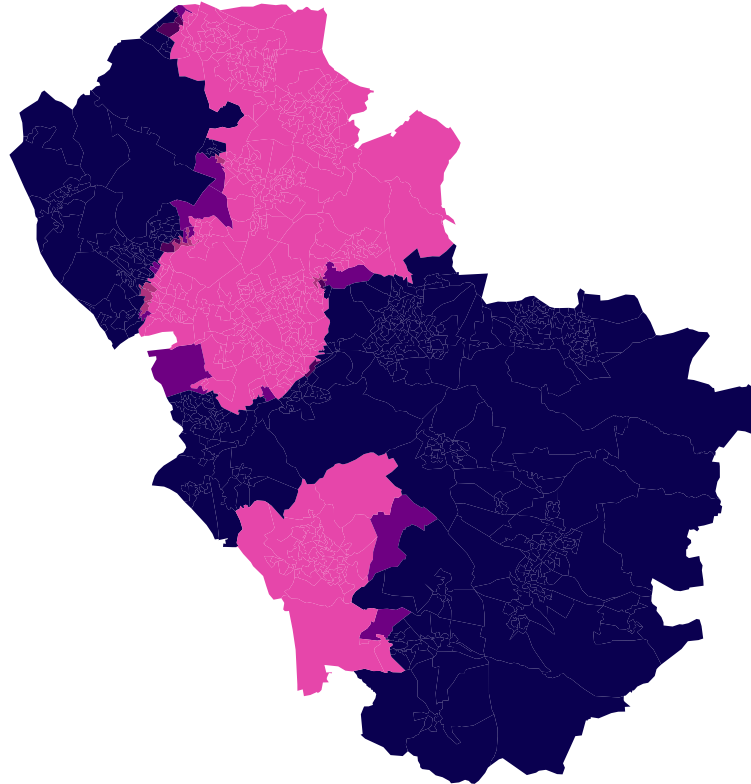
- Comparing *estimated* local renewable energy generation with consumption statistics for 2023 (the latest year for which both datasets are available) suggests that renewable energy generated in Rotherham was equivalent to approximately **one third** of all local electricity demand. Rotherham may not need to generate all its own renewable energy to achieve local climate change goals, but local generation has multiple advantages: transmitting and distributing renewable, low carbon electricity to where it is needed, is one of the severest constraints affecting electricity system decarbonisation. As of October 2025, renewable energy generating projects [*not including battery energy storage systems*] in Rotherham which were either awaiting construction or the determination of a planning application, had a combined, declared capacity of **180MW**.
- In 2024, there were 7,638 solar PV installations in Rotherham, with an average installed capacity and generated output of 3.79kW and 2.8MWh, respectively. Sites of this scale are typical of arrays sited on domestic rooftops. Such installations offer a direct saving on consumers' energy bills and can unlock other low carbon technologies, notably electric vehicles and air source heat pumps for home heating. Modelled datasets of domestic and non-domestic potential for rooftop solar PV in Rotherham, made available to the Council by Northern Powergrid through *Advanced Infrastructure's* LAEP+ Net Zero planning tool, suggest a theoretical maximum, combined annual generation output of 721.6 GWh from all suitable sites: equivalent to *ca.* 80% of local electricity demand in 2023.

Rotherham Council Electric Vehicle Charging Provision

2024 Year End

Share of Residences per Census 2021 Output Area within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC EV charger

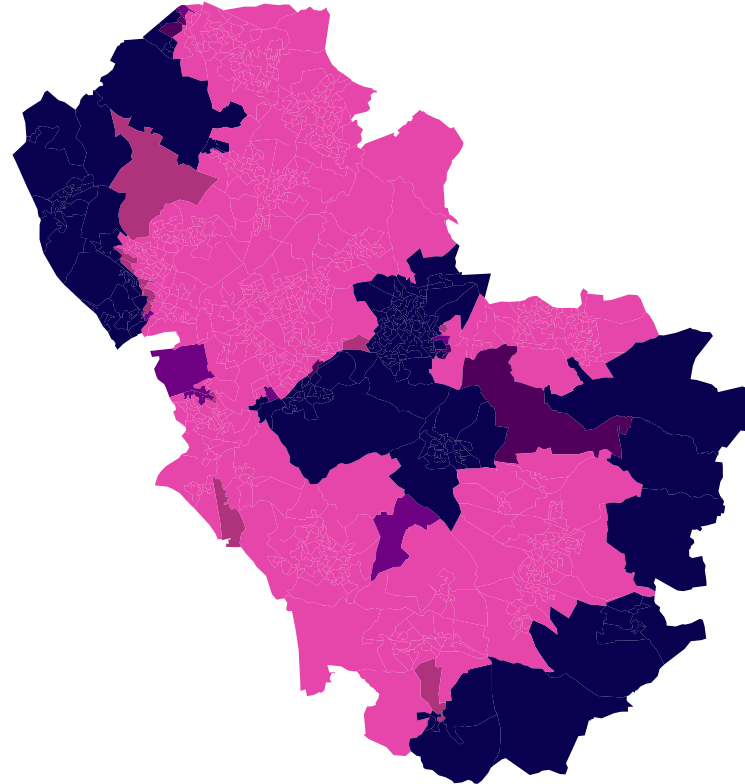
ResPC_24 (bins) ● 0.00% ● 20.00% ● 40.00% ● 60.00% ● 80.00%



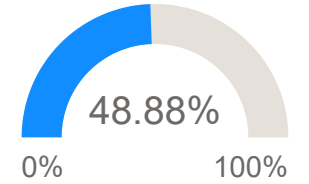
2025 Year End

Share of Residences per Census 2021 Output Area within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC EV charger

