CABINET

Monday 12 October 2026
10.00 a.m.
Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Cabinet Members:-

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

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

CABINET

Venue:	**The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**
Date and Time:	**Monday 12 October 2026 at 10.00 a.m.**
Agenda Contact	**Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk**

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

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

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Questions from Members of the Public

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

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

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 11 - 24)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 September 2026.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There are no exempt items.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Extra Care Housing Model (Pages 25 - 69)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the feedback from the consultation.

2. Approve implementation of the proposed final model, as set out in paragraph 3.1.

7. Moving Rotherham Partnership - Delivery of Place Expansion Grant (Pages 71 - 94)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet approve the acceptance and spending of the Rotherham Sport England Grants (comprising the Main Award and Capital Grant) in line with Sport England grant conditions and as set out in section 2 of this report.

COMMUNITIES

8. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Review - Street Lighting Columns (Pages 95 - 119)

Report from the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet receives the recommendations listed below, as approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

    a. Approve amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan to incorporate a comprehensive framework for attachments to lighting columns and associated highway assets, setting out requirements relating to permitted and prohibited attachments, risk-based approval arrangements, structural testing and retesting requirements, applicant responsibilities, and enforcement provisions. The framework should apply consistently to all users of lighting columns, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, contractors and third parties.

    b. Approve the development and publication of a standalone, publicly

accessible Lighting Column Attachments Guidance Document, in consultation with Parish and Town Councils, to provide clear and practical guidance on the application of the Highway Asset Management Plan framework, including attachment classifications, approval processes, testing requirements, responsibilities, communication arrangements, and practical examples of acceptable and unacceptable attachments.

c. Establish formal consultation, communication and engagement arrangements with Parish and Town Councils, including consultation on future policy changes, testing programmes and charging arrangements, together with sufficient advance notice of any financial implications to enable effective budget planning, procurement and decision-making.

d. Establish clear categories for lighting column attachments, identifying which attachments are permitted without testing, permitted subject to approval and structural testing, or prohibited, and publish consistent standards for structural testing, assessment criteria, retesting intervals, validity periods and maximum permissible loading thresholds where appropriate.

e. Continues to coordinate structural testing arrangements on a borough-wide basis where appropriate and considers longer-term funding, procurement and cost-sharing arrangements to minimise administrative burdens and secure value for money for Parish and Town Councils whilst maintaining compliance with relevant safety standards.

f. Ensures arrangements are developed to support the continuation of community display schemes where lighting columns are unable to safely accommodate attachments, including consideration of alternative display solutions, targeted asset replacement where appropriate, the use of structural testing outcomes to identify trends, inform the Council's future investment priorities, replacement programmes and wider asset management decisions.

g. That the service engages in meaningful discussions with interested parties including Parish Councils, seeking to install displays on lighting columns, with the aim of reaching a shared understanding regarding the timescales and process for replacing damaged or missing columns, and to explore opportunities to facilitate timely installation where feasible.

h. Strengthen the enforcement framework for unauthorised attachments by establishing clear compliance procedures and, where legally permissible, implementing arrangements for the recovery of costs incurred in the removal of unauthorised installations, and reviews the effectiveness of the new arrangements within 12 months of implementation, including consideration of feedback from Parish and

Town Councils, testing outcomes and enforcement activity, with the findings reported to the relevant Scrutiny Board.

2. That Cabinet formally considers its response to the above recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. That in responding to these recommendations, it is requested that Cabinet's response should identify the proposed actions, responsible officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each recommendation.

DEPUTY LEADER AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

9. Children and Young People's Strategy (Pages 121 - 189)

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

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the activity to date of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance, where young people set priorities, challenge leaders, and co-produce solutions alongside senior leaders across the partnership.

2. Endorse the Rotherham Children's Strategy for implementation from October 2026.

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

10. Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation (Pages 191 - 365)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the retention of the existing community governance arrangements for the following parish, town and community councils and parish meeting, and agrees that no further consultation is required. These arrangements will therefore be carried forward to the Final Recommendations Report:
    a) Anston Parish Council
    b) Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
    c) Catcliffe Parish Council
    d) Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council
    e) Hellaby Parsh Council

f) Maltby Town Council
g) Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
h) Todwick Parish Council
i) Treeton Parish Council
j) Ulley Parish Council

2. Approves consultation with the affected parish councils and their electors to seek views on the revision of the number of council seats as outlined below:
    a) Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council: An increase of three council seats from 15 to 18
    b) Bramley Parish Council: An increase of one seat from 13 to 14
    c) Brinsworth Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 11 to 14
    d) Ravenfield Parish Council: An increase of two seats from 7 to 9
    e) Thrybergh Parish Council: A decrease of four seats from 15 to 11
    f) Thurcroft Parish Council: A decrease of five seats from 18 to 13
    g) Wales Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 15 to 13
    h) Waverley Community Council: An increase of five seats from 7 to 12
    i) Whiston Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 9 to 12
    j) Wickersley Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 16 to 14
    k) Woodsetts Parish Council: A decrease of one seat from 9 to 8

3. Approves consultation with electors at 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils to seek views on the transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

4. Approves consultation with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered.

5. Approves consultation with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

6. Approves consultation with Dalton Parish Council and its electors to inform consideration of whether Dalton Parish Council should be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council and the parish wards renamed to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton Ward, and Brecks Ward.

7. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Penny Hill area, together with Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the properties within the Penny Hill area should remain within the Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council or be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

8. Approves consultation with electors within the Gildingwells Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the parish.

The consultation should seek views on the following options:

a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
b) Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Letwell Parish Council;
c) Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Woodsetts Parish Council; and
d) Abolishing Gildingwells Parish Meeting

In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Letwell Parish Council and Woodsetts Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

9. Approves consultation with electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:
    a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
    b) Merging Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council;
    c) Abolishing Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

In addition, it is proposed that consultation is undertaken with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

10. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Firsby area and within the Hooton Roberts parish area, together with Ravenfield Parish Council, to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting to Ravenfield Parish Council, or to retain the existing parish boundary arrangements.

11. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council and Thurcroft Parish Council, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, or the retention of the existing parish boundary arrangements.

12. Approves consultation with the electors of 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

13. Approves consultation with Wentworth Parish Council and parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward, to seek their views on changing the name of Harley Ward to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

14. Approves the commencement of a twelve-week public consultation on the draft recommendations set out in Recommendations 2-13 of this report.

15. Notes that a final recommendations report will be brought forward following the consultation on the draft recommendations. Cabinet will be asked to

approve the final recommendations and recommend their adoption by Council in Spring 2027.

HOUSING

11. The Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement (Pages 367 - 393)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the proposal to introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.

2. Approve the proposal to procure an external provider to manage and deliver a tenant scrutiny function.

12. Homelessness Prevention Grant - Commissioned Services (Pages 395 - 429)

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the proposals to:

3. Re-procure the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

4. Re-procure dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

5. Procure an Accommodation Hub specifically for women for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend up to a further 2 years.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

13. Draft Street Trading Policy (Pages 431 - 476)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining the final recommendations regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

14. Local Plan (Pages 477 - 520)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

2. Approve the publication of the Local Plan Timetable attached at Appendix 1 and note that it supersedes the current Local Development Scheme timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

3. Approve the publication of the formal 'Notice of Intention to Commence' by 30 October 2026, at the latest, in line with Regulation 19.

4. Approve the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 2.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy:

    - to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable during plan preparation;
    - to approve, publish and submit all documents required for the statutory Scoping Stage (Regulation 20);
    - to approve publication and submission of documents required for Gateway 1 (Regulation 21); and
    - to approve the content and commencement of consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23).

6. Agree that Planning Board and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout plan preparation.

7. Agree to receive a further report as the Local Plan progresses towards plan

content and evidence consultation (Regulation 23(1)(a)) and seeking approvals for subsequent stages - Gateways 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).

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

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 7 October 2026.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 16 November 2026 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

THE CABINET
Monday 14 September 2026

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Read and Allen.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rob Mahon	Service Director of Financial Services
Stuart Williams	Service Director of Children's Social Care
Mike Thomas	Electoral Services Manager
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton	Governance Advisor and Clerk

Also in attendance:

Steph Watt	Urgent and Community Care, NHS SYICB

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 July 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

39. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

40. ROTHERHAM COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval, in principle, for the Council to participate in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

The current service, delivered by Medequip under a contract led by South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, was due to expire on 31 March 2027 and a procurement exercise was therefore required to ensure continuity of provision.

A review of delivery options was undertaken, including a standalone procurement by the Council, an in-house model and a collaborative procurement and commissioning arrangement with Sheffield City Council, Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The joint procurement model was identified as the preferred option.

The preferred approach was expected to deliver improved value for money through economies of scale, greater operational resilience, reduced duplication and a more consistent service across South Yorkshire, whilst supporting residents to remain independent and live safely at home. The model would also support timely hospital discharge and help reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and residential care.

Sheffield City Council would act as lead commissioner for the procurement exercise, with Rotherham participating as an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. The Council would retain oversight of services provided to Rotherham residents, including local performance and financial management.

Preparatory work had included the development of a common equipment catalogue and service specification across the participating organisations to improve consistency, equity of access, stock management and recycling arrangements, whilst continuing to meet individual assessed needs.

The report set out that the preferred option would increase the Council's annual contribution to approximately £0.8 million, reflecting a revised assessment of social care responsibilities within the service. This additional investment was expected to be supported through Better Care Fund arrangements. Provision had been made for the existing contract to

be extended for up to six months, if required, to support mobilisation of the new arrangements and ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

The proposed approach was intended to secure a sustainable and effective Community Equipment Service, supporting independence, improving health and wellbeing outcomes and providing continued support for residents, carers and families across the borough.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve, in principle, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) participating in a joint procurement exercise for a Community Equipment Service alongside other partners, Doncaster City Council, Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, subject to approval by the respective organisations.

2. Note that Sheffield City Council will be the lead commissioner and their Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules will be followed with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council being an associate commissioner alongside Doncaster City Council and SY ICB.

3. Approve, the Council being a party to an extension of the current Community Equipment Service contract for up to six months, if required, to support effective mobilisation and continuity of service with SY ICB as the lead commissioner of the current contract.

41. ADULT SOCIAL CARE LOCAL ACCOUNT 2025-2026

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Adult Social Care Local Account for 2025-26. The 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care 2025/2026 summarised the achievements for the last 12 months and set out the priorities for the coming year. The Account highlighted key achievements across Adult Social Care, demonstrated the impact of services on residents and carers through case studies and feedback, celebrated the contribution of staff and partners, and outlined priorities for continued improvement during 2026/27.

The report highlighted a year of significant progress, including the achievement of a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Good rating, recognising the quality of services, partnership working, prevention activity and commitment to continuous improvement.

Key developments during the year included:

- The introduction of a new transitions assessment process to improve support for young people moving into adulthood
- Expansion of supported employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism

- Establishment of a hospital discharge Transfer of Care Hub
- Development of a new Adult Social Care Mental Health Strategy and an All-Age Carers Strategy
- Progression of the Castle View Day Centre development
- The introduction of an involvement framework to strengthen co-production and resident voice across services

The Local Account sought to demonstrate the impact of Adult Social Care through service user case studies, resident feedback and performance information. During 2025/26, Adult Social Care supported 5,985 people, received 470 compliments and 56 formal complaints, with feedback being used to drive service improvements and inform future priorities.

The report set out priorities for 2026/27, including:

- Reducing waiting times for Care Act assessments
- Improving access to enablement services
- Reducing inequalities for seldom-heard groups
- Strengthening support for carers
- Improving provision for working-age adults with support needs
- Enhancing co-production and further improving quality assurance arrangements

The Local Account reinforced the Council's commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement, whilst recognising the contribution of staff, residents, carers and partner organisations in supporting people to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the publication of the 'How Did We Do?' Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2025 – 2026.

42. RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION SCRUTINY REVIEW - MENOPAUSE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's Scrutiny Review into menopause and perimenopause. Recommendations made by the Spotlight Review were set out in a report, endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3 June 2026 meeting, and then presented to Cabinet for consideration on 6 July 2026. Appendix 1 to the report set out Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

The review had originated from a Health Select Commission workshop before being developed into a formal scrutiny review due to the strength of engagement, evidence and discussion surrounding the issue. The review examined the experiences of women in the borough and identified

opportunities to improve awareness, information, support and partnership working relating to menopause and perimenopause.

The review's recommendations covered public awareness and information, primary care improvement, mental health support, community engagement, workplace health and system leadership. Cabinet endorsed the intent and ambition of all recommendations and agreed a response which sought to build upon existing work while recognising that many of the proposed actions required the cooperation of partner organisations outside the Council's direct control, including NHS organisations, GP practices and education providers. A number of recommendations were therefore partially accepted, reflecting those limitations rather than any disagreement with their objectives.

The agreed response included:

- Further development and promotion of menopause information through existing resources on RotherHive, alongside exploration of accessible printed information for digitally excluded residents.
- Development of targeted information for men and young people.
- Partnership work to encourage improvements in primary care awareness, training, referral pathways and the use of menopause champions within GP practices.
- Continued review and promotion of mental health support options linked to menopause.
- Review and potential expansion of menopause cafés, community information sessions and outreach support to underrepresented communities.
- Progression of workplace menopause champions within the Council and encouragement of similar approaches amongst partner organisations.
- Use of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to provide system leadership, oversee delivery of actions and explore future funding opportunities.

Councillor Steele welcomed Cabinet’s response in his capacity as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by the Health Select Commission and supporting officers. He expressed the hope that, although the Council could not directly implement all recommendations, it would continue to work with and influence partner organisations to maximise delivery of the review's recommendations wherever possible.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth referred to the continuing importance of encouraging partner organisations to improve awareness and support relating to menopause and perimenopause. She highlighted that the issue had become more widely recognised but that further progress remained necessary. She also recorded her appreciation for the work undertaken by the Commission and officers, describing the review as an example of scrutiny at its best.

Resolved:

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations arising from their Spotlight Review into the Menopause (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report) be approved.

43. CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Care Leavers' Local Offer and the development of a Care Leavers' Charter. The Charter set out the commitments and support available to care-experienced young adults.

The Care Leavers' Charter had been co-produced with care-experienced young people through the Look Ahead participation group and built upon the Council's Leaving Care Strategy 2024-27 and Care Leaver Local Offer. The Charter was developed to provide a clear statement of the Council's commitments as a corporate parent and to support care leavers in their transition to adulthood. It reflected the experiences, priorities and aspirations of young people with care experience and focused on practical support relating to accommodation, education, employment, wellbeing, independence and inclusion.

The report highlighted that there were currently more than 600 care leavers aged 16 to 25 supported by the Council and that Ofsted had judged the experiences and progress of care leavers in Rotherham to be good, whilst identifying opportunities for further development around education, skills and housing sufficiency. The Charter sought to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting offer and complement existing support available through the Local Offer.

The Charter brought together a range of commitments including:

- Priority access to accommodation
- Support with independent living
- Council tax support
- Education and employment opportunities including guaranteed interviews for suitable Council vacancies
- Health and wellbeing support
- Practical assistance to help young people establish and sustain independent lives

The Charter also reflected feedback from care leavers on the importance of being able to access suitable accommodation, affordable household goods, additional support when moving into a new home, and clear sources of advice and support.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth explained that the Charter had been shaped directly by care-experienced young people and represented

tangible, realistic and practical commitments that would make a difference to their lives. She emphasised that care leavers often faced the transition to adulthood at a younger age than their peers and noted that wider housing pressures had increased the challenges associated with living independently. She also confirmed that the proposed Charter had been expanded to include eligibility for the Council's Rothercard scheme up to the age of 25 at the Leader's suggestion.

Stuart Williams, Service Director for Children's Social Care, stated that care leavers frequently faced challenges as they navigated adulthood and that the Charter provided clear and practical examples of how the Council, as a corporate parent, would support and 'scaffold' young people through that transition. He highlighted that the Charter had been designed by care-experienced young people themselves and reflected the principle of empowering them to shape the support they received.

Councillor Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health welcomed the Charter, describing it as an excellent initiative that would help support care leavers through the transition from childhood to adulthood. She particularly welcomed the co-production of the document with care leavers and the inclusion of a dedicated section relating to health and wellbeing.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the development of the Care Leavers' Charter.

2. Approve the proposals set out within the Care Leavers' Charter, recognising the Council's commitment to improving outcomes and opportunities for Care Leavers.

3. Agree that the Care Leavers' Charter progresses to Full Council for endorsement.

44. JULY 2026-27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position as at the end of July 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2026/27.

As of July 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 was an overspend of £5.9m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £10.9m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £5.0m. The main pressures driving this forecast were within Social Care, largely due to market prices and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who had complex needs, and an overspend in Regeneration and Environment Directorate increased by £2.9m, mostly due to additional

overspends in Waste and Home to School transport. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate were provided in the main body of the report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position had remained unsettled. Economic market sentiment had been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy and fuel costs impacting the wider economy and creating uncertainty around inflation, which has risen to 2.9% in July. These financial challenges were being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The report also provided an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme including a number of programme variations as detailed in section 2.17.

Due to a clerical error, paragraph 2.14.4 of the report was incorrect. It should have read:

The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Transport Levy, Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27, approved at Council on 4th March 2026. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the Directorates and thus held centrally.

Rob Mahon, Service Director for Financial Services, confirmed that work was being undertaken with directors throughout the remainder of the financial year to reduce pressures, mitigate the impact on reserves and improve the year-end position.

Councillor Steele reported the conclusions of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised the discussion around significant overspends within Children and Young People's Services, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, and Regeneration and Environment Directorates. He explained that questions were raised regarding:

- The sustainability of using Central Services underspends to offset budget pressures
- The Dedicated Schools Grant deficit
- Demand pressures in adult social care and SEND services, SEND assessment processes and backlogs
- Home-to-school transport costs
- Waste service expenditure and vehicle replacement delays
- Market income shortfalls

It was noted that several of these financial pressures, particularly transport-related costs and vehicle issues, had appeared repeatedly in previous monitoring reports.

Councillor Steele advised Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations outlined in the report but had also recommended that future financial monitoring reports include updates on overspend recovery actions, progress against service plans, management of key financial risks and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

Councillor Alam OBE confirmed acceptance of the additional recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £5.9m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in Section 2.17 of the report.

4. Agreed that future financial monitoring reports include updates on the delivery of overspend recovery actions, progress against savings plans, management of key financial risks, and the ongoing deliverability of the Capital Programme.

45. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW INTERIM UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet with an interim update on the progress of the Community Governance Review following the completion of the first stage of public consultation. A report setting out the draft recommendations arising from the review would be presented to Cabinet in October 2026 for consideration and approval. Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation would be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations. Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report would then be brought to Cabinet. It was a function of Council to approve the final recommendations arising from the review.

Following approval by Cabinet on 13 April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1 May 2026. An initial consultation took place between 1 May and 26 June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to

consider.

The consultation received just under two hundred responses, representing views on existing parish, town, and community councils, together with interest in the establishment of new parish councils. A summary of the number of responses received by area was shown in Appendix 1.

The Officer Working Group was in the process of reviewing the consultation responses, together with the statutory criteria for community governance reviews, to inform the development of draft recommendations. An information session for Members would be held during September to provide an overview of the consultation responses and the draft recommendations arising from the review.

The Draft Recommendations report would be presented to Cabinet on 12 October 2026, to seek approval to undertake a second phase of consultation on the draft recommendations. Subject to Cabinet approval, the second phase of consultation would commence on 26 October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the consultation period would be extended from eight weeks to twelve weeks. Although the consultation would span the Christmas period, the timetable had been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closed.

Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations would be prepared and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval. Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress of the Community Governance Review following completion of the first stage of consultation.

2. Note the proposed next steps in the review process, including the development of draft recommendations, further consultation, and the timetable for reporting final recommendations.

3. Note the extension of the second stage consultation period to twelve weeks to maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations.

46. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided the annual update on the progress against the Social Value Policy, including the amount of value committed and delivered through Council contracts. Since the last annual report in June 2025, good progress had been made to further strengthen delivery of the Social Value Policy. Social value commitments now stood at £41.6m. Importantly, validated delivery of social value stood at £23.7m, having increased by 92% compared to the previous annual report.

Resulting in tangible benefits for residents, 454 jobs had been secured for local people, and 1,169 apprenticeships weeks had been delivered since the Council introduced this Policy.

Progress was reported across the Council's community wealth building programme, including the launch of England's first local authority-funded employee ownership feasibility service, support for more than 35 businesses considering succession planning options, and the introduction of the UK's first 21st Century Social Clubs programme to strengthen member-owned community institutions. Partnership working through the Rotherham Together Partnership had also expanded social value activity across anchor organisations, whilst business support programmes had continued to improve procurement readiness and local supply chain development.

Priorities were also set for the next 12 months with a particular focus on ensuring progress was made across all five themes of community wealth building that were embedded within the Council's Social Value Policy. These included:

- Strengthening contract management to ensure social value commitments were delivered
- Championing employee ownership and social clubs
- Supporting residents into good-quality employment
- Promoting the socially productive use of land and property
- Maximising local benefits arising from future investment opportunities and procurement reforms.

Delegated authority was also proposed to extend the current Social Value Policy to March 2029.

Councillor Steele presented the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and summarised discussion around the potential impact of legislative and taxation changes on employee ownership initiatives, levels of demand for support, measurement of social value outcomes, support available to businesses seeking Council contracts, representation of ethnic minority-led businesses within procurement activity, and the long-term impact of social value interventions. He reported that, in addition to supporting the recommendations outlined in

the report, scrutiny had concluded the programme was now sufficiently established for reporting to be considered on a biennial rather than annual basis and recommended that future reports be presented every two years.

Councillor Baker-Rogers described the policy as a highly successful initiative and highlighted the scale of sustained progress achieved since its introduction. She welcomed the scrutiny undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and praised the work of officers in delivering measurable outcomes for local communities.

Councillor Alam OBE welcomed the positive report and emphasised the contribution social value activity was making to supporting excluded and marginalised groups, together with the wider delivery of the Council's social value commitments.

Councillor Williams highlighted the innovative nature of the employee ownership programme and the 21st Century Social Clubs initiative, describing both as important interventions to support the local economy and preserve valued community institutions. He referred to strong engagement from businesses at the launch of the employee ownership advisory service and welcomed continued investment in these areas.

Deputy Leader, Councillor Cusworth commented that whilst social value could sometimes appear an abstract concept, the report clearly demonstrated the significant practical and financial benefits being delivered to residents and communities across the borough. She observed that the scale of impact achieved was substantial and recognised the leadership, officer commitment and ongoing scrutiny that had contributed to the programme's success. She accepted the recommendation that future reports be referred to scrutiny on a biennial basis.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Receive the annual report, noting the social value commitments along with outcomes delivered.

2. Approve that the key priorities for 2026/27 are:
    a. Continuing to ensure social value commitments made within the procurement process are delivered through contracts.
    b. Championing democratic business models through employee ownership and 21st century social clubs.
    c. Continuing to build on opportunities to support residents into employment and strengthen access to good-quality jobs across the borough.
    d. Enabling more socially productive use of land and property.
    e. Following the changes proposed nationally, exploring how to maximise local benefits from investment.

3. Agree to delegate authority to the Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to extend the Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2024 to March 2029.

4. To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) has agreed to scrutinise the Social Value Annual Report every two years.

47. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence consultation on the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy, which formed part of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. The policy was first adopted in 2020 and reviewed in 2023. Where a cumulative impact assessment was in place, the Council was required to review it at least every three years and ensure that any continued or revised approach was supported by an appropriate evidence base.

The current policy included a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) covering part of the Wickersley area, including parts of Wickersley North, Thurcroft and Wickersley South wards. The existence of the CIZ did not prevent new licence applications from being made, but it required applicants to demonstrate that their proposal would not add to the cumulative impact already identified in that area. The recommended approach was to undertake a wide-ranging consultation with residents, businesses, licence holders, Ward Members, responsible authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The consultation would seek views on the effectiveness of the existing CIZ and invite evidence on whether any other areas of the borough may benefit from a CIZ. A further report would then be brought back to Cabinet setting out the consultation findings and any proposed changes to the policy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the commencement of a 2 month period of consultation, reviewing the current Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) in place in Wickersley, as well as gathering feedback on any additional areas that may benefit from a CIZ.

2. Note, following consultation, a further report will be submitted, detailing recommendations for any changes that are proposed to the policy as a result of the consultation responses.

48. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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

49. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 12 October 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Extra Care Housing Model

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

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

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

Debbie Ramskill, Head of Provider Services, Adult Care and Integration
Deborah.ramskill@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
All

Report Summary
In April 2026, Cabinet approved a period of consultation on a proposed model for the delivery of care and support to tenants living in Extra Care Housing (ECH) schemes in Rotherham. The focus of the proposal was to ensure Adult Social Care could deliver a quality and sustainable model that meets the support needs of tenants living in the Potteries Court and Bakers Field Court ECH schemes.

This report summarises the feedback received from the 90-day consultation and proposes a model for the provision of Extra Care Housing in Rotherham.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the feedback from the consultation.

2. Approve implementation of the proposed final model, as set out in paragraph 3.1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Extra Care Housing Consultation Summary Report
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment Part B
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Cabinet Report - 13 April 2026 - Extra Care Housing Model

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Extra Care Housing

1. Background

1.1 Extra Care Housing (ECH) is recognised nationally for providing people aged 55 years and over with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with on-site care and support services available 24 hours a day. It aims to support older adults to sustain their independence and tenancy by offering varying levels of person-centred care and support.

1.2 In Rotherham, the ECH model supports the Council to meet its duties under the Care Act 2014 by preventing people's needs from escalating, reducing those needs through fostering a sense of community for both tenants and the wider community, and delaying the need for residential care.

1.3 Rotherham has two ECH schemes, Bakers Field Court, and Potteries Court, offering 88 tenancies in total. The schemes are owned by Together Housing Association having been developed in partnership with the Council nearly 20 years ago. Tenants with eligible social care needs currently receive services from a range of external providers, including commissioned providers, an independent agency or Personal Assistants via a Direct Payment.

1.4 The Council has recognised an opportunity to strengthen the current ECH model to optimise outcomes for tenants, both current and future, and for residents living in neighbouring communities. In April 2026, Cabinet approved a recommendation to consult with stakeholders and the broader public on a preferred option for the future delivery of ECH.

1.5 This report summarises the outcome of the consultation and presents a proposed future model. Additionally, the report outlines how the Council proposes to implement the model to realise the intended benefits.

2. Key Issues

2.1 It has been recognised by the Council that the current ECH model is not optimising outcomes for people and as such, proposed several options to remodel how tenants living in ECH access care and support.

2.2 The table below shows the current annual cost of the model. It is noted that spend fluctuates over time based on tenant need.

Commissioned Care and Support	**Potteries Court**	**Bakers Field Court**	**Cost per year**
	4 providers supporting 9 tenants	9 providers supporting 21 tenants	£0.703m
Direct Payment	3 tenants	8 tenants	£0.360m
Council staffing establishment (year-end forecast)			£0.908m
Total Cost			£1.971m

2.3 The preferred option outlined in the last report and subject to consultation, was for the schemes to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) so that Council-employed staff can meet tenants' personal care and support needs, focussed on ways to strengthen the existing care and support provision for tenants living in ECH. The preferred option's intention is to ensure a flexible, person-focussed approach which would improve outcomes for people whilst ensuring value for money and sustainable investment in the Council's workforce.

2.4 Maximising the ECH offer would enable access to timely, planned and responsive care and support to tenants 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The schemes would be registered with CQC as one provider. The model will form a clear distinction between roles that meet Care Act eligible social care need and housing related support.

2.5 The intention of the preferred option is to reduce the number of professionals involved in a person's support by providing a consistent team of suitably qualified and trained staff. Once fully embedded, it would replace existing arrangements that are in place with independent providers, ensuring a flexible and proportionate response to prevent, reduce and delay care and support needs.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The report recommends that Cabinet approves the implementation of the proposed final model which is for the schemes to be registered with the CQC so that Council employed staff can meet tenants' personal care and support needs. By embedding a consistent team of staff, the model is intended to improve overall tenant experience impacting positively on tenant wellbeing; provide access to a timely and proportionate response to care needs, 24/7; embed a stronger link between tenants and assessing officers to deliver timely reviews; and strengthen quality assurance of the ECH provision, through robust management oversight, ensuring the schemes are well-led.

3.2 The findings from the consultation were consistently positive with 94% of people either supporting or strongly supporting this model. Section 4 provides a detailed overview of the consultation approach and the findings.

3.3 As the Extra Care Housing provision would be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), robust management oversight would be provided through the introduction of a Registered and Deputy Manager. This would strengthen the approach to quality assurance and ensure the schemes are well-led. The proposed model will ensure a robust position for ECH to deliver the National Supported Housing Standards for England, which define a minimum acceptable baseline for the care, support, and supervision of tenants, as part of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023.

3.4 A Council-employed team of enablement-focused staff would meet tenants' Care Act eligible care needs with the provision modelled on the existing enablement approach embedded within Adult Social Care Provider Services. This approach focusses on maximising people's independence and wellbeing. Existing tenants will retain the right to choose who they receive care and

support from. Whilst the Council will honour the arrangements existing tenants have in place with independent providers, should tenants choose to retain this, future new tenants will be provided with core hours from the on-site care team, whilst still maintaining choice and control over their care and support for assessed hours that exceed this.

3.5 Access to ECH provision will be determined equitably through a Care Act assessment and Financial Assessment, aligned to the Council's Charging Policy, to determine tenant contribution to care costs. Provision will be guided by a strengths-based, proportionate care plan.

3.6 The staff support will be available across the ECH schemes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to deliver care and respond to fluctuating need. The staffing model will include built-in capacity to flex and adapt to individuals' changing needs through use of a dependency tool, described below.

3.7 Allocation of placements at the schemes would continue to be aligned to the allocation agreement that the Council has in place with Together Housing. However, the process would be strengthened to involve social work practice and would focus on accommodating tenant needs effectively across the four dependency levels.

Formal care dependency level	Average number of care hours per week	Percentage of tenants
High	14	30
Medium	8	25
Low	4	20
None	0	25

3.8 As the table above demonstrates, not all tenants would have formal care needs, however, they would have varying levels of support need. Alongside care staff, support workers based on-site would deliver wellbeing support, as defined in a needs-led support plan, through advice, guidance and signposting; they will support tenants through a strengths-based approach to establish social connections and join activities and provide housing related support to ensure tenants successfully maintain their property. For this wellbeing support, tenants would have a defined, needs-led support plan which would be personalised to their individual needs and the outcomes they want to achieve.

3.9 It is recognised that some tenants receive care and support informally and the Council is committed to continuing to support unpaid carers to sustain their caring role.

3.10 The model will ensure connectivity with Adult Social Care community social work teams to enable a timely response to changing need, through appropriate assessments and reviews. It is envisaged that in turn, this will prevent hospital admissions and reduce readmission rates and avoiding care and support needs escalating to crisis situations. In addition to improved experience and outcomes for tenants, as well as system benefits, the model will support a reduced demand on the Council's Enablement and Rothercare services.

3.11 The Rothercare Community Alarm will continue to be installed in all properties, providing accessible support to tenants in crisis situations, if required.

3.12 Through simplification of the model, the intention is to improve overall outcomes for tenants by maximising their independence through tailored care and support. The approach would improve the relational experience of tenants by embedding consistency of staff delivering care and support, impacting positively on tenant wellbeing. The model supports a 'home for life' ethos as the model can adapt and respond to people's changing needs. It would also enable people's choice to receive end of life care within their own home.

3.13 The proposed model would enable the Council and Together Housing to better promote the schemes as community assets which invite visitors in to access communal areas, such as the café, and participate in activities organised by the schemes. This will encourage tenants to establish links to their wider community network.

3.14 Alternative models were considered prior to the consultation, as detailed in the Cabinet report considered on 13 April 2026. These were rejected as they would not provide the same level of benefit to tenants, would not offer value for money and would severely limit oversight of the schemes and any further development.

3.15 There are 11 tenants from the former Oak Trees ECH scheme, located at Stag Willows, that remain opted-in to receive outreach support from staff based at the Bakers Field Court scheme, following a decision to change the housing type from Extra Care to General Housing by Cabinet on 18 September 2023. Ongoing provision comprises low-level support, including advice and guidance on daily living and wellbeing matters, together with wellbeing calls as and when required by tenants. Oak Trees tenants can call for assistance from the support team, based at Bakers Field. In addition, all tenants have Rothercare equipment installed within their homes to be used in the event of a crisis. The Council will continue to provide this support to existing tenants only and ensure sufficient capacity is built into the staffing establishment.

4. Consultation on the proposal

4.1 A 90-day full public consultation took place between 27 April 2026 and 26 July 2026 to gather feedback on the proposed model of care and support in ECH. The consultation provided Rotherham residents the opportunity to comment on the proposed model. Participants included those potentially directly impacted by the proposed changes, including current tenants, families and carers, the workforce, Together Housing, commissioned providers, agencies and personal assistants, as well as prospective tenants and strategic partners.

4.2 A questionnaire was developed and hosted on the Citizen Space consultation platform, which served as the primary mechanism for collecting responses. The questionnaire requested feedback on key components of the proposed model including:

- Delivery of formally assessed care by a team of Council-employed staff.
- Delivery of support, including housing-related, from a team of Council-employed staff.
- Availability of provision over a 24/7 basis.

- Quality and regulatory assurance.
- Promotion of ECH as community assets for wider community engagement.
- Adoption of an enabling approach to care and support.
- Anticipated impact of the model on tenant experience and outcomes.

4.3 Planned consultation activities were promoted and delivered to support the consultation process, comprising of six tenant drop-in sessions on varied days and times, across Bakers Field Court and Potteries Court, four drop-in sessions for Council staff working within ECH, and five public drop-in sessions facilitated at libraries across the borough. In addition, a dedicated engagement session was delivered to commissioned providers through the Home Care Provider Forum, supported by follow-up communications to encourage participation and feedback.

4.4 Tenant views are strongly represented in the feedback with 93% of the total number of ECH tenants across both schemes participating in the process. This high level of engagement resulted from 56 tenants (64% of all tenants) attending a drop-in session and a further 25 tenants (29%) completing the online questionnaire outside of the drop-in sessions. This high level of tenant participation ensured that tenant views were well represented throughout the consultation.

4.5 A comprehensive communications plan was developed to support a broad programme of internal and external promotional activity. Internally, the consultation was promoted through a range of corporate communication channels, including the Monday Round Up (available to all staff), an all-staff email distributed to Adult Care, Housing and Public Health colleagues and targeted communications to housing services.

4.6 Externally, the consultation was promoted through social media activity, ward e-bulletins and follow-up communications to commissioned providers. In addition, the consultation was shared with Rotherfed, which subsequently promoted the consultation to its online Tenant Connectors Pool, and engaged directly with tenant groups to encourage participation.

4.7 A total of 136 responses were received. The consultation findings demonstrate a high level of support towards the proposed model, with 128 respondents (94%) stating that they either supported or strongly supported the proposed model. Similarly, 128 respondents agreed that care and support should be available on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, 114 respondents (84%) considered it either very important or extremely important that one team of Council-employed staff deliver care and support to meet tenant needs.

4.8 Free text feedback was also analysed and several key themes emerged. The table below provides an overview of the feedback, indicating out of 100% of the feedback received, the proportion attributed to each theme. Some comments overlapped into multiple categories.

Theme	Feedback
Staffing 32%	The most frequently raised feedback related to staffing. Respondents expressed concern that existing staffing levels would be insufficient to support the proposed model effectively. Feedback highlighted the need for additional staffing capacity and enhanced staff training, particularly to support service delivery out of hours. Respondents also sought clarification regarding the scope of support that Council-employed staff would be able to provide, including assistance to attend appointments and other day-to-day activities.
Trusted Relationships 25%	Respondents indicated a preference for care and support to be provided by Council-employed staff due to the proposed on-site presence of one team and the opportunity to build trusting relationships with tenants. Respondents felt that the proposed model would promote greater continuity and consistency of care and support.
Supporting Independence 20%	Respondents felt that the proposed model would help tenants maintain their independence for longer through the provision of flexible and appropriate levels of support. They emphasised the important role that ECH plays in providing an alternative between living independently at home and residential care, describing it as a valuable and much-needed service.
Safety and Reassurance 17%	Respondents indicated that the proposed model could enhance safety within the ECH schemes and provide increased reassurance and peace of mind for tenants and their families, particularly through the availability of on-site staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was also noted that the proposed approach would enable staff to respond more effectively to changes in tenant needs and fluctuating levels of demand.
ECH Offer	Several respondents expressed frustration regarding the length of time taken to review the

12%	current ECH model and some commented that the model should have been proposed and introduced much sooner. Some respondents also highlighted the need for further investment in Extra Care Housing, including the development of additional schemes in Rotherham to increase access to the service for residents across the borough.

4.9 Overall, feedback demonstrated broad support for the potential benefits of the proposed model, particularly in relation to safety and the consistency of staff, whilst also highlighting concerns regarding staffing capacity and the implementation of the proposed model.

4.10 4% of respondents opposed the proposed model, with feedback highlighting two principal themes: trust and choice. Concerns included perception that access to ECH may become more restricted and a level of uncertainty about whether the model would be feasible in practice. Feedback also reflected concerns arising from previous changes to the schemes and confidence in the Council's ability to meet future care and support need. In relation to choice, feedback emphasised the importance of maintaining individual choice and personalised support arrangements, in line with the principles of the Care Act 2014.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, a plan to implement the model from 1 April 2027 will be developed and governed through the Senior Management and Directorate Leadership Team within the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate. The plan will identify and monitor progress towards the following key milestones:

- Implementation of an effective staff structure. This will involve a 30-day Trade Union and staff consultation on the proposed staffing model, followed by a period of recruitment. A staff training and development plan will be adopted.
- Implementing the digital rostering platform in ECH that is embedded across the other Adult Social Care in-house care services.
- Reviewing and strengthening the allocation process ensure the benefits of the scheme are maximised.
- Completing a programme of reviews with tenants, families and carers to ensure safe transfer to the new model. Concurrently, partnership working with commissioned and independent partners will take place to incrementally support the transfer to the new model, where appropriate.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The cost of the new model is expected to be circa £1.490m. The budget available is £1.971m in the current year, reducing to £1.77m in 2027/28 and then £1.57m in 2028/29, excluding inflation. This will enable anticipated transitional costs in the first two years to be met from the existing budget, as

people move across to the new system and will allow some people to stay with their current providers if they want to.

6.2 The procurement requirements detailed within this report, must be undertaken in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) depending on the route to market, as well as the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Local Authority must comply with its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014. As set out within the body of this report the ECH model supports the Local Authority to meet these duties by promoting wellbeing, preventing people's needs from escalating, reducing those needs through fostering a sense of community for both tenants and the wider community and delaying the need for more restrictive care options.

7.2 The Care Act 2014 also requires the Local Authority to shape and facilitate the local market for adult social care and support; this includes providing housing options that promote choice and control for residents.

7.3 A 90-day consultation period has taken place, and the responses have been analysed. The robust consultation process that has taken place will assist in minimising the risk of legal challenge in relation to the Local Authority's decision-making process in respect of the implementation of a new model.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are currently 23.69 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Council-employed staff working across the Extra Care Housing schemes. Implementation of the proposed model will require a review of the current staffing establishment to ensure the workforce structure, skill mix and management arrangements are aligned to the future operating model and regulatory requirements.

8.2 The workforce and recognised Trade Unions have been engaged throughout the development of the proposal, including opportunities to participate in the public consultation process. Should Cabinet approve the proposed model, a formal workforce consultation will be undertaken in line with the Council's change policies and procedures. This consultation will consider:

- The proposed staffing structure and establishment requirements.
- Proposed changes to job roles, responsibilities and job profiles, including the delivery of regulated personal care and the distinction between care and support functions.
- Any proposed changes to working arrangements, shift patterns and service coverage requirements to support a 24-hour, 7-day service.
- Appointment of positions required to support Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration, including a Registered Manager and Deputy Manager.
- Workforce development, skills, qualifications and training requirements.
- The proposed impact on existing employees, in line with Council policies and procedures.

8.3 Whilst all Council-employed care enablers are Level 2 qualified to deliver formal care, a comprehensive programme of training and shadowing opportunities will be available to prepare staff to ensure enablement focused, high quality, safe and person-centred practices are provided in readiness for CQC registration.

8.4 As the proposed model may result in care provision currently delivered by independent providers or Personal Assistants being brought into a Council-operated service, a detailed employment status review and due diligence exercise will be undertaken. This will determine whether the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) apply to any part of the service redesign and identify any associated workforce liabilities and obligations. HR and Legal Services will continue to work closely throughout implementation to ensure compliance with employment legislation and statutory consultation requirements.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 It is intended that all current tenants will retain their tenancy and remain in their current property within the ECH scheme, ensuring that their care needs can continue to be met. To ensure ongoing legal compliance, existing tenants can choose to retain their current care arrangements. From the point when the new model is implemented, existing tenants can transfer to the Council delivered provision.

9.2 The proposed final model will have a positive impact on future tenants with care and support needs, as the allocation process will be strengthened to support the more diverse needs of people accessing the offer. This will ensure an equitable approach by supporting people with a broader range of needs to remain independent.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equality Analysis has been completed and is attached at Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed. The most significant overall climate impacts the model would have are positive in relation to the reduction of CO_2 emissions from transport, as staff based on-site will deliver care and support to tenants, rather than multiple independent providers travelling across the borough. The proposal would positively affect the ability of Council services to continue during or after extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate-related hazards, as Council-employed staff will be based on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support tenants. The full assessment is at Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council will continue to maintain a positive working partnership with Together Housing who welcome the model as it aligns more consistently with their other schemes. The options presented in this report do not lead to a conflict of interest as Together Housing is not a CQC registered provider.

12.2 Together Housing would retain the role of landlord. The current nomination rights , which enable the Council to nominate people from its housing waiting list for properties, would be unaffected. This will ensure that places are allocated effectively within the four dependency levels.

12.3 The current arrangements with ten commissioned providers and the agencies and personal assistants funded through eleven Direct Payment arrangements may cease, depending on existing tenant choice.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 **Tenants with care and support needs may wish to receive support from an independent provider which could delay full implementation of the model and impact realisation of the benefits.**

- To operationalise the model, prior to implementation, a sustainable staff structure will be proposed to Trade Union colleagues and staff during a 30-days consultation. This will be based on predefined tenant dependency levels to ensure the establishment is sufficient with some flexibility inbuilt.
- Staff levels will be increased incrementally, aligned to the dependency levels. Based on data which shows the number of new tenancies per year over the past 5 years, it is estimated to take 6 years until the model is fully embedded.
- Introduce mandatory core hours from the on-site care team. Tenants will maintain choice and control over their care and support for assessed hours that exceed this.

13.2 **Personal Assistants employed through a Direct Payment arrangement may be personally affected by the proposed final model.**

- Tenants were prompted and supported during the consultation to inform their PA of the proposal.
- Following a decision to implement, a detailed employment status review will be undertaken to determine if TUPE applies to any part of the service redesign, with continued support from HR and Legal Services.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

Report Author: *Claire Green, Programme Manager*
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This report is published on the Council's website.

APPENDIX 1

Extra Care Housing Model: Summary report

This report was created on Monday 27 July 2026 at 10:18 and includes **136** responses.

The activity ran from 27/04/2026 to 26/07/2026.

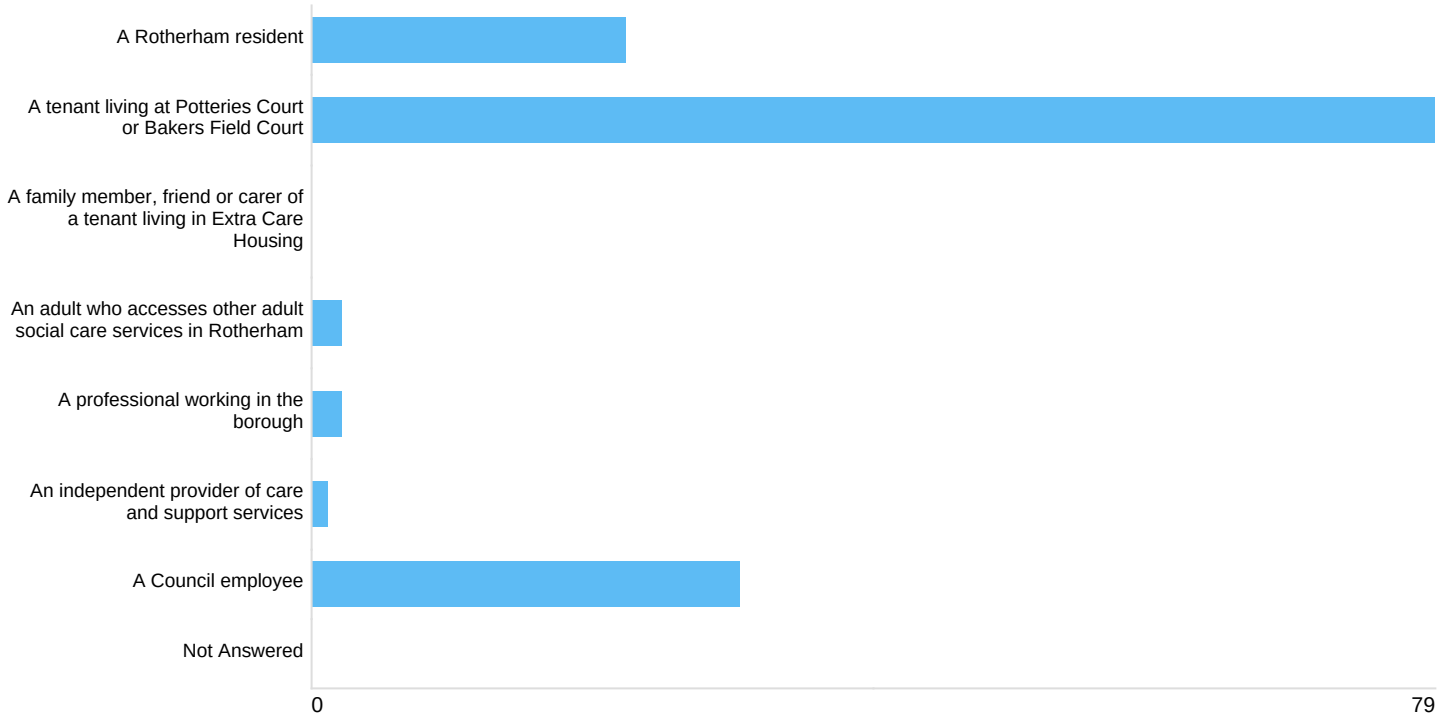
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Which of the following best describes you? 2
About you 2
If you are a Council employee, tell us your Directorate and job role. 3
Please select the directorate you work in. 3
What is your job role? 3
If you are a professional working in the borough, please tick the box below and tell us your organisation and job role. 3
Professional 3
Organisation and job role 3
If you work for an independent provider of care and support services, please tick the box below and tell us the name of the organisation. 4
Provider 4
Provider name 4
Which scheme do you live at? 4
Which scheme 4
Do you currently receive personal care from a home support provider or paid personal assistant? 4
receiving personal care 4
How would you describe the quality of your current care and support from this provider? 5
quality of current care 5
How would you describe the timeliness of your current care and support from this provider? 5
Timeliness of care 5
Overall, to what extent do you support the model described? 6
overall experience 6
Do you think this model could improve the overall experience for tenants living in Extra Care Housing? 6
overall tenant experience 6
How important is it to you that one team of Council-employed staff deliver care and support to meet tenant need? 7
one team delivering care 7
Do you agree that care and support should be available onsite 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? 7
24/7 availability on site 7
If you selected "No" or "Not sure", tell us why. 7
To what extent do you think staff being based on-site 24/7 could improve outcomes for tenants? 8
24/7 availability 8
To what extent do you agree that an enabling approach could support people to remain independent for longer? 8
enabling approach 8
How important is it that housing related support is provided by the Council? 9
Housing related support 9
Do you agree that registering Extra Care Housing with the Care Quality Commission will support the service to provide high quality care? 9
cqc registration 9
Do you support Extra Care Housing being promoted as a community asset? 10
community assets 10
Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the Extra Care Housing model? 10
Additional Comments 10
If you would like to receive direct feedback when the results are ready, and consent to Rotherham Council contacting you to provide the results of the survey, please provide your email address here: 10
Email Address Results 10
What is your home postcode? 10
Postcode 10
What is your age group? 11
Age 11
What is your sex as recorded at birth? Please tick one. 11
Sex 11

Do you identify as transgender? For the purposes of this question 'Transgender' is defined as an individual who lives, or wants to live, full time in a gender different to the one they were assigned at birth. 12
Transgender 12
What is your sexual orientation? 12
Sexual Orientation 12
What is your current marital status? 13
Marital Status 13
Are you pregnant? 13
Pregnant 13
Have you had a baby in the last 12 months? 14
Baby in last 12 months 14
Do you have a disability or a condition which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months? Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is considered to have a disability if she/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her/his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. 14
Disability 14
If you answered yes to question 9, please tick any boxes which apply to you: 15
Disability 2 15
What is your religion? Please tick one box. 16
Religion 16
Which of the following best describes your ethnicity? Please tick one box. 17
Ethnicity 17

Which of the following best describes you?

About you



Option	Total	Percent
A Rotherham resident	22	16.18%
A tenant living at Potteries Court or Bakers Field Court	79	58.09%
A family member, friend or carer of a tenant living in Extra Care Housing	0	0.00%
An adult who accesses other adult social care services in Rotherham	2	1.47%
A professional working in the borough	2	1.47%
An independent provider of care and support services	1	0.74%
A Council employee	30	22.06%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If you are a Council employee, tell us your Directorate and job role.

Please select the directorate you work in.



Option	Total	Percent
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	30	22.06%
Children and Young People's Services	0	0.00%
Regeneration and Environment	0	0.00%
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0	0.00%
Corporate Services	0	0.00%
Not Answered	106	77.94%

What is your job role?

There were **29** responses to this part of the question.

If you are a professional working in the borough, please tick the box below and tell us your organisation and job role.

Professional



Option	Total	Percent
Professional	2	1.47%
Not Answered	134	98.53%

Organisation and job role

There were **2** responses to this part of the question.

If you work for an independent provider of care and support services, please tick the box below and tell us the name of the organisation.

Provider



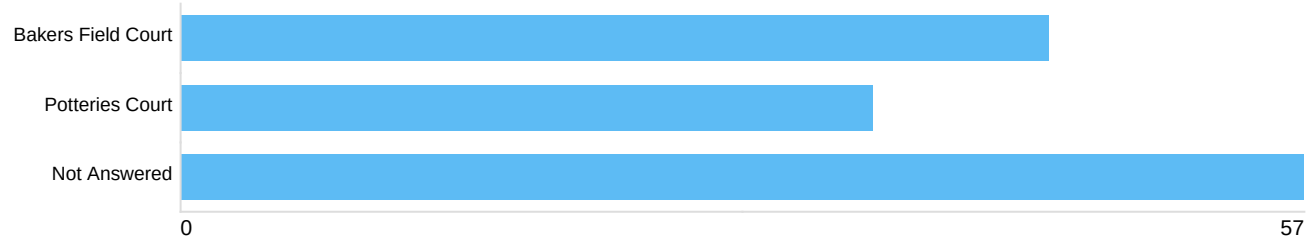
Option	Total	Percent
Provider	1	0.74%
Not Answered	135	99.26%

Provider name

There was **1** response to this part of the question.

Which scheme do you live at?

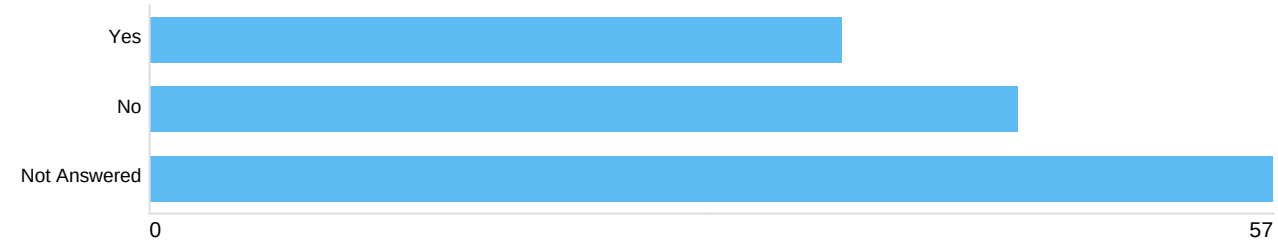
Which scheme



Option	Total	Percent
Bakers Field Court	44	32.35%
Potteries Court	35	25.74%
Not Answered	57	41.91%

Do you currently receive personal care from a home support provider or paid personal assistant?

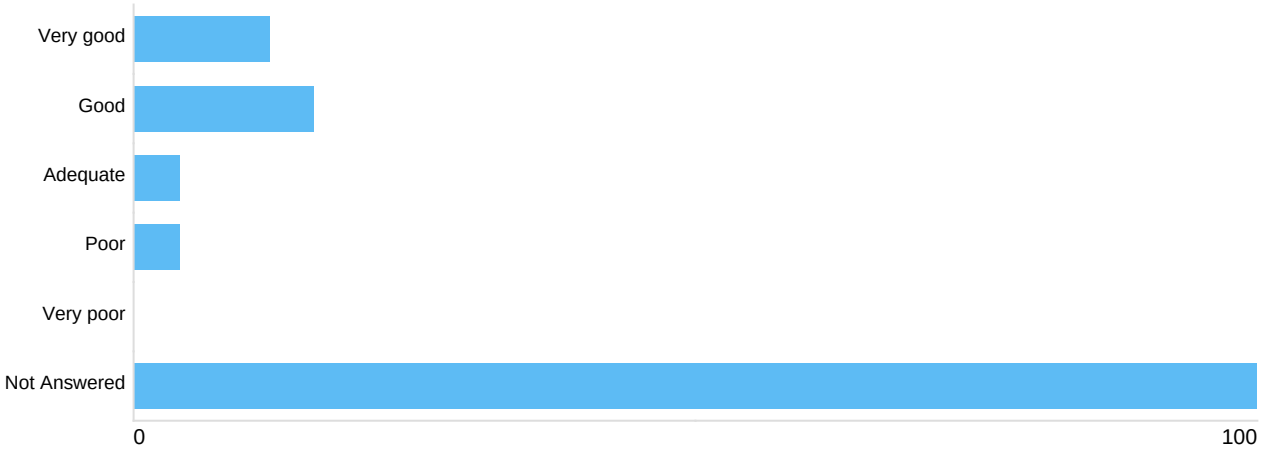
receiving personal care



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	35	25.74%
No	44	32.35%
Not Answered	57	41.91%

How would you describe the quality of your current care and support from this provider?

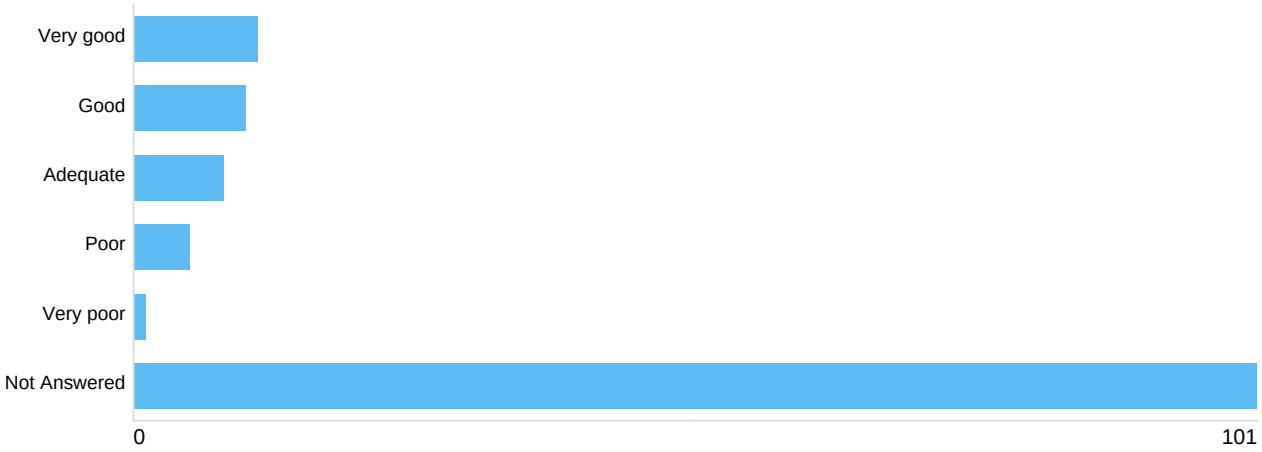
quality of current care



Option	Total	Percent
Very good	12	8.82%
Good	16	11.76%
Adequate	4	2.94%
Poor	4	2.94%
Very poor	0	0.00%
Not Answered	100	73.53%

How would you describe the timeliness of your current care and support from this provider?

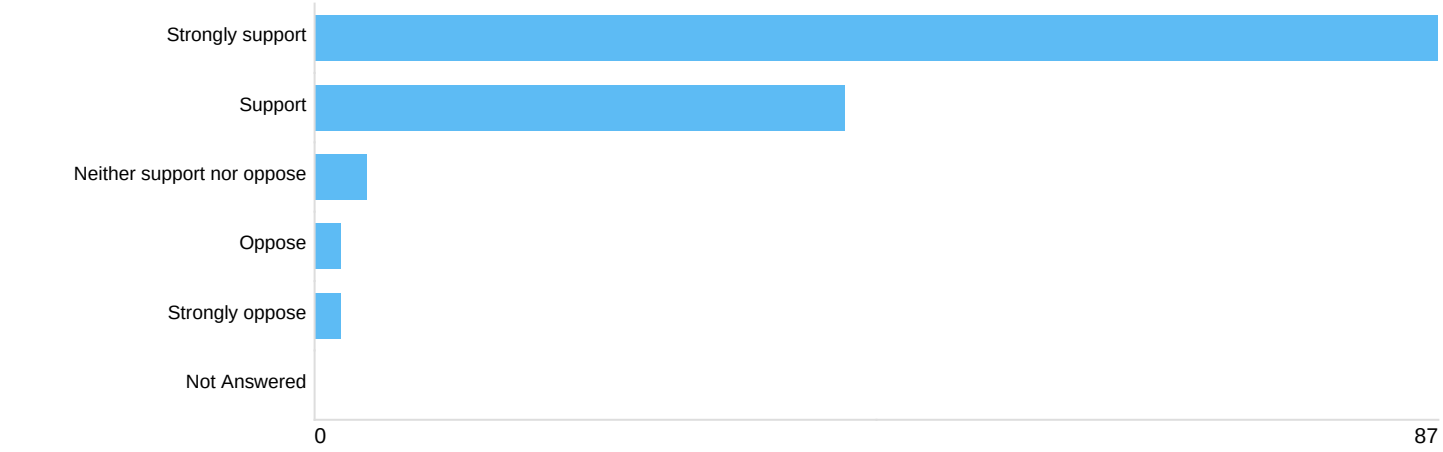
Timeliness of care



Option	Total	Percent
Very good	11	8.09%
Good	10	7.35%
Adequate	8	5.88%
Poor	5	3.68%
Very poor	1	0.74%
Not Answered	101	74.26%

Overall, to what extent do you support the model described?

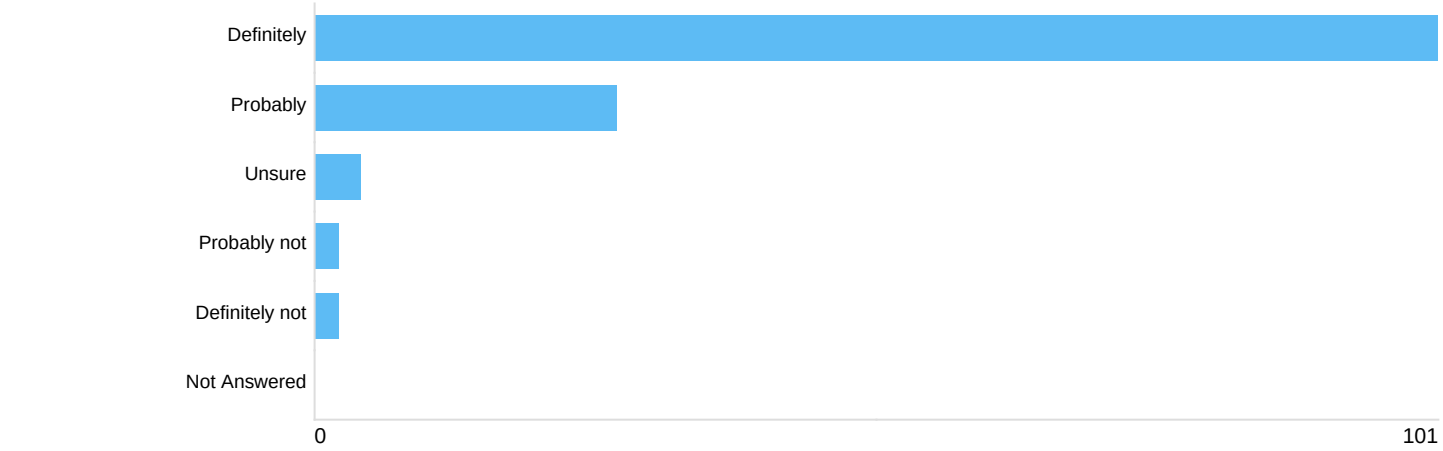
overall experience



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly support	87	63.97%
Support	41	30.15%
Neither support nor oppose	4	2.94%
Oppose	2	1.47%
Strongly oppose	2	1.47%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Do you think this model could improve the overall experience for tenants living in Extra Care Housing?

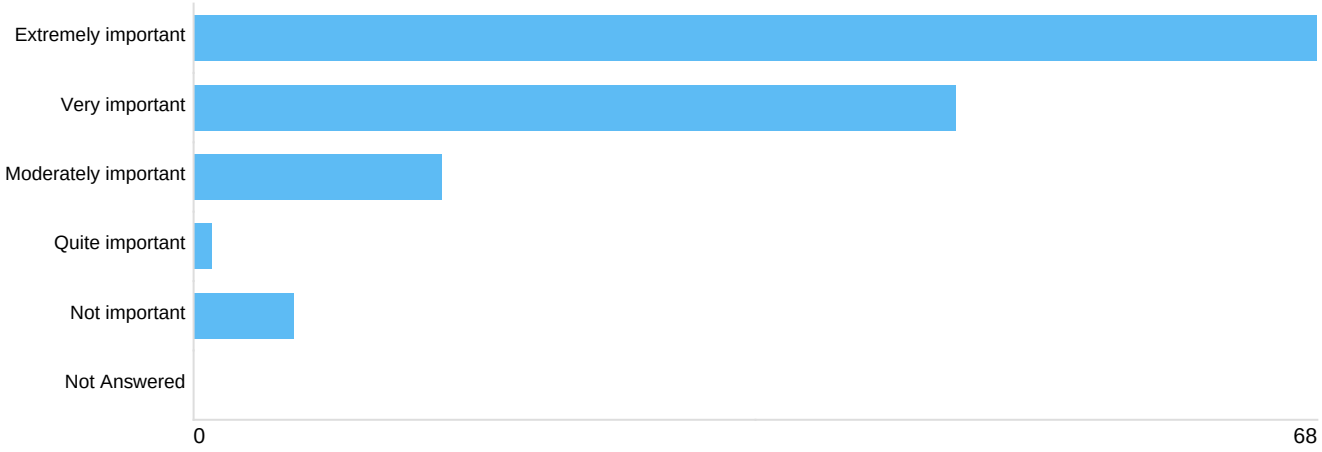
overall tenant experience



Option	Total	Percent
Definitely	101	74.26%
Probably	27	19.85%
Unsure	4	2.94%
Probably not	2	1.47%
Definitely not	2	1.47%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

How important is it to you that one team of Council-employed staff deliver care and support to meet tenant need?

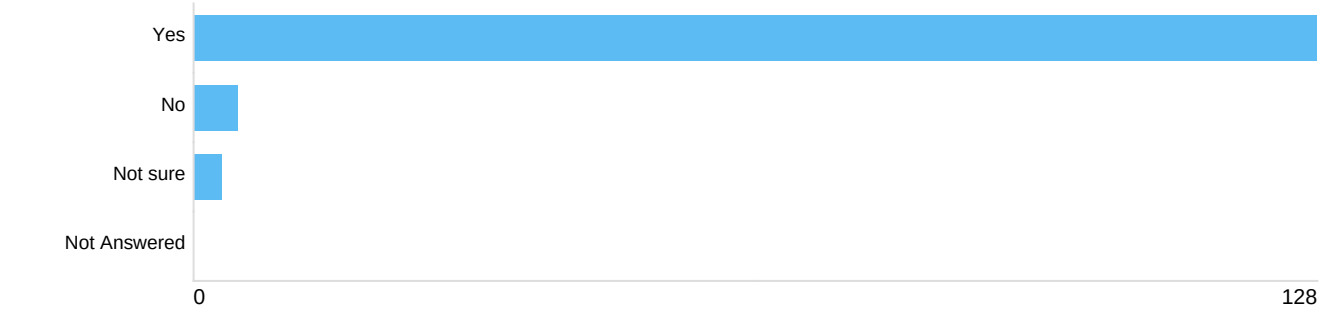
one team delivering care



Option	Total	Percent
Extremely important	68	50.00%
Very important	46	33.82%
Moderately important	15	11.03%
Quite important	1	0.74%
Not important	6	4.41%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Do you agree that care and support should be available onsite 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

24/7 availability on site



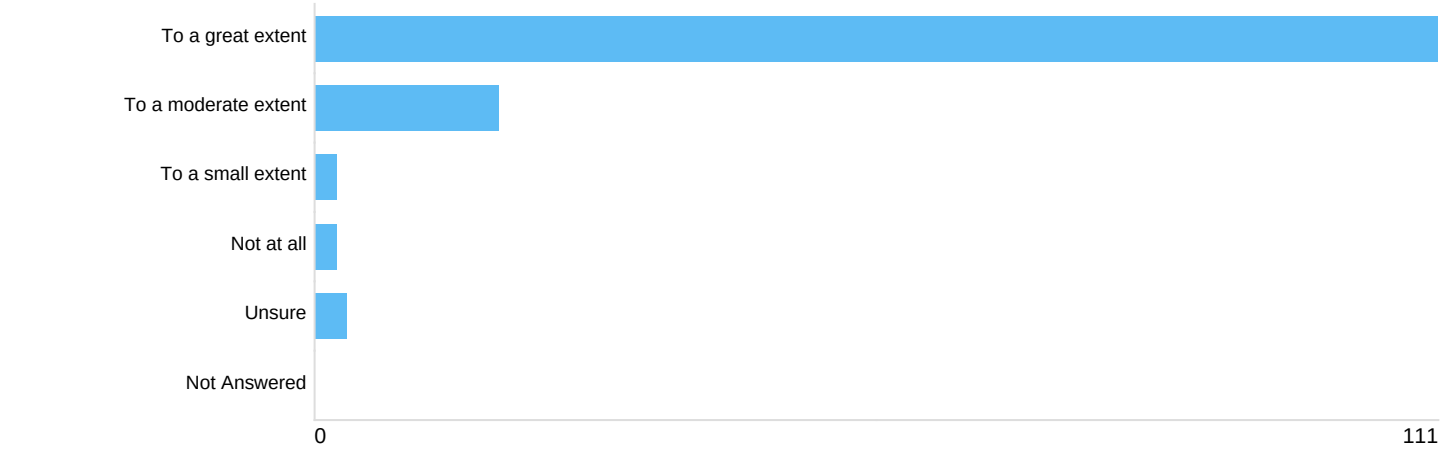
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	128	94.12%
No	5	3.68%
Not sure	3	2.21%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If you selected "No" or "Not sure", tell us why.

There were **8** responses to this part of the question.

To what extent do you think staff being based on-site 24/7 could improve outcomes for tenants?

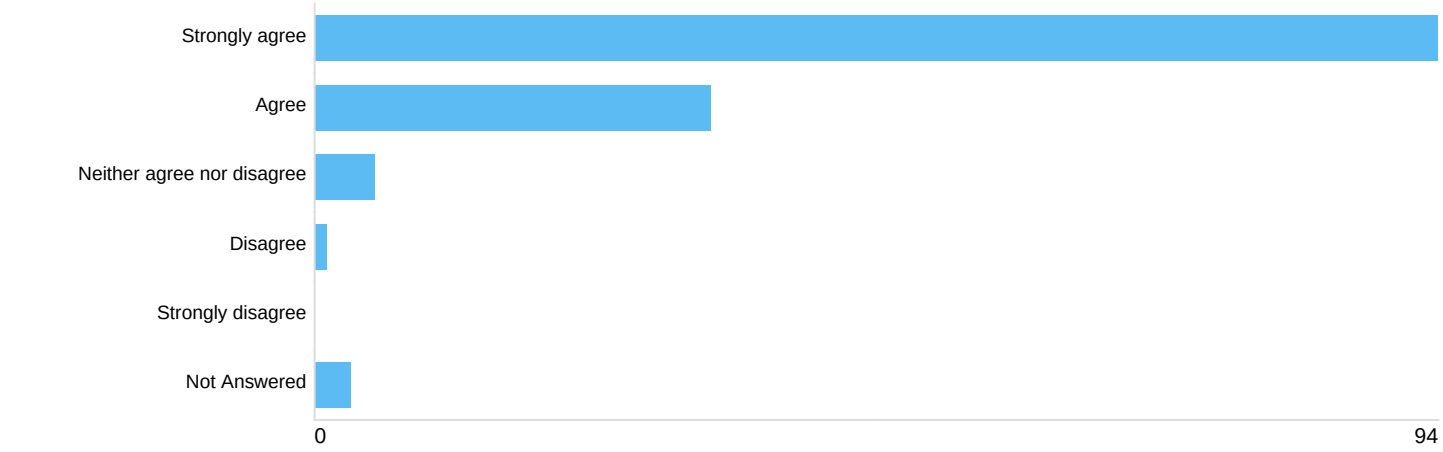
24/7 availability



Option	Total	Percent
To a great extent	111	81.62%
To a moderate extent	18	13.24%
To a small extent	2	1.47%
Not at all	2	1.47%
Unsure	3	2.21%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

To what extent do you agree that an enabling approach could support people to remain independent for longer?

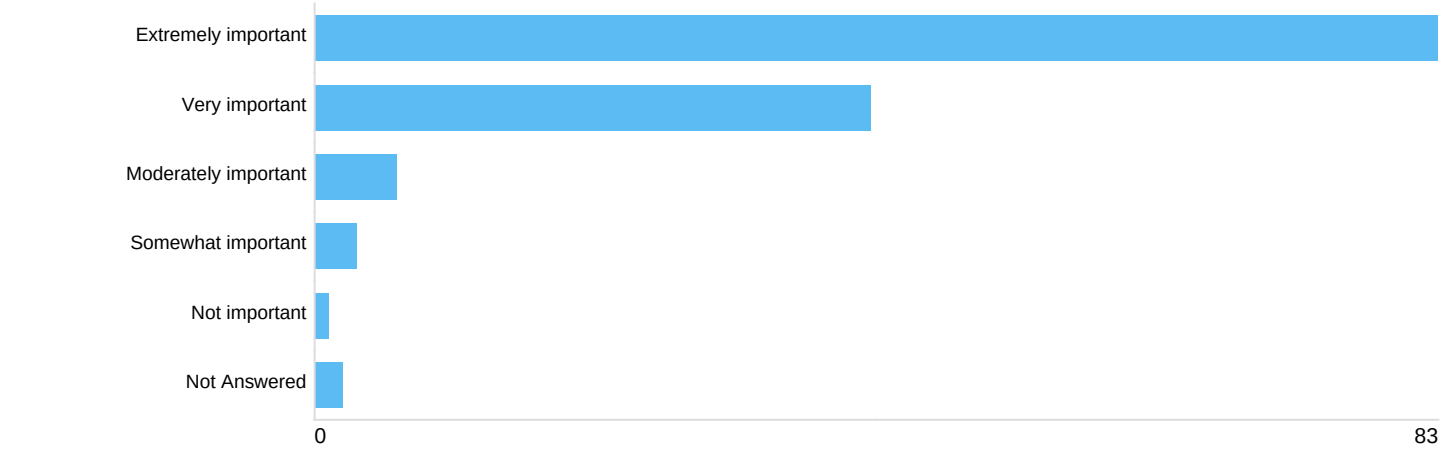
enabling approach



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	94	69.12%
Agree	33	24.26%
Neither agree nor disagree	5	3.68%
Disagree	1	0.74%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Not Answered	3	2.21%

How important is it that housing related support is provided by the Council?

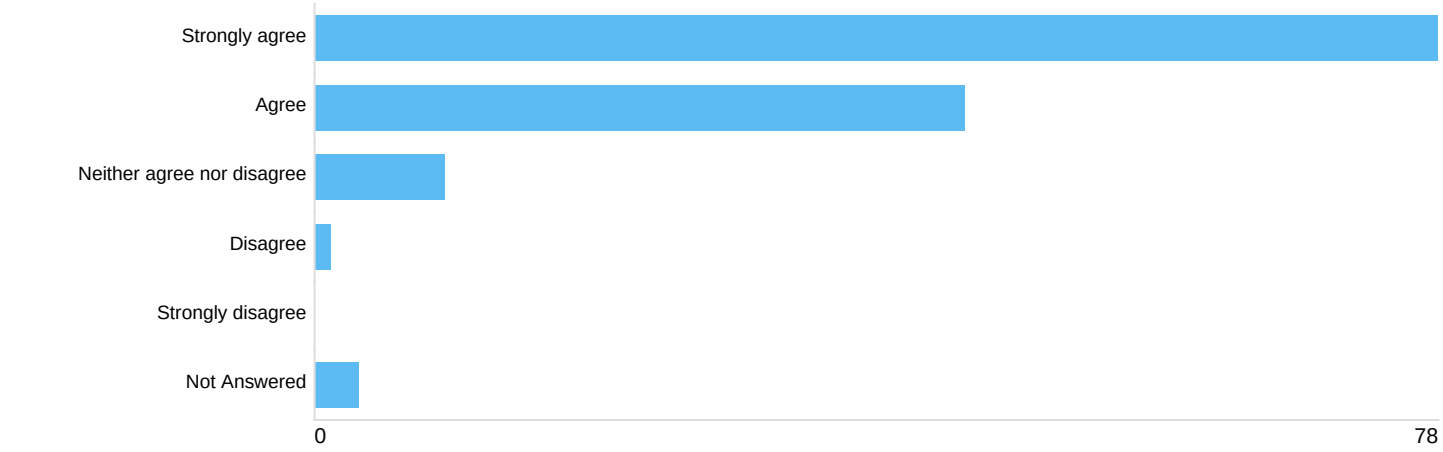
Housing related support



Option	Total	Percent
Extremely important	83	61.03%
Very important	41	30.15%
Moderately important	6	4.41%
Somewhat important	3	2.21%
Not important	1	0.74%
Not Answered	2	1.47%

Do you agree that registering Extra Care Housing with the Care Quality Commission will support the service to provide high quality care?