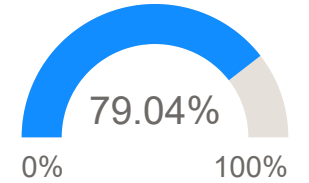
ResPC_25 (bins) ● 0.00% ● 20.00% ● 40.00% ● 60.00% ● 80.00%



2024 Year End



2025 Year End



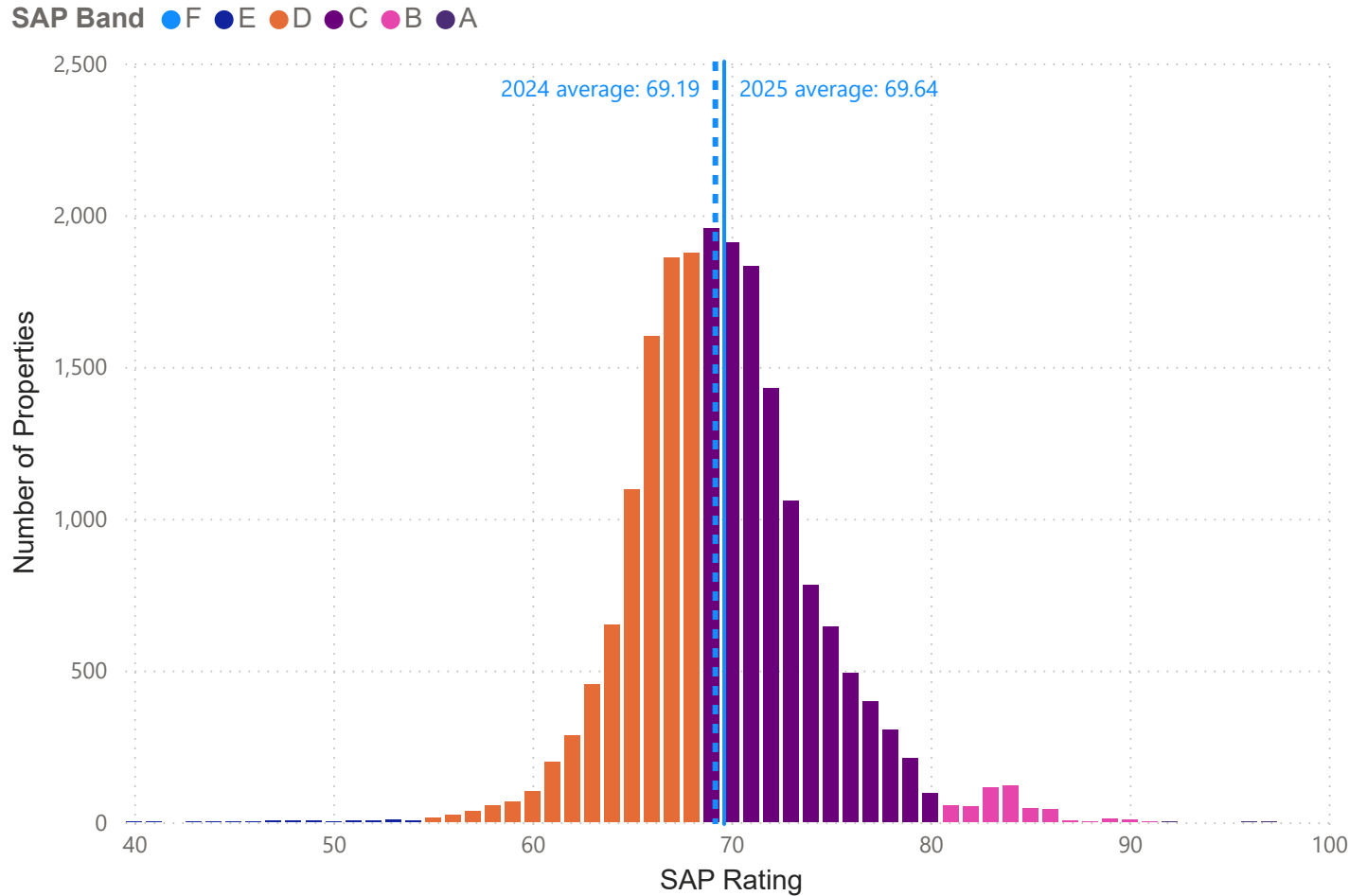
Above: Share of residences within 1.5 miles of their nearest RMBC electric vehicle charge point: change year on year.

Left: By Census 2021 Output Area (OA). There are 877 OAs in Rotherham, which may comprise between 40 and 250 households. OAs are classed in equal intervals of 0 - 20% of residences, 20 - 40% etc. - only the interval's lower bound is displayed in the legend.

As a result of new electric vehicle charge points (EVCP) installed in 2025, the Council has increased its coverage - as defined by the share of residences within 1.5 miles of their nearest Council charge point - from less than half of all residences in the Borough of Rotherham, to almost 80%. An objective of the Council's 2024-2027 [Rotherham Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy](#) is to increase coverage at the 1.5-mile-level to 95% of residences, by 2030. Since **99.66% of residences are within 3.0 miles** of the Council's EV charging network as extended in 2025, the Council has achieved its earlier strategic objective, that 95% of all residences should be covered at the 3.0-miles-level, by 2025.