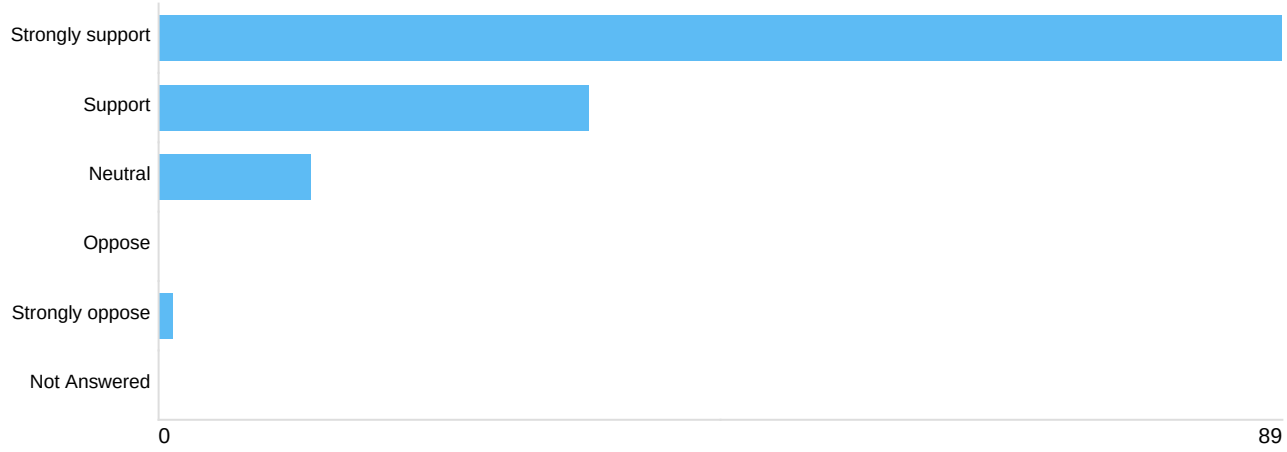
cqc registration



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	78	57.35%
Agree	45	33.09%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	6.62%
Disagree	1	0.74%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Not Answered	3	2.21%

Do you support Extra Care Housing being promoted as a community asset?

community assets



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly support	89	65.44%
Support	34	25.00%
Neutral	12	8.82%
Oppose	0	0.00%
Strongly oppose	1	0.74%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the Extra Care Housing model?

Additional Comments

There were **76** responses to this part of the question.

If you would like to receive direct feedback when the results are ready, and consent to Rotherham Council contacting you to provide the results of the survey, please provide your email address here:

Email Address Results

There were **41** responses to this part of the question.

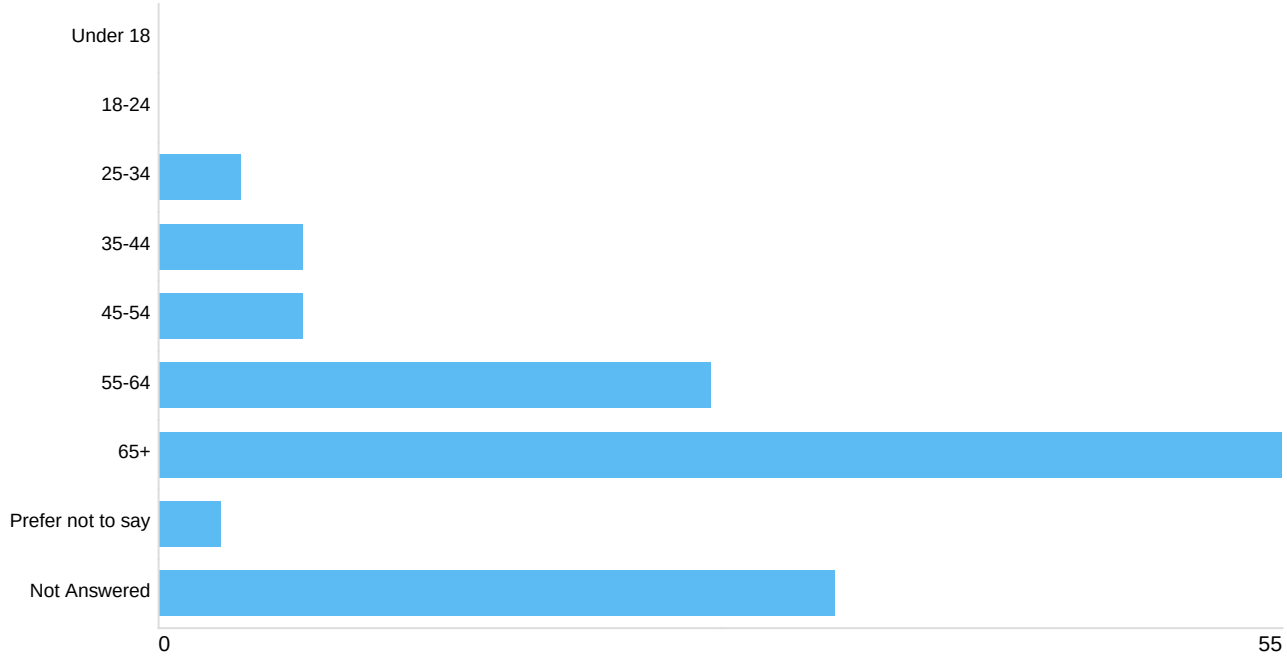
What is your home postcode?

Postcode

There were **47** responses to this part of the question.

What is your age group?

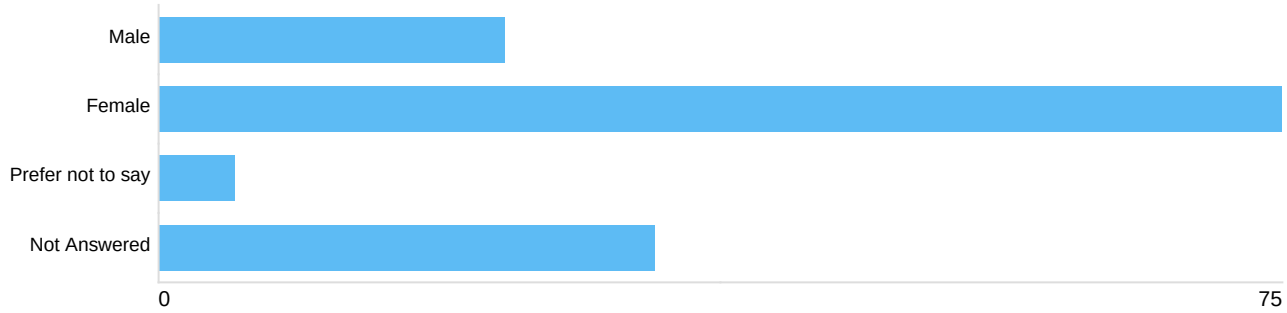
Age



Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.00%
18-24	0	0.00%
25-34	4	2.94%
35-44	7	5.15%
45-54	7	5.15%
55-64	27	19.85%
65+	55	40.44%
Prefer not to say	3	2.21%
Not Answered	33	24.26%

What is your sex as recorded at birth? Please tick one.

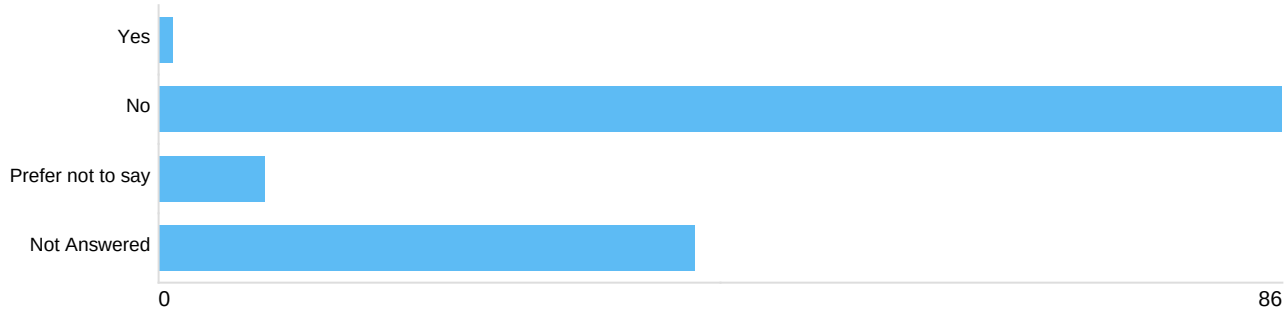
Sex



Option	Total	Percent
Male	23	16.91%
Female	75	55.15%
Prefer not to say	5	3.68%
Not Answered	33	24.26%

Do you identify as transgender? For the purposes of this question 'Transgender' is defined as an individual who lives, or wants to live, full time in a gender different to the one they were assigned at birth.

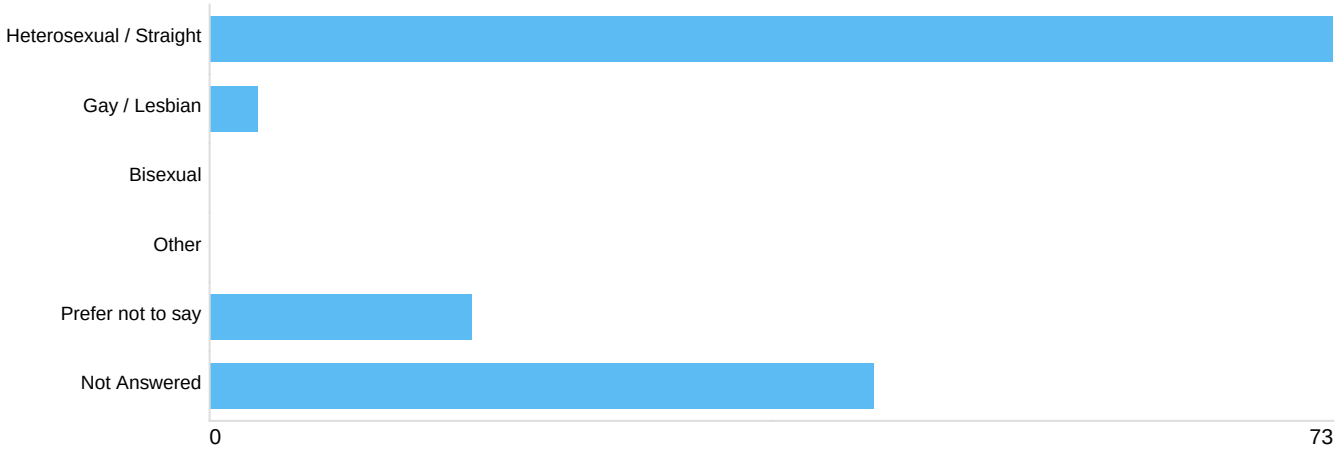
Transgender



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	0.74%
No	86	63.24%
Prefer not to say	8	5.88%
Not Answered	41	30.15%

What is your sexual orientation?

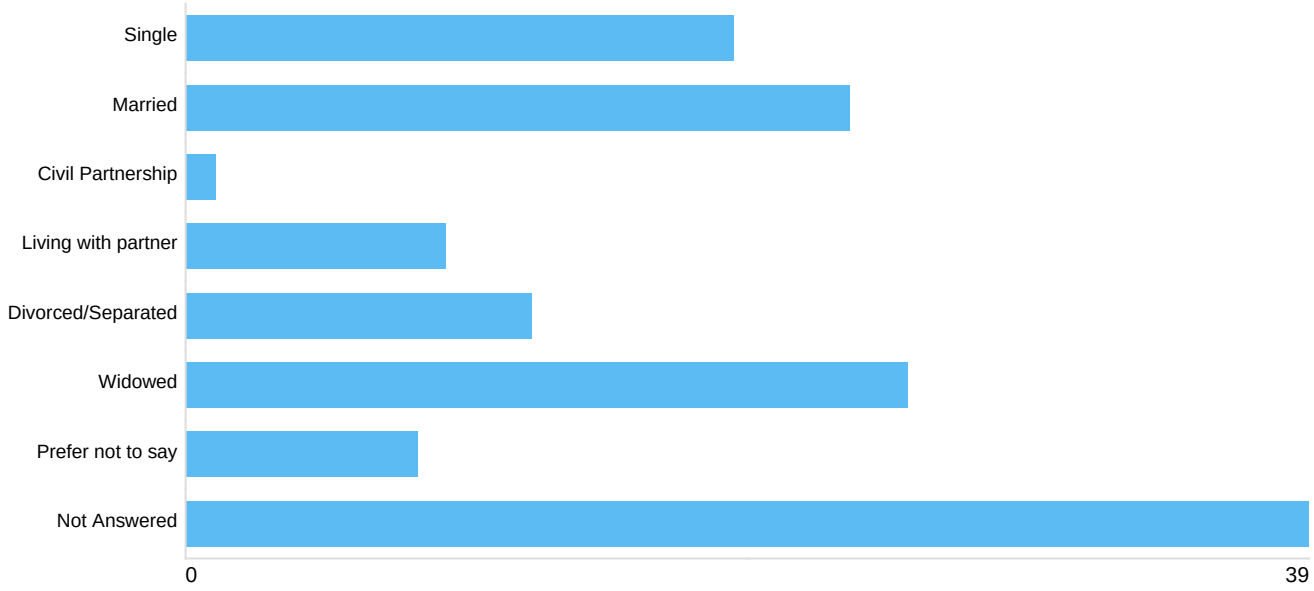
Sexual Orientation



Option	Total	Percent
Heterosexual / Straight	73	53.68%
Gay / Lesbian	3	2.21%
Bisexual	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	17	12.50%
Not Answered	43	31.62%

What is your current marital status?

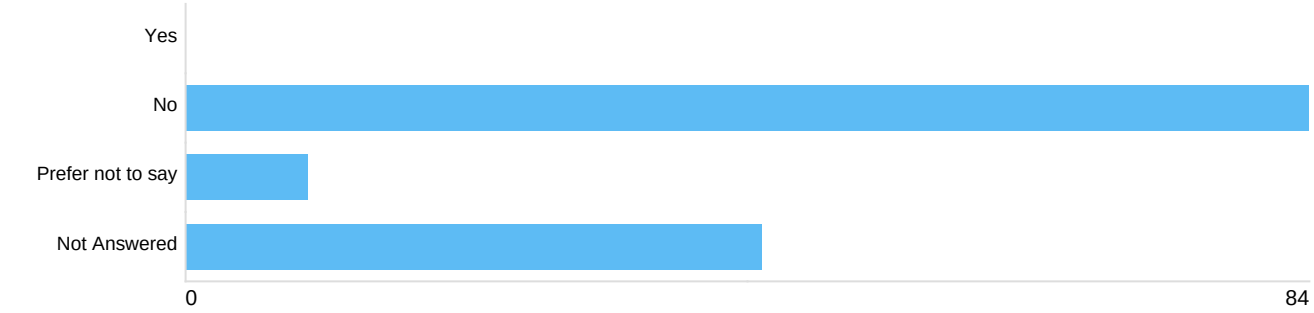
Marital Status



Option	Total	Percent
Single	19	13.97%
Married	23	16.91%
Civil Partnership	1	0.74%
Living with partner	9	6.62%
Divorced/Separated	12	8.82%
Widowed	25	18.38%
Prefer not to say	8	5.88%
Not Answered	39	28.68%

Are you pregnant?

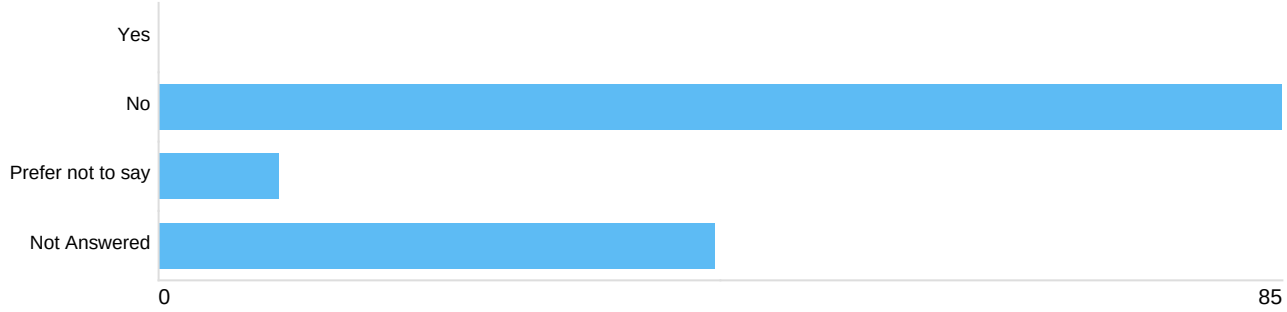
Pregnant



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.00%
No	84	61.76%
Prefer not to say	9	6.62%
Not Answered	43	31.62%

Have you had a baby in the last 12 months?

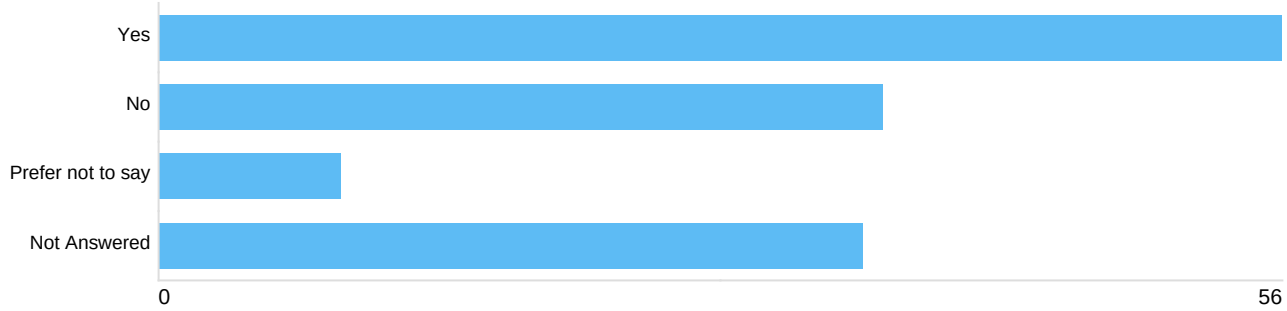
Baby in last 12 months



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.00%
No	85	62.50%
Prefer not to say	9	6.62%
Not Answered	42	30.88%

Do you have a disability or a condition which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months? Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is considered to have a disability if she/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her/his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

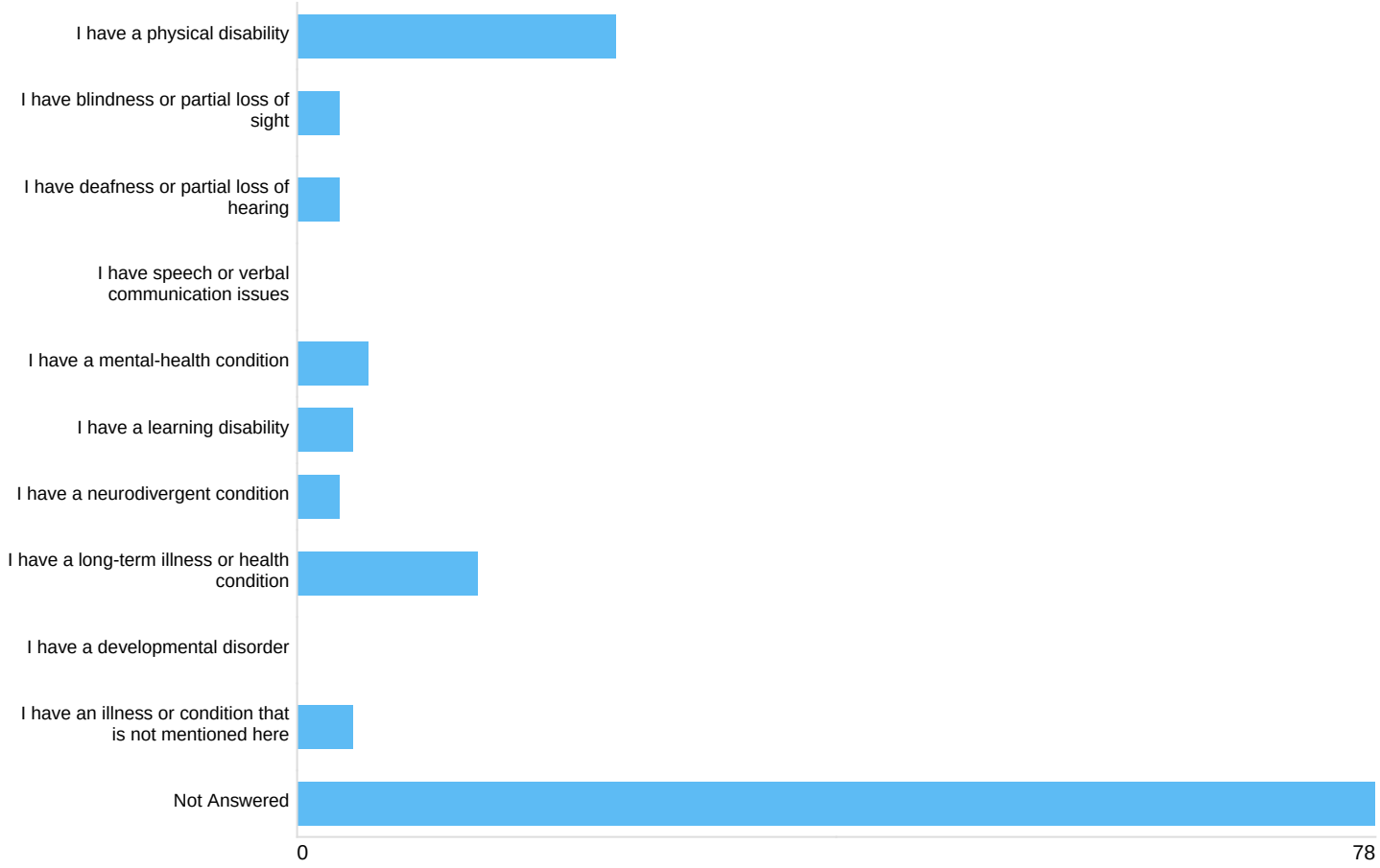
Disability



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	56	41.18%
No	36	26.47%
Prefer not to say	9	6.62%
Not Answered	35	25.74%

If you answered yes to question 9, please tick any boxes which apply to you:

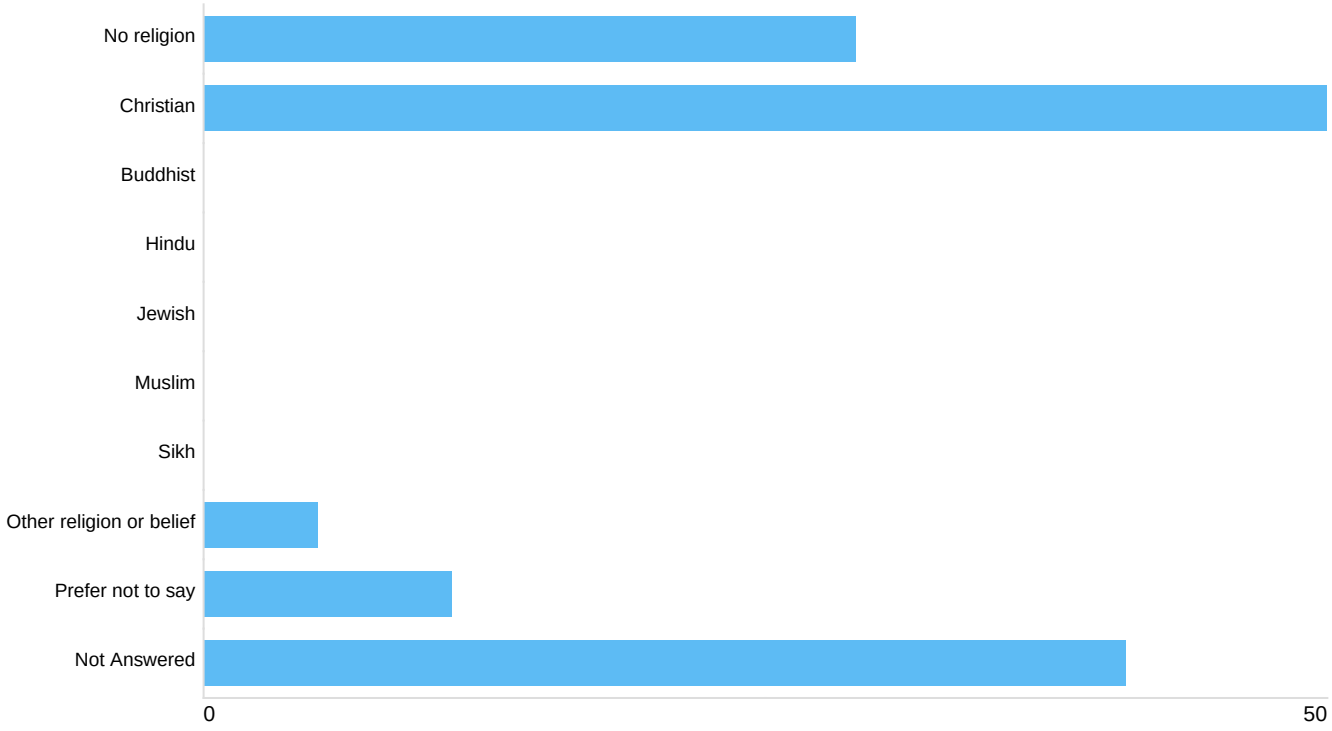
Disability 2



Option	Total	Percent
I have a physical disability	23	16.91%
I have blindness or partial loss of sight	3	2.21%
I have deafness or partial loss of hearing	3	2.21%
I have speech or verbal communication issues	0	0.00%
I have a mental-health condition	5	3.68%
I have a learning disability	4	2.94%
I have a neurodivergent condition	3	2.21%
I have a long-term illness or health condition	13	9.56%
I have a developmental disorder	0	0.00%
I have an illness or condition that is not mentioned here	4	2.94%
Not Answered	78	57.35%

What is your religion? Please tick one box.

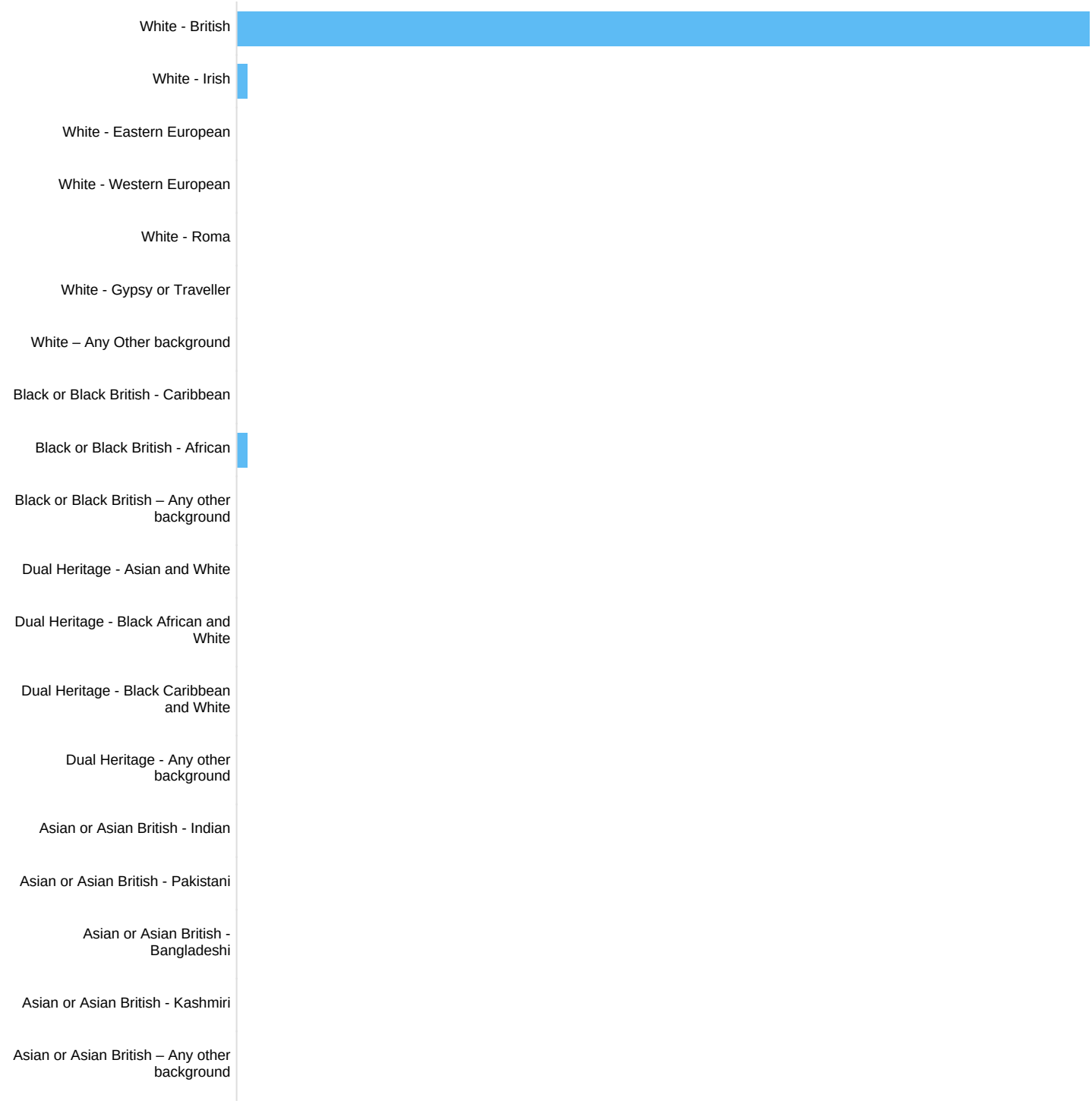
Religion

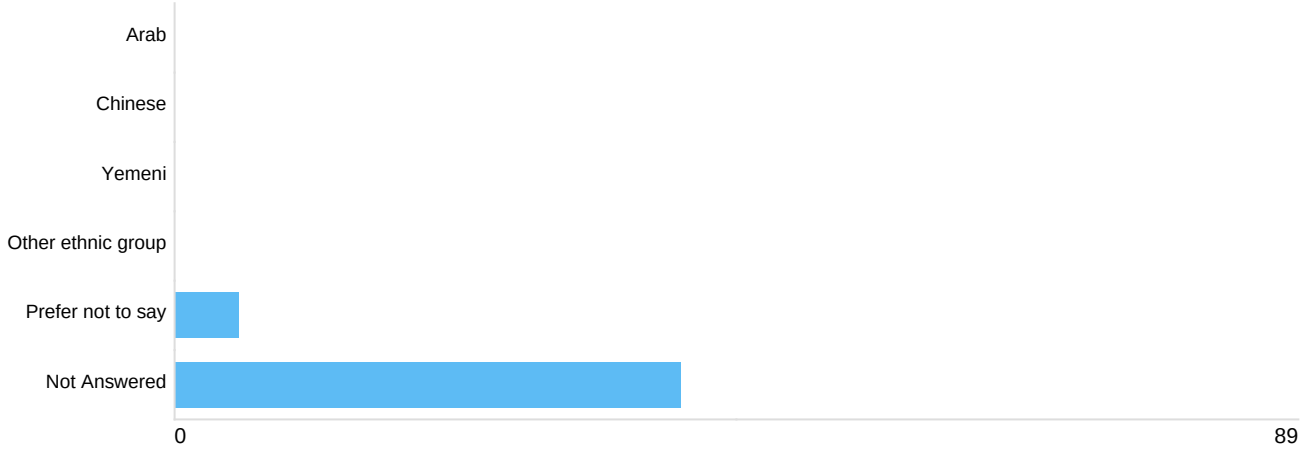


Option	Total	Percent
No religion	29	21.32%
Christian	50	36.76%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	0	0.00%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
Other religion or belief	5	3.68%
Prefer not to say	11	8.09%
Not Answered	41	30.15%

Which of the following best describes your ethnicity? Please tick one box.

Ethnicity





Option	Total	Percent
White - British	89	65.44%
White - Irish	1	0.74%
White - Eastern European	0	0.00%
White - Western European	0	0.00%
White - Roma	0	0.00%
White - Gypsy or Traveller	0	0.00%
White – Any Other background	0	0.00%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	0	0.00%
Black or Black British - African	1	0.74%
Black or Black British – Any other background	0	0.00%
Dual Heritage - Asian and White	0	0.00%
Dual Heritage - Black African and White	0	0.00%
Dual Heritage - Black Caribbean and White	0	0.00%
Dual Heritage - Any other background	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British - Kashmiri	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British – Any other background	0	0.00%
Arab	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Yemeni	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	5	3.68%
Not Answered	40	29.41%

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: Extra Care Housing Model	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 16/07/2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Provider Services, Adult Care and Integration
Lead Manager: Claire Green, Programme Manager	**Contact number:** Claire.Green@Rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Claire Green	Rotherham Council	Programme Manager
Grace Bryant-Maxwell	Rotherham Council	National Management Trainee
Deborah Ramskill	Rotherham Council	Head of Extra Care Housing, Lord Hardy Court and Davies Court

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.)

Extra Care Housing (ECH) is recognised nationally for providing people aged 55 years and above with independent, self-contained homes within a community setting, combined with on-site care and support services available 24 hours a day. It aims to support vulnerable adults to sustain their independence and tenancy by offering varying levels of care and support which is person-centred.

Rotherham has two ECH schemes, Bakers Field Court, and Potteries Court, offering 88 tenancies in total. Tenants with eligible social care needs currently receive service from a range of external providers, either those on the commissioned framework or independent agencies and Personal Assistants via a Direct Payment.

The Council recognised an opportunity to strengthen the current model to optimise outcomes for tenants, both current and future, and for residents living in neighbouring communities. As such, in April 2026, Cabinet approved a recommendation to consult stakeholders and the broader public on a preferred model for the delivery of care and support.

A preferred model, for a team of Council employed staff, based on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to deliver care and support to tenants, was consulted on over a 90-day period between 27 April and 26 July 2026. This process provided all relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Participants included those potentially directly impacted by the proposed changes, including current tenants, families and carers, the workforce, the scheme owners Together Housing, commissioned providers, agencies and personal assistants, as well as prospective tenants and strategic partners.

This Cabinet report proposes a final model whereby tenant care and support needs would be met by a team of fully trained Council-employed staff, based at the schemes with access

to support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ECH would become registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Tenants will retain the right to choose their care provider.

The proposed final model has been shaped around the feedback received during the consultation. This equality analysis will consider the impact of the proposed final model on present and future ECH tenants as well as the ECH workforce.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the proposed final model will impact on the staffing structure required for delivery. The impact on staff will be explored through a bespoke staff and trade union consultation, with accompanying equalities assessments.

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

Demographic data for Rotherham indicates a rapidly ageing population with significant health inequalities, particularly affecting residents aged 55 and above. The area has a higher proportion of older adults compared to the national average, with substantial numbers living with long-term, limiting health conditions. The population aged 65 or over in Rotherham is 52,228, making up 19.6% of the population, which is above the national average of 18.4%. This is projected to increase to 59,960 people by 2028, with the largest increase in people aged over 75. Vulnerability and Health Indicators show that 21.1% of the total population (56,177 people) of Rotherham have a limiting long-term health problem or disability, a figure that is higher than the national average of 17.5% (Office for National Statistics).

Across the two ECH schemes, there is a total of 87 tenants. For tenants in receipt of care and support, data is available and has been derived from the adult social care case management system. For 7 tenants that neither receive formal care nor wellbeing and housing support from the ECH team, protected characteristic data is not fully available.

Tenant Data (source/date: LAS, 14 July 2026)

Protected Characteristic		**ECH Tenants**
Age	20-34	N/A – not eligible
	35-49	N/A – not eligible
	50-59	7%
	60-70+	85%
	Not recorded/known	8%
Gender	Female	60%
	Male	40%
	Not specified	-
Sexuality	Heterosexual	5%
	Bisexual	-
	LGBTQ+	-
	Not recorded/known	95%
Ethnicity	White British	84%

	Asian or Asian British	-
	Black or Black British African	-
	Black or Black British Caribbean	-
	Multiple Heritage	-
	White European	-
	Not recorded/known	16%
Disability	Yes	86%
	No	-
	Not recorded/known	14%
Religion	Christianity	29%
	Islam	-
	None	-
	Other	-
	Not recorded/known	71%

Whilst ECH is available equitably to all who meet the eligibility criteria, regardless of any Protected Characteristics, when considering the characteristics of the current cohort of tenants, the Equalities Assessment acknowledges some disparity across these. However, it also notes that there are some gaps in the available data which may be skewing statistics. For example, for 95% of tenants, sexuality is not recorded, for 16% of tenants, ethnicity is not recorded, and for 71% of tenants, their religion is not recorded.

Data shows that 7% of tenants are aged between 50-59, and 85% are aged 60 and above. This is representative of the offer, to support vulnerable adults aged 55 years and above. 84% of people accessing ECH are White British. Further analysis may be required to understand whether people from minority ethnic communities are proportionately represented within the service and to identify any barriers that may affect access.

Staff Data (source/date: HR, 14 July 2026)

Protected Characteristic		**ECH Staff**
Age	20-34	7%
	35-49	17%
	50-59	33%
	60-70+	43%
Gender	Female	100%
	Male	-
Sexuality	Heterosexual	-
	LGBTQ+	-
	Not recorded/known	100%
Ethnicity	White British	77%
	Asian or Asian British	-
	Black or Black British African	3%
	Black or Black British Caribbean	3%
	Multiple Heritage	-

	White European	-
	Not recorded/known	17%
Disability	Yes	20%
	No	67%
	Not recorded/known	13%
Religion	Christianity	40%
	Islam	-
	None	17%
	Other	10%
	Not recorded/known	3%

The equality impact assessment acknowledges that the ECH workforce is predominantly older, with 76% of employees aged 50 and over, and with 20% of staff having declared a disability. In addition, the workforce is currently entirely female, with no male representation. As a result, these characteristics have been carefully considered in the development of the proposed model. If approved, a strong focus will be placed on accessibility and inclusivity during implementation, including ensuring that staff are able to request reasonable adjustments and access flexible working arrangements where operationally feasible.

The assessment also identifies limited gender and ethnic diversity within the current ECH workforce. In response, the future model will seek to promote equality of opportunity and create an inclusive working environment that is attractive and accessible to all.