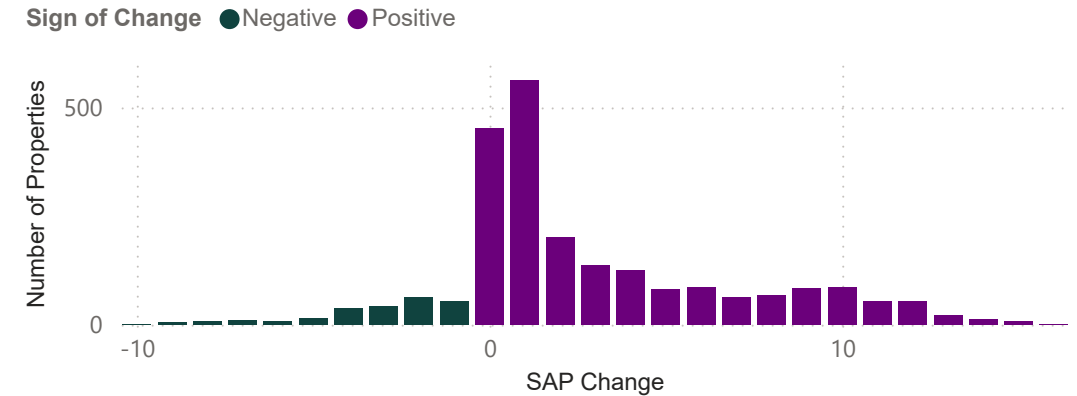
Energy Performance of Rotherham Council Homes

Profile of Rotherham Council Homes SAP Ratings as at 31 March 2025



Change of SAP in Existing Properties, 2024-2025

Excludes changes in SAP rating between -0.5 and 0.5



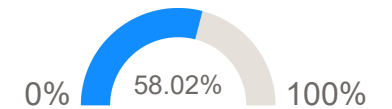
Share of Council Homes by SAP Band

SAP Band	2024	2025
A	0.01%	0.07%
B	1.91%	2.27%
C	51.98%	55.69%
D	45.77%	41.69%
E	0.30%	0.27%
F	0.04%	0.02%

Acquisitions and Disposals, 2024 - 2025

Acquisition or Disposal	Average of SAP
Acquisition	80.62
Disposal	69.13

Council Homes Band C or Above (RdSAP9)



From 31 March 2024 to **31 March 2025**, the share of Council homes whose energy performance was rated **band C or above** increased from 53.90% to **58.02%**. Over the same period, there was a net increase in the Council's housing stock of 63 properties: acquired properties' average SAP rating was 80.62, with the Council's housing acquisitions policy reflecting its target for all Council homes to be band C or above by 2030. Discounting acquisitions and disposals, an increase in SAP rating of more than 5 was recorded for ca. 550 properties. As of 31 March 2025, there remained 8,371 Council owned homes with energy performance less than band C.

These figures do not account for changes in methodology from RdSAP9 to RdSAP10, which have depressed the energy performance band of some of the Council's housing stock. The Council's 2026-27 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Plan notes the award of £8.8 million Warm Homes funding to improve energy performance of ca. 1,000 properties to at least EPC band C. An additional £41 million HRA funding is earmarked to improve the energy performance of ca. 9,300 remaining properties to at least band C, by 2030.

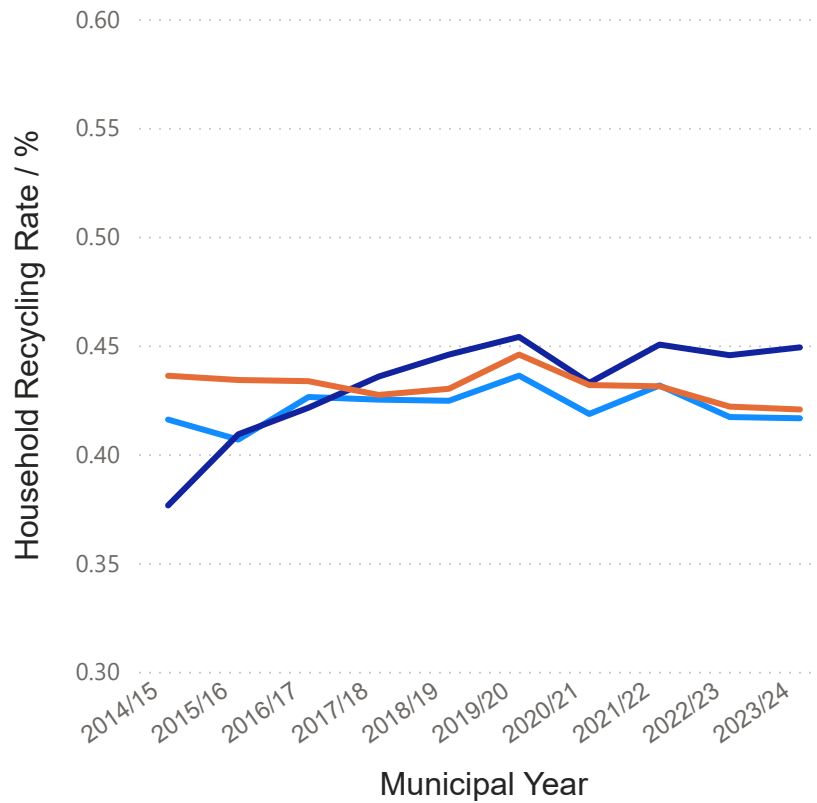
Rotherham Household Waste

Comparing Rotherham with Yorkshire and the Humber Local Authorities and CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

Household Recycling Rate

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.