Recruitment, selection and workforce practices will minimise the risk of unintended barriers or disadvantages for under-represented groups, supporting a fair and equitable experience for both current and prospective ECH employees.

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

Data in relation to Gender Reassignment and Pregnancy and Maternity is not available for ECH tenants.

Data in relation to Sexuality is not available for ECH staff.

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

There will be no impact on communities or groups according to their protected characteristics.

Throughout the consultation, efforts were made to ensure that engagement activities were accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustments provided where required to maximise participation and enable individuals to contribute effectively.

If approved, the potential impact on service users, tenants and employees will continue to be monitored throughout the implementation of the final model, taking protected

characteristics into account. Reasonable adjustments will continue to be available for staff, tenants and others who require them.	
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	**Key findings:** ECH Council Staff **Dates: 24 and 26 March 2026.** Two early engagement sessions took place with staff prior to the formal 90-day consultation to ensure that staff were aware of the intentions of the Council and the proposal. **Dates: 6 May and 8 May 2026, 8 July and 9 July 2026.** Four staff drop-in sessions took place throughout the 90-day consultation period. These sessions provided an opportunity for staff to ask questions, give feedback and to receive regular updates on the progress of the consultation. 100% of all ECH Council staff participated in the online questionnaire, ensuring that staff views were well represented throughout the consultation. ECH Commissioned Providers **Date: 7 May 2026** A dedicated engagement session was delivered to commissioned providers through the Home Care Provider forum, supported by two follow-up communications to encourage participation and feedback. Although affected providers were invited to share their concerns and provide feedback, no concerns were raised and no feedback was provided. Tenants in receipt of a Direct Payment were encouraged and supported to engage with the agency and/or personal assistant they employ. Next Steps Following Cabinet approval of the proposed final model, a bespoke 30-day staff and trade union consultation will be prepared to understand the impact the final model would have. At this point, a proposed staffing

	structure and establishment will be shared with staff for feedback. A further equalities analysis will be completed to support this process. The staff consultation will also consider the wider workforce and any TUPE rights that care workers within the independent providers have, based on their current working arrangements.
Engagement undertaken with tenants. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	**Key findings:** **Dates: 24 and 26 March 2026.** Two early engagement sessions took place prior to the consultation to ensure that tenants, their families and carers were aware of the intentions of the Council and the proposal. Representatives from Together Housing were part of these sessions. **Dates: 6, 8, 13, 15, 17 and 20 May 2026.** Tenants, their families and carers were supported to participate in the consultation through a programme of six planned tenant drop-in sessions across Bakers Field Court and Potteries Court. These sessions provided an opportunity for tenants to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed model. <u>Communications</u> The consultation was promoted to tenants through flyers, posters, letters/emails and face-to-face at regular tenant meetings and coffee mornings. Tenant views were strongly represented with 93% of the total number of ECH tenants across both schemes participating in the consultation. This high level of engagement resulted from 56 tenants (64% of all tenants) attending a drop-in session and a further 25 tenants (29%) completing the online questionnaire outside of the drop-in sessions. This ensured that tenant views were well represented throughout the consultation.

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 proposed final model is not considered to have a disproportionate impact on any protected characteristic group. Furthermore, procedures and guidance were followed throughout the planning and delivery of the public consultation, including the provision of reasonable adjustments where required to ensure that all individuals who wished to take part in the consultation were able to do so fully and effectively. This approach will also be taken during the implementation of the proposed final model, if approved.

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

There are no anticipated problems or barriers to communities or groups. The current application process for eligible adults will remain under the proposed final model.

Adults must be –

- A Rotherham resident, aged 55 year and above.
- Accepted on the Housing Register.
- Prioritised for re-housing on medical grounds.
- Assessed by Together Housing as having a housing support need.

Adults may have eligible needs under the Care Act 2024, and allocations will continue to be prioritised on a needs-basis.

Under the proposed final model, all current tenants will remain in ECH, providing that their care needs can continue to be met by the service.

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

The proposed model is expected to have a positive impact on the accessibility of services for vulnerable people. By delivering care and support through fully trained Council-employed staff, the model will strengthen oversight, improve the coordination of care and support, and enable the ECH schemes to meet a wider range of needs, including those of individuals with more complex care needs.

A team of Council-employed staff, based on site will enable support to be delivered flexibly as needs arise, ensuring timely interventions and reviews of care plans. This will strengthen the relational experience of tenants and families and overall is expected to improve tenant experience and support better outcomes.

Additionally, the proposed final model is expected to deliver positive benefits for the ECH Council workforce through the remodelling of the staffing establishment, enabling Council staff to play a direct role in the delivery of care and support. This approach will provide valuable opportunities for staff to develop new skills, undertake further training and broaden

their experience. Feedback received during the consultation indicates that staff view the proposed model positively and recognise the opportunities it presents for both the tenants they support and for their own professional development.
What effect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The proposed final model presents an opportunity to promote the schemes as community assets which invite people in and link tenants to the wider community. This would maximise the connection and wellbeing of both tenants and non-residents and therefore have a positive impact on community relations.

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

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5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Extra Care Housing Model
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Lead Manager: Claire Green, Programme Manager
Summary of findings:
This equality analysis has been completed to ensure that the proposed ECH final model is inclusive of all protected characteristics, communities and groups. All tenants within ECH will be equally supported and included throughout the implementation process, if approved, irrespective of their protected characteristics.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Present consultation feedback to staff and tenants	All	August - September 2026
Present a final model to Cabinet to seek approval to implement	All	October 2026
Begin a bespoke 30-day staff consultation	All	October-December 2026
100% of ECH staff team is female. We will look to actively recruit male staff to some of the additional posts to support male tenants.	Gender	January-April 2027

***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
Deborah Ramskill	Head of Extra Care Housing, Lord Hardy Court and Davies Court	17/07/2026
Kirsty-Louise Littlewood	Service Director, Adult Care and Integration	21/07/2026
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	28/08/2026
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health	24/08/2026

7. Publishing

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

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	16/07/2026
Report title and date	Extra Care Housing Model
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16/07/2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	As the proposed final model will lead to 24/7, on site care and support provision at both Extra Care Housing schemes, there may be an increase in energy use outside core office hours. However, the impact of this would be minimal.			Energy use at the 'Bakersfield' [*sic*] Warden Centre is reported in the Council's carbon accounting; energy use may be compared with the date of commencement of the new service model, to monitor its carbon impact.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	Under the proposed final model, staff based on site will deliver care and support to tenants of the Council's Extra Care Housing schemes, rather than multiple independent providers travelling across the borough, as happens under the present model of care. As existing care packages are brokered by the Council, they fall under emissions from its contractors.			Scope 3 emissions under contract are estimated from spend under contract, opposed to *e.g.*, mileage data shared by independent care providers. From this data, it is not possible to determine a reasonable baseline against which to measure the expected emissions saving under the proposed final model.

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

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

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The most significant overall climate impacts the model would have are positive in relation to the reduction of CO_2 emissions from transport, as staff based on site will deliver care and support to tenants, rather than multiple independent providers travelling across the borough. The proposal would positively affect the ability of Council services to continue during or after extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate-related hazards, as Council-employed staff will be based on site 24/7 to support tenants.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Claire Green Programme Manager Adult Care Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA675 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Moving Rotherham Partnership - Delivery of Place Expansion Grant

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

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

Report Author(s)
Gilly Brenner, Consultant in Public Health
gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides an overview of proposed further Sport England investment for Rotherham as part of the Place Expansion Programme. It outlines key activities to be undertaken to expand opportunities for physical activity and deliver on the Moving Rotherham Partnership priorities.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the acceptance and spending of the Rotherham Sport England Grants (comprising the Main Award and Capital Grant) in line with Sport England grant conditions and as set out in section 2 of this report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Assessment Part A
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment Part B
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Previous Cabinet paper approving Development Award 17th March 2025
Health and Wellbeing Board 10th June 2026 item 10 including Strategy and Evaluation Report 2025/26

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Health Select Commission 24th September 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant

1. Background

1.1 Physical activity has benefits that are wide ranging and not only reduce health risks and improve physical and mental health outcomes but can also positively influence economic prosperity, such as through improved productivity, as well as social and community connectedness benefits.

1.2 In 2023 Sport England committed to investing £250m over the following five years to expand its Place Partnerships to an additional 80-100 places. Sport England's focus for funding is:

- Increasing activity (increasing amount of time people spend being active)
- Decreasing inactivity (decreasing the proportion of the population that are classed as sedentary/inactive)
- Tackling inequality
- Providing positive experiences for children and young people

1.3 In 2023, Sport England invited places across the country to apply to become Place Expansion Partners as part of its Uniting the Movement strategy. Rotherham was successful in securing a Place Expansion Grant Development Award of £455,870. Cabinet approved acceptance and expenditure of this funding in March 2025, with delivery managed by the Council's Public Health service on behalf of the Moving Rotherham Partnership.

1.4 The purpose of the Development Award was to better understand the needs and priorities for physical activity in Rotherham through engagement and evaluation across a range of priorities. The Moving Rotherham Partnership used this work to develop a new Moving Rotherham Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and publish a Moving Rotherham 2025/26 Evaluation report. These were presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2026.

1.5 Following the success of the development phase, Rotherham has secured further Sport England Place Expansion Grant Main Award. This report seeks approval to accept and spend this new Main Award funding.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Place Expansion Main Award funding brings an additional £1.1 million investment into improving physical activity and the opportunity to continue to increase the scale and pace of the Moving Rotherham Partnership's delivery. The proposals set out in this report have been developed with stakeholders based on the 2025/26 evaluation to inform what should be prioritised to maximise outcomes and to enhance existing work and capacity.

2.2 During the development award phase, significant engagement took place with children, young people, schools, and adults of all ages, in communities with

lower levels of physical activity. An evaluation report identified key themes, including barriers and opportunities to increase physical activity locally.

2.3 Following the development phase evaluation, the Moving Rotherham Partnership developed a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Rotherham, which was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2026. This was developed by the Partnership to provide a clear narrative of the aims of Moving Rotherham, to set priority themes for delivery and provide a framework for a delivery plan.

2.4 The Moving Rotherham Strategy describes three priority audiences that align with Sport England's Uniting the Movement strategy:

- Children and young people,
- People with long-term health conditions and/or disabilities, and
- Communities where activity levels are lowest.

2.5 To ensure the Partnership can work effectively with these audiences, there are also three priority enabling themes of:

- Communication,
- Inclusion, and
- Place-making.

2.6 A delivery plan sets out the funding requirements from the bid aligned to these priorities. The new proposed additional funding allocated as a Place Expansion Main Award grant is £1,145,438 until March 2028. There is also an additional £15,000 Capital grant as described in paragraph 2.17.

2.7 **Children and young people: £323,069**
The grant will facilitate work with schools in areas with lower levels of activity to ensure that families receive better information and get the chance to try out different sports and physical activities in their local area. Schools will be supported by the Rotherham School Games programme who have established relationships with schools. This will include family taster events where families will be encouraged through schools to come along and have a go at a wide range of activities. Parents told us they did not know what was available. By raising the profile of local clubs, activities and organisations, and expanding the opportunities available in Rotherham, the Partnership aims to inspire and enable more children and young people to spend more time enjoying being active.

2.8 One of the top activities children and young people said they wanted to do more, was ride a bike. The grant will enable the Partnership to deliver cycling skills in local communities from an early age, with bikes available for children to have a go and take part.

2.9 **People with long-term health conditions and/or disabilities: £202,500**
The development award piloted Every Move Counts health coaching service to support inactive people with long-term conditions to gain confidence and identify opportunities to move more and become more active in their daily lives. Clinicians have high demands on their time, so this programme considered that by giving patients time focussed on them, their concerns and

their needs, to build their confidence, and find the right things that would motivate them to move more. Through these one-to-one motivational coaching sessions, patients made significant increases to their weekly activity levels, gaining real benefits to their health. The grant will support the further development of this service.

2.10 A range of specialist physical activity programmes continues to be provided through Places Leisure and other local providers, as well as schemes introduced by the Council to help reduce barriers to physical activity such as the new discount Swim Scheme, which gives a 50% discount on swimming for residents aged over 65 across the borough's four leisure centres, reducing the cost from £4.30 to £2.15 per session. The coaching programme continues to help residents to navigate the options available and make use of these opportunities.

2.11 **Communities where activity levels are lowest: £295,386**
To strengthen community-led delivery, capacity hosted by Voluntary Action Rotherham will support community engagement, partnership development and wider skills and capacity building. Working collaboratively with Rotherham Libraries, local voluntary and community organisations, and other key partners, new roles will engage with local people to co-design ways of establishing and developing more active community settings, maximising the use of local green spaces, and connecting residents to opportunities to be more physically active within their neighbourhoods. This will be determined at a hyper-local level, but examples include training, or establishing local volunteer-led health walks, or providing equipment for established groups to use for physical activity sessions, or improvements to the local area by creating local interest trail routes or providing access to equipment. This will also support the development of sustainable local networks and ensure community voices help shape activity provision and investment decisions.

2.12 In identified communities where activity levels are lowest, the grant will enable an Activation Fund to be established which will provide targeted investment into the voluntary and community sector. This funding will be coordinated by Voluntary Action Rotherham and support local organisations and community groups to develop and deliver physical activity opportunities that respond to local need, build community capacity and help reduce barriers to participation.

2.13 **Communication: £144,484**
A key theme of the engagement findings was that people didn't know about the opportunities to be active in their local area. Through working in collaboration with the Council Communications team, additional capacity in the voluntary sector will support a full communication and marketing programme of Moving Rotherham-promoted physical activity opportunities and ensure people identify with those opportunities through tailored messaging and images.

2.14 **Inclusion: £13,700**
People with disabilities face some of the biggest barriers to participating in physical activity. To help reduce and remove these barriers, community organisations and leisure sector providers in the borough, working together as the Inclusive Activity Network, will continue to receive specialist training, improve their provision, and put on extra taster sessions to show the range of activities on offer.

2.15 **Place-Making: £166,299**
The grant funding will support the convening of stakeholders and partners from across the borough to influence and change physical environments, service interactions, facilities, and opportunities that support a more physically active way of life across the borough. Regeneration work and the Local Plan will provide new opportunities to influence the wider environment to facilitate enjoyable active lives.

2.16 The Moving Rotherham Partnership and associated governance structures and networks of stakeholders will continue to facilitate collaboration and alignment of activity. There is provision in the grant for additional training and a new celebratory awards event to encourage sharing of the good work of partners and raising awareness to continue to strengthen and broaden membership of the Partnership.

2.17 **Built Sports Facilities Strategy: £15,000**
To complement the recent Playing Pitch Strategy by expanding the understanding of requirements and provision of other sports and leisure facilities in Rotherham, funding has been sought from Sport England to commission a Built Sports Facilities Strategy. £15,000 funding for this will come from a separate Sport England capital grant process. This funding will be combined with match funding that has been identified within current budgets. The Strategy will enable a thorough assessment of assets across the borough to identify need and priorities and maximise future investment in physical activity settings and green spaces. It will also include identifying opportunities for future Sport England capital investment to support other sport facilities development, regeneration or upgrade opportunities.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1: Cabinet approve the acceptance and spending of the Rotherham Sport England Grants (comprising the Main Award and Capital Grant) in line with Sport England grant conditions and as outlined in this report.

3.2 Whilst Sport England Place Expansion encourages individual places (in this case Rotherham) to determine what interventions will work best in their local setting, it must be in line with Sport England expectations and working principles highlighted in the bid process. Sport England have approved main award funding based on our commitments to these ways of working and our award submission as described.

3.3 Option 2: Cabinet does not approve spending of the grants and rejects the Sport England investment.

3.4 Recommended Proposal

Option 1 is recommended. Not accepting the grant funding would significantly impact the progression of the Moving Rotherham priorities and potential future Sport England investment, including in other remits, such as capital investment. The proposals set out in the report are based on fulfilling the ambitions of the strategy, the engagement findings and research evidence, which determine that they will maximise the likelihood of increasing local levels of physical activity. Without the additional spend from the grant investment, Rotherham would not be able to progress the activities described in the report and would be unlikely to see the uplift in physical activity levels this activity would support.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 During the development award phase, the opinions of over 1,700 children and young people in Key Stages 2 and 3, 70 participants in 8 youth groups, 244 parents of Key Stage 1 children, 810 people across a wide age range in outdoor creative sessions, 375 people with long-term health conditions referred into Every Move Counts, and a wide range of key stakeholders across the public, voluntary and community, education and other sectors have been sought and analysed. This has provided information about what activity they currently do or want to do, barriers to activity and opportunities.

4.2 At an evaluation session, learning from this engagement was shared, including reflections from stakeholders about strengths and challenges. An evaluation report presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in June summarises these findings, and a workshop with stakeholders led to the development of the Moving Rotherham Strategy themes and proposals for the Main Award funding based on strengths, gaps and opportunities. The proposed funding delivery plan was approved by the Moving Rotherham Board.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Place Expansion (Main Award) bid was submitted to Sport England in June. If approved, the funding agreement with Sport England can be completed, and delivery of the programme can commence immediately, including recruitment and procurement activity where required.

5.2 The Moving Rotherham Partnership will continue to work with Sport England to identify future funding opportunities. Funding for Place Expansion partners beyond March 2028 has not yet been announced, but some level of funding is expected.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The expenditure detailed in this report totals £1,160,438. This will be funded by £1,145,438 Sport England Place Expansion Main Award and £15,000 Sport England capital grant.

6.2 Regular monitoring of activity and spending should ensure the expenditure remains within the set budget.

6.3 Procurement Activity arising from the funding set out in this report must be awarded in compliance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and relevant applicable procurement legislation.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The activities proposed in this report, which are aimed at increasing participation in physical activity, improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities, fall within the Council's statutory public health functions and are capable of being supported by those powers. The Council also has broad powers to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the General Power of Competence).

7.2 The report seeks Cabinet approval to accept and spend Sport England Place Expansion grant funding in accordance with the approved funding application and associated grant conditions. The Council must ensure that all expenditure is applied strictly in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement and any conditions imposed by Sport England.

7.3 Delivery of the programme involves a combination of direct Council staffing, grant funding arrangements, contract variations and the procurement of goods and services. All such arrangements must be undertaken in compliance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and any applicable procurement and related legislation. Appropriate legal agreements should be completed where funding is provided to third-party organisations and suitable monitoring arrangements should be put in place to ensure accountability for the use of public funds.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications for the Council in relation to Human Resources arising from the proposals as presented in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 As set out in the Moving Rotherham Strategy, children and young people are a priority audience for the Moving Rotherham Partnership work. Children and young people have been engaged in the development phase to help understand their motivations and barriers to being more active. The principles of co-production and engagement will continue to ensure that they remain at the heart of developing the approaches taken to improve access and uptake.

9.2 The priority focussed on people with long-term conditions and/or disabilities as well as the inclusion enabling theme, demonstrate commitment to improving access to physical activity opportunities for those who face the most barriers. The Moving Rotherham Partnership will seek to ensure that there is appropriate training and expectations around safeguarding and inclusion so activity provision is safe and inclusive.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equity and inclusion are strong themes in the Moving Rotherham Strategy and main award funding. There are explicit aims of reducing inequality and targeted engagement of those who face the greatest barriers to access.

10.2 Both an Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) and an Equality Analysis (Part B) have been completed and are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications for CO_2 emissions and climate change arising from this report.

11.2 Being more physically active benefits the environment by reducing carbon emissions through walking or cycling instead of driving, lowering fuel consumption, and improving air quality. It decreases resource use by reducing the demand for cars, infrastructure, and disposable vehicle-related products. Active lifestyles also promote the creation and use of green spaces, which support biodiversity and absorb CO_2, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 To see meaningful change, partners are developing a more integrated and collaborative approach. Supporting communities and promoting sustainable approaches requires partners to think beyond isolated short-term funded initiatives and work together across sectors.

12.2 A wide range of stakeholders are committed to the Moving Rotherham Partnership and delivery of the strategy and delivery plan. The communication enabling theme of work will set out to increase further the breadth and reach of engaged stakeholders.

12.3 Success of the Moving Rotherham Partnership in increasing physical activity levels across the borough has the potential to bring about significant positive benefits to a wide range of partners. Improved physical and mental wellbeing, has the potential to reduce demand in health services and social care provision. Healthier, fitter people are more able to work and bring economic benefits to the local economy and reduce the impacts of poverty. Happier, connected communities bring improvements in community cohesion and in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a reputational risk and a risk of not being able to secure future investment from Sport England if the grant is not accepted.

13.2 The complexity of system wide changes needs a measured and deliberate approach. To fully realise the potential of Moving Rotherham priorities, continuing to strengthen partnership working will be essential. Not being able to do this, whilst unlikely, would have a negative impact on the pace of delivery. Partners are integral to the success of delivery and there are inherent risks therefore associated with their successful continued engagement.

13.3 Measuring the impact of complex systems and programmes of activity is difficult and an ongoing national challenge. The Moving Rotherham Partnership will continue to develop and use metrics that better reflect the true impact and effectiveness of the programme of work, to ensure a more accurate and informed assessment of success. This will include continued involvement in the National Learning and Evaluation Partnership.

14. Accountable Officers

Gilly Brenner, Consultant in Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	18/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/26

Report Author: Gilly Brenner, Consultant in Public Health
gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Moving Rotherham partnership delivery of the Sport England Place Expansion Grant	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health
Lead person: Gilly Brenner	**Contact:** gilly.brenner@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify:** Partnership delivery of a Council-hosted grant. Includes services / functions but also includes strategic development of action plans, wider system-based working and evaluation.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This is a screening of the proposed delivery of Rotherham's Sport England Place Expansion main award grant. Main award funding brings the opportunity to continue to increase the scale and pace of Moving Rotherham partnership plan delivery. The grant proposal has been

developed with stakeholders based on the development award phase evaluation to inform what should be prioritised to maximise outcomes and to enhance existing work and capacity.

Funding supports a range of roles to deliver against the priorities identified in the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, including:

- Supporting children and young people to access more physical activity out of school near where they live, and to access opportunities to learn to cycle.
- Continuing the health coaching service to support people with long-term conditions to access physical activity and working with providers to improve accessibility and inclusion.
- Increasing physical activity opportunities in target communities with lower levels of physical activity through projects in green spaces and working with the voluntary and community sector.
- Improving access to information and awareness through comms campaigns and improved information sources online.
- Working to maximise opportunities to embed physical activity in the environment, through collaboration with planning, regeneration and other Council services, and through undertaking a built facilities and open spaces strategy to assess assets.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** Consideration of equality and diversity is inherent in the grant proposal as a criterion of the bid outcomes is "tackle inequalities". The strategy sets out the Moving Rotherham plans to address this specific focus, including through our priority groups.
• **Key findings** It is well evidenced (Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity report) that there is inequality in access and uptake of physical activity and sport. People with disabilities or health conditions and individuals living in more deprived areas, females and certain ethnic groups are more likely to be less active.
• **Actions** The main award grant proposal describes how inequalities will be addressed, in particular through two of the overarching priorities: • *Communities where physical activity levels are lowest:* This is about working with the voluntary sector in local communities to collaboratively address the factors driving or hindering physical activity in different neighbourhoods or demographics, with a particular focus on Middle Super Output Area neighbourhoods identified by Sport England as priorities due to greater levels of inactivity. Funding is available direct to communities to support them to identify and implement opportunities locally. • *People with long*-term conditions and disabilities: This priority focuses on physical activity support for inactive people including those with long-term conditions and disabilities, who are more likely to face barriers to being active. The successful health coaching programme will continue to increase reach to currently inactive people to support them to access opportunities to be more active.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	June 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	July 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Gilly Brenner

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Emily Parry-Harries	Director of Public Health	16/07/26 Public Health SMT

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	14th July 2026
Report title and date	Moving Rotherham partnership delivery of the Sport England Place Expansion grant
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet paper for 12th October 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	Part A sent 15th July 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: Moving Rotherham Partnership delivery of Place Expansion grant	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 14th July 2026	
Directorate: Adult Care Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Public Health
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner	**Contact number:** 01709 254116
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify** Partnership delivery of a Council-hosted grant. Includes services / functions, but also includes strategic development of action plans, wider system-based working and evaluation.	

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)**
Gilly Brenner	Rotherham Council Public Health	Consultant in Public Health
Carole Foster	Rotherham Council Public Health	Moving Rotherham Programme Manager
Chris Siddall	Rotherham Council Culture, Sport and Tourism	Head of Service, Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

It is well evidenced that increasing physical activity is essential for improving the overall health of the population. Regular activity can significantly reduce the risk and impact of long-term health conditions, enhance social engagement, and support positive mental health for people of all ages in Rotherham.

Despite this, inactivity (doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week) is distributed unequally with higher rates of inactivity in areas of deprivation, across certain demographic groups and in those with long-term health conditions and disabilities. Inactivity in Rotherham is greater than the national average, with almost 32% of Rotherham's adults classed as inactive. That national average for inactive adults is 26%.

The Sport England investment will be used to help the Moving Rotherham Partnership continue to develop a deeper understanding of local communities and the factors driving or hindering physical activity in different neighbourhoods or demographics, with a particular focus on Middle Super Output Area neighbourhoods identified by Sport England as priorities due to greater levels of inactivity. Building on the insight and evaluation from the development award, the delivery of this award is built on engagement with those facing inequalities in access to physical activity opportunities.

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

There is a range of information available that has been and will continue to be used to inform the work. We will also be collecting more data as part of our requirements to Sport England.

Some of the key local Rotherham data is shared here:
https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/health-behaviours/physical-activity

A summary of equalities data relating to physical activity is shared here:
https://www.yorkshiresport.org/data-hub

A significant amount of data and engagement was undertaken as part of the development phase of the Place Expansion grant. This is summarised in the Cabinet paper appended 2025-26 Evaluation report. This gives information from the key priority groups – children and young people, people with long-term conditions / disabilities, and people living in communities where inactivity levels are highest.	
Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of? Inequality in access and uptake of physical activity and sport is well evidenced: Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity We know people with disabilities or health conditions and individuals living in more deprived areas, females and certain ethnic groups are more likely to be less active. What we want to better understand, and what the main award will support, is how we can work with people to address this in Rotherham. We want to continue the engagement already undertaken in the development phase with local communities to remove barriers and enable physically activity, particularly in deprived areas and for those who are least active.	
What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? Sport England require significant monitoring and evaluation, including contribution to a national evaluation and learning programme. Moving Rotherham has committed to delivering an annual evaluation report summarising the findings of the delivery of the grant. This includes work specifically at target communities / groups on the basis of their lower levels of physical activity, including children and young people, people with long-term conditions and disabilities, and people living in target communities where physical activity levels are lower.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Significant engagement has taken place throughout 2025/26 during the grant development phase. This is summarised in the evaluation report for 2025/26. This has influenced the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy priority audiences and enabling themes.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Throughout the grant development phase, the Moving Rotherham partnership has continued to expand and work closely as a partnership with a range of stakeholders. This includes a wide range of people with an interest in physical activity through the Big Active Network and more strategic delivery coordination through the System Leaders group who have met bi-monthly. These partners have been involved in the delivery and evaluation and in developing the new strategy.

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 delivery of the main award builds on the broad engagement undertaken during the development phase. In delivering the main award, there is use of local trusted partners with existing relationships with communities and services, which was fundamental to the success of the engagement work. This ensures that the needs and priorities of the community shape the approach. This means actively engaging with individuals and groups to gather insights, listen to their experiences, and identify the specific challenges they face and co-designing solutions. During the development phase the evaluation helps to articulate the barriers that different groups experience, whether these are physical, social, financial, or psychological. The Moving Rotherham Physical Activity and Sport Strategy at its core, promotes a 'physical activity for everyone' approach, ensuring that regardless of age, ability, background, or circumstances – everyone has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from physical activity. By prioritising inclusivity and continuous learning, we should see a stronger, healthier, and more engaged community.

The specific programmes being delivered, are targeted to reach those with lower levels of inactivity which correspond to various protected characteristics, including disability, age and race/religion. For example, the Every Move Counts service supports inactive people with long-term conditions or disabilities to find ways of being active that work for them. The project for children and young people through faith settings, will ensure that culturally appropriate physical activity can be more easily embedded into weekly routines.

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

The work of the Moving Rotherham Partnership should not create any problems or barriers. It seeks to remove and tackle those that already exist.

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

The delivery of the grant is designed to create a positive impact by actively identifying and removing barriers that may prevent individuals or groups from accessing physical activity opportunities. These barriers can take various forms, including physical, social, financial, or perceived obstacles. By working directly with communities and our priority audience groups, targeted solutions can be co-designed to improve accessibility and inclusivity.

The Every Move Counts health coaching programme enables supporting individuals to relevant opportunities, and identifying the need to create new initiatives where gaps exist. The coaches will work to ensure that people from all backgrounds can participate fully, whether by addressing physical access issues, tackling social barriers such as lack of awareness or confidence, or challenging perceptions that may discourage engagement.

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)

Delivery of the grant is expected to have a positive impact on community relations by promoting inclusive benefits for all and through physical activity opportunities creating an enjoyable way of people coming together in their local communities.

However, there may be a perception that certain groups gain more than others, based on targeted work with priority audiences. To address this, clear and transparent communication will be key in demonstrating that the Moving Rotherham work is designed to bring advantages to the entire borough. Expanding the comms campaigns and online information available will help to raise the profile of opportunities that exist across the borough.

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: Moving Rotherham Partnership delivery of Place Expansion grant
Directorate and service area: Adult Care Housing and Public Health; Public Health
Lead Manager: Gilly Brenner
Summary of findings:
Consideration of equality and diversity is inherent in Rotherham's grant proposal as a criterion of the bid outcomes is "tackle inequalities". The equality analysis assures that in developing the proposal equality and diversity issues have been considered, and demonstrates how these will be addressed through key actions.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure equalities monitoring is embedded within the monitoring and evaluation of the continued delivery of the Moving Rotherham programme and is included in the annual evaluation reports.	A, D, S, RE, RoB, C, O	December 2027

***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**
Emily Parry-Harries	Director of Public Health	Public Health SMT 16/7/26
Ian Spicer	Strategic Director Adult Care Housing and Public Health	ACH&PH DLT 28/07/26
Cllr Baker-Rogers	Cabinet Member	16/09/26

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	15th July 2026
Report title and date	Cabinet paper - 12th October 2026 Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant
Date report sent for publication	16th September 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15th July 2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None		Any change in use of buildings such as leisure facilities and community buildings is not expected to have an impact on overall emissions.	Places Leisure in Rotherham are installing solar panels / pool covers across sites to improve energy efficiency and emissions.	Energy use of Places Leisure facilities is reported via contract meetings.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease			The overall impact of increasing physical activity levels is expected to increase uptake of active travel which will decrease emissions through modal shift.	
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	The purchase of new equipment to support the project could lead to increased waste as equipment breaks or when the project concludes.		Equipment will be mainly loaned for sustainability and if in the future is no longer required, will be donated to local community provision.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

None, catering for events is negligible and within expected ongoing service delivery.

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 is a potential for physical activity to improve community connectedness and therefore resilience. Improvements to mental and physical health through increased physical activity will improve ability to physically cope with climate stressors such as heat waves.

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

There are no direct implications for CO2 emissions and climate change arising from this report.

Being more physically active benefits the environment by reducing carbon emissions through walking or cycling instead of driving, lowering fuel consumption, and improving air quality. It decreases resource use by reducing the demand for cars, infrastructure, and disposable vehicle-related products. Active lifestyles also promote the creation and use of green spaces, which support biodiversity and absorb CO_2, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Gilly Brenner Consultant in Public Health Public Health Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Cabinet paper: Moving Rotherham Partnership Delivery of Place Expansion Grant 17th March 2025
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA672 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Review – Street Lighting Columns

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
Jane Maxwell, Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) / Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Scrutiny Review into attachments to lighting columns.

The review was commissioned following a Notice of Motion approved by Full Council in April 2026 concerning the impact of structural testing requirements on community initiatives such as hanging baskets, festive decorations, remembrance displays and CCTV installations. The review examined the balance between public safety requirements and the financial and operational impact on Parish and Town Councils. Evidence was gathered from officers, Parish Councils, survey responses and examples of practice from other authorities.

The recommendations seek to establish a clear, proportionate and transparent framework that supports community-led initiatives whilst ensuring the safety and effective management of highway assets.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet receives the recommendations listed below, as approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

a. Approve amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan to incorporate a comprehensive framework for attachments to lighting columns and associated highway assets, setting out requirements relating to permitted and prohibited attachments, risk-based approval arrangements, structural testing and retesting requirements, applicant responsibilities, and enforcement provisions. The framework should apply consistently to all users of lighting columns, including the Council, Parish and Town Councils, contractors and third parties.

b. Approve the development and publication of a standalone, publicly accessible Lighting Column Attachments Guidance Document, in consultation with Parish and Town Councils, to provide clear and practical guidance on the application of the Highway Asset Management Plan framework, including attachment classifications, approval processes, testing requirements, responsibilities, communication arrangements, and practical examples of acceptable and unacceptable attachments.

c. Establish formal consultation, communication and engagement arrangements with Parish and Town Councils, including consultation on future policy changes, testing programmes and charging arrangements, together with sufficient advance notice of any financial implications to enable effective budget planning, procurement and decision-making.

d. Establish clear categories for lighting column attachments, identifying which attachments are permitted without testing, permitted subject to approval and structural testing, or prohibited, and publish consistent standards for structural testing, assessment criteria, retesting intervals, validity periods and maximum permissible loading thresholds where appropriate.

e. Continues to coordinate structural testing arrangements on a borough-wide basis where appropriate and considers longer-term funding, procurement and cost-sharing arrangements to minimise administrative burdens and secure value for money for Parish and Town Councils whilst maintaining compliance with relevant safety standards.

f. Ensures arrangements are developed to support the continuation of community display schemes where lighting columns are unable to safely accommodate attachments, including consideration of alternative display solutions, targeted asset replacement where appropriate, the use of structural testing outcomes to identify trends, inform the Council's future investment priorities, replacement programmes and wider asset management decisions.

g. That the service engages in meaningful discussions with interested parties including Parish Councils, seeking to install displays on lighting columns, with the aim of reaching a shared understanding regarding the timescales and process for replacing damaged or missing columns, and to explore opportunities to facilitate timely installation where feasible.

h. Strengthen the enforcement framework for unauthorised attachments by establishing clear compliance procedures and, where legally permissible, implementing arrangements for the recovery of costs incurred in the removal of unauthorised installations, and reviews the effectiveness of the new arrangements within 12 months of implementation, including consideration of feedback from Parish and Town Councils, testing outcomes and enforcement activity, with the findings reported to the relevant Scrutiny Board.

2. That Cabinet formally considers its response to the above recommendations within two months of its receipt, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. That in responding to these recommendations, it is requested that Cabinet's response should identify the proposed actions, responsible officer(s), success measures and target completion dates for each recommendation.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Summary of the Parish Council responses to the review survey

Background Papers

RMBC Information considered as part of the review:
Information provided by RMBC Officers in response to questions raised in the initial meeting
RMBC's interim position 11 May 2026
Attachments to Lighting Columns - Hanging Baskets and other attachments - Briefing Note provided by RMBC Officers – 10 July 2026

External information considered as part of the review:
City of Doncaster - Street Lighting Attachments Policy January 2026
Derbyshire County Council - Attachments to Street Lighting Columns Policy April 2025
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Street Lighting Columns: Attachments Technical Guidance Note v.1.01 October 2025
Clerk Lighting Column Meeting - 13 May 2026 - Draft Minutes

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 08 September 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Review – Street Lighting Columns

1. Background

1.1 This Scrutiny Review originated from a Notice of Motion considered and approved by Full Council on 22 April 2026 entitled “Lighting Columns – Cut unnecessary red tape so that our streets can have floral displays, Christmas decorations, poppies and CCTV.”

1.2 The Notice of Motion recognised the significant contribution that hanging baskets, festive decorations, Remembrance displays and CCTV installations make to civic pride, local identity, community wellbeing and public safety across Rotherham's towns and villages. Members acknowledged that many of these initiatives are delivered by Parish Councils, community groups and volunteers, demonstrating strong local engagement and ownership.

1.3 The Motion also highlighted concerns regarding the increasing requirement for structural assessments of lighting columns before attachments can be installed. Members heard that the costs associated with testing and compliance were increasingly being passed to Parish Councils and community organisations, creating additional financial pressures and administrative burdens. There was concern that these requirements could discourage community participation and place valued local initiatives at risk.

1.4 Particular concern was expressed regarding the impact on smaller Parish Councils and voluntary groups, which may have limited financial capacity to absorb additional costs. Members considered that without a more proportionate approach, some communities could be disadvantaged and less able to deliver enhancements that contribute positively to the appearance, identity and wellbeing of their local areas.

1.5 The Notice of Motion therefore sought to establish whether the existing arrangements struck an appropriate balance between public safety requirements and the need to facilitate and support community-led initiatives. Members requested that opportunities be explored to reduce unnecessary barriers, identify good practice from other authorities and determine whether a more transparent, consistent and proportionate framework could be developed for the management of attachments to lighting columns.

1.6 In approving the Motion, Full Council requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) examine the issue as part of its work programme, investigate the impact of current arrangements on community participation and develop recommendations to inform future policy and practice.

1.7 In response, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) established a Scrutiny Review Group to investigate the issues raised through the Notice of Motion.

1.8 The review was therefore established to examine the rationale for structural testing requirements, assess the impact of current arrangements on Parish and Town Councils and community organisations, consider approaches adopted by other authorities, and identify opportunities to support community initiatives whilst ensuring the safe and effective management of highway assets.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Alignment with the Council Plan

2.1.1 The Review is aligned with the following priorities under the Council Plan (2025-2030), as set out below.

- “Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean”
- “One Council that Listens and Learns”

2.1.2 This Scrutiny Review aligns principally with the Council Plan outcome "Places are Thriving, Safe and Clean" through its focus on effective highway asset management, the development of a consistent framework for the use of street furniture, the promotion of sustainable community-led environmental improvements, and the protection of public infrastructure for future use.

2.1.3 The review also supports the outcome "One Council that Listens and Learns" by adopting an evidence-led approach to policy development, engaging with stakeholders throughout the review process, benchmarking practice across other authorities, and seeking to improve guidance, communication and partnership working with Parish and Town Councils.

2.2 Review Methodology

2.2.1 A working group was convened comprising the following members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Improving Places Select Commission:

- Councillor Steele (Chair)
- Councillor Adair
- Councillor Blackham
- Councillor Sheppard
- Councillor Thorp
- Councillor Tinsley

(together, the Review Group)

For the initial meeting Councillor Allen was present as a member of the review group but removed herself when appointed as Cabinet Member for Communities.

2.2.2 Evidence gathering, stakeholder engagement and the development of agreed findings and recommendations were undertaken between May 2026 and July 2026. The Review Group considered evidence through a series of meetings, briefing reports, stakeholder feedback and benchmarking information from other local authorities.

2.2.3 A number of Council Officers and representatives from external partners were invited to participate in both in-person and virtual meetings, with representation from:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Council)

- Sam Barstow, Service Director, Community Safety and Street Scene
- Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods
- Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk (where relevant through written submissions)
- Allan Lewis, Group Manager, Street Lighting, Highway Inspections and Street Works Enforcement, (where relevant through written submissions)
- Catherine Oxtoby, Parish Council and Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer

External Partners

- Kate Butler, Parish Clerk at Aston cum Aughton Parish Council

The Review Group was additionally supported throughout by:

- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
- Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
- Kristianne Thorogood, Governance Advisor

2.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement and External Evidence:

The Review Group also considered evidence gathered from:

- Parish and Town Councils across the borough through a dedicated consultation survey
- A Parish Council Clerk attending engagement meetings with Council officers
- Benchmarking and policy information from
    - City of Doncaster Council
    - Derbyshire County Council
    - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

2.2.5 The Review Group reviewed survey responses from Parish and Town Councils regarding the use of lighting columns for hanging baskets, festive decorations, CCTV, commemorative displays and other attachments. The feedback informed the Review Group's consideration of the practical implications of current arrangements, communication, costs, governance and future policy development.

2.2.6 The Review Group would like to place on record their thanks to all officers, Parish and Town Councils, and external contributors who supported the review and provided valuable evidence, experience and insight which

assisted the Review Group in reaching its conclusions and recommendations.

2.3 **Discussion themes and key insights**

2.3.1 Discussions at the meetings centred around the following themes:

2.4 **Managing Risk, Safety and Community Expectations**

2.4.1 The first meeting of the Review Group focused on the use of lighting columns and highway street furniture for hanging baskets, festive decorations, CCTV cameras, commemorative displays and other attachments. Members considered the competing priorities of maintaining public safety, complying with national industry guidance, and supporting community-led initiatives that contribute positively to local environments and civic pride.

2.4.2 Members received an overview of the interim arrangements that had been agreed with Parish and Town Councils following concerns regarding the structural integrity of lighting columns carrying additional loads. It was explained that, whilst structural testing had become a necessary requirement following updated industry guidance, the Council had sought to mitigate the immediate impact by agreeing to contribute 75% of testing costs, with Parish and Town Councils funding the remaining 25%. Members noted the importance of balancing public safety requirements with the financial challenges faced by local councils whose budgets had already been established for the financial year.

2.4.3 A significant part of the discussion centred on the safety implications associated with attachments. Members learnt that some hanging baskets currently in use could weigh up to 60kg once planted and watered and that concerns had been raised by industry specialists regarding the suitability of lighting columns to support loads of this nature. Members discussed the need for a proportionate approach that recognised the distinction between heavier attachments, which may affect structural integrity, and lightweight commemorative or community displays which present minimal risk. The development of clear thresholds and categories of attachment emerged as a key area for further consideration.

2.4.4 The Review Group considered the implications for a wide range of attachments beyond hanging baskets, including CCTV cameras, speed monitoring equipment, public notices and commemorative poppies. Members acknowledged that a "one size fits all" approach was unlikely to be appropriate and that any future framework would need to reflect differing levels of risk depending on the type, size and purpose of the attachment. Members indicated support for a practical and evidence-based approach that avoided unnecessary bureaucracy whilst maintaining public safety.

2.4.5 The issue of unauthorised installations was also examined. Members were informed that concerns had been raised regarding attachments being installed without approval or structural assessment. Discussions focused on

the potential legal, safety and liability implications should a structural failure or public safety incident occur. Whilst recognising the frustrations experienced by some Parish Councils, Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that any future framework provides clarity regarding responsibilities, compliance requirements and enforcement arrangements.

2.4.6 Members also considered the wider condition and resilience of the borough's lighting column network. Discussion highlighted that a failure to meet structural requirements for additional attachments does not necessarily indicate that a column is unsafe for its primary purpose of supporting street lighting. However, the review identified an opportunity to develop a clearer understanding of asset condition, future investment requirements and the relationship between highway asset management and community use of street furniture.

2.4.7 The importance of communication and stakeholder engagement emerged as a recurring theme throughout the review. Members received an update on engagement with Parish and Town Councils and recognised the need to better understand the practical challenges faced by local councils and community groups. The review highlighted concerns relating to communication, consistency of information and understanding of requirements, reinforcing the need for closer partnership working as the review progressed.

2.4.8 Members concluded that there was a need for a clearer and more transparent policy framework governing attachments to lighting columns. The development of comprehensive guidance, supported by amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan, was identified as a key outcome of the review. Members considered that future guidance should clearly define permitted and prohibited attachments, approval requirements, roles and responsibilities, testing expectations and enforcement arrangements. Such an approach would support consistent decision-making, improve understanding amongst stakeholders and help balance community aspirations with the Council's statutory duties as Highway Authority.

2.4.9 In summary, the first meeting highlighted the complexity of balancing public safety, asset management responsibilities and community expectations. Whilst Members recognised the value that attachments such as hanging baskets, festive decorations and commemorative displays bring to local communities, there was consensus that a more structured, proportionate and transparent framework was required. The meeting established the key lines of enquiry that would underpin the remainder of the review, including structural safety, stakeholder engagement, policy development, communication arrangements and lessons that could be learned from the approaches adopted by other local authorities.

2.5 **Parish and Town Council Engagement and Feedback**

2.5.1 Members considered feedback gathered through direct engagement with Parish and Town Councils, including discussions held with Parish Clerks and information submitted in advance. The purpose of this engagement was

to better understand the practical implications of the Council's requirements and to identify opportunities to improve future arrangements.

2.5.2 Survey responses demonstrated the widespread use of lighting columns for community purposes. Fourteen Parish and Town Councils responded to the survey and, of the 24 responses received overall, 92% reported using lighting columns for hanging baskets, 79% for remembrance poppies, 63% for festive decorations and 33% for CCTV installations.

2.5.2a The Review Group also noted that awareness of the requirements was not universal. Whilst 67% of respondents believed that permission and structural assessments were required before attachments could be installed, 21% were unsure and 13% believed that no permission or testing requirements applied. Members considered that this highlighted the need for clearer communication and greater consistency in the information available to stakeholders.

2.5.3 The Review Group noted that there was broad recognition amongst Parish and Town Councils of the importance of maintaining public safety and ensuring that attachments to lighting columns do not compromise highway infrastructure. However, concerns were raised regarding the implementation of the requirements, particularly in relation to timescales, procurement arrangements, communication and affordability.

2.5.4 A recurring theme from stakeholder feedback was the perception that the existing process was complex and burdensome. Survey responses indicated that 54% of respondents found the process difficult or very difficult to navigate, whilst only 13% described it as easy. Members heard concerns relating to delays in obtaining information and approvals, uncertainty regarding costs, and the administrative burden associated with identifying lighting columns and completing application requirements. Whilst the Council had sought to simplify arrangements through the introduction of a coordinated procurement process, Parish and Town Councils expressed a desire for clearer communication, defined timescales and greater certainty regarding the steps required to obtain approval. Members recognised that an effective policy framework would need to be supported by straightforward guidance and a transparent application process.

2.5.4a Members were particularly concerned by the impact that uncertainty surrounding the requirements had already had on community initiatives. Survey responses indicated that approximately half of respondents had experienced delays or cancellations to planned activities as a result of testing requirements or associated costs. The Review Group noted that many Parish and Town Councils had already entered into contractual arrangements for hanging baskets, festive displays and related services before the requirement for structural testing became fully understood.

2.5.5 Members noted that most Parish and Town Councils participating in engagement activities had indicated a preference for the Council to undertake procurement of structural testing on their behalf. This was viewed as potentially reducing administrative burdens and improving consistency

of approach. However, the discussions also highlighted the importance of ensuring that local councils receive regular updates regarding expected testing schedules and timescales for decision-making.

2.5.6 The Review Group also considered concerns raised regarding compliance and enforcement. Members were informed that some Parish Councils had indicated an intention to install attachments without obtaining the necessary approvals. Whilst recognising the frustrations expressed by some stakeholders, Members concluded that transparency around responsibilities, liabilities and consequences for non-compliance would be an important component of any future policy framework.

2.5.7 Overall, the engagement exercise demonstrated a clear willingness amongst Parish and Town Councils to work within an appropriate safety framework. However, the feedback also identified significant concerns regarding communication, implementation, affordability and administrative complexity. Members concluded that future arrangements should seek to balance regulatory requirements with practical delivery considerations, whilst ensuring that local councils are supported through clear guidance, timely consultation and proportionate requirements.

2.6 **Understanding the Scale and Nature of Attachment Usage**

2.6.1 Members considered information provided by officers regarding the extent to which lighting columns are currently used for community and operational purposes across the borough. This evidence was important in helping the Review Group understand the scale of any future testing, licensing and asset management arrangements.

2.6.2 Members noted that the Council is responsible for approximately 36,646 lighting columns across the borough, comprising around 27,888 steel columns and 8,758 concrete columns. The scale and diversity of the asset base reinforced the need for any future framework governing attachments to be proportionate, practical and financially sustainable. Members recognised that arrangements must balance public safety, asset management responsibilities and community aspirations whilst remaining deliverable across a network of this size.

2.6.3 The Review Group learnt that there are 31 Parish and Town Councils within the borough and that a significant number currently utilise lighting columns for activities such as hanging baskets, festive decorations and community displays. Initial indications suggested that at least 17 Parish and Town Councils may wish to continue installing attachments in future years.

2.6.4 Members noted that usage patterns varied significantly between locations, with some Parish and Town Councils making extensive use of lighting columns to support seasonal and environmental initiatives. This highlighted the need for future arrangements to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate differing local circumstances whilst maintaining a consistent borough-wide approach.

2.6.5 The discussions reinforced the importance of establishing accurate records relating to the number, location and type of attachments installed throughout the borough. Members recognised that improved data collection would support future decision-making, help identify infrastructure requirements and contribute to more effective long-term asset management.

2.6.6 The Review Group concluded that a greater understanding of current usage patterns would be essential in informing future policy development and ensuring that any requirements introduced remain proportionate to the level of risk presented by different types of attachment.

2.7 **Learning from Other Local Authorities and Future Policy Development**

2.7.1 Members were keen to understand how other Highway Authorities had responded to similar challenges and whether there were examples of best practice that could inform future arrangements in Rotherham. The Review Group examined examples of policies and guidance adopted by neighbouring and comparable authorities, including the City of Doncaster Council, Derbyshire County Council and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

2.7.2 Despite differences in local processes, Members observed a high degree of consistency between authorities in relation to key requirements. These included the use of licensing or approval processes, the requirement for structural assessments where appropriate, restrictions on certain categories of column and the allocation of responsibility to organisations seeking to install attachments.

2.7.3 Members were particularly interested in how other authorities had differentiated between attachment types and developed proportionate requirements for lower-risk activities. Examples considered by the Review Group included separate arrangements for commemorative poppy displays and simplified approval routes for temporary or lightweight installations. Members recognised that similar distinctions could help improve clarity and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

2.7.4 The examples reviewed also demonstrated the importance of publishing accessible guidance documents that clearly define responsibilities, application requirements, technical standards and enforcement arrangements. Members considered that the absence of a dedicated public guidance document in Rotherham had contributed to confusion amongst stakeholders and that the development of such guidance should form part of the review's recommendations.

2.7.5 A recurring theme across the authorities considered was the need to balance community aspirations with the Highway Authority's statutory duties and liability obligations. Members recognised that whilst community displays contribute positively to local pride and place-making, robust governance arrangements are required to ensure that public assets remain safe and fit for purpose.

2.7.6 The Review Group concluded that there was a clear opportunity for Rotherham to develop a comprehensive policy framework that reflects national guidance whilst addressing local circumstances. The evidence reviewed suggested that improved guidance, clearer processes and a proportionate risk-based approach would help provide greater certainty for communities whilst ensuring the Council continues to meet its legal and asset management responsibilities.

2.8 Further Evidence and Emerging Findings

2.8.1 Emerging Evidence from the Structural Testing Programme

2.8.2 At the final meeting of the Review Group, Members received an update on the progress of the borough-wide structural testing programme. At that stage, approximately 310 lighting columns had been tested, of which only 10 failed assessments for additional loading, representing a failure rate of approximately 3.2%. Members noted that this was significantly lower than had been anticipated from earlier sample testing and provided greater assurance that many existing community initiatives could continue, subject to compliance with the emerging testing and approval framework. The Review Group considered that these results demonstrated the value of undertaking a structured testing programme and suggested that the scale of the issue may be more manageable than originally feared.

2.8.3 Members also considered the variation in testing outcomes between different locations across the borough. Particular interest was expressed in understanding whether failure rates were influenced by factors such as column age, condition, design characteristics or location. The Review Group recognised that the information generated through the testing programme could provide a valuable evidence base, not only for decisions relating to attachments, but also for the Council's wider highway asset management and investment planning processes.

2.8.4 Consistency and Transparency of Future Testing Arrangements

2.8.5 Evidence presented during the meeting highlighted potential variations in inspection and reassessment periods for individual columns. Members noted that some columns appeared to require further assessment after one, three or five years, rather than following a standard interval. Whilst officers agreed to clarify the position, the discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring that future testing arrangements are transparent, evidence-based and readily understood by stakeholders.

2.8.6 The Review Group concluded that stakeholders should be provided with clear information regarding testing outcomes, validity periods, retesting requirements and the reasoning behind different inspection intervals. Members considered that transparency in these arrangements would support confidence in the overall framework and reduce uncertainty for Parish and Town Councils seeking to plan future activities.

2.8.7 **Compliance, Enforcement and Accountability**

2.8.8 The Review Group considered updates regarding unauthorised installations that remained in place despite requests for removal. Members noted that particular concerns existed where attachments had been installed on concrete columns which are unsuitable for structural testing and not considered appropriate for carrying additional loads.

2.8.9 Whilst Members recognised the concerns and frustrations expressed by some stakeholders during the review, there was a clear view that any future framework must be underpinned by fair and consistent compliance arrangements. Members considered that organisations following the agreed processes should not be disadvantaged by instances of non-compliance and that the Council should ensure there is clarity regarding enforcement powers, responsibilities and liabilities.

2.8.10 The potential recovery of costs associated with removing unauthorised installations was also discussed. Members considered that, where legally permissible, recovery of reasonable costs may help reinforce the importance of compliance whilst protecting public resources from avoidable expenditure.

2.8.11 **Long-Term Sustainability and Future Investment**

2.8.12 As the review progressed, Members increasingly focused on the longer-term implications of the emerging testing results. Whilst acknowledging that public safety must remain the primary consideration, the Review Group recognised that testing outcomes may have implications for the continuation of long-established community initiatives in certain locations. Members noted, however, that the overall failure rate emerging from the testing programme was relatively low. Whilst this was encouraging, the Review Group recognised that the impact of individual failures could still be significant in locations where established floral displays or community initiatives relied upon a small number of specific columns.

2.8.13 Members concluded that future arrangements should not focus solely on permissions and testing but should also support consideration of alternative solutions where columns are unable to safely accommodate attachments. These could include alternative display methods, dedicated structures designed specifically for floral displays, or the use of testing information to inform future asset replacement and investment programmes. The Review Group considered that such an approach would support both community aspirations and the Council's wider asset management objectives.

2.9 **Emerging Themes and Key Insights**

2.9.1 **Communication and Stakeholder Engagement**

2.9.2 One of the most consistent themes arising throughout the review was the importance of effective communication and engagement between the Council and Parish and Town Councils. Whilst stakeholders generally

accepted the need for appropriate safety measures, many respondents expressed concern regarding the timing of communications and the limited opportunity to plan for the implications of the new arrangements.

2.9.3 Throughout the review, Members recognised that attachments vary considerably in size, weight, duration and potential impact on highway infrastructure. Evidence gathered through the Parish and Town Council survey demonstrated strong concern regarding the proportionality of the requirements being applied. Of the respondents surveyed, 83% considered the requirements to be either somewhat disproportionate or very disproportionate, whilst no respondents considered them proportionate. Members noted that many stakeholders felt insufficient distinction was being made between lightweight, temporary attachments and larger installations that create more significant structural and safety considerations.

2.9.4 The Review Group concluded that a risk-based framework represents the most appropriate approach to balancing public safety with practical implementation. Members considered that future arrangements should distinguish more clearly between differing categories of attachment, recognising that low-risk commemorative or temporary displays do not present the same level of risk as heavier installations such as hanging baskets, festive decorations, CCTV equipment or speed monitoring devices.

2.9.5 Members further concluded that the proposed categorisation of exempt, conditionally permitted and prohibited attachments would provide a transparent and proportionate framework capable of applying controls according to the level of risk presented. Such an approach would help improve understanding, reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and provide greater confidence that regulatory requirements are both evidence-based and proportionate whilst continuing to protect public safety and the integrity of the Council's highway assets.

2.9.6 **Clarity, Consistency and Transparency**

2.9.7 Evidence gathered during the review demonstrated a desire amongst stakeholders for greater clarity regarding requirements, responsibilities and processes. Survey responses and engagement activity identified uncertainty in relation to approvals, testing arrangements, maintenance obligations, liabilities and enforcement procedures.

2.9.8 Members considered that future arrangements should be supported by a clearly defined policy framework and comprehensive guidance documentation. The Review Group concluded that greater transparency would improve consistency in decision-making, reduce misunderstanding and provide increased certainty for all organisations seeking to utilise lighting columns for community purposes.

2.9.9 **Proportionate and Risk-Based Regulation**

2.9.10 Throughout the review, Members recognised that attachments vary considerably in size, weight, duration and potential impact on highway infrastructure. Evidence indicated a strong desire amongst stakeholders for arrangements that distinguish between low-risk and higher-risk installations.

2.9.11 The Review Group concluded that a risk-based framework represents the most appropriate approach to balancing public safety with practical implementation. Members considered that the proposed categorisation of exempt, conditionally permitted and prohibited attachments would provide a transparent structure capable of applying controls proportionate to the level of risk presented.

2.9.12 **Affordability, Capacity and Deliverability**

2.9.13 The review highlighted concerns regarding both the direct and indirect costs associated with compliance. Stakeholders referred not only to testing costs but also to the administrative burden involved in identifying assets, coordinating testing, obtaining approvals and maintaining records. These concerns were particularly evident amongst smaller Parish and Town Councils operating with limited administrative resources.

2.9.14 Members concluded that future arrangements should seek to minimise unnecessary administrative burdens and make best use of coordinated approaches where appropriate. Borough-wide procurement, shared testing arrangements and standardised processes were identified as opportunities to improve efficiency and secure greater value for money.

2.9.15 **Balancing Public Safety and Community Benefit**

2.9.16 Members were mindful throughout the review of the significant contribution that hanging baskets, festive decorations, remembrance displays and other attachments make to local identity, civic pride and community wellbeing. Evidence gathered from Parish and Town Councils demonstrated strong support for these initiatives and highlighted their importance to local communities.

2.9.17 The Review Group concluded that public safety and community benefit should not be viewed as competing objectives. Rather, the review demonstrated that clear guidance, proportionate controls and effective communication can support the continuation of valued community initiatives whilst ensuring that the Council continues to fulfil its responsibilities as Highway Authority.

2.10 **Conclusion**

2.10.1 The Review Group found broad acceptance amongst stakeholders that appropriate safeguards are required to ensure that attachments to lighting columns do not compromise public safety or the integrity of highway assets.

Evidence gathered throughout the review demonstrated a willingness amongst Parish and Town Councils to work within an agreed framework where requirements are clearly explained, proportionate and consistently applied.

2.10.2 A significant finding of the Review Group was that stakeholders did not generally challenge the principle of structural testing where justified by risk. Evidence gathered through the Parish and Town Council survey, stakeholder engagement, officer evidence and discussions throughout the review indicated broad acceptance of the need to ensure that attachments to lighting columns are managed safely and responsibly. However, concerns were consistently raised regarding the way in which the requirements had been introduced and implemented. In particular, stakeholders highlighted the timing of communications, the limited advance notice provided, uncertainty around responsibilities and costs, and the practical implications for councils that had already set budgets or entered contractual commitments for community display schemes. The Review Group concluded that the long-term success of any future framework will depend not only upon the technical requirements it contains but also upon effective communication, meaningful consultation, transparency and proportionate implementation arrangements.

2.10.3 The Review Group concluded that there is a clear need for a comprehensive and publicly accessible framework that provides certainty regarding approvals, responsibilities, testing requirements, maintenance obligations and enforcement arrangements. Such a framework should be supported by detailed guidance, clear communication arrangements and ongoing engagement with Parish and Town Councils to promote consistency, understanding and confidence in decision-making.

2.10.4 The Review Group further concluded that future arrangements should be founded upon a proportionate and evidence-based approach. Attachments should be considered according to their level of risk, allowing regulatory controls, testing requirements and resources to be focused where they are most needed whilst minimising unnecessary administrative and financial burdens. A risk-based approach would better reflect the differing characteristics of attachments and help ensure that community initiatives can continue where this can be achieved safely.

2.10.5 Members are of the opinion that the review presents an opportunity to establish a clear, proportionate and sustainable approach to the management of lighting column attachments across the borough. By combining robust public safety standards with improved communication, stronger partnership working and greater transparency, the Council can continue to support valued community initiatives whilst fulfilling its statutory responsibilities as Highway Authority. These conclusions directly informed the recommendations contained within this report.

2.11 How the Findings Informed the Recommendations

2.11.1 The Review Group was satisfied that the recommendations contained within this report are directly supported by the evidence gathered throughout the review. The review identified broad support for community-led initiatives such as hanging baskets, festive decorations, remembrance displays and CCTV installations, alongside widespread recognition of the need to ensure that attachments to lighting columns are managed safely and in accordance with the Council's responsibilities as Highway Authority.

2.11.2 Evidence gathered through stakeholder engagement, the Parish and Town Council survey, officer evidence and benchmarking activity identified a number of recurring themes which directly informed the recommendations contained within this report. In particular, the Review Group found that:

- Stakeholders broadly accepted the need for appropriate safety controls and structural assessments where justified by risk but sought improved communication, consultation and implementation arrangements. This finding informed Recommendations 2(c) and 2(g).

- Existing requirements lacked clarity and consistency, resulting in uncertainty regarding approvals, responsibilities, testing requirements and enforcement arrangements. This finding informed Recommendations 2(a) and 2(b).

- A more proportionate and risk-based approach was required to distinguish between differing categories of attachment and the level of risk they present. This finding informed Recommendation 2(d).

- Parish and Town Councils identified administrative burdens and cost pressures associated with testing, approvals and compliance and expressed support for coordinated approaches capable of reducing costs and improving efficiency. This finding informed Recommendation 2(e).

- The emerging results from the structural testing programme suggested that many community initiatives could continue where supported by an appropriate assessment framework, whilst highlighting opportunities to use testing information to support future asset management, investment decisions and alternative solutions where attachments cannot safely be accommodated. This finding informed Recommendation 2(f).

- Concerns regarding unauthorised installations highlighted the importance of clear compliance expectations, responsibilities and enforcement arrangements. This finding informed Recommendation 2(h).

2.11.3 The Review Group concluded that the recommendations represent a balanced and evidence-based response to the issues identified during the

review. Taken together, they seek to improve communication, transparency, consistency and proportionality whilst ensuring that public safety, effective asset management and support for community-led initiatives remain central considerations.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option A: Do Nothing (Not Recommended)

3.1.1 This option would retain the current arrangements without introducing a revised policy framework, additional guidance, enhanced consultation arrangements or changes to approval and enforcement processes.

3.1.2 The Review Group does not support this option as it would not address concerns identified during the review relating to communication, consistency, transparency and uncertainty regarding the management of attachments to lighting columns. It would also fail to provide Parish and Town Councils with the clarity and certainty they requested through the review process.

3.2 Option B: Develop a Comprehensive Policy Framework and Guidance (Preferred Option)

3.2.1 This option would implement the recommendations contained within this report, including amendments to the Highway Asset Management Plan, publication of a dedicated guidance document, clearer categorisation of attachments, enhanced consultation arrangements and a more transparent approval and enforcement framework.

3.2.2 The Review Group considers this to be the preferred option as it provides a balanced approach which maintains public safety, supports community-led initiatives where appropriate, improves communication with Parish and Town Councils, and promotes greater consistency and transparency in decision-making.

3.3 Recommended Proposal

3.3.1 The Review Group recommends Option B and asks Cabinet to consider the recommendations set out in this report and provide a formal response within two months in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation and engagement formed a key part of the review.

4.2 Evidence was gathered through:

- Scrutiny Review Group meetings.
- Officer briefings.
- Meetings with Parish Council representatives.
- A Parish Council survey.
- Examination of practices used by other councils.

4.3 Results from the survey and engagement activities demonstrated broad support for community initiatives but also highlighted concerns regarding communication, affordability and implementation.

4.4 The findings from this consultation have directly informed the recommendations contained within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Accountability for considering and implementing any recommendations arising from this report will rest with Cabinet and the relevant officers, subject to Cabinet's determination of its response to the scrutiny review.

5.2 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Cabinet is required to formally consider and respond to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board within two months of receiving this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, create an immediate financial commitment. Any financial or procurement implications arising from Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations would need to be fully assessed and costed by the relevant service areas as part of the development of Cabinet's response and any subsequent implementation proposals.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, give rise to any immediate legal implications. Any legal implications arising from Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations would need to be considered as part of the development of Cabinet's response.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, give rise to any immediate human resources implications. Any such implications arising from Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations would be considered as part of the development of Cabinet's response.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, give rise to any immediate implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults. Any such implications would be considered as part of the development of Cabinet's response.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, give rise to any immediate equalities or human rights implications. The recommendations are intended to support a more transparent, consistent and proportionate approach to managing attachments on lighting columns across the borough.

10.2 Any equalities or human rights implications arising from Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations would be assessed by the relevant service areas as part of the development of Cabinet's response and any subsequent implementation proposals, including consideration of whether a full Equality Impact Assessment is required.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The recommendations contained within this scrutiny review do not, in themselves, give rise to any immediate implications for CO_2 emissions or climate change. Any environmental or climate-related impacts associated with future asset replacement, testing programmes or implementation proposals arising from Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations would be assessed by the relevant service areas as part of the development of Cabinet's response.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The recommendations have significant implications for Parish and Town Councils, who are the principal users of lighting columns for hanging baskets, festive decorations, commemorative displays and CCTV installations.

12.2 The proposed arrangements aim to provide greater certainty, transparency and consistency in decision-making.

12.3 The recommendations also have implications for community organisations, volunteers and suppliers who support local events and initiatives. Improved communication and clearer guidance should assist these organisations in planning and delivering activities more effectively.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The review identified several key risks:

- Structural failure of lighting columns carrying additional loads.
- Public safety incidents.
- Unauthorised attachments.
- Financial pressures on Parish and Town Councils.
- Damage to relationships between the Council and local communities.
- Inconsistent decision-making caused by unclear guidance.

13.2 The recommendations seek to mitigate these risks through:

- Risk-based structural testing arrangements.

- Clear categorisation of permitted, conditionally permitted and prohibited attachments.
- Improved consultation and communication.
- Publicly available guidance.
- Consistent approval and enforcement processes.
- Better use of testing information to inform future asset investment and replacement programmes.

13.3 The Review Group considers that these measures provide the most balanced approach to protecting public safety whilst continuing to support the community-led initiatives that contribute positively to the borough's towns and villages.

Accountable Officer
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Barbel Gale, Governance Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

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This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1 - Summary of the Parish Council Responses to Scrutiny Review Survey

The survey was conducted between **28 May and 30 June 2026** and received **24 responses** from representatives of **14 Parish and Town Councils**. Respondents were mainly Clerks (54%), with additional responses from Chairs/Vice-Chairs and Councillors.

Current Use of Lighting Columns

Parish and Town Councils make extensive use of lighting columns for community initiatives:

- **Hanging baskets** – 92% of respondents
- **Remembrance poppies** – 79%
- **Festive decorations** – 63%
- **CCTV equipment** – 33%
- Smaller numbers reported event signage and flags.

Most of these uses are **seasonal and longstanding**, particularly hanging baskets, Christmas decorations and remembrance displays. Several councils indicated they intended to continue these activities in future years.

Awareness of Permission and Testing Requirements

Two-thirds (67%) believed that permission and/or structural assessments were required, but a significant minority were either unsure (21%) or believed they were not required (13%).

When asked how easy the process was:

- 54% found it difficult or very difficult.
- Only 13% described it as easy.
- One-third felt it was neither easy nor difficult

Key Concerns Raised

A strong and consistent theme throughout the responses was concern about the **timing and communication** of the new structural testing requirements. Many councils stated they were informed only after:

- Budgets for 2026/27 had been set.
- Hanging basket contracts had been agreed.
- Orders had been placed with suppliers.

Common challenges identified included:

- Lack of advance notice.
- Uncertainty about testing costs.
- Delays in obtaining information and approvals.
- Lack of clarity about the process and requirements.
- Administrative burden of identifying columns and completing applications.
- Concerns about the impact on community displays and local suppliers.

Impact on Parish Activities

Half of respondents reported that initiatives had already been **delayed or cancelled** because of the new requirements or associated costs.

Many councils reported having hanging baskets, festive displays or contractor arrangements ready to proceed but being unable to progress until testing arrangements were confirmed.

Views on Proportionality

There was a clear view that the requirements were excessive for lightweight and temporary attachments:

- 83% considered the requirements either **somewhat disproportionate** or **very disproportionate**.
- No respondents considered them proportionate.

Several respondents questioned the evidence base for mandatory testing, noting the apparent lack of incidents involving hanging baskets or festive decorations, while others felt the approach should be more proportionate according to the type, age and weight of attachments.

Appendix 1 - Summary of the Parish Council Responses to Scrutiny Review Survey

Suggestions for Improvement

The most frequently suggested improvements were:

1. **Earlier communication and consultation** with parish councils before introducing new requirements.
2. **Clear written guidance** explaining requirements, approved columns, costs, timescales and responsibilities.
3. **Greater cost transparency**, including indicative testing costs.
4. **RMBC coordinating testing centrally**, using a borough-wide contractor to reduce costs and administrative burdens.
5. **Financial support or cost sharing**, particularly given that budgets had already been set.
6. **A transitional period** to allow existing contracts and displays to proceed while testing arrangements are implemented.

Overall Conclusion

The survey demonstrates broad support among parish councils for maintaining community initiatives such as hanging baskets, festive decorations and remembrance displays. While most respondents accepted the need for safety requirements, there was widespread concern about the way the structural testing requirements were introduced. The strongest messages from the survey were the need for better communication, earlier engagement, clearer guidance, proportionate requirements and reduced financial and administrative burdens on parish councils.

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Children and Young People's Strategy

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

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

Report Author(s)
Helen Sweaton Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality
helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board is part of the Rotherham Together Strategic Partnership alongside the Health and Wellbeing Board, Strategic Housing Forum, Business Growth Board, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, and the Cultural Partnership Board.

Following a pause during the Covid pandemic the Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPPB) was re-launched in November 2023 as a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance, where young people set priorities, challenge leaders, and co-produce solutions alongside senior leaders across the partnership.

In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed to develop a strategy that shows how important children and young people are in Rotherham, what is great about Rotherham from a children and young people's perspective and what the Board are going to do to make it even better.

This report provides an overview of current activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure children and young people's voices are influencing priorities, informing challenge to leaders and co-producing solutions across the partnership.

The report outlines the key activity undertaken in developing the new Children's Strategy, including a needs analysis focused on things that are important to children and young people, consultation and engagement and co-production.

The report seeks endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy and outlines the timeline for implementation to achieve the aims identified.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the activity to date of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance, where young people set priorities, challenge leaders, and co-produce solutions alongside senior leaders across the partnership.

2. Endorse the Rotherham Children's Strategy for implementation from October 2026.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Children's Strategy
Appendix 2 Children and Young People's Priorities Summary
Appendix 3 Engagement and Consultation Summary
Appendix 4 ILSC Minutes Children's Strategy
Appendix 5 Equality Analysis
Appendix 6 Part B Equality Impact Analysis
Appendix 7 Carbon Impact

Background Papers
None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Improving Lives Select Commission - Children and Young People's Partnership Board 28th April 2026

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Children and Young People's Strategy

1. Background

1.1 Purpose of the report

1.1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Provide an overview of current activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure children and young people's voices are influencing priorities, informing challenge to leaders and co-producing solutions across the partnership.

- Seek endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy 2026 – 2030 and outline the timeline for implementation to achieve the aims identified.

1.2 Context

1.2.1 Prior to the pandemic the Children and Young People's Partnership Board Terms of Reference reflected an adult led, children's services agenda with 4 Youth Cabinet attendees. The minutes and action log demonstrate that the consultation-focused engagement approach at that time did not consistently enable Children and young people in Rotherham to influence the strategic decisions that shape their lives.

1.2.2 The Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPPB) was refreshed following the pandemic to shift from an adult decision-making forum offering opportunities for engagement and consultation with children and young people, to a co-chaired, youth-led forum embedded in Borough governance.

1.2.3 The CYPPB is now a Borough-wide strategic partnership forum for children and young people from diverse groups to directly influence senior leaders across Rotherham.

1.2.4 Meeting in the Council Chamber at Rotherham Town Hall, co-chaired by a young person and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the Board brings together children and young people from a variety of council and voluntary and community sector groups including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups and care-experienced young people.

1.2.5 Termly board meetings (with flexible attendance to maximise inclusion) are supplemented by workshops when needed.

1.2.6 Young people review and shape priorities within the Rotherham Plan and key system strategies, providing challenge, insight, and co-produced solutions.

1.2.7 Young people are supported to build confidence, lead agenda items, question decision-makers, and see tangible change from their contributions.

1.3 **Outcomes aligned to Children and Young People's priorities**

1.3.1 Since November 2023, the CYPPB has been busy turning ideas into action. There are lots of examples of things they have achieved.

1.3.2 **Say NO to Vapes!**
Following a presentation on smoking cessation for children and young people, CYPPB challenged the Public Health specialists from Rotherham Council, who then launched a 'Rotherhamised' campaign about vaping – spreading awareness and keeping young people healthy.

1.3.3 **Nature Recovery**
A presentation regarding activity promoting nature recovery led to CYPPB making recommendations, and officers in the Council committing to:

- Creating a Climate Action Group for young people to get involved in protecting the planet.

- Providing more volunteering opportunities for young people to help nature thrive that are age appropriate.

1.3.4 **Toilets Shouldn't Be Locked**
One of the represented groups raised the locking of school toilets in a meeting. Following this, CYPPB challenged schools about locking toilets with support from Public Health and the Lead Member for Children and Young People. Some schools responded and even changed their policies so not all secondary schools lock toilets now. However, many did not respond.

1.3.5 **Safer Travel**
When the community safety team presented their plans for improving safety in the town centre, CYPPB explained that because transport does not feel safe, it can be difficult to get to the town centre. The Chance Group shared their video about the buses, and the Young Inspectors took action. They:

- Designed a bus questionnaire
- Inspected the bus station
- Influenced campaigns for safe cycle lanes

1.3.6 **Standing Up Against Hate**
The Hate Crime Team presented their work in schools around Hate Crime. Following CYPPB challenge, they extended support to home-educated young people. They also:

- Shared the Hate Crime Pledge
- Displayed Youth Cabinet guidance on reporting hate crime in the community

1.3.7 **Mental Health Matters**
Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust talked about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). They proposed some

suggested changes based on consultation and engagement with children and young people which the CYPPB approved, and so CAMHS introduced:

- A new referral form
- A self-referral process
- Plans for a drop-in service designed with young people

1.3.8 **Young People's Voice influencing Plans**
Thanks to CYPPB, 'Safety' and 'Having fun things to do' are now priorities in the Council Plan. CYPPB also influenced priorities in the Rotherham Plan, setting themes to improve life for local people and places.

1.4 **Shaping Rotherham's Future**

1.4.1 In January 2025, the groups represented at the Children and Young People's Partnership Board each presented their priorities for children and young people across the Borough and reviewed these against the work of the other thematic partnerships.

1.4.2 Some priorities were not clearly the responsibility of any of the other Partnership Boards. These priorities and suggested actions are now reflected in the key aims and outcomes proposed for the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.

1.4.3 It was agreed that children and young people need to continue to have a voice and be listened to across the Rotherham partnership. CYPPB members committed to continue to scrutinise the progress against the actions identified in the new Rotherham Plan identified as priorities for children and young people. They will provide support and challenge to the officers responsible to ensure Rotherham is a place for children and young people to be proud of throughout the borough.

1.4.4 Although having fun things to do has been agreed as a Council plan priority, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board want to make sure the fun things to do also help children and young people learn more about other cultures and religions to help them celebrate different occasions together, like Eid and Diwali. Partnership Board Members committed to communicating ongoing events and opportunities (including youth clubs' / community activities) on a greater scale so that young people know what is happening in Rotherham and to create guidance for youth club providers to ensure their offer includes relevant activities and support.