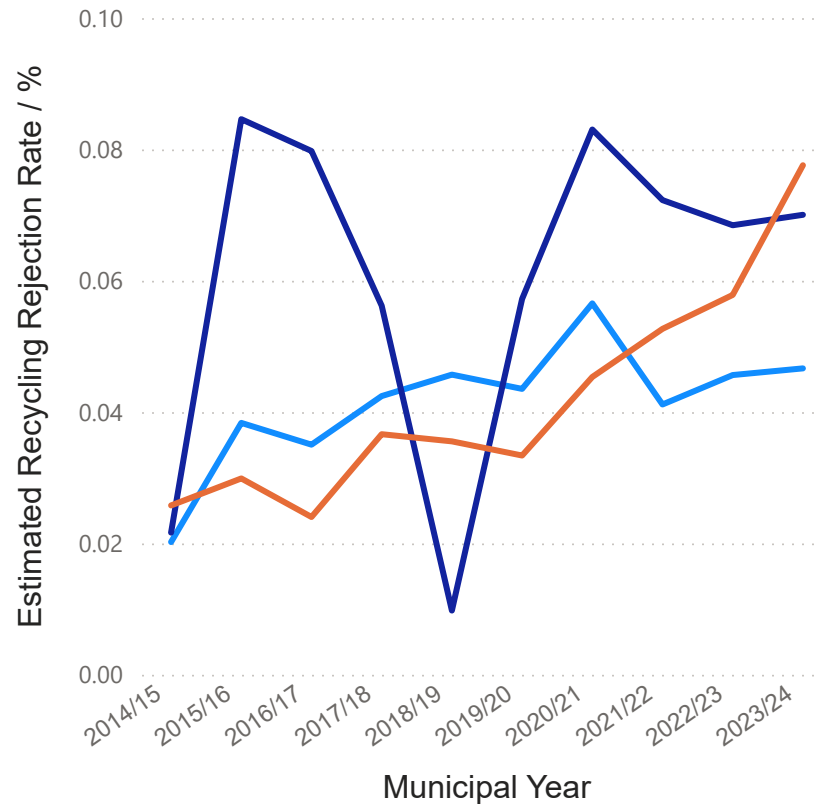
Comparator ● CIPFA Nearest ... ● Rotherham ... ● Yorkshire an...



Household Recycling Contamination Rate: Rate of Estimated Rejects as a Share of Household Recycling

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.

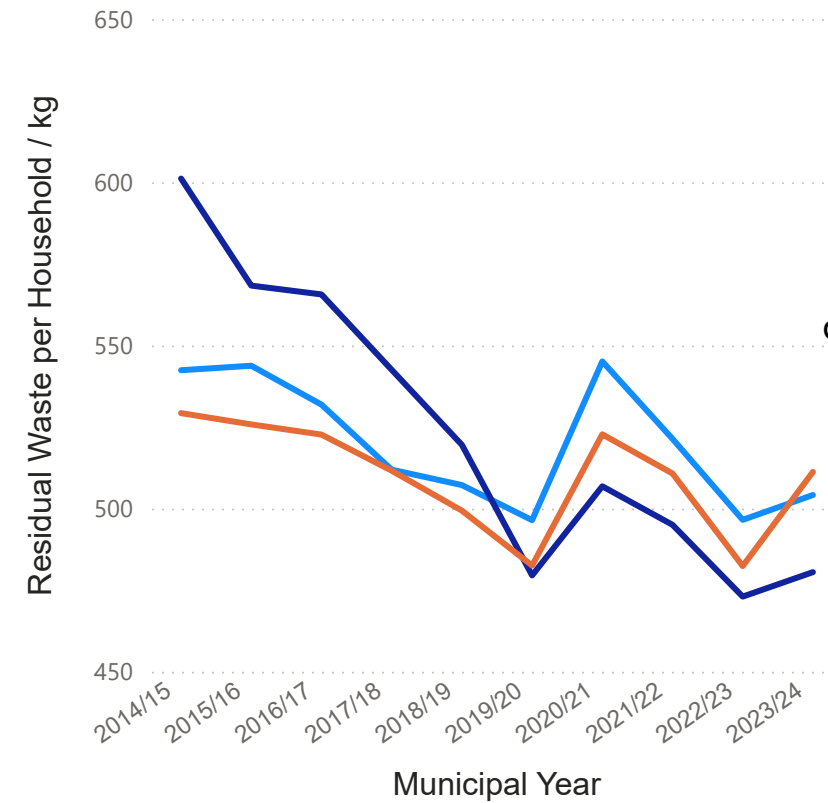
Comparator ● CIPFA Nearest ... ● Rotherham ... ● Yorkshire an...



Household Residual Waste

Source: Defra, 2025. Local authority collected waste management - annual results.

Comparator ● CIPFA Nearest ... ● Rotherham ... ● Yorkshire an...



The above measures of household recycling rate; household recycling contamination rate, calculated as the rate of estimated rejects as a share of household recycling; and amount of residual waste per household, were used by the former Office for Local Government ('Oflog') to measure the performance of local authorities' household waste collection services and were co-opted as performance measures within the Council's climate change monitoring framework. Estimates of material rejected for recycling are adjusted to reflect recycling material which has been recovered from material disposed as residual waste, so may not accurately reflect the rate of household recycling contamination as it is collected from the kerbside, which has been a persistent issue affecting the performance of the Council's downstream recycling contracts.

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Climate Emergency Annual Report	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment	Service area: Climate Change
Lead person: Louise Preston	Contact: Louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify: Annual report on climate activities undertaken by the Council.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Climate Emergency Annual Report provides a report on progress in the last year and presents actions for the 2026/27 year. The report also recommends the approval of the corporate property decarbonisation plan and a number of new sites for the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure.