1.4.5 The Children and Young People's Partnership Board felt it was important for children and young people to feel proud of the place they live and shout about it. In July 2025, they agreed to develop a Strategy that shows how important children and young people are in Rotherham, what is great about Rotherham from a children and young people's perspective and what is being done to make it even better.

1.5 **Proposed next steps**

1.5.1 Endorsement is sought for the Rotherham Children's Strategy 2026 – 2030. This will set the key aims for the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and provide an opportunity for children and young people to show why they are proud to live in Rotherham and how important they are.

2. Key Issues

2.1 **Developing the Children's Strategy**

2.1.1 At the July 2025 meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, it was decided to develop a strategy showcasing what young people are proud of and why it is good to grow up in Rotherham.

2.1.2 To ensure the Strategy reflected the views of children and young people, the Board agreed to engage with their peers and conduct a survey across the Borough. This was promoted by Family Hubs, Family Information Webpages, GPs, Libraries and at the Rotherham Show. The survey closed on 30th September 2025. 259 children and young people responded to the survey.

2.1.3 On 1 October 2025, members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board came together at Dalton Youth Centre for a Children's Strategy Workshop. The workshop brought together young people with different lived experience from across Rotherham, with representatives from Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, In Care Voice and Smiles for Miles.

2.1.4 The children and young people considered lots of other strategies to get ideas for their own Strategy e.g. how long it should be, what content is relevant and important, what the design should look like.

2.1.5 During the workshop, young people worked together to write a draft introduction to the Strategy, chose the examples they wanted to include in the Strategy to demonstrate that Rotherham values children and young people, selected the data they felt was most relevant to describe children and young people in Rotherham, what it is like to live in Rotherham and what could be used to demonstrate the impact of the Strategy. The workshop concluded by agreeing the content of the draft Strategy and the appropriate next steps, informing the development of the Rotherham Children's Strategy.

2.2 **Guiding Principles**

2.2.1 The Strategy has been co-produced. Children and young people have led the development in line with the principles of the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones): 1. Welcome and care, 2. Value and include, 3. Communicate, 4. Work in partnership.

2.2.2 To ensure genuine co-production, the Lead Member for Children and Young People has led the required structural change to agenda setting, facilitation, and environment. It is acknowledged that investing in young people's

confidence is critical and quality participation must not be compromised. Opportunities to influence change must be real and relevant.

2.2.3 The Children and Young People's Partnership Board has shifted the way the partnership works with children and young people, moving away from consultation to shared power. Young people are not just heard; they influence and shape strategic decisions at system level.

2.3 Analysis of local need

2.3.1 Children and young people reviewed the available information about Rotherham and selected what they felt was most important and relevant to children and young people to be included in the Strategy.

2.3.2 Rotherham's estimated population is 271,195 with 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 adults over 60. 31,193 people are from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population). Of these, the Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British.

2.3.3 The results from the 2025 Lifestyle Survey (a survey completed by children in years 7 and 10) show that 62.8% of children completing the survey rated their mental health as either excellent or good, 58.5% said "I am comfortable with my body image" and 39.8% have been bullied in the past 6 months. 46.9% said they ate fruit and/or vegetables more than once per day, 17.3% of students said they never eat breakfast, 12.9% drink one high-sugar fizzy drink per day, 28.2% drink one high-energy drink per week and 10.7% have either used or created a betting account.

2.3.4 Under 64.5% of children under 5 are at a good level of development. The Best Start Plan aims to increase this to 73.3% by 2028.

2.3.5 70% of Rotherham is open countryside. Rotherham has lots of green space, including urban and country parks, nature reserves, and woodlands. There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractions last year, including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's Valley, and Magna. Rotherham has a strong voluntary and community sector. There are around 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in Rotherham and tens of thousands of volunteers.

2.3.6 259 children and young people responded to a survey carried out at Rotherham Show, Family Hubs, Children's Centres, Rotherham Council reception areas, Schools, GPs, Pharmacies, Healthwatch networks, Voice & Influence Groups and across 14 voluntary and community sector networks. 77% of children have strong connections to family and friends. 60% of children chose spending time with family and friends as their favourite thing to do. 36.29% of children think Rotherham would be better if there were more fun things to do (examples included more museums, zoos, shops and arcades), 53.67% if it felt safer, 53.67% if it was cleaner, 25.1% if there was improved access to health services, particularly mental health, 31.66% if the transport across Rotherham was better and 28.19% if there was more support for young

people e.g. more ways to learn, increase skills, more careers advice and pathways to work.

2.4 **Rotherham Children's Strategy Actions**

2.4.1 Based on the analysis of local need, the following priorities are identified:

1. Continue to scrutinise the Rotherham Plan.

To keep Rotherham a family friendly Borough, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board will make sure children and young people continue to influence decision making and service delivery in Rotherham, challenging and supporting adults.

2.4.2 **2. Develop a Youth Club Curriculum.**

To improve the support available to children and young people attending community groups and youth clubs, CYPPB will develop a toolkit for workers to use to talk about things that are important to children and young people.

2.4.3 **3. Create opportunities for children and young people to develop content to improve communications with children and young people.**

To help more children and young people know about the fun things to do in Rotherham and the work the Council and other organisations do to make it cleaner and safer, CYPPB will improve communications.

2.4.4 The Rotherham Children's Strategy details how each action will be delivered (when and what) and the impact under each aim. The Rotherham Children's Strategy is included as Appendix 1.

2.5 **Governance**

2.5.1 The Rotherham Together Partnership will monitor progress against the Rotherham Children's Strategy actions. Overarching responsibility will sit with the Lead Member for Children and Young People who will report into the Rotherham Together Partnership.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1:** Not endorsing the Rotherham Children's Strategy will mean the Children and Young People's Partnership Board do not have a transparent, published Strategy and plan.

3.2 **Option 2 (preferred option):** Endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy will ensure children and young people's voices are influencing priorities, informing challenge to leaders and co-production of solutions across the partnership. This will mean the Children and Young People's Partnership Board have a Strategy and plan in line with the other members of the Rotherham Together Partnership.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Development of the co-produced Strategy has been led by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.

4.2 To ensure the Strategy reflected the views of children and young people, the Board agreed to engage with their peers and conduct a survey across the Borough. 259 children and young people responded to the survey. This consultation feedback was used by the members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to develop the priorities in the Strategy.

4.3 On 28 April 2026, Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) members attended the Children and Young People's Partnership Board for pre-decision scrutiny of the Rotherham Children's Strategy.

4.4 Angel, one of the young people, gave a brief overview of the Strategy and highlighted the pertinent points. Councillor Sutton welcomed the presentation and appreciated both the content and the way it had been presented. A young person asked for social media and online safety to be included within the Strategy, as this was an important issue. A majority vote agreed to include content on social media and online safety. Members volunteered several suggestions on how the Strategy may be improved before it was presented to Cabinet for approval. The suggestions included adding a little more detail to some of the statistics to make them more meaningful for impact, identification of where support was available for young people and expansion of some information in the narrative. The final draft Strategy presented to Cabinet is reflective of these changes (full ILSC minutes are attached at Appendix 4).

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1
- Approval of the Rotherham Plan 2026 – 2036 – June 2026.
- Endorsement of the Rotherham Children's Strategy– October 2026.
- Implementation of the actions in the Rotherham Children's Strategy– ongoing.
- Review of the Rotherham Children's Strategy– March 2028.
- Review of the Rotherham Together Partnership initial two-year delivery plan – 2028.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council or CYPS budgets from the implementation of the actions in the Rotherham Children's Strategy. The Rotherham Children's Strategy is intended to be delivered through existing partnership arrangements, governance structures, and services' delivery plans (and resources). The Strategy therefore has no immediate financial impact on the Council's approved revenue budget.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Should there be a need to engage a third party provider to support delivery of the Strategy, they must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts

Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Council has a range of statutory duties in relation to children and young people including under the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Education Act 1996, the Children and Families Act 2014 and Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Rotherham Children's Strategy supports the Council and its partners in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people, encouraging their participation in decision-making, and supporting effective partnership working across the Borough. The Strategy is consistent with the Council's duties to have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people when developing policies, services, and strategic priorities.

7.2 The development of the Strategy has been informed by consultation and co-production with children and young people from a range of backgrounds and experiences. This approach is consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty contained within section 149 of that Act.

7.3 The Strategy is a high-level, non-statutory, strategic document which establishes priorities and intended outcomes and does not create enforceable rights, obligations, or entitlements. Implementation of individual actions arising from the Strategy should continue to be undertaken in accordance with the Council's constitutional arrangements, procurement rules, financial regulations, information governance requirements, and any relevant statutory duties.

7.4 There are no legal implications raised by following the recommendations at 3.2 above.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no immediately identified HR implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Rotherham Children's Strategy aligns with key local partnership priorities and plans reinforcing the involvement of children and young people in strategic decision making, including the Council Plan 2025-30, Rotherham Plan 2026 - 2036 and The Rotherham Together Partnership thematic boards and strategic plans.

9.2 The Strategy describes how children and young people and partners will work together to ensure the impact of delivery of plans means that Rotherham is a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equality and human rights are considered within the Strategy.

10.2 An equalities impact assessment is attached at Appendix 5 and 6 to this report.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Wider consideration of indirect implications or unintended consequence of work in this area on CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change is considered across all partners as the Council are committed to long term targets to mitigate these areas of concern in the Borough. An environmental impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 7 to this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 These are referred to in the Strategy. The Strategy describes how children and young people and partners will work together to ensure the impact of delivery of plans has a positive impact for children and young people across the Borough.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks identified during the delivery of the Rotherham Children's Strategy will be raised by the Lead Member for Children and Young People with the Children and Young People's Service Directorate Leadership Team and where mitigation is not effective, this will be escalated through the Rotherham Together Partnership Safeguarding Chairs meeting.

13.2 There is a risk that children and young people may choose not to engage in the Children and Young People's Partnership Board which would prevent delivery of the Strategy. The investment in universal youth activities and voice and influence work across the Borough to build relationships with children and young people to develop their skills and confidence will support quality participation. The changes made to the structure of the meetings including the changes to agenda setting, facilitation and environment support continued engagement, and co-production.

14. Accountable Officers

Helen Sweaton – Joint Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	15/09/26
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

Report Author: *Helen Sweaton Joint Service Director, Commissioning, Performance and Quality*
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This report is published on the Council's website.

ROTHERHAM
CHILDREN'S STRATEGY



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Borough Council

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I. INTRODUCTION

Hello!

In Rotherham children are important, they are listened to and respected as partners when decisions need to be made.

This strategy is all about what a great place Rotherham is for children and young people to grow up and how we will work together to make it even better. It's been created by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board – young people who represent different voice and influence groups and adults who support them. The Board listens to Children and Young People, checks how things are going, makes plans, and makes changes to improve life for everyone growing up in Rotherham.

Since the first meeting in November 2023 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board has made lots of changes to make Rotherham even better.





Created a Rotherham campaign to stop vaping


Created a climate group for young people


Wrote to schools to challenge locking toilets


Increased nature recovery activities

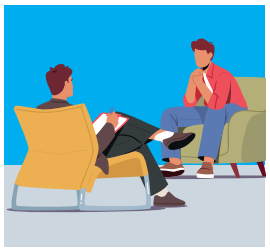

Inspected the bus station



Extended the offer from Hate Crime Team



Included safety and having fun things to do


Launched new referral and self-referrral process



Influenced priorities for services

This Strategy is written by Children and Young People in Rotherham for Chidlren and Young People in Rotherham.

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board

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2. OUR ROTHERHAM

There is lots of information about Rotherham available but this is what we think is most important about us and our Borough.

Estimated population of 271,195



47,100 children (under 15)



68,600 over 60s



31,193 people from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population)

The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British.

Mental Health Impacts

62.8% rated their mental health as either excellent or good

58.5% said "I am comfortable with my body image".

39.8% have been bullied in the past 6 months

10.7% have either used or created a betting account

Food and Drink Consumption

46.9% said they ate fruit and/or vegetables more than once per day

17.3% of students said they never eat breakfast

12.9% drink one high-sugar fizzy drink per day

28.2% drink one high-energy drink per week

*Data from the 2025 Lifestyle Survey Results

2. OUR ROTHERHAM

70% of Rotherham is open countryside. Rotherham has lots of green space, including urban and country parks, nature reserves and woodlands.



Under **64.5%** of children under 5 at a good level of development. The Best Start Plan aims to increase this to 73.3% by 2028.





Rotherham has a strong voluntary and community sector. There are around 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in Rotherham, and tens of thousands of volunteers.

There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractons last year, including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gullivers Valley, and Magna.



Strong transport links



Young people have a good understanding of where to access support, including:

- Sexual health advice
- School nurses
- Family and friends

Every year there is a survey that asks young people in year 8 and year 10 lots of questions. The young people completing the survey tell us things about growing up in Rotherham.



3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT IN ROTHERHAM

All of the Rotherham Together Partnership Strategies and plans include actions to make Rotherham a great place for us to grow up.



Baby packs delivered to families


£1.8m for watersplash and other play areas


120 creative traineeships (part-time paid) have been create through the Children's Capital of Culture)


Support to form healthy habits through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy


375 activities with young people through the Rotherham Cultural Strategy


3,000 new opportunities by 2026

3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT IN ROTHERHAM



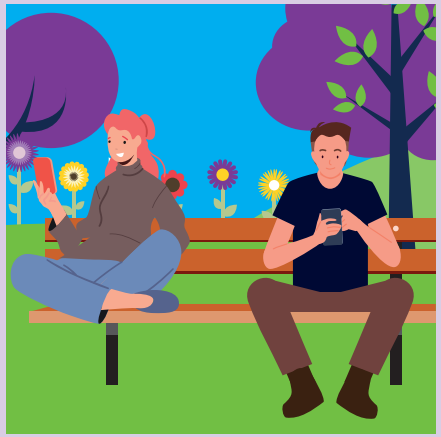
Vape awareness sessions have been delivered to 4,000 students in schools.



Between 2022 to 2025, £887,428 worth of illegal tobacco and vape products were removed from Rotherham shops.



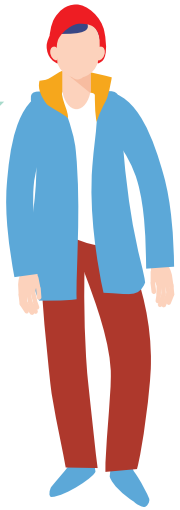
As a result of increased patrols, unacceptable behaviour and anti-social behaviour has reduced by 50% (over the last 2 years).



Training and awareness sessions help young people stay safe online. Future plans will increase awareness of issues like smartphone usage and social media.

4. ROTHERHAM IS A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP BECAUSE...

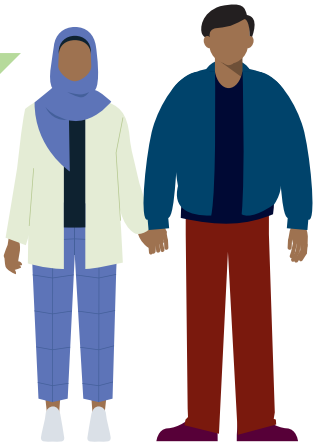
It listens to kids and young people. Its good because they want young people to be heard.



Rotherham is good because its improving buildings.



It listens to kids and young people. Its good because they want young people to be heard.



It has fun things to do like guiding voices.



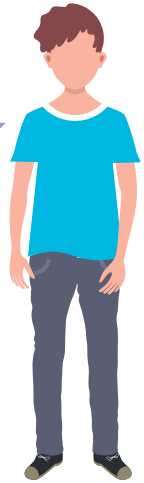


Inclusivity – arms forces parade, pride parade – everyone is recognised.

There are many activities to do and wide variety of food places to stop at, it also has nice places like Clifton Park. Rotherham has much diversity in its ethnicity and religion, helping people to understand others to unite.



We have a very nice cinema and parks with historical sites like Wentworth Woodhouse, Keppel's Column and Meadowhall near. Also, there are a lot of youth cabinets and activities.



They have nice calming places, places of variety, beautiful areas. It has a huge religious span including inclusivity, beautiful buildings like the minster, other buildings.



All clubs are fun!



Encourages youth groups to voice the silent kids.



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4. ROTHERHAM IS A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP BECAUSE...



We have lots of great places to go, 259 children and young people in Rotherham responded to our question about where their favourite places are.


Staying at home



Parkgate shopping


Cinema


Clifton Park


School / college


Gulliver's Theme Park


Country Parks



Football grounds


Library


Youth sessions

5. ROTHERHAM IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY BOROUGH

77% of the 259 children have strong connections to family and friends



60% of the 259 children chose spending time with family and friends as their favourite thing to do

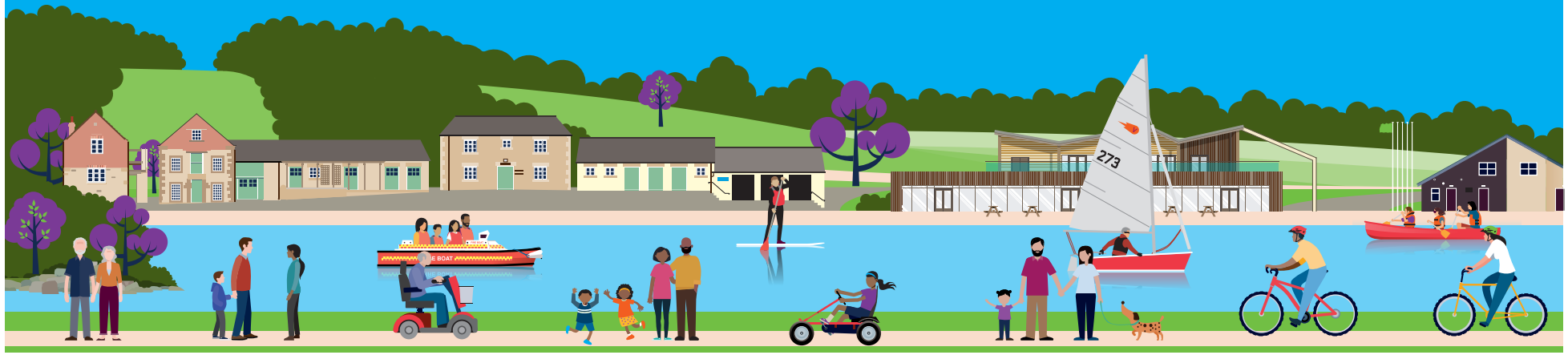


Lots of the favourite places are places families go to together.

Parks, nature reserves, and outdoor spaces provide safe and enjoyable environments for families to spend time together.

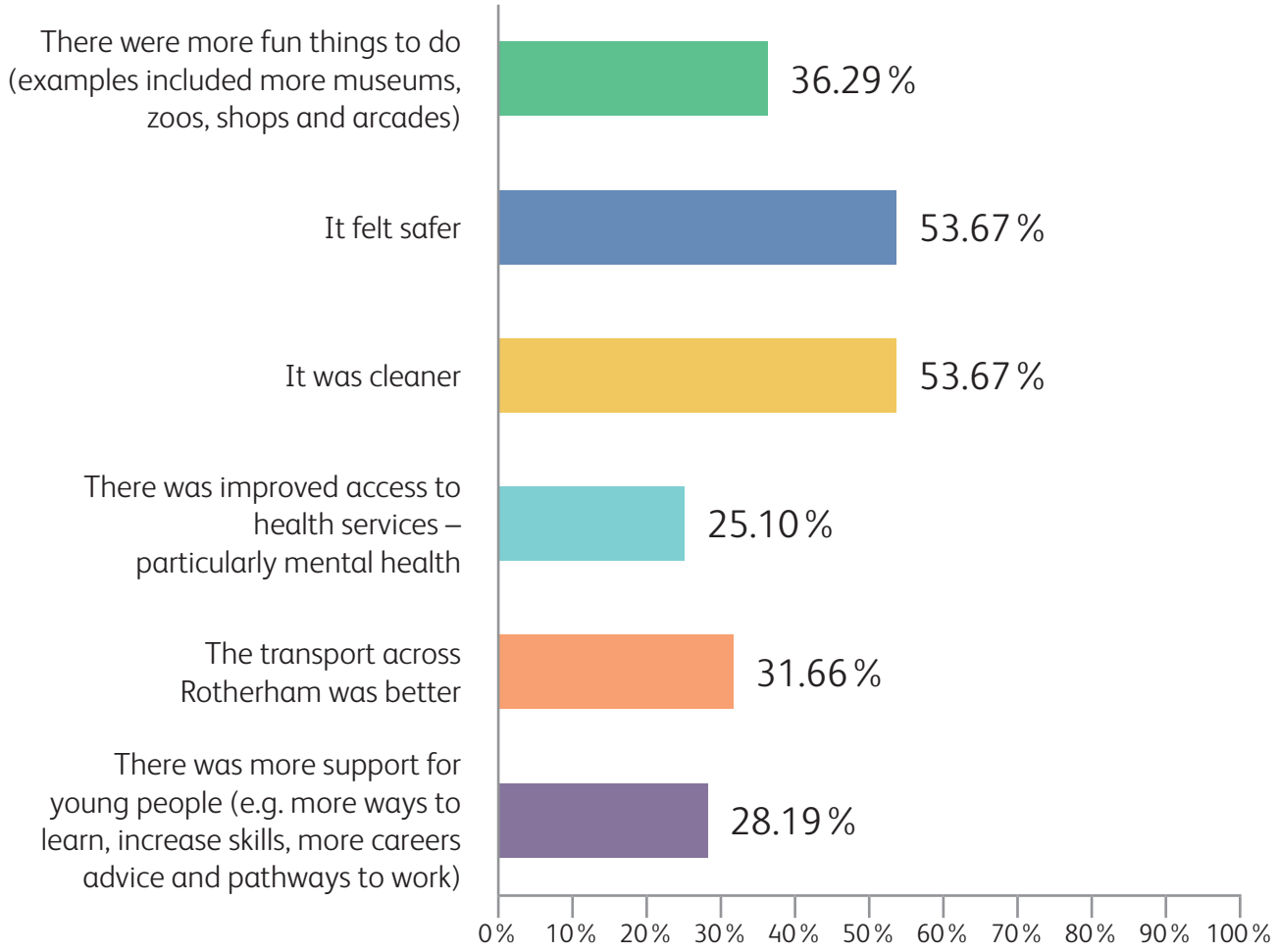
Events and activities often target families, especially those with younger children.

There is support for parents and carers to help them when they need it.



6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THINK ROTHERHAM COULD BE EVEN BETTER

We think Rotherham is great, children and young people are important, there is lots for us to do and we feel supported. We asked 259* children and young people in Rotherham what would make it even better.



Top 3 answers

1. It felt safer (joint)	54%
2. It was cleaner (joint)	54%
3. There were more fun things to do	36%

*A survey was carried out at Rotherham Show, Family Hubs, Children's Centres, Reception Areas, Schools, GP's, Pharmacy's, Healthwatch networks, Voice & Influence Groups and across 14 voluntary and community sector networks.

The percentages shows how many of the 259 children and young people agreed with the statement. They were given the option to tick more than one answer to the questions, and this is reflected in the percentage scores.

7. WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO

OUR AIM

To keep Rotherham a family friendly Borough we will make sure children and young people continue to influence decision making and service delivery in Rotherham, challenging and supporting adults.

OUR ACTION

Continue to scrutinise the Rotherham Together Plan.

How we will achieve this:

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board will meet four times a year. A representative from each Board reporting into the Rotherham Together Partnership will be invited to attend each meeting. We will challenge and support the representatives to make sure that their plans are delivering the things that are important to children and young people, including making Rotherham cleaner and feel safer, having more fun things to do, making transport better and getting more support for young people (e.g. more ways to learn, increase skills, more careers advice and pathways to work and improving access to health services).

How you will know we are making a difference:

After every meeting we will publish a report that shows what we talked about, the new actions we agreed to make things even better and progress against all actions.

OUR AIM

To improve the support available to children and young people attending community groups and youth clubs we will develop a toolkit for workers to use to talk to us about things that are important to us.

OUR ACTION

Develop a Youth Club Curriculum.

How we will achieve this:

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board will meet four times a year. During the meetings in Easter term and summer term we will work with adults to develop a curriculum that community groups and youth clubs can use to work with children and young people. The curriculum will include toolkits for topics including healthy eating, vaping awareness, bullying and cultural education.

How you will know we are making a difference:

We will publish the curriculum and ask the Children and Young People's Consortium to share it with community and youth groups.

7. WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO

OUR AIM

To help more children and young people know about the fun things to do in Rotherham and the work the Council and other organisations do to make it cleaner and safer we will improve communications.

OUR ACTION

Create opportunities for children and young people to develop content to improve communications with children and young people.

When and what:

In 2026 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board will work with adults in the Council to create a job specification for two part time youth communications officers in the Council aimed young people aged 16 to 19 (25 if SEND or care experienced). The Children and Young People's Partnership Board will also work with adults to develop the necessary training and guidance to support children and young people to create 'content' to be used to communicate with other children and young people.

Impact:

We will have youth communications officers and support and training for children and young people to submit 'content'.



8. APPENDIX: AVAILABLE SUPPORT

If you need help with anything mentioned, check out the links and contact details below to find the right place to get support.

To find out about **fun things to do** (like clubs and societies, creative activities, dance activities, days out, sports activities and youth clubs) visit **Family Activities Directory.**

To find out about events in Rotherham visit **Events.** Also check out events and opportunities at **Childrens Capital of Culture.**

Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) supports young people through targeted youth projects and volunteering opportunities.

Early Help work with children, young people and families to offer support and advice when it's most needed. Visit **Early Help** or call 01709 334905.

If you **feel unsafe or are worried** about a child or young person, tell a trusted adult straight away. This could be someone in your family, or someone else that you trust, such as a teacher. Contact Early Help via the **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub** (MASH) on 01709 336080. If you are in immediate danger, call the police on 999 straight away.

If you need someone to talk to, you can visit **ChildLine** or call 0800 1111 – 24 hours a day.

For information about keeping safe online there are lots of helpful tips and resources for young people, parents and professionals on the **Safeguarding Children Partnership** and **Safer Rotherham Partnership** websites.

If you need **mental health support**, contact:

- **Rotherham CAMHS RDaSH**
  Providing a variety of resources, self-help information and useful links or call 03000 21598.
- **Rotherham CAMHS/ Parent Plus eClinic app**
  Free instant messaging service for young people aged 11 to 18 years to self-refer and a drop-in clinic for parents, carers & professionals.
- **With me in mind**
  Mental health support teams operate in schools for ages 5 to 19 years.
- **Kooth**
  Free, anonymous online mental health support, including counselling, for young people aged 10 to 25 years.
- **Rotherham and Barnsley MIND**
  Providing mental health support, both locally and nationally, including one-to-one counselling, group sessions and support for young people or call 0300 123 339.
- Resources and more information are available on the **Local Offer** under Support in Education tab.
- **Epic Friends** helping you to help your friends who might be struggling to cope emotionally.

Support can be provided or arranged by your School.

8. APPENDIX: AVAILABLE SUPPORT

If you are under 25 with a special educational need and / or disability **(SEND)** and you would like help, advice and information about services visit **www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk**.

For Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support visit the **Rotherham SENIASS Service**.

We want a **clean Rotherham**, if you spot somewhere that needs cleaning, or want to report fly-tipping, graffiti, problems on a road, pavement or footpath, report online at **www.rotherham.gov.uk** or call 01709 382121.

Rotherham's local offer for children and young people leaving care provides information about all the support and services available.

For information about **transport** visit **www.travelsouthyorkshire.com** or call 0800 952 0002.

If you need help deciding what **education, employment or training** pathway is right for you visit **Early Help** or call 01709 334905.

If you are interested in joining the Children & Young People's Partnership Board or a Voice & Influence Group like the Young Inspectors email **voiceandinfluence@rotherham.gov.uk**.

If you are interested in joining Youth Cabinet email **rotherhamyouthcabinet@rotherham.gov.uk**.

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Children and Young People Partnership Board



On Monday 27th January 2025, we met in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, and Ashaz from the Rotherham Youth Cabinet chaired our partnership board with Cllr Cusworth. We introduced ourselves and told the group our name, where we go to school or work and what we think is the best snack. We had lots of favourite snacks, like crisps, chocolate, fruit and cake, and even raspberry ripple ice cream.

We moved downstairs to the John Smith's room so we could all give our presentations on what our priorities are from the Rotherham Together Plan.







Young Inspectors told us that their top priorities were building stronger communities, A place to be proud of and Inclusive Economy.

They told us that if communities are supported to become stronger and support each other, Climate and Health and Wellbeing will be supported as a consequence. They thought that it was important that people talk to other people, as not everyone wants to access information by an app or QR codes and felt that there should be more information in schools and community groups about Hate Crime and other Anti-Social Behaviour. Communities should also be supported to have more celebratory events that make their communities proud to showcase what is being achieved locally.

The Young Inspectors said that they want to say, 'we are from Rotherham', because sometimes it feels embarrassing to say this. They don't feel that we celebrate what we have, and we do have some wonderful places in Rotherham, like Country Parks, Gulliver's and one of the oldest buildings in South Yorkshire, the Minster. They felt to improve Rotherham, we need to improve the town centre and persuade some of the shops to re-open. They want to make the town centre vibrant again and be a place where people want to come.

The Young Inspectors told us why they'd picked Inclusive Economy. They feel that if young people can stay and learn in Rotherham it would help them have their needs met. Colleges and universities could offer better courses, so young people don't have to choose Sheffield or other cities and have to make choices outside of Rotherham. They also felt that there

should be more opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships for those that don't want to stay in education, as well as more part time jobs being available for young people. Young people may then want to stay in Rotherham and contribute to making Rotherham a place to be proud of.



Smiles for Miles told us about their priorities from the Rotherham Together Plan. They had picked Building Stronger Communities, Health and Wellbeing and Climate and Environment.

They told us that youth clubs were really important to making the community stronger, as it means there's somewhere fun for young people to go that's safe and comfortable. This can help to keep young people off the streets where things can end up being dangerous, providing them with a trusted adult to talk to. It's good because young people can talk to these adults about subjects that matter to them without judgement, and it also helps young people mix with different people and learn about other cultures and religions. If they are local and available across Rotherham, young people don't have to rely on travel which is often a barrier.

They told us about Health and Wellbeing, and how there should be a mixture of support in and outside of school so that there's choice of who to speak to. It is important that the support is young person focused, and it could perhaps use other methods to help young people open up, like music, games and drawing. Parents should also get help, so they know how to support young people. Another thing is that young people feel the transition between mental health support for children to adults needs to be longer, as it moves at a time that is really difficult when everything else is changing too.

For Climate and Environment, Smiles for Miles told us that we should plant more trees. We need air to live, and trees give us air. If places are dirty, young people might not want to spend time out in nature, which doesn't help young people, as spending time in nature and going for walks makes young people feel better. There isn't anyone else that is going to help nature, so we need to stand up to protect it and be careful of destroying animal habitats.



Guiding Voices were next to present. As a group, Guiding Voices shared their thoughts on all areas of the Rotherham Together Plan.

For Inclusive Economy, it was felt that SEND young people need more opportunities for work and employment because it is hard to find a job, and even harder when you have an additional need. Employers may need help to understand how to make environments for SEND young people and the resources that they might need. The SEND Futures Fair is a way to help young people find support and the pathway that they need and will help to build an inclusive economy.

The Climate and Environment is also important and SEND young people thought it important to focus on developing renewable energy, as well as planting and rewilding areas to help the environment. Young people's wellbeing may be improved by creating green spaces to go. We need to have campaigns to help people understand the problems of climate change and how they can help.

Young people with SEND should have readily available support for their health and wellbeing, and they explained how Guiding Voices had discussed this and spoke about how accessing support can be difficult because you have to explain yourself over and over again to different people. It's the same with filling out lots of forms. They said that work needs to happen to prevent people from reaching crisis point as sometimes support is only available when a young person has reached crisis which is too late. A good idea would be to host walking and talking events to help young people talk about their feelings and make connections with other people, at the same time as experiencing nature which is good for mental health.

To build stronger communities, it's important to improve the local area CCTV and make it visible so that people feel safe. It would also help to co-produce with SEND young people. We know that things do happen in Rotherham, but young people don't always seem to know about them so this could be worked on. It's important to keep reaching out to SEND young people in accessible ways and websites should be checked for accessibility. We need to work together to not leave SEND young people feeling isolated and lonely.



Rotherham Youth Cabinet were next to present. They told us that their priorities were A Place to be proud of, Climate and Environment and Health and Wellbeing.

One of the manifesto aims of Rotherham Youth Cabinet is to help young people be proud of Rotherham. The town centre can sometimes feel lifeless and since there is a lot of time and money being invested in Rotherham, young people should play a key part in the decision-making process of how these resources should be used. Young people carry out lots of positive work around Rotherham and this should be promoted. It would be good to celebrate all the amazing events the town brings.

The climate and environment is key because it affects young people's future and health. It is really important that we act now to make a change. They told us that we could encourage renewable energy use and the installation of solar panels and more green spaces would be advantageous.

The Rotherham Youth Cabinet wanted to prioritise Health and Wellbeing because it is felt that there is a mental health crisis around school stress, which isn't helped by the long waiting lists for support. Exercise and other positive activities should be promoted, and it would be good if there was more information to stop people smoking and vaping.



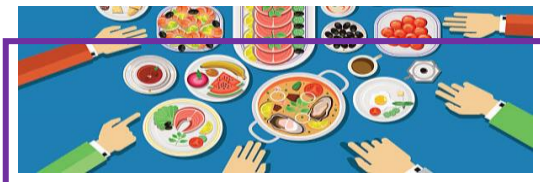
The final presentation was from Gemma who helps support the With Me in Mind Ambassadors. Their top priorities were Mental Health and Wellbeing, Safety in the Community (Building Stronger Communities) and Equal Access to resources (Inclusive Economy).

Gemma told us that With Me in Mind feel it's important to feel safe and supported mentally to achieve things in other areas of our lives and said there should be a focus on supporting people with school and college stress, especially managing homework and schoolwork. It would be good if teaching staff also had a better understanding of this.

For safety in the community, With Me in Mind told us it was important to mention bullying and anti-social behaviour. It would be helpful if there was better street lighting and CCTV as well as more organised activities for people to do like going to Youth Clubs. Green spaces like parks should be clean and tidy and Safety Spots could be made available throughout Rotherham, where there is a trusted adult so young people can go to one if they feel unsafe

when they are out. Perhaps more education on how bullying and anti-social behaviour effects the victim would help too.

Their last key priority was equal access to resources, as not everyone has lots of digital equipment and the other resources young people need to complete their work at home. It would be good if libraries could be modernised and made into nicer environments for young people to access so that they get equal opportunities. These could have books, digital equipment and stationery as well as information on services available for young people. It was thought that these could be called digital hubs, as it may help how young people perceive libraries. It was also mentioned that the adults that work there also need to understand who might come to use the space and stop judging groups of young people. Drop ins could also be held so young people don't need to travel to lots of different places for different things and they could also be used to host clubs and taster sessions for young people to get involved in.



We then had a networking tea and had chance to talk to other children and young people at the meeting, as well as some of the adults.



Whilst we were networking and having some food, Laura and Helen collated what we had said and put lists of the main points onto our tables for us to discuss. We then worked together to make a decision on the top three priorities on our table ready to feedback.



We all thought that there needed to be more support before crisis, and that mental health support should be easier to access, as support was often offered too late. If self-referral forms were taken more seriously, that might help.

We also spoke about some of the gaps we think there are, like for boys under 18 and when we transition from a young person to an adult, because we find the gap tough. We think it's really important that schools are more aware of health and wellbeing, and that more councillors might help.

It would be good if there were safe spaces around the community with trusted adults, or within school, which is particularly hard now that schools lock the toilets. Sometimes it's important for us as young people to leave the room when things are getting a little bit too much, and this should be facilitated.

Our actions:

1) **Have easier access to support, for physical health like stopping smoking and fitness opportunities, as well as Mental Health.**
2) **Have a diagnostic centre for Mental Health.**
3) **Understand the pathway of how we transition from young people to adults within the service.**
4) **Encourage schools and parents to be more aware of Mental Health and the struggles we are facing as young people.**
5) **Ensure there are safe spaces for young people to go when they need help.**
6) **Walking and talking events to help us understand our feelings and improve our connections.**

We all know that the environment and climate are important, as things that happen now will impact us in our later life.



We would like to reduce pollution and make sure that we are re-wilding in Rotherham.

It would be nice if there was a bigger focus on keeping areas clean, so perhaps more bins could help, and we could plant more trees to make our green spaces nicer, as we know having spaces to go also helps our mental health.

Perhaps having smoke/vape free outdoor zones would also make being outside more pleasant.

Our actions:

1) **Learn more about what's being done to tackle pollution, what forms of renewable energy are used in the borough and how we can help.**
2) **Create safe outdoor spaces to help improve our mental health.**
3) **Have more bins in areas that could be cleaner.**
4) **Implement smoke/vape free outdoor zones.**

We spoke about our communities and thought about what we would like to see within them to make them stronger. We thought it sounded better to think of this as 'bringing local people together', as this felt more accessible to us.

We want to make sure there are places young people can go to share experiences and have fun and thought Youth Clubs were extremely important for this and that it would be good to see more of them, they might also stop trouble and help to lower crime rates. It would also help us learn more about other cultures and religions and would help us celebrate different occasions together, like Eid and Diwali. It would be good if we could come together to improve our connections and friendships.

We want to feel safe in our communities to the introduction of safety spots in the borough could help where young people know there will be a trusted adult that they can talk to if they feel unsafe.

Our actions:

1) **Learn about the existing youth clubs available in the borough and consider where we might need more youth clubs.**
2) **Look to understand different cultures, religions and celebrations so that we can come together and share experiences.**
3) **Have safety spots available within the borough with trusted adults.**
4) **Improve safety within the borough, making sure there's enough CCTV and street lighting.**
5) **Learn about the impact of the victim when bullying takes place through social media.**

We've been told that there's lots going on in Rotherham, like the Children's Capital of Culture, and lots of events like music festivals, parades and film festivals.

A Place to be Proud of

There should be more promotion of these so we know what's happening and can feel proud of the place that we live in. The socialisation will bring people together.

Our actions:

1) **Rejuvenate abandoned buildings like Argos.**
2) **Celebrate the things we have in Rotherham more, like the green spaces and Clifton Park Museum.**
3) **Communicate ongoing events and opportunities more so that young people know what is happening in Rotherham.**

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

We know that it's important for Rotherham to be inclusive and think that a lot of things we discussed interlink into other areas.

We want to bring people together and ensure there's opportunity for everyone in Rotherham. There should be more work experience and better links to career paths which should create more jobs in the area, especially part time jobs. This would help people have a purpose and a role in the community and bring people together.

We spoke about how not all people have access to the same things, and how community spaces should be available, so everyone has the choice to use computers, Wi-Fi, stationery and books.

Our actions:

1) Expand courses at colleges and develop apprenticeships to help provide opportunity for young people and encourage them to stay in Rotherham.
2) Introduce Digital Hubs to provide a safe and accessible space for young people to use without judgement.
3) There should be more support in y10 and y11 to help young people figure out what they can do and help them see their pathway.
4) There should be more work experience opportunities available to young people.
5) Clearer information on access to work for SEND young people.
6) The Futures Fair should continue.

After we fed back our opinions, we voted to decide our collective three top priorities.
These are:

1) **Building Stronger Communities**
2) **Health and Wellbeing**
3) **Climate and Environment**





We ran out of time for Helen to tell us what we did after the last meeting, but we received a presentation afterwards which told us about the updates on our actions.

The presentation told us that colleagues in Public Health were feeding the information we provided about tackling vaping in school toilets into the next headteachers meeting where they were planning to see what responses the headteachers had to our concerns.

We also found out that the vandalised metal chairs at the bus station had been replaced with foam chairs, and new posters had been developed for information sharing and new processes put in place for improved support from South Yorkshire Police with a Mobile Anti-Social Behaviour Team being employed.

In terms of the Council Plan, Tanya has told the board that she will keep us informed about what decisions have been made and the impact that we've had on the council plan, and that both safety and children and young people having fun things to do are being considered as part of this process.

CAMHS are working on their Thrive Service Improvement work and will facilitate a launch. This will help us understand what CAMHS do. CAMHS have also launched a new referral form, ensuring there is an element of child's voice, and CAMHS are engaging with the Young People's Advisory Group around what a drop-in service could look like.

Children and Young People's Strategy – Engagement and Consultation Summary

In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board decided that they wanted to develop a strategy, showcasing what young people are proud of in Rotherham and why it is good to grow up here. "*We said that there were loads of things we could shout about, like youth clubs, leisure centres, Clifton Park, how it's culturally inclusive, the green spaces, Grimm and co, museums, our local accent, Pride festivals, Wow festival, Uplift festival, the Arc cinema, the food options we have, historical buildings, Gulliver's, and how there is plenty to do like the splash zone and bike tracks".* (Children and Young People's Partnership Board minutes)

Initial consultation was carried out at Rotherham Show on the 6th and 7th September 2025 whereby a survey was launched with children and young people to gain their views. Accessed via a QR code, with a catchy title of 'Children & Young People, We Need Your Help! By answering five questions about what's important to you', the survey included:

- I feel proud to live in Rotherham because
- My favourite adults/grown-ups in Rotherham are
- My favourite things to do are
- My favourite places to go are
- I would like living in Rotherham more if

Following Rotherham Show the survey was cascaded out across Family Hubs, Children's Centres, websites, reception areas, GP's, Pharmacy's. Libraries, Schools Newsletter, healthwatch networks, voice and influence groups and across 14 voluntary and community sector networks. The survey closed on 30th September ready to take the results to a Children's Strategy Workshop on 1st October 2025.

Children and Young People's Strategy Survey Results:

259 children and young people, between the ages of 5 and 25, took part in the survey.

The main age ranges of participants included 35% between the ages of 16 and 17, 20% were 10 and 11 year olds, 16% were 8 and 9 year olds and 14% were 12 and 13 year olds.

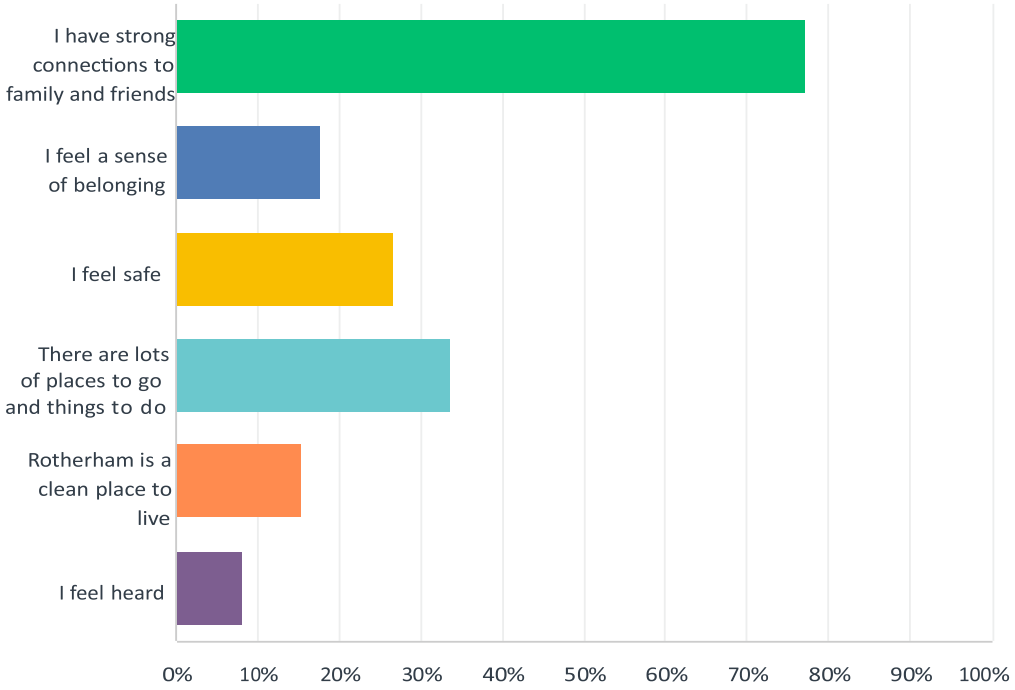
54% of participants think of themselves as 'girls', 42% as 'boys', 3% 'preferred not to say' and 1% described themselves 'in another way'.

79% of participants described their ethnic background as 'White British', 5% 'preferred not to answer', 3% stated 'other white background' and 13 children and young people described their ethnicity from a range of backgrounds such as Pakistani, African, White and Asian.

32% of participants have a disability or a condition which has lasted or expected to last for at least 12 months. Of which, 49% have a learning disability, 29% have a mental health condition and 24% have a long-term illness or health condition.

Children and young people were given the option to tick more than one answer to each of the questions and this is reflected in the percentage scores.

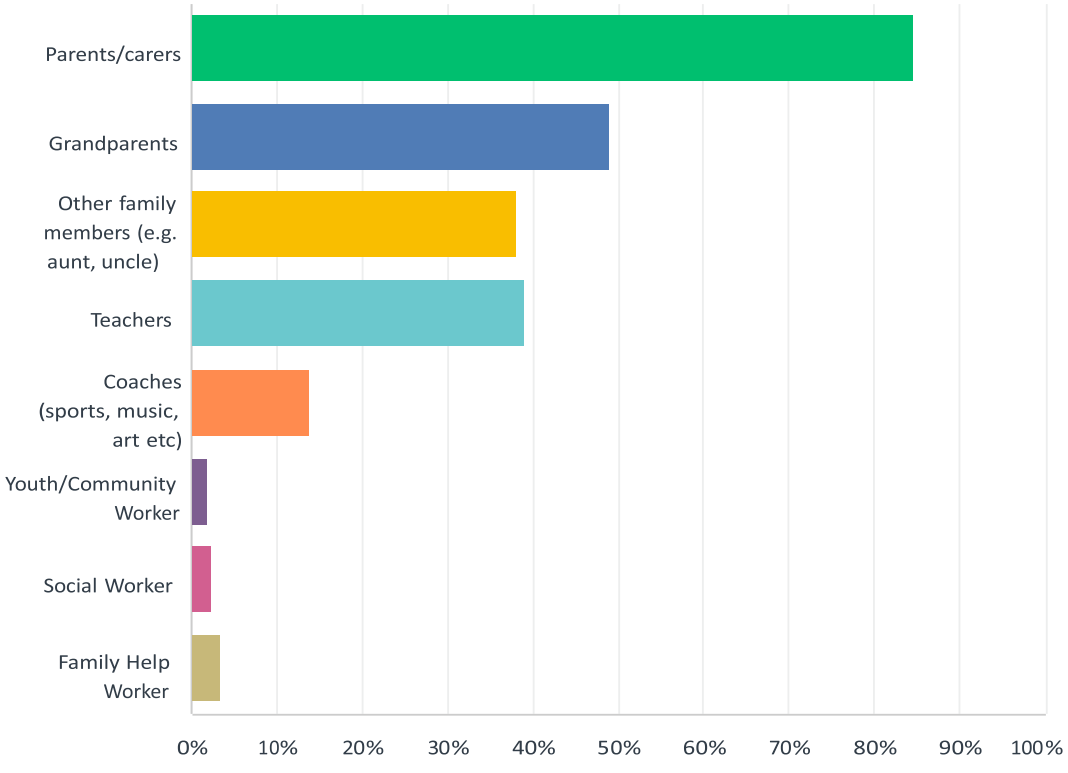
Children and young people feel proud to live in Rotherham because:



Top 3 answers:

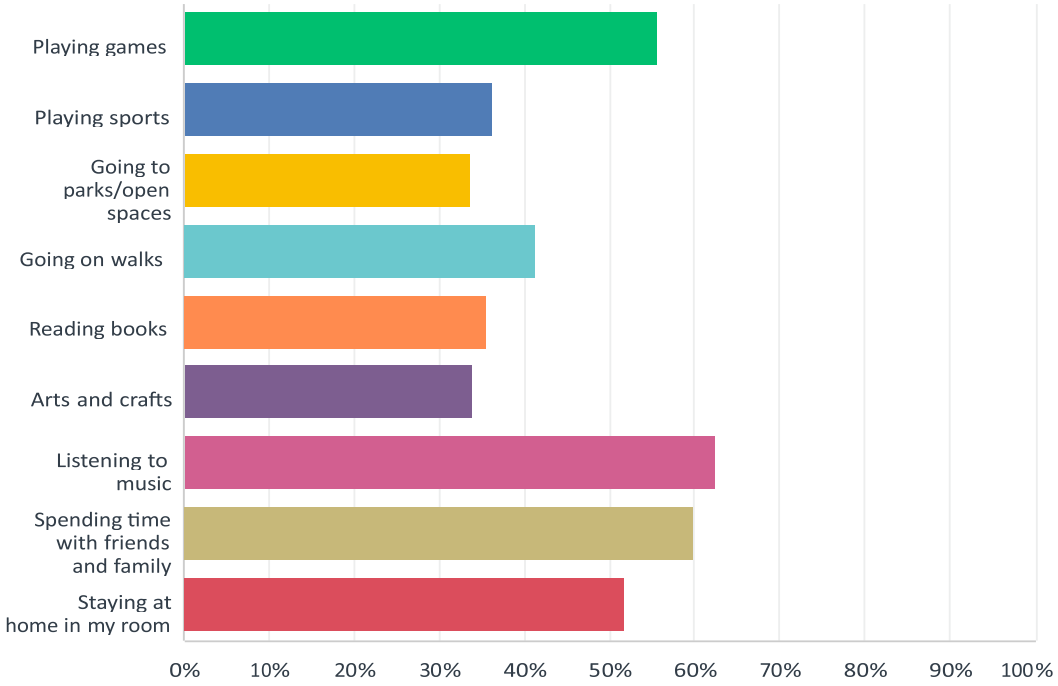
1. I have strong connections to family and friends (77%)
2. There are lots of places to go and things to do (34%)
3. I feel safe (27%)

Children and young people's favourite adults/grown-ups are:



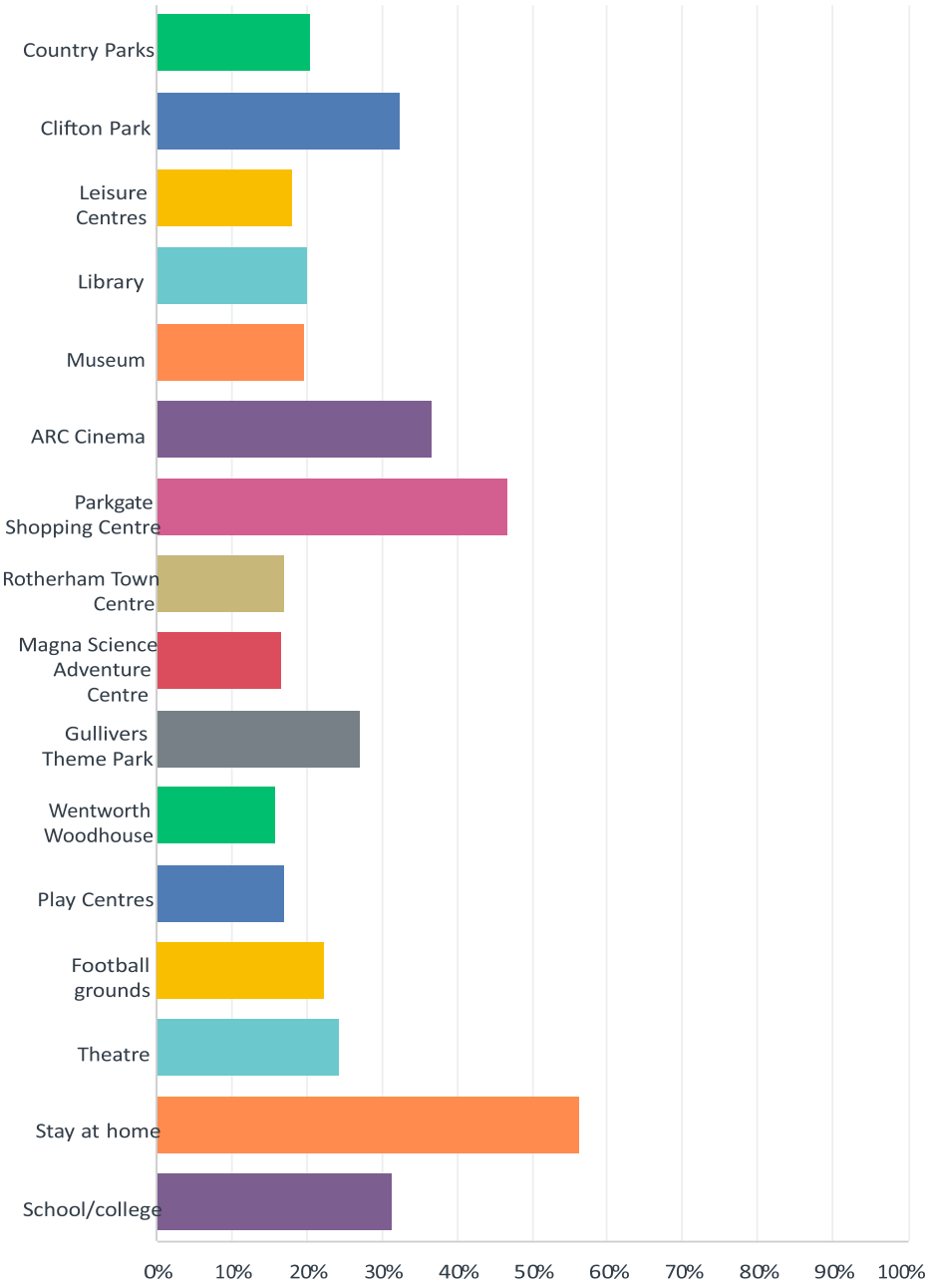
Top 3 answers:
1. Parents/Carers (85%)
2. Grandparents (49%)
3. Teachers (39%)

Children and young people's favourite things to do are:



Top 3 answers:
1. Listening to music (63%)
2. Spending time with friends and family (60%)
3. Playing games (56%)

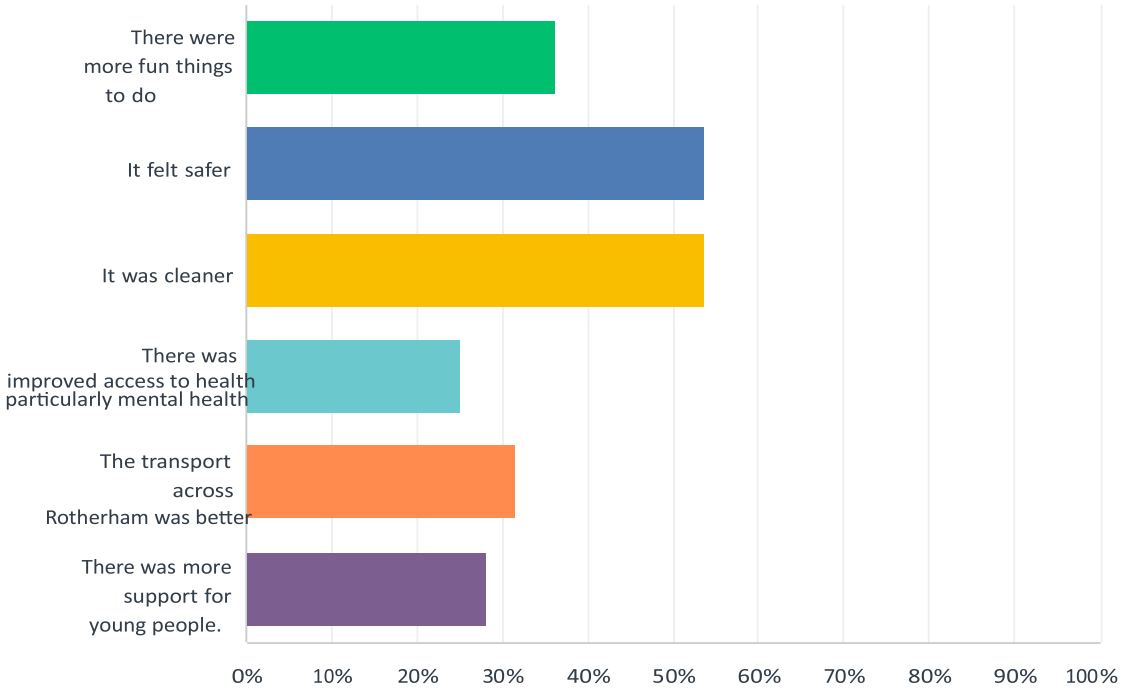
Children and young people's favourite places to go are:



Top 3 answers:

1. Stay at home (56%)
2. Parkgate Shopping Centre (46%)
3. ARC Cinema (37%)

Children and young people would like living in Rotherham more if:



Top 3 answers:

1. It felt safer and it was cleaner (joint) (54%)
2. There were more fun things to do (36%)
3. The transport across Rotherham was better (32%)

Additional views and comments included:

Safety:

- I would like Rotherham to be less unsafe and has a friendly environment for disabled and young children.
- I would also say that especially a place that close to schools, the town centre is not doing great. When you look at hospital or Clifton parks side, there lovely. But especially the drunk people and people who randomly come up to you and enforce their religious beliefs on you are creating a big problem around Rotherham. Don't get me wrong, I adore Clifton Park, Grimm& Co, the library and the arc cinema (especially its prices - they're really student friendly compared to Meadowhall and etc) but there are some factors that ruins all of these.
- Rotherham has gotten a scarier place to live within the last few years. There are more drug problems, violence and gangs around the streets. I just wish it felt safer to go out. For example, I'm worried to go in parks and such because some areas are a bit dodgy now and there's a lot of people about who aren't exactly friendly. Theres plenty of nice people but I think a lot of people, like me, would agree that it feels unsafe sometimes to go out.
- Rotherham town centre is bad and scary, and places aren't safe for me and my friends or our parents.
- It is very dodgy near Parkgate.

Fun things to do – more:

- Museums, zoos, grass areas
- Shops
- Mc Donald's, Starbucks, Cinemas, Arcades
- Play areas, parks
- Teachers listening pupils More help teacher More people/understanding/listening

Children and Young People's Strategy Workshop:

On 1st October 2025, a workshop was held with young people to analyse the feedback from the survey and to start writing the strategy. 13 young people took part in the workshop, representing the following voice and influence groups:

- Young Inspectors
- Youth Cabinet
- In Care Youth
- Smiles for Miles
- Guiding Voices

Workshop Feedback:

Rotherham is a great place to grow up because…

- We have a very nice cinema and parks with historical sites like Wentworth Woodhouse, Keppel and Meadowhall near. Also, there are a lot of youth cabinets and activities.
- They have nice calming places, places of variety, beautiful areas. It has a huge religious span including inclusivity, beautiful buildings like the minster, other buildings.
- Encourages youth groups to voice the silent kids.
- Inclusivity – arms forces parade, pride parade – everyone is recognised.
- Of family and friends
- It has nice green spaces
- Also, people have a lot of family in Rotherham
- All clubs are fun
- It has fun things to do like guiding voices
- It listens to kids and young people. Its good because they want young people to be heard.
- Rotherham is good because its improving building
- There are many activities to do and wide variety of food places to stop at, it also has nice places like Clifton Park. Rotherham has much diversity in its ethnicity and religion, helping people to understand others to unite.

Additional comments from the survey:

- Rotherham is the best place I have ever lived in
- There is lots of food restaurants for me
- There's lots of kind people

- I feel respected and accepted for who I am
- I get to see my friends and have fun with them
- Because it's a place of happiness

Rotherham will be even better when…

- It becomes cleaner – parks, glass everywhere, loads of rubbish
- Get a Rotherham cleaned up – get paid
- Tell youth workers problems and easy access to report
- More mental health support
- Better transport
- Safer criminals

Additional comments from the survey: I would like living in Rotherham more if:

There were more sports facilities:

- Like tennis and badminton near where I live
- More skate parks
- More places to play football
- Variety of activities, bowling, mini golf
- Ice skating
- More activities aimed at teenagers
- Martial arts and self-defence
- I would really like for youth clubs to be somewhere more interactive e.g. magna, jump

There were more events:

- Music venues for gigs
- Festivals
- Places for music festivals - would have to have diverse music, personally I enjoy rock and mosh pits etc but rap pop every genre should be represented
- Free entertainment for teenagers

There was more support for mental health:

- More support in schools

How Rotherham values children and young people:

Extracts from other plans the young people would like to include in the strategy include:

<u>Council Plan:</u>

- In Rotherham around 2,740 babies are born each year. We are delivering baby packs to Rotherham families to ensure every family has essential items from the beginning of the child's life.
- £1.8 million has been given to improve the watersplash area at Clifton Park and play areas across Rotherham until 2027.
- 120 creative traineeships (part time paid jobs) have been created through the Children's Capital of Culture since 2022.

Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy:

- Vape awareness sessions have been delivered to 4000 students in schools.
- Between 2022 to 2025 £887, 428 worth of illegal tobacco and vape products were removed from sale.
- As a result of increased patrols, unacceptable behaviour and anti-social behaviour reduced by 50%.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy:

- Support is provided to people to form healthy habits, reducing unhealthy alcohol use and vaping.
- Support is provided to people to manage long term conditions like asthma and diabetes

Rotherham Cultural Strategy:

- 375 activities have been co-produced with young people, attracting 357,000 participants in the build-up to Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025.
- By 2026, we will create 1500 new volunteering opportunities, 100 new apprenticeships and 1500 new jobs in the creative, digital, cultural, leisure and tourism sectors

Suggestions around values include:

- They have many good places for kids, but they need more for teenagers.
- Promote videos or news articles showing the effects of vaping, smoking and drinking like heart diseases, kidney failure, long term failures and addiction.
- Try reaching out to schools or convincing the council to fund mental health helpers in school so that kids that are not recognised can finally receive the help they actually need.
- Instead of mentioning obesity rates as it might sound mean you could promote sport, leisure centres, or reach into schools to promote afterschool sports.
- Get schools to promote more healthy options to decrease obesity rates, also makes children youth workers and schools to promote a good sense of responsibility.
- Produce a series of videos about anti-social behaviour and how it can cause consequences.
- Capital of culture – 120 jobs = amazing – should spread around South Yorkshire.
- More support sessions for teens who are struggling with mental health would be better.
- Water park money could be used for youth sessions and for slides and entertainment.
- Some young people need support more than others
- Vapes should be banned in every school because students leave school and start vaping. So what about the kids with heart conditions and asthma, wont this develop their developing bodies and young adults should have support for this so they don't go onto alcohol when they are stressed.

Since the Children and Young People's Partnership Board started in November 2023, so far, it has influenced:

1. Created a 'Rotherhamised' campaign about vaping
2. Created a climate action group for young people to attend
3. Increased nature recovery volunteering opportunities which are also age appropriate
4. Wrote a letter to schools challenging them about locking toilets
5. The Young Inspectors developed a questionnaire about buses and inspected the bus station feeding back concerns around safety with the transport team and they influenced the campaign around the use of safe cycle lanes
6. Hate Crime Team extended their offer to those who are not educated in school (elective home education service). The Hate Crime Pledge has also been shared, as well as the guidance that the Youth Cabinet developed on how to report hate crime so that these can be displayed in the community.
7. 'Safety' and 'Having fun things to do' were included in the Council Plan as a result of the young people's voice
8. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) launched a new referral form and self-referral process and agreed to work with young people on what a drop in service would look like
9. Influenced priorities in the Rotherham Together Plan (themes to focus on over the next few years to deliver improvements for local people and places)

This is what it is like to live in Rotherham…

Extracts from other plans the young people feel will be of the most interest to include in the strategy include:

- 70% of Rotherham is open countryside
- Rotherham's wealth of green space, in the form of urban and country parks, nature reserves, woodlands and playing fields, is a major asset.
- Rotherham has strong transport links and is home to the first tram-train in the country.
- There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractions last year including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gullivers and Magna amongst South Yorkshire's most popular tourist destinations.
- Estimated population of 271,195
- With 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 over 60's.
- 64%.5 of children under 5 are at a good level of development, compared to 65.2% nationally.
- Rotherham has a vibrant voluntary and community sector with over 1,200 organisations and around 40,000 volunteers.
- An increasingly diverse community which includes 31,193 people from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population). The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British.
- Young people have a good understanding of where to access support including for sexual health advice; support from school nurses, and family and friends were recognised most frequently.

Mental health impacts (Lifestyle Survey):

- 57.2% of respondents rated their mental health as good or excellent, 28.5% rated this as fair, and 14.3% rated this as poor.
- 26.2% of students felt they were not the right size for their age and height and 45.8% felt there was a lot of pressure to have the perfect body image from social media.
- 72.7% of students have been bullied in the last 6 months.
- 16.6% of students have experienced hate crime.
- 21.9% of respondents, 854 people, had used, or created a gambling account and 446 respondents stated they have a problem with spending money on gambling or games.

Food and drink consumption:

- 588 students (13%) rated their diet as poor (1 or 2 out of 5) and the majority felt that their diet was OK
- 1,195 students (26.4%) do not have breakfast.
- 2,694 students (59.5%) drink at least one high-sugar fizzy drink per day.
- 1,797 students (39.7%) drink at least one high energy drink per week (red bull, monster etc).

Favourite places to go:

The young people attending the workshop voted on their favourite places to go in Rotherham:

1. Cinema
2. Football Stadium
3. Parkgate Shopping
4. Parks (Clifton, Herringthorpe, Thrybergh)
5. Specific areas (wards) in Rotherham to hang out and walk around.
6. Youth sessions/groups sessions

Additional places included Meadowhall, visiting stables, Rotherham Minister and funfairs.

259 children and young people who took part in the survey – order of favourite places:

1. Staying at home
2. Parkgate Shopping
3. Cinema
4. Clifton Park
5. School/College
6. Gullivers Theme Park
7. Theatre
8. Football grounds
9. Country Parks
10. Library

Additional places included leisure centres, museum, magna, Rotherham town centre, Wentworth Woodhouse and play centres.

Strategy Design:

During the workshop the young people looked at some examples of strategies and fed back their views around what they liked and disliked.

Liked:
- Short contents page
- Colourful, vibrant strategies which attract attention
- Lots of pictures and graphics and not too much text
- Like inclusiveness of pictures
- Flowcharts
- Timeline of proposals good
- Use of percentages and statistics
- Aimed at young children, shows diverse opinions/needs for children
- Like how they have added predictions and how they will take actions
- Stories – gets the reader's attention
- Promotes young voices
- Likes cartoons (but not too babyish)
- Like how the 12 wishes are organised (Leeds) and plans for each wish
- Like clear easy to read priorities
- Good to have links in the document
- Short summary

Disliked:
- Too long
- Too much writing and targeted to adults
- Font too small
- Layout
- Have not included feedback from young people
- 'What we will do' sections are a bit vague
- No website links on the back page
- No summary
- Some colours not attractive
- Boring layout, too basic
- Poor picture quality
- Wasted pages
- Don't like random topics in the strategy – stick to a few
- Does everything have to be on paper? What about on a film

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Appendix 4

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Improving Lives Select Commission - Children and Young People's Partnership Board
28th April, 2026

Improving Lives Select Commission – Pre-Decision Scrutiny
Children and Young People's Strategy – Discussion at the Children and Young People's Partnership Board

Members Present:- Councillors Brent, Clarke and Sutton and Mr. J. Newman. Members were accompanied by Debbie Pons, Clerk to Improving Lives.

An apology was received from Mr. M. Hemmingway.

A warm welcome was offered to all present and introductions were made.

A copy of the draft Strategy was circulated and Members alongside the Children and Young People's Partnership Board were given the opportunity to read the content.

Angel one of the young people gave a brief overview of the strategy and highlighted:-

- What young people would like to see in the Strategy and how it should appear.
- What young people wanted in Rotherham.
- Statistics with highlighted issues that impacted on young people.
- What was important to children and young people in and around Rotherham.
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy survey.
- Why Rotherham was a great place to grow up.
- Council communication and feedback.
- Suggestions of what young people like and places that they all visit.
- Rotherham as a family friendly borough survey and the results of what young people thought were important and what young people like doing.
- Survey suggestions for improvement and the top three answers.
- Suggested aims, action and how this may be achieved.
- Making a difference and how this can be demonstrated to young people.

Questions:-

Councillor Sutton welcomed the presentation and appreciated both the content and the way it had been presented. She asked about the letters sent to schools regarding locked toilets, querying whether any responses had been received and whether this could be reflected in the report, including whether responses had been positive.

Angel responded that some schools had provided valid reasons for locking toilets, although not all schools had given explanations.

Councillor Sutton highlighted the positive statistic from a school governor perspective, noting that 64.5% of children under five were at a good level of development. She asked what support was in place for the remaining 35.5% and whether they were being followed up or signposted. She suggested that little more detail to some of the statistics to make them more meaningful for impact.

Helen Sweaton added that children were supported at the time, with developing work alongside Public Health through the Best Start Plan to help children do better and achieve more. She confirmed that this could be included in the report as a recommendation.

Councillor Clarke praised the layout and clarity of the presentation and asked for further detail on the statistic showing that under 40% of young people reported bullying, querying whether this referred to bullying in person, online, in school or outside school. She also highlighted concern about the 17.3% of young people skipping breakfast, asking whether this related more to time, affordability, or access to breakfast clubs. She congratulated the team on the overall quality of the work.

Angel explained that breakfast issues were mainly linked to school provision. With a Free School Meals allowance limit of 80p, children often could not afford a full breakfast and sometimes received only a drink or a small portion of food. In some cases, children chose not to eat.

Helen Sweaton clarified that the statistics came not only from young people directly but also from the Lifestyle Survey. She noted that there was no formal verification of the data and acknowledged that this raised important questions about how issues were being addressed. She suggested that this could be added to the forward plan and for young people to continue supporting and challenging officers across organisations through the Rotherham Together Plan, including further work on breakfast provision.

James Newman made reference to the lack of access to breakfast or toilet facilities raised significant safeguarding and wellbeing concerns and felt this was an important issue.

Niall Devlin explained that he and colleagues from Public Health had engaged extensively with schools on toilet access, including involving young people and school nurses to explain the importance. Meetings with Head Teachers confirmed toilet access was ultimately a school-led decision and there were some school still that remained resistant to keeping toilets open.

Nicola Curley noted that responses came from young people completing the survey and that there was no firm data to confirm whether breakfast issues were related to school or home.

Councillor Cusworth raised lunchtime congestion and highlighted that short lunch breaks resulted in queuing for both food and toilets. She advised that both herself and Facilities Management would be presenting this feedback to secondary Head Teachers in June and that work was ongoing to influence better arrangements, such as alternative food provision.

Councillor Brent referred to page 11, section 6, noting the information was useful but asking for clearer narrative context around the figure of 159 to strengthen the report.
Helen Sweaton explained that during the Rotherham Show, 259 people responded, and 36% of those 259 said they wanted more fun things to do. She agreed the wording could be improved for clarity.

It was noted by one of the young person that the percentages on the graph exceeded 100%.

Helen Sweaton explained that respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.**JS Note maybe add a line in about this.**

James Newman commended the presentation and asked whether threats experienced by young people were physical, online or both.

Angel shared concerns that young people reported feeling intimidated in public spaces, with people approaching them for money, which affected their sense of safety.
Helen Sweaton advised that the Community Safety Team had attended meetings and work was underway to improve street lighting and bus station safety. She acknowledged that while cycling was being encouraged, young people did not always feel safe. She committed to providing feedback at a later meeting, noting that this information had come directly from young people. JS note – SRP

A young person queried whether free-text answers had been included in the statistics.

Helen Sweaton confirmed she would check this.

Another young person elaborated that “more things to do” meant accessible social spaces, people to talk to, youth groups and activities beyond traditional youth clubs.
Helen Sweaton confirmed this feedback had been shared with officers and had influenced decision-making.

Kelly White explained that youth provision had shifted away from building-based clubs towards outreach models, with many activities available. She acknowledged that better communication was needed and referenced a website listing activities, inviting ideas on how to improve awareness suggesting that information be shared widely and in perhaps a more accessible way.

A young person suggested organised days out and group activities as a way to connect people, rather than traditional youth clubs.

Helen Sweaton said she would explore whether the council could support this through new mobile provision.

Kelly White explained that older outreach vehicles were outdated but funding had now been secured for new vehicles. These would support community-based engagement, including work on healthy relationships and vaping. She noted that some day trips were already taking place to such as to Gulliver’s and Crowden, but awareness remained an issue and needed to be improved.

Helen Sweaton highlighted work to better link groups, curricula, and resources across the year, alongside efforts to secure more funding for youth sessions borough-wide.
A young person also asked if some of the images used by the communications team were stock images and Helen Sweaton confirmed the images had been taken by the communications team throughout the year.

Members suggested extending the strategy to include schools, education pathways, apprenticeships and universities.

Councillor Brent in addressing the strategy as a whole suggested there be an expansion on the detail within the initial narrative.

A spelling error for Gulliver’s was also noted on the strategy document which would be corrected.

A young person asked for social media and online safety to be included with the strategy as this was an important issue.

Helen Sweaton proposed a vote and by majority it was agreed to include content on social media and online safety, acknowledging further work was required without delaying the strategy being

presented to Cabinet. It was noted that Cabinet consideration was expected at the earliest in July, or potentially September, following a further revised version of the strategy.

Members volunteered several suggestions on how the strategy may be improved before it was presented to Cabinet for approval. The suggestions included adding a little more detail to some of the statistics to make them more meaningful for impact, were in agreement with the identification of where support was available for young people and expansion of some information in the narrative.

Members hoped their contributions would be given consideration for potential incorporation into the Strategy.

The session for Members ceased at 17.50 p.m.

Appendix 5

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

1. Title	
Title: Children's Strategy	
Directorate: Children and Young People's Services	**Service area:** Commissioning, Quality and Performance
Lead person: Helen Sweaton	**Contact number:** 07554436546
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

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

In July 2025 the Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed to develop a strategy that shows how important children and young people are in Rotherham, what is great about Rotherham (from a children and young people's perspective) and what we are doing to make it even better.

The Children and Young People's Strategy 2026 – 2030 sets the key aims for the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and provides an opportunity for children and young people to show why they are proud to live in Rotherham and how important they are.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

This strategy reflects Rotherham's unwavering commitment to children and young people, describing the way the partnership works with children and young people, moving away from consultation to shared power, young people are not just heard, they influence and shape strategic decisions at system level.

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board brings together a vibrant and diverse range of children and young people from a variety of council and voluntary and community sector groups including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, and care-experienced young people. This supports the consideration of equality and diversity during delivery of the aims of the strategy e.g. when the Board provides support and challenge to Officers responsible for the delivery of plans across the Borough.

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

Equality and human rights are considered within the strategy. Part A Equalities Screening is attached as appendix 2.

How have you considered equality and diversity?

Rotherham's estimated population is 271,195 with 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 over 60s. On the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019) Rotherham ranks as the 35th most deprived upper tier local authority in England out of a total of 151 authorities. 35% of Rotherham's neighbourhoods live in the 20% most deprived in England, and 22% live in the 10% most deprived. No neighbourhoods in Rotherham are in the least deprived 10%

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. People with protected characteristics can face additional health inequalities.

These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and how we think, feel and act, and this shapes our mental health as well as our physical health and wellbeing.

31,193 people are from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population). Of these the Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British. 19.4% of Rotherham's school age population is from ethnic minorities background (England 35.1%) (DfE 2020/21).