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

relevance to equality and diversity.

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

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

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

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The majority of this report relates to past activity which have had no reported impacts to date. With regards to the decarbonisation plan, it is not expected that service users will be affected from the information available at present. It is expected that the works will be undertaken whilst the building is in use and heating systems will be replaced during low use periods. However, following procurement and design stages a full equalities assessment will be undertaken to ensure minimal impact. The works are either external, in non-service user accessible locations or can be undertaken at low impact times. There is the possibility that some sites, due to layout may impact access and egress but these will be assessed on a site basis as the works are procured. Any disruption will be short term and planned during off peak times.

A full equalities assessment has already been undertaken as part of the full programme of EV infrastructure installation and the actions included seek to minimise any impacts on service users. There is therefore no change to the equalities assessment in relation to this as it is just a continuation of the same works at different locations throughout the Borough. The content is amalgamated into the overarching annual report.

The continued Equalities actions for the EVI & decarbonisation programme as previously reported which still apply are as follows:

1. Ensure an Equalities Impact Assessment is undertaken for each property and EVI site.

2. Assessment of each EVI site and development to PAS1899:2022 standard.
3. Ensure consultation form remains open for the duration of the scheme to allow for resident feedback.
4. Continue to review the full programme for equalities impacts as part of the quarterly review of each action on the 2026/27 climate change action plan.
5. Ensure any staff accessing sites where vulnerable residents may be present meet safeguarding requirements such as DBS checks and contractor safeguarding protocols. This will be included as a requirement as part of any procurement.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

- **Key findings**

- **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	06/12/25
--	----------

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	06/12/25
--	----------

Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Louise Preston Climate Change Manager
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5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Kevin Fisher	Assistant Director, Property & Facilities Services	19/12/25
Andrew Bramidge	Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment	22/12/25

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	06/12/25
Report title and date	Climate Emergency Annual Report 13/04/26
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	13/04/26
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/12/25

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Decrease	Actions identified in the forward plan of this report will directly reduce the carbon emissions associated with the Council's corporate estate by approximately 183.2 tCO ₂ e, as a result of works to be completed in 2026/27. Total carbon savings from the full corporate decarbonisation programme as presented in Appendix 3 are 1,042 tCO ₂ e by 2030, based on the present carbon intensity of mains electricity: there will be further carbon savings from low carbon heating, as the UK electricity system is further decarbonised.	There will also be impacts on the Borough's emissions through delivery of this programme, enabling Rotherham Markets traders to access cheaper, lower carbon electricity.	Not applicable.	The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are reported annually as per Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	It should also be noted that the delivery of the decarbonisation programme will require travel across the Borough	The Council's EV Infrastructure programme will provide increased access to EV charging, encouraging the uptake	Emissions management and reporting will be included within contracts associated with the	Fleet emissions and usage of the Council's EVI are reviewed annually.

		which may increase emissions associated with the Council's scope 3 emissions, but planned reductions to the Council's fleet emissions will outweigh this change.	of EV's Borough wide. It is therefore expected that this programme will reduce emissions from transport.	actions identified in the forward plan.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	It is likely that some waste will be produced as part of the Council's decarbonisation programme through replacement equipment and build outs	N/A	Utilisation of the waste hierarchy will be included as part of contracts relating to this report.	Greenhouse gas conversion factors for waste are determined from the amount of fuel used to transport it: to avoid double counting, the carbon impact of waste collected from Council premises by Rotherham Business Waste is included with the carbon impact from fuel use in refuse collection vehicles, within 'vehicles, plant and tools'. Waste produced by contractors is factored into spend-based conversion factors, used to estimate the Council's consumption-based scope 3 emissions (see Appendix 4). See also para. 12.27-29, pp.125-126, <i>Methodology Paper for Conversion Factors Final Report</i> (DESNZ, 2025)

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease		Emissions associated with the social housing stock to be decarbonised from 2026 will decrease through energy efficiency measures installed. Warm Homes match funding awarded to the Council for retrofit works to 996 properties will deliver an estimated carbon saving of 1,169 tCO ₂ e per annum.	N/A	Housing stock efficiency is monitored annually using EPC data. The Council cannot control how tenants utilise their energy in their homes and has no access to energy billing information but can improve properties' energy efficiency.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	An increase in emissions is to be expected due to construction works in the EVI and property decarbonisation programmes: in the longer term, carbon savings outweigh the initial, embodied carbon intensity of materials and components.	N/A	Emissions reporting and reduction will be specified in contracts relating to the heat decarbonisation programme. An existing contract for EVI installation is managed by Barnsley Council on behalf of the four South Yorkshire local authorities.	The climate change team will work with contractors under to improve the Council's understanding of carbon emissions from construction. Construction, buildings and related services were the biggest source of consumption-based emissions throughout all the Council's procurement and commissioning activity at 23.4%, according to a spend-based estimate.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease	The Council's tree planting programme will reduce emissions through carbon capture as trees planted mature. To the end of November 2025, 1,948 trees have been planted.	This programme will also benefit the Borough's emissions, as 45 hectares of new woodland are created from 2021 to 2031.	N/A	This programme is currently monitored by the Tree Service and numbers of trees planted are presented annually.

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

Large scale deployment of heat pumps to Council properties may increase fugitive emissions from RACHP (Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and *Heat Pump*) plant/equipment. A 2014 analysis cited in the Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget report on F-gases (Box M11.2, 2020) estimated that for every '1 tCO_{2e} of additional HFC emissions from refrigerant leakage in heat pumps, there [*will be*] 161 tCO_{2e} of CO₂ savings due to avoided emissions from gas boilers and efficiency improvements'. Any increase in fugitive emissions is likely to be outweighed by the carbon saving from heat decarbonisation, by orders of magnitude. Timely repair and maintenance will mitigate fugitive emissions.

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

The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. Activity in the Climate Emergency Annual Report reflect this, with adaptation a key theme for Council services which residents rely on.

Building resilience is considered as part of the corporate decarbonisation programme. A better insulated, energy efficient property portfolio will enable the Council to better manage the future impacts of climate change. The same applies to the social housing stock also undergoing similar works. The report also details action to reduce the impact of flooding on the Borough. Overall, the report's content contribute both to mitigation of climate change and adaptation of Council services to expected impacts.

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

In summary the actions included within the 2026/27 forward plan will reduce the Council's emissions and ensure the Council is prepared for the impacts of climate change. It is expected that measures proposed will reduce emissions by 183 tCO_{2e} from Council properties. As an approach to fleet decarbonisation has yet to be agreed, no potential carbon saving can be provided with this impact assessment.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Louise Preston Climate Change Manager Property & Facilities Services Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Data taken from the Corporate Decarbonisation Programme as outlined in Appendix 3 and information from surveys relating to the solar installations proposed in Appendix 2. Appendix 4 provides a summary of the Council's emissions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Committee. 2020. <i>The Sixth Carbon Budget Report: F-gases</i>. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Sector-summary-F-gases.pdf. • Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. 2025. <i>2025 Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting: Methodology Paper for Conversion Factors Final Report</i>. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6846b0870392ed9b784c0187/2025-GHG-CF-methodology-paper.pdf. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2024. <i>Tree Planting Plan 2021 - 2031</i>. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s146325/Appendix%201%20-%20Tree%20planting%20plan%202021%20-%202031.pdf. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2025. <i>HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2026-27</i>. Cabinet 15 December 2025. [Online]. [Accessed 15 December 2025]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1103&MId=16412&Ver=4.
<p>If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.</p>	<p>See Appendix 5 and references therein (p9).</p>
<p>Validation</p>	<p>Tracking Reference: CIA 573</p> <p>Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer</p>

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2025-26		
Chair: Councillor Brian Steele		Vice-Chair: Cllr Joshua Bacon
Governance Manager: Barbel Gale		Link Officer: Phil Horsfield
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 outcome that we want?		
Agree principles for longlisting:		
· Can scrutiny add value or influence?		
· Is it being looked at elsewhere?		
· Is it a priority – 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
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Sharon Kemp / Jo Brown	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision
	Ian Spicer	Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy - Pre-decision
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	Finance Update - June 2025 - Pre-decision
	Sharon Kemp / Jo Brown	Social Value Annual Report - Pre-decision
	Ian Spicer / John Holman	Employment Solutions 2025-26 - Pre-decision
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Wednesday 2 July 2025	John Edwards / Jo Brown	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25 - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger	Ethical Procurement Policy - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	Financial Outturn 2024- 25 - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25 - Pre-decision
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Tuesday 9 September 2025	Andrew Bramidge / Simon Moss / Fiona Fletcher	Progress update on the implementation Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme
	Barbel Gale	Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025
	Judith Badger / Rob Mahon	July 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge / Emma Ellis	Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028 - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger / Kevin Fisher	Investing in our Community Facilities - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Wednesday 8 October 2025	Andrew Bramidge	Rotherham Employment & Skills Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Selective Licensing Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny - joint with IPSC
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - Pre-decision scrutiny.
	Craig Cornwall, Lewis Coates & Andrew Bramidge	General Enforcement Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge/Sam Barstow	Call-In - Selective Licensing
	Fiona Boden	Complaints Annual Report
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
	Lindsay Wynn & Rob Mahon	2026/27 HRA Business Plan & Rent Setting - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger	Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report – Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge	Library Strategy – Pre-decision scrutiny

Wednesday 10 December 2025	Simeon Leach & Andrew Bramidge	Rotherham Employment & Skills Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 13 January 2026	John Edwards	Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update - Pre-decision
		Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda.
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	November 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report – Pre-decision scrutiny
	Andrew Bramidge & Andy Duncan	Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update – Pre-decision scrutiny
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	MTFS Presentation
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Judith Badger & Fiona Boden	Inclusion Strategy and Annual Report - Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Ian Spicer	Rotherham Baby Packs – Outcomes and Future Commissioning - Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	HSC - Access to Contraception Review Report
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Wednesday 4 February 2026		Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority.
	Judith Badger & Rob Mahon	Budget and Council Tax Report 2026-27 - Pre-decision Scrutiny
Wednesday 11 March 2026	Andrew Bramidge / Nat Porter	Transport Capital Programme 2026/27 – Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Nicola Curley / Helen Sweaton / Niall Devlin / Alex Hawley	Best Start Plan 2026- 2029 – Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
	Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 8 April 2026	Andrew Bramidge	Climate Emergency Annual Report - Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Mike Thomas	Community Governance Review – Pre-decision Scrutiny
	John Edwards	Council Plan Update - Year Ahead Plan 2026/27 – Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Wednesday 6 May 2026	Jayne Metcalfe	Progress Update on Future Rothercare Model
	Barbel Gale	Work Programme
	Each Governance Advisor	Work in progress from Select Commissions
Barbel Gale	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	
Substantive Items for Scheduling		
July 2026		Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda.
Jul-26	John Edwards	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision
Sep-26	Kevin Fisher & Judith Badger	Investing in our Community Facilities - An update report be provided in 12 months to include the updated condition survey results, where available.
Expected September 2026	Mat Dyson	Children's Commissioners Takeover Challenge
Nov-26	Andrew Bramidge / Simon Moss / Fiona Fletcher	Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme - The programme will be a good way through year 2, therefore members will receive an update on both year 1 outcomes, year 2 developments and target forecasts.
Reviews for Scheduling		
Completed	Sam Barstow	A spotlight review - Life-saving equipment and related byelaws
Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. Information briefing, workshop etc)		
Autumn 2026	Andrew Bramidge	An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via an information briefing.
Autumn 2026	Andrew Bramidge	An update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months via an information briefing.
Sep-26	Andrew Bramidge	Replacement of refuse vehicles: Information briefings to be provided to give an update on the procurement of the new refuse vehicles and progress against the target for renewal of the fleet. These briefings should be split to represent the different phases of the programme.

June / July 2026	Andrew Bramidge / Sam Barstow	Public on street bin collections: Information briefing to be provided regarding the emptying of public bins. This information should include details of how overflowing bins can be reported, how often collections are scheduled for and how those are monitored, what join arrangements are in place with Parish Council's, if any, and a list of the locations of bins under RMBC management, if available.
TBC	Luke Sayers	IT Systems: Workshop to be arranged for members of OSMB to understand what IT systems the Council is using, what the purpose of those systems is, are those systems as up to date as possible, how updates to those systems are managed, how the Council is using artificial intelligence (AI), is the Council using outdated technology, and was the Council spending too much or too little in this area.
TBC	Fiona Fletcher	Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme: Agreed that a briefing be provided to share the details of the commissioned VCSE organisations and their geographic reach with members of OSMB.
Items for Future Consideration		
Cross Commission scrutiny opportunities		
Ongoing	Andrew Bramidge	Town Centre Developments (Markets & Library Redevelopments) - visit completed February 2026. Opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny via OSMB when update submitted to Cabinet.
TBC	Ian Spicer/Sarah Clyde	Energy Efficiency: An information 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.

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Health Select Commission (HSC) Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) meeting on 8 April 2026

Items covered since the last meeting:

At the HSC meeting on 26 March 2026 the following items were considered:

1) South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance Lung Clinic Update

Members scrutinised the update report and supporting presentation provided by South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer alliance, further to the briefing members received in May 2025. A small group of Health Select Commission members, along with Counterparts from Barnsley also benefitted from a joint site visit to the clinic which provided valuable operational insights and helped to inform and focus the discussions.

Members sought assurances that the temporary joint Lung Clinic is safely improving service resilience, access and patient experience without disadvantaging Rotherham patients. Discussions considered the clinic's ability to strengthen clinical cover, maintain local treatment, and deliver patient and staff satisfaction, whilst acknowledging and exploring known challenges such as parking, public transport and IT issues. Members noted that a full 12-month evaluation will guide any long-term strategic and operational decisions and encouraged the replication of identified good practice across other clinical discipline where that could be of benefit.

The following recommendations were agreed during the meeting:

That the Health Select Commission:

1. Noted the implementation and initial appraisal of the NSO joint Lung Clinic for Rotherham and Barnsley patients.
2. Noted that a formal clinic evaluation will be undertaken 12-months post go-live, which would enable more meaningful data analysis to influence recommendations for future service provision.
3. Requested that South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance provide the data and metrics requested by the Health Select Commission following the briefing received in May 2025 be provided following conclusion of the planned clinic evaluation, given that it has not been possible to provide the full detail at this time. The means via which this will be provided are to be agreed outside of this meeting.
4. Requested that South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance consider the public and community transport needs, including the availability and infrastructure of on-site parking in conjunction with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT), following the planned clinic evaluation.

5. Requested that relevant Council Officers consider the roads network and transport infrastructure in the hospital's immediate vicinity, including car parking restrictions and enforcement to seek to ensure that this supports traffic flow and actively contributes to reducing travel and parking frustrations for Rotherham residents accessing the hospital site.

2) SDEC (Same Day Emergency Care) Centre Implementation Update

Members scrutinised the update presentation provided by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) further to the original proposals being presented to the Commission in March 2025. Again, a small group of Health Select Commission members benefitted from a site visit to the Centre which provided valuable operational insights and helped to inform and focus the discussions.

Members sought assurances that the new SDEC Centre is easing pressure on the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (commonly referred to as A&E) and improving safe, timely patient flow. Discussions reflected that the SDEC, funded through a £7m national investment, is expanding front-door capacity, supporting "right clinician, right place" care, showing rising attendances and early improvements in 4-hour performance, and receiving positive patient feedback. More detailed operational impact and broader outcome data will be evaluated after 12 months.

The following recommendations were agreed during the meeting:

That the Health Select Commission:

1. Noted the update in relation to the SDEC and its impact on patient care.
2. Requested that TRFT provide further data regarding the impact on waiting times, ambulance handover, staff and patient satisfaction following 12 months of operation or following a suitable period or adoption of direct referral routes to all partners for whom this is intended to assist members to fully understand the impact of the SDEC for Rotherham residents. The means via which the data will be provided, any specific considerations around metrics and a finite timeline will be agreed with TRFT in due course.

Work programme 2025-26 updates:

- **Workshops/Reviews**

In progress:

Work on preparation of the Menopause Review Report is continuing. The intention continues to be that this will be presented to the Health Select Commission at its 14 May 2026 meeting.

- **Site Visits**

Lung Clinic:

On 19 March 2026, Councillors Brent, Clarke, Garner, Harper and Harrison attended the Earl of Scarborough Suite at Rotherham Hospital where the Joint Lung Clinic is based, in company with representatives from Barnsley Council's scrutiny function to experience first-hand the impact the establishment of the facility is having on patient experience and operational effectiveness connected with their care. This site visit, like the earlier visit to the SDEC was intended to add value to discussions and consideration of the related update item at the 26 March 2026 Health Select Commission meeting detailed above.

- **Quality Accounts**

The Health Select Commission is heading into a busy period of activity as it is due to receive Quality Accounts in April 2026. Preparations are underway to convene working groups to consider these, with both TRFT and RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) having made initial contact and provided outline arrangements. This is not only an important part of the Health Select Commission's scrutiny responsibilities on behalf of the Council, but also a meaningful opportunity to consider work programming and forward planning of scrutiny activities in the coming municipal year and to ensure that focus is given to the topics and activities which offer the greatest potential for meaningful positive impact for Rotherham residents.

- **Involvement in Consultation and Co-production**

Health Select Commission members are scheduled to take part in consultation and co-production in relation to the development of the Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032 in late April 2026. This represents a meaningful opportunity for the Commission to put forward its views and help shape the future Strategy that will support Rotherham residents into the next decade. The Commission welcomes the Service's recognition of the value that scrutiny can add to the Strategy's development through this early engagement.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the HSC meeting on 14 May 2026 the following items are due to be considered:

- NHS 10 Year Plan - Local Implications incorporating NHS Neighbourhood Health Services
- Adult Social Care - CQC Inspection
- Menopause Review Report

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Improving Lives Select Commission Chair's Briefing for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on 8th April 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting: -

- At the Improving Lives meeting on 17th March 2026 the following items were considered: -

1. **Community Recovery Fund - Children's Services** - Members received the report and presentation which provided a detailed update on the delivery of the Community Recovery Fund projects in Children and Young People's Services over the past 12 months. The programme had been delivered by a range of organisations including direct delivery by Rotherham Council services, direct delivery by the voluntary sector and a grants budget which would allow for further solutions to be co-created and co-designed with community groups and prioritised as part of an overall co-ordinated approach.

Members welcomed the update and the positive information that was shared.

2. **Children Not in School Update** – Members received the report and associated appendices which provided in depth information and assurance regarding activity in relation to Children Not in School in Rotherham to enable the Commission to receive an update regarding this area of work. The Elective Home Education, and Exclusions dashboard also provided a breakdown of the characteristics of the respective cohorts to enable further scrutiny.

A positive discussion took place which allowed Members to fully explore the detail and ask questions.

3. **SACRE Annual Report 2024/25** – Members received the Annual Report of the Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) for the academic year 2024–2025, which summarised advice to statutory bodies, the standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in Rotherham schools, the work of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), and SACRE's contribution to wider Council priorities.

The report highlighted strengthened membership (notably secondary RE specialists), successful CPD and interfaith engagement, progress towards

reviewing the local Agreed Syllabus, and one determination (Thornhill Primary School).

Members noted the Annual Report and endorsed the forward actions for 2025–2026, including enhanced subject leader support, the South Yorkshire RE Conference and development of school visits/visitors' guidance.

Work Programme 2025-26 Updates: -

- **Children's Capital of Culture Workshop - Impact and Legacy for Children and Young People**

A workshop has been arranged for Tuesday, 21st April 2026 looking at Impact and Legacy for Children and Young People. An invitation had also been extended to Improving Places Select Commission for any interested Members to attend.

- **Children and Young People's Partnership Board**

A pre-decision scrutiny session has now been agreed with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board made up of young people who have reviewed their programme of work and are developing a strategy to underpin their agreed priorities going forward. This will take place with several Members and will be incorporated into the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board on 28th April 2026 at 4.00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting: -

28 April 2026

- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Update
- Corporate Parenting Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-2025
- Child Exploitation Strategy Update

IPSC Chair's Briefing: for OSMB meeting on 8 April 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:

At the IPSC meeting on 10 March 2026 the following items were considered –

- 1) **Events Review 2025-26** – Members received an update from the Events team, and a representative from partner agency Flux, on the programme of borough-wide events that had taken place over the last year, including the range of events that ran throughout the Children's Capital of Culture year.

Members congratulated service on delivering a wide range of successful events and on ambitions for the year ahead. Members provided feedback that improvements could be made in the future with regard to increased community engagement and better communication to publicise events.

- 2) **Draft Playing Pitch Strategy** – this item provided Members with the opportunity to carry out some pre-decision scrutiny prior to presentation of the strategy to Cabinet in April. Members welcomed the thorough review of playing pitch facilities across the borough and the opportunities for improvement. Members were particularly impressed by the innovative portfolio work being carried out by the Sports Team with the Football Foundation with relation to 3G football pitches.

Members endorsed the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy to go forward to Cabinet for approval. Members also requested that service return to IPSC once the strategy was underway to provide an update on the work done with sporting governing bodies, partners and organisations to ensure that access to pitches is inclusive across the borough and that appropriate community use agreements are in place.

Work Programme Updates

- **Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy Workshop** – Members will be invited to take part in a workshop on the Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy at the end of April. This will allow Members the opportunity to get involved in co-production of this Strategy .
- **The Waterfront @ Rother Valley Country Park Site Visit** – an opportunity arose for IPSC Members to visit the new Waterfront Café & Centre at Rother Valley Country Park at the end of March, prior to official opening to the public in April. Members who attended this visit will report back to IPSC at its next meeting.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the next meeting of IPSC on 21 April 2026 Members are due to scrutinise the following items:-

- **Allotments Annual Update;** and
- **Update on Pride in Place.**

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