23% of children live in low-income families (England 18%). Our Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement rate is above the English national average (23.8% compared to 21.6% at Primary, 21.4% compared to 18.9% at Secondary – DfE 2020/21).
The results from the 2025 Lifestyle Survey (a survey completed by children in years 7 and 10) shows that 46.9% said they ate fruit and/or vegetables more than once per day, 17.3% of students said they never eat breakfast, 12.9% drink one high-sugar fizzy drink per day, 28.2% drink one high-energy drink per week. 62.8% of children completing the survey rated their mental health as either excellent or good, 58.5% said "I am comfortable with my body image" and 39.8% have been bullied in the past 6 months. and 10.7% have either used or created a betting account

Under 64.5% of children under 5 at a good level of development. The Best Start Plan aims to increase this to 73.3% by 2028.

70% of Rotherham is open countryside. Rotherham has lots of green space, including urban and country parks, nature reserves and woodlands.
There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractions last year, including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's Valley, and Magna. Rotherham has a strong voluntary and community sector. There are around 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in Rotherham, and tens of thousands of volunteers.

Key findings

Rotherham Together Partnership wants Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where children and young people have the best chance to reach their full potential. This will mean that children grow up happily, safe, in good health and develop the skills and qualifications they need to be successful. The Strategy articulates how we will ensure children and young people are involved in strategic decision-making influencing plans to make Rotherham even better for children and young people.

In recognition of the population demographic in Rotherham the Children and Young People's Partnership Board will continue to actively encourage participation from members that reflect the population seeking representation from diverse groups and communities including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, care-experienced young people and young adults and voluntary and community sector groups in underrepresented communities.

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions that influence a person's actions and opportunities for good mental and physical health.

The strategy articulates how the Children and Young People's partnership Board will influence the activity already underway to improve the Borough for children and young people (including those with protected characteristics).

Universal youth provision is available to all children and young people, and delivery takes place across the Borough, the grant award process is designed to encourage engagement from underrepresented groups. Improving the available information to help children and young people to make healthy choices and support community inclusion should benefit children and young people accessing universal and targeted youth provision.

Improving communication to children and young people should raise awareness and improve access to green spaces, events and attractions for all children and young people (including those with protected characteristics) should improve the available opportunities to support good mental and physical health.

Actions

Continue to deliver a robust universal youth offer to promote engagement with children and young people (including those with protected characteristics)

Monitor attendance at Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure it continues to be representative of the population demographic and include children and young people with protected characteristics.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	14/05/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	14/05/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Quality and Performance

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Curley	Director of Children's Services	21st August 2026
Cllr Cusworth	Cabinet Member Children and Young People's Services	8th September 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	14/05/2026
Report title and date	Children and Young People's Strategy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	12 October 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	25 June 2026

Appendix 6

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: Children and Young People's Strategy	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 04 February 2026	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area: Commissioning, Quality & Performance**
Lead Manager: Helen Sweaton	**Contact number: 07554 436546**
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Helen Sweaton	RMBC/ NHS SY	Service Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Kelly White	*RMBC*	*Service Director Family Help*
Niall Devlin	*RMBC*	*Service Director Education and Inclusion*

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board is part of the Rotherham Together Strategic Partnership alongside the Health and Wellbeing Board, Strategic Housing Forum, Business Growth Board, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Cultural Partnership Board.

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board brings together a vibrant and diverse range of children and young people from a variety of council and voluntary and community sector groups including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, and care-experienced young people. This supports the consideration of equality and diversity during delivery of the aims of the strategy e.g. when the Board provides support and challenge to Officers responsible for the delivery of plans across the Borough.

Since the Children and Young People's Partnership Board started in November 2023, the young people have influenced the following:

Say NO to Vapes!
Following a presentation on smoking cessation for children and young people, CYPPB challenged public health who then launched a 'Rotherhamised' campaign about vaping – spreading awareness and keeping young people healthy.

Nature Recovery
A presentation regarding activity promoting nature recovery led to CYPPB making recommendations and officers in the Council to committed to: Create a Climate Action Group for young people to get involved in protecting our planet. More volunteering opportunities for young people to help nature thrive – and they're age-appropriate too!

Toilets Shouldn't Be Locked
One of the represented groups raised the locking of school toilets in a meeting. Following this CYPPB challenged schools about locking toilets with support from public health and the Lead Member for Children and Young People. Some schools responded and even changed their policies so not all schools lock toilets now, however lots did not respond.
Safer Travel

When the community safety team presented their plans for improving safety in the Town centre CYPPB explained that because transport doesn't feel safe it can be difficult to get to the Town centre. The Chance Group shared their video about the buses and the Young Inspectors took action! They:

- Designed a bus questionnaire
- Inspected the bus station
- Influenced campaigns for safe cycle lanes

Standing Up Against Hate

The Hate Crime Team presented their work in schools to around Hate Crime. Following CYPPB challenge they extended support to home-educated young people.

Plus:

- Shared the Hate Crime Pledge
- Displayed Youth Cabinet guidance on reporting hate crime in the community

Mental Health Matters

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust talked to us about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. They proposed some suggested changes based on consultation and engagement with children and young people and the CYPPB approved so CAMHS introduced:

- A new referral form
- A self-referral process
- Plans for a drop-in service designed with young people

Young People's Voice influencing Plans

- Thanks to CYPPB, 'Safety' and 'Having fun things to do' are now priorities in the Council Plan.
- CYPPB also influenced priorities in the Rotherham Together Plan – setting themes to improve life for local people and places.

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board make sure children and young people continue to influence decision making and service delivery in Rotherham, challenging and supporting adults to keep Rotherham a family friendly Borough for all.

The Board voted to develop a strategy that shows how important children and young people are in Rotherham because Rotherham is a place for Children and Young People to be proud of.

The strategy sets out the key aims for the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and provides an opportunity for children and young people to show why they are proud to live in Rotherham and how important they are.

The Children and Young People's Strategy is designed to benefit all children and young people in Rotherham.

The strategy affects Rotherham's 57,453 children aged under 18 representing 21.7% of the local population (ONS, mid 2020).

The strategy promotes:

- Inclusion, participation, and fairness by ensuring that diverse groups of children and young people are listened to and involved in decision-making.
- Articulates how the Children and Young People's Partnership Board will influence the activity already underway to improve the Borough for children and young people (including those with protected characteristics).
- Universal youth provision is available to all children and young people, and delivery takes place across the Borough, the grant award process is designed to encourage engagement from underrepresented groups. Improving the available information to help children and young people to make healthy choices and support community inclusion should benefit children and young people accessing universal and targeted youth provision.
- Improving communication to children and young people should raise awareness and improve access to green spaces, events and attractions for all children and young people (including those with protected characteristics) should improve the available opportunities to support good mental and physical health.

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

Rotherham's estimated population is 271,195 with 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 over 60s. 31,193 people are from minority ethnic groups (11.7% of the population). Of these the Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British.

The results from the 2025 Lifestyle Survey (a survey completed by children in years 7 and 10) shows that 62.8% of children completing the survey rated their mental health as either excellent or good, 58.5% said "I am comfortable with my body image" and 39.8% have been bullied in the past 6 months. 46.9% said they ate fruit and/or vegetables more than once per day, 17.3% of students said they never eat breakfast, 12.9% drink one high-sugar fizzy drink per day, 28.2% drink one high-energy drink per week and 10.7% have either used or created a betting account. Under 64.5% of children under 5 at a good level of development. The Best Start Plan aims to increase this to 73.3% by 2028.

70% of Rotherham is open countryside. Rotherham has lots of green space, including urban and country parks, nature reserves and woodlands. There were 4 million visits to Rotherham's attractions last year, including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's Valley, and Magna. Rotherham has a strong voluntary and community sector. There are around 1,400 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in Rotherham, and tens of thousands of volunteers.

259 children and young people responded to a survey carried out at Rotherham Show, Family Hubs, Children's Centres, Reception Areas, Schools, GP's, Pharmacy's, Healthwatch networks, Voice & Influence Groups and across 14 voluntary and community sector networks. 77% of children have strong connections to family and friends. 60% of children chose spending time with family and friends as their favourite thing to do. 36.29% of children think Rotherham would be better if there were more fun things to do (examples included more museums, zoos, shops and arcades), 53.67% if it felt safer, 53.67% if it was cleaner, 25.1% if there was improved access to health services – particularly mental health, 31.66% if the transport across Rotherham was better and 28.19% if there was

more support for young people (e.g. more ways to learn, increase skills, more careers advice and pathways to work).

Of the 259 children and young people, between the ages of 5 and 25, took part in a survey:

- The main age ranges of participants included 35% between the ages of 16 and 17, 20% were 10 and 11 year olds, 16% were 8 and 9 year olds and 14% were 12 and 13 year olds.
- 54% of participants think of themselves as 'girls', 42% as 'boys', 3% 'preferred not to say' and 1% described themselves 'in another way'.
- 79% of participants described their ethnic background as 'White British', 5% 'preferred not to answer', 3% stated 'other white background' and 13 children and young people described their ethnicity from a range of backgrounds such as Pakistani, African, White and Asian.
- 32% of participants have a disability or a condition which has lasted or expected to last for at least 12 months. Of which, 49% have a learning disability, 29% have a mental health condition and 24% have a long-term illness or health condition.

Thereafter a workshop was held with young people to analyse the feedback from the survey and to start writing the strategy. 13 young people took part in the workshop, representing Young Inspectors, Youth Cabinet, In Care Youth, Smiles for Miles and Guiding Voices.

Members of the Board chose which information they would like to include in the strategy which they thought would be of interest to other children and young people. This included demographic and diversity information and data that highlights disparities affecting different groups of children (wellbeing and experiences). The young people also chose to include an appendix of available support for access to services and support for vulnerable groups.

The Strategy has been co-produced; children and young people have led the development in line with the principles of the Rotherham Charter (Four Cornerstones): 1. Welcome and care 2. Value and include 3. Communicate 4. Work in partnership.

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

None identified.

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

- Progress against the Children and Young People's Strategy actions will be monitored by the Rotherham Together Partnership.
- Overarching responsibility will sit with the Lead Member for Children and Young People who will report into the Rotherham Together Partnership.
- The Children and Young People's Partnership Board raise risks/issues via the Rotherham Together Partnership Group.

• The Board is committed to the Rotherham Together Partnership ambition for good governance and high ethical standards, based on the Nolan principles: o Selflessness o Integrity o Objectivity o Accountability o Openness o Honesty o Leadership • In addition, the partnership has agreed principles that guide its approach: o Connecting organisations and children and young people to share knowledge, skills and resources. o Building child centred communities. o Creating opportunities that benefit all children and young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	• Ongoing engagement and co-production with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board who meet four times a year. • Survey carried out with children and young people attending Rotherham Show (September 2025) • Survey carried out at Family Hubs, Children's Centres, Reception Areas, Schools, GP's, Pharmacy's, Healthwatch networks, Voice & Influence Groups and across 14 voluntary and community sector networks (September 2025) • Co-production workshop held with the Children & Young People's Partnership Board (1st October 2025) Key Findings: • 77% of children have strong connections to family and friends. 60% of children chose spending time with family and friends as their favourite thing to do. 36.29% of children think Rotherham would be better if there were more fun things to do (examples included more museums, zoos, shops and arcades), 53.67% if it felt safer, 53.67% if it was cleaner, 25.1% if there was improved access to health services – particularly mental health, 31.66% if the transport across Rotherham was better and 28.19% if there was more support for young people
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	• Service Directors and Voice & Influence Workers attend the Children & Young People's Partnership Board. The Board is co-chaired by the Lead member for Children and Young People. • Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) members attended the Children and Young People's Partnership Board for pre-decision scrutiny of the Children and Young People's Strategy (28th April). During this session, Angel one

	of the young people gave a brief overview of the strategy and highlighted the pertinent points. Councillor Sutton welcomed the presentation and appreciated both the content and the way it had been presented. A young person asked for social media and online safety to be included with the strategy as this was an important issue. A majority vote agreed to include content on social media and online safety. Members volunteered several suggestions on how the strategy may be improved before it was presented to Cabinet for approval. The suggestions included adding a little more detail to some of the statistics to make them more meaningful for impact, identification of where support was available for young people and expansion of some information in the narrative. The final draft strategy is reflective of these changes.

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 Children and Young People's Partnership Board brings together a vibrant and diverse range of children and young people from a variety of council and voluntary and community sector groups including Youth Cabinet, Young Inspectors, SEND Guiding Voices, LGBTQ groups, and care-experienced young people. This supports the consideration of equality and diversity during delivery of the aims of the strategy. Youth voice and co-production also ensures services reflect diverse lived experiences. The Children and Young People's Strategy shows a strong inclusive and universal approach, which is likely to have a positive overall effect on protected characteristics, particularly age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic disadvantage. Delivery of the strategy promotes inclusion, participation, fair access to services and community cohesion.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Example impacts include: • Keeping Rotherham a family friendly Borough

- Continuing to influence decision making and service delivery - influencing and shaping strategic decisions at system level
- Increased engagement and empowerment for different age cohorts
- Increased participation opportunities
- Improved access to fun things to do, activities/events, mental health support, Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support
- Youth communications officers and support and training for children and young people to submit 'content'
- Improved support to children and young people attending community groups and youth clubs following the development of a toolkit for workers to use as a resource. A key focus for the toolkit is to increase and promote cultural understanding
-

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

The Children & Young People's Partnership Board will continue to be representative of a diverse and vibrant range of children and young people.

Delivery of the Children and Young People's Strategy will have a positive impact on community relations, as it promotes inclusion, understanding, and shared participation across different groups:

- Creates more opportunities for people from different backgrounds to mix.
- Ensures decisions reflect the needs of all groups, not just the majority.
- Builds stronger, more connected 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: Children and Young People's Strategy
Directorate and service area: CYPS
Lead Manager: Helen Sweaton - Service Director, Commissioning, Quality and Performance
Summary of findings:

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Cabinet paper approval	**All**	
Continue to deliver a robust universal youth offer to promote engagement with children and young people (including those with protected characteristics)	**A, D, S, RoB, SO, C**	
Monitor attendance at Children and Young People's Partnership Board to ensure it continues to be representative of the population demographic and include children and young people with protected characteristics.	**A, D, S, RoB, SO, C**	

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Nicola Curley	Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	17/08/2026

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	
Report title and date	Children and Young People's Strategy
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	25 June 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?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

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

Other emissions impacts could include those from catering, the use of materials such as paper, IT or single use plastic, or accidental leaks from refrigeration units, air conditioning or heat pumps.

The strategy articulates Rotherham's ambition and commitment to involving children and young people in strategic decision making, improving communication with children and young people and the quality of information, advice and support provided around key issues in universal youth activities. The delivery of the strategy has no identified impacts on carbon emissions at this stage.

Past activities of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board have focused on the climate and the environment, including the creation of a climate group for young people; an increase in nature recovery activities and the young inspectors' work on safer travel.

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

The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. More information on climate change impacts in Rotherham is available from: https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E08000018

- *Do actions recommended in the report affect the ability of Council services to continue during, or recover after extreme heatwaves, flooding and other climate-related hazards?*
- *Will the proposal affect resident's capacity to adapt to climate change impacts?*
- *Will the proposal affect the risk of climate change impacts in the Borough of Rotherham?*

The Children and Young People's Strategy has no direct impacts on the council or residents' resilience to climate change, however encouraging children to become active and engaged members of their communities can indirectly build resilience more generally, increasing young people's ability to adapt to climate change.

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

Summarise the proposal's most significant overall climate impacts, with reference to carbon emissions and climate change adaptation as appropriate. This summary should be reproduced in ***Section 11****, 'Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change', of the main report.*

The strategy articulates Rotherham's ambition and commitment to involving children and young people in strategic decision making, improving communication with children and young people and the quality of information, advice and support provided around key issues in universal youth activities. The delivery of the strategy has no identified carbon impacts at this stage. Past activities of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board have focused on the climate and the environment, including the creation of a climate group for young people; an increase in nature recovery activities and the young inspectors' work on safer travel.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Helen Sweaton Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA667 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation

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 purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an overview of the first stage consultation responses and to set out draft recommendations for consideration and approval.

Subject to Cabinet's approval, a second stage of public consultation will be undertaken to seek views on the draft recommendations.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, a final recommendations report will then 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 retention of the existing community governance arrangements for the following parish, town and community councils and parish meeting, and agrees that no further consultation is required. These arrangements will therefore be carried forward to the Final Recommendations Report:
    a) Anston Parish Council
    b) Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
    c) Catcliffe Parish Council
    d) Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council
    e) Hellaby Parsh Council
    f) Maltby Town Council

g) Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
h) Todwick Parish Council
i) Treeton Parish Council
j) Ulley Parish Council

2. Approves consultation with the affected parish councils and their electors to seek views on the revision of the number of council seats as outlined below:
    a) Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council: An increase of three council seats from 15 to 18
    b) Bramley Parish Council: An increase of one seat from 13 to 14
    c) Brinsworth Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 11 to 14
    d) Ravenfield Parish Council: An increase of two seats from 7 to 9
    e) Thrybergh Parish Council: A decrease of four seats from 15 to 11
    f) Thurcroft Parish Council: A decrease of five seats from 18 to 13
    g) Wales Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 15 to 13
    h) Waverley Community Council: An increase of five seats from 7 to 12
    i) Whiston Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 9 to 12
    j) Wickersley Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 16 to 14
    k) Woodsetts Parish Council: A decrease of one seat from 9 to 8

3. Approves consultation with electors at 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils to seek views on the transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

4. Approves consultation with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered.

5. Approves consultation with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

6. Approves consultation with Dalton Parish Council and its electors to inform consideration of whether Dalton Parish Council should be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council and the parish wards renamed to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton Ward, and Brecks Ward.

7. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Penny Hill area, together with Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the properties within the Penny Hill area should remain within the Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council or be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

8. Approves consultation with electors within the Gildingwells Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:
    a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
    b) Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Letwell Parish Council;

c) Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Woodsetts Parish Council; and
d) Abolishing Gildingwells Parish Meeting

In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Letwell Parish Council and Woodsetts Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

9. Approves consultation with electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the Parish. The consultation should seek views on the following options:
    a) Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
    b) Merging Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council;
    c) Abolishing Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

    In addition, it is proposed that consultation is undertaken with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

10. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Firsby area and within the Hooton Roberts parish area, together with Ravenfield Parish Council, to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting to Ravenfield Parish Council, or to retain the existing parish boundary arrangements.

11. Approves consultation with electors residing in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council and Thurcroft Parish Council, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, or the retention of the existing parish boundary arrangements.

12. Approves consultation with the electors of 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

13. Approves consultation with Wentworth Parish Council and parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward, to seek their views on changing the name of Harley Ward to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

14. Approves the commencement of a twelve-week public consultation on the draft recommendations set out in Recommendations 2-13 of this report.

15. Notes that a final recommendations report will be brought forward following the consultation on the draft recommendations. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend their adoption by Council in Spring 2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 First Stage Consultation Responses
Appendix 3 Maps of areas relating to consultation responses
Appendix 4 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment CIA696

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

Community Governance Review Cabinet Report, 13 April 2026

Community Governance Review Terms of Reference, 13 April 2026

Community Governance Review Interim Report, 14 September 2026

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Community Governance Review Recommendations for Consultation

1. Background

1.1 The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parish, town and community councils through a statutory process known as a Community Governance Review, undertaken in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

1.2 A Community Governance Review sets out the steps 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 Community Governance Review 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 Following approval by Cabinet on 13 April 2026, Rotherham Council commenced a Community Governance Review on 1 May 2026 as set out in the agreed Terms of Reference (Appendix 1).

1.5 An initial consultation took place between 1 May and 26 June 2026, providing residents, local councils, community groups, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit their views on existing governance arrangements and any potential changes they would wish the review to consider.

1.6 The consultation was accessible via the Council's consultation portal and in paper format at all Rotherham libraries. To support public engagement, seven outreach events were held at library locations across the borough, enabling residents to view maps, ask any questions, and submit a response.

1.7 The consultation received just under two hundred responses, representing views on existing parish, town, and community councils, together with interest in the establishment of new parish councils. The anonymised First Stage Consultation Responses are shown in Appendix 2.

1.8 An Officer Working Group has reviewed the consultation responses, together with the statutory criteria for community governance reviews and desktop review of boundaries and electorates, to inform the development of draft recommendations.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Responses outside of the scope of the review

2.1.1 Many responses to the Community Governance Review included concerns, comments and opinions relating to individual councillors or decisions taken by parish, town or community councils. Such matters are outside of the scope of a Community Governance Review.

2.1.2 Where electors are dissatisfied with the actions of individual councillors or with decisions made by a parish, town or community council, the electoral process provides an opportunity to seek change.

2.1.3 Any individual who meets the statutory eligibility requirements may stand for election as a parish councillor at the next scheduled election.

2.1.4 A casual vacancy occurs when a councillor leaves office before the end of their term, creating an unexpected vacancy on the council.
Electors may request that the vacancy be filled through an election. If ten or more electors submit such a request, an election will be held, providing an opportunity for eligible individuals to stand as candidates.

2.1.5 Where an election is not requested, the vacancy may be filled by co-option. In these circumstances, interested and eligible individuals may apply to be considered for co-option by the parish, town or community council.

2.2 Guidance on the number of council seats

2.2.1 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the national representative body for parish and town councils in England. It provides guidance, training, legal and policy support to local councils and promotes good governance across the sector. The majority of parish and town councils across the country are members of NALC and many adopt their model policies and guidance when developing their own governance and administrative arrangements.

2.2.2 Although NALC's guidance on parish council seats was first published in 1988, it remains the most widely recognised benchmark for determining councillor numbers and continues to be referenced in Community Governance Reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has noted that the relationship between electorate size and council size appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, continues to support effective and convenient

local governance. Accordingly, the guidance provides an appropriate starting point when considering parish council representation, whilst taking account of local circumstances and community needs.

2.2.3 NALC's guidance on parish council seats is set out in the Community Governance Review Terms of Reference (Appendix 1, page 6).

2.3 Anston Parish Council

2.3.1 One response was received from an elector in the parish, suggesting the Dinnington Park Avenue ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council, except for Dinnington Cemetery, should move into Anston Parish Council, due to the area being part of the Anston & Woodsetts Borough ward.

2.3.2 Dinnington Park Avenue Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council consists of the ANF polling district and has 213 properties and 360 electors. As part of Dinnington St John's Town Council, the Dinnington Park Avenue Ward is part of the Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan area. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 1.

2.4 Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

2.4.1 One elector from the parish responded to the consultation, stating that they did not believe any changes to the current electoral arrangements were required.

2.4.2 Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council currently comprises 15 councillors serving an electorate of 11,602. With the electorate projected to increase to 12,184 within the next five years, National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance suggests that a parish of this size would ordinarily be represented by 18 councillors.

2.4.3 From an examination of the existing governance arrangements, a potential boundary anomaly has been identified in relation to four properties, 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, which are currently situated within the AUD polling district of Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward. There are five electors across the four properties.

2.4.4 These properties are physically separated from the main residential area of the parish by the River Rother and an industrial estate. The nearest residential properties within Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council are located over 700 metres away, whereas the properties at 605-611 Retford Road adjoin the boundary with Orgreave Parish Council and are within approximately 200 metres of the nearest residential properties in Orgreave. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 2.

2.5 Brampton Bierlow Parish Council

2.5.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Brampton Bierlow Parish Council.

2.6 Bramley Parish Council

2.6.1 Nineteen responses were received in relation to Bramley Parish Council. The principal issue raised was the Poppy Fields development, with respondents divided on whether the development should remain within Bramley Parish Council or be transferred to Ravenfield Parish Council.

2.6.2 The Poppy Fields development is a new housing development currently under construction off Moor Lane South in the Bramley North Ward. As at September 2026, 149 electors were registered across 93 properties on the development. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 3.

2.6.3 Respondents supporting the Poppy Fields development remaining in Bramley Parish Council, including the Parish Clerk, Parish Councillors and local electors, cited existing links to local services, infrastructure and community identity. Conversely, several respondents, including residents of the development, stated that they identify more closely with Ravenfield and make greater use of facilities within that parish.

2.6.4 Further comments relating to the development were received under the consultation for Ravenfield Parish Council and are summarised in section 2.21.

2.6.5 Most respondents supported the retention of the current parish warding arrangements. However, two respondents questioned the value of parish wards, with one supporting their removal to simplify governance arrangements.

2.6.6 Responses regarding councillor numbers were predominantly in favour of maintaining the current level of representation.

2.6.7 Bramley Parish Council currently comprises 13 councillors serving an electorate of 5,965. With the electorate projected to increase to 6,528 over the next five years, NALC guidance suggests that a parish of this size would ordinarily be represented by 14 councillors.

2.6.8 A number of respondents raised concerns regarding the administration and operation of the Parish Council and therefore fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review.

2.7 Brinsworth Parish Council

2.7.1 Twenty responses were received in relation to Brinsworth Parish Council, including submissions from parish electors, residents outside the parish, the Parish Clerk, Parish Councillors and Brinsworth Ward Borough Councillors.

2.7.2 The principal theme was support for extending the parish boundary to include the entirety of the Brinsworth Borough Ward. Currently the BWA polling district of Brinsworth Borough Ward, located north of Bawtry Road, falls outside the parish boundary and comprises 483 properties and 753 electors. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 4.

2.7.3 However, several respondents from the BWA polling district opposed their inclusion within the parish.

2.7.4 One respondent also proposed extending the parish boundary to include properties on Century View (even numbers 30 to 48), which are currently outside the parish. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 5.

2.7.5 There was strong support for retaining an unwarded parish structure.

2.7.6 While most respondents considered the current number of councillors to be appropriate, views on council size were mixed. Some respondents suggested a reduction in councillor numbers to improve efficiency and reduce vacancies, whereas others considered that additional seats may be required if the parish boundary were expanded.

2.7.7 Brinsworth Parish Council currently has 11 councillors representing an electorate of 6,605. The electorate is forecast to increase slightly to 6,688 over the next five years. NALC guidance indicates that a parish council serving an electorate of this size would typically be expected to have 14 councillors.

2.8 Catcliffe Parish Council

2.8.1 Three responses were received in relation to the Parish Council, comprising one response from a Parish Councillor and two from parish electors.

2.8.2 All respondents supported retention of the existing parish boundary arrangements. Two respondents considered that the parish should remain unwarded, while one respondent suggested that parish warding should be introduced, although no specific warding proposal was provided.

2.8.3 Views on councillor numbers were mixed. One respondent considered the current number of councillors to be appropriate, one felt there were too many councillors, and one suggested that additional councillors may be required. Catcliffe Parish Council currently has 9 councillors, which is in line with NALC guidance for a parish council serving a community of its size.

2.9 Dalton Parish Council

2.9.1 Three responses were received in relation to Dalton Parish Council, including one from a parish councillor and two from parish electors.

2.9.2 Two respondents considered that the current parish name does not fully reflect the communities served by the council. One respondent suggested that the council could be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council.

2.9.3 The two electors, representing the Brecks area in Dalton South Ward and the Sunnyside and Flanderwell area in Dalton East Ward, expressed concerns that they felt disconnected from Dalton. Both suggested that their areas could either be incorporated into a neighbouring parish council or form part of a separate parish council arrangement.

2.9.4 Dalton Parish Council currently has 16 councillors representing an electorate of 7,711, which is forecast to increase to 7,888 over the next five years. NALC guidance indicates that a parish with this electorate would typically be expected to have 15 councillors.

2.9.5 A potential boundary anomaly has been identified on Reresby Park Close. Three properties are currently situated within Thrybergh Parish Council despite being located on a cul-de-sac that is otherwise within Dalton Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.23.3.

2.10 Dinnington St John's Town Council

2.10.1 Five responses were received in relation to Dinnington St John's Town Council. Two were submitted directly in response to the consultation on the Town Council. A further response from an elector within the Town Council area was submitted under Firbeck Parish Council, and two additional responses were submitted in relation to neighbouring parish councils but proposed changes that would affect the Dinnington St John's Town Council area.

2.10.2 Two responses were received from electors residing in the Penny Hill area, who stated they identified more closely with Firbeck Parish Council and proposed that their property be transferred from Dinnington St John's Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council.

2.10.3 This view was supported by Firbeck Parish Council, which proposed that several properties close to the parish boundary, including those in the Penny Hill area, should transfer from Dinnington St John's Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.11

2.10.4 One elector expressed support for the current electoral arrangements within Dinnington St John's Town Council and, in particular, considered that the existing name should be retained as it reflects the local community.

2.10.5 A response received in relation to Anston Parish Council proposed that the Dinnington Park Avenue Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council, with the exception of the cemetery, should form part of Anston Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.3.1.

2.10.6 It should be noted that a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted for, and applies across, the whole of the Dinnington St John's Town Council area.

2.10.7 A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document prepared by a parish, town or community council (or a neighbourhood forum in unparished areas) that allows local people to help shape how their area develops in the future. It can include policies on housing, employment, transport, community facilities, green spaces and the design of new development. Once approved, following a referendum, it becomes part of the statutory development plan and must be considered when planning applications are decided.

2.10.8 Where a parish, town or community council has an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, any proposed governance or boundary changes may have implications for the designated neighbourhood area and associated planning policies. While this does not prevent changes being made through a Community Governance Review, any such implications should be considered as part of the decision-making process.

2.11 Firbeck Parish Council

2.11.1 Three responses were received in relation to Firbeck Parish Council, one of which was submitted under Dinnington St John's Town Council.

2.11.2 The Parish Clerk of Firbeck Parish Council proposed that several properties currently within the neighbouring Dinnington St John's Town Council and Maltby Town Council areas should be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council. The proposal was based on the proximity of the properties to Firbeck and the perceived affiliation of residents with Firbeck Parish Council.

2.11.3 The properties identified for transfer from Dinnington St John's Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council are those at Thwaite House Farm and Lingodell Farm in the Penny Hill area. The proposal would affect eight properties and 15 electors. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 6.

2.11.4 Two electors residing in the Penny Hill area of Dinnington St John's Town Council also supported this proposal. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.10.2.

2.11.5 The properties identified for transfer from Maltby Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council are those at Beckridge Farm, Four Lane Ends and Yews Farm. The proposal would affect 25 properties and 41 electors. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 7.

2.11.6 It should be noted that both Dinnington St John's Town Council and Maltby Town Council have adopted Neighbourhood Plans that cover the entirety of their respective parish areas. A summary of neighbourhood plans and the implications of neighbourhood planning for Community Governance Review proposals is provided in Section 2.10.7 and 2.10.8.

2.12 Gildingwells Parish Meeting

2.12.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Gildingwells Parish Meeting.

2.12.2 It has not been possible to determine whether Gildingwells Parish is meeting its statutory requirement to hold at least two meetings each year, including the Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1 March and 1 June.

2.13 Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council

2.13.1 One response was received in relation to Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council, submitted by the Parish Clerk. The respondent indicated that they were satisfied with the current electoral arrangements and did not consider any changes to be necessary.

2.14 Hellaby Parish Council

2.14.1 Twenty responses were received in relation to Hellaby Parish Council from parish electors, Hellaby Parish Councillors, and three respondents who did not specify the capacity in which they were responding.

2.14.2 All respondents supported retaining the current electoral arrangements for Hellaby Parish Council.

2.14.3 Several respondents expressed concerns regarding a potential merger with neighbouring Maltby Town Council, citing the importance of maintaining a separate parish council to preserve their community identity.

2.15 Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

2.15.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting.

2.15.2 It has not been possible to determine whether Hooton Levitt Parish is meeting its statutory requirement to hold at least two meetings each year, including the Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1 March and 1 June.

2.16 Hooton Roberts Parish meeting

2.16.1 Two responses were received in relation to Ravenfield Parish Council from electors residing within the Hooton Roberts Parish area. Both

respondents supported the transfer of the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting to Ravenfield Parish Council. One respondent stated that Firsby had previously formed part of Ravenfield Parish Council, is geographically closer to Ravenfield, and considered that being represented by a parish council rather than a parish meeting would provide residents with a stronger voice in local matters. A map of the area is shown in Appendix 3: Map 8.

2.16.2 The Frisby area contains six properties and eight electors.

2.17 Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

2.17.1 Two responses were received in relation to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, one from the Parish Clerk and one from the Chair of the Parish Council. A related response was also received from the Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council.

2.17.2 The Parish Clerk and Chair of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council stated that residents of Laughton Common have a strong affiliation with Laughton-en-le-Morthen and regularly use facilities and amenities within the parish, including play areas, schools and allotments. As a result, they propose that consideration is given to amending the parish boundary to transfer Laughton Common from Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, provided it would not be detrimental to either Parish Council.

2.17.3 The Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council, responding on behalf of the Parish Council, stated that they would not oppose consideration being given to transferring Laughton Common to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.24.3.

2.17.4 Laughton Common currently forms the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council. The area comprises of the DIB polling district and contains 902 properties and 1,454 electors. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 9.

2.17.5 Views were divided on the electoral arrangements that should apply if Laughton Common were transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. The Chair considered that the parish should become warded, whereas the Parish Clerk supported retaining the existing unwarded arrangement.

2.17.6 The Parish Clerk also proposed that the number of parish council seats should increase by two if Laughton Common were transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council.

2.18 Letwell Parish Council

2.18.1 Two responses were received from electors in the parish. One respondent supported retaining the existing parish boundary

arrangements, although they considered five parish council seats to be excessive given the size of the electorate.

2.18.2 The second respondent questioned the long-term viability of the Parish Council due to the small size of the village and suggested a merger with either Firbeck Parish Council or Gildingwells Parish Meeting. Firbeck Parish Council was identified as the preferred option, reflecting the existing connection between the communities through the local church.

2.19 Maltby Town Council

2.19.1 A total of 82 responses were received in relation to Maltby Town Council from electors, Town Councillors, Borough Councillors, the Town Clerk and the Parish Clerk acting on behalf of the Town Council. Responses demonstrated strongly differing views on the future governance arrangements for Maltby, particularly in relation to the existing parish warding arrangements and proposals for the creation of a separate Maltby West Parish Council.

2.19.2 A recurring theme across the responses was whether Maltby Town Council should continue to operate with two parish wards.

2.19.3 A total of 25 responses (30.5%) supported retaining the existing Maltby Town Council boundary and parish warding arrangements, whereas 32 responses (39%) argued that Maltby should be treated as a single community and that the existing parish wards should be removed, citing concerns that the current arrangements create division within the town and prevent residents from influencing decisions affecting the wider parish.

2.19.4 Conversely, 22 respondents (26.8%) supported the creation of a separate parish or town council for Maltby West, in some cases incorporating Hellaby. These respondents generally argued that Maltby West does not receive an equitable share of resources, investment, facilities or activities and considered that a separate council would provide stronger local representation and greater control over local priorities and expenditure. Several respondents suggested that any new parish should broadly align with the existing Maltby West and Hellaby borough ward area.

2.19.5 A number of respondents proposed alternative arrangements whereby Maltby would remain a single parish council but operate with revised warding arrangements or a more equal distribution of councillors between the East and West areas.

2.19.6 Views regarding council size were mixed. Whilst many respondents considered that the current number of councillors is appropriate for a parish the size of Maltby, others suggested that the number of councillors should be reduced, citing difficulties in recruitment, the number of vacancies and the efficiency of decision-making. A smaller number of

respondents considered that additional councillors were required to improve representation. Several respondents suggested that, if warding arrangements are retained, councillor representation should be more evenly balanced between the existing wards.

2.19.7 The majority of respondents considered that the name ‘Maltby Town Council’ continues to reflect the community it serves.

2.19.8 In addition to the comments on governance arrangements, approximately one-third of respondents raised concerns regarding the operation and administration of Maltby Town Council. Such matters fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review, as principal councils have no statutory powers over the administration or decision-making of parish, town or community councils.

2.19.9 A small number of respondents suggested that the Town Council should be abolished.

2.19.10 A response was received under Firbeck Parish Council proposing the transfer of properties at Beckridge Farm, Four Lane Ends and Yews Farm from Maltby Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.11.5.

2.19.11 It should be noted that a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted for, and applies across, the whole of Maltby Town Council area. A summary of neighbourhood plans and the implications of neighbourhood planning for Community Governance Review proposals is provided in Section 2.10.7 and 2.10.8.

2.20 Orgreave Parish Council

2.20.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Orgreave Parish Council.

2.20.2 A potential boundary anomaly has been identified in relation to four properties on Retford Road. The properties are currently situated within Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council but are geographically separated from the main residential area of the parish and adjoin the boundary with Orgreave Parish Council. Further detail is set out in paragraph 2.4.3.

2.21 Ravenfield Parish Council

2.21.1 Eleven responses were received in relation to Ravenfield Parish Council, comprising six responses from electors living within the parish, two from electors residing in the Bramley Parish Council area, two from electors residing in the Hooton Roberts Parish area, and one response from the Parish Clerk on behalf of Ravenfield Parish Council.

2.21.2 The principal issue raised through the consultation related to changing the parish boundary. Eight respondents supported transferring the Poppy Fields development from Bramley Parish Council to Ravenfield Parish

Council. Respondents stated that the development had been marketed as being in Ravenfield, that properties have Ravenfield postal addresses, and that residents primarily use facilities and services within Ravenfield, including schools, medical facilities, shops and community amenities. Several respondents noted that residents identify more closely with Ravenfield than Bramley and considered that the current parish boundary does not reflect the community they belong to.

2.21.3 The Parish Council, through its Parish Clerk, also supported amending the parish boundary to include the Poppy Fields development, citing the area's physical relationship with Ravenfield and its identification as part of the village.

2.21.4 It should be noted that, shortly before the commencement of this review, Ravenfield Parish Council submitted a petition requesting a Community Governance Review to consider extending the parish boundary to include the Poppy Fields development. Although the petition did not meet the statutory threshold required to trigger a review, it was supported by 124 valid signatures, demonstrating a significant level of local support for the proposal.

2.21.5 Additional representations both in favour of and in opposition to the transfer of the Poppy Fields development were received in relation to Bramley Parish Council and are summarised in section 2.6.

2.21.6 The majority of respondents supported retaining the existing unwarded arrangements, and all respondents who commented on council size considered that the current number of councillors is appropriate. Similarly, most respondents considered that the parish name continues to reflect the community it serves.

2.21.7 One respondent raised concerns regarding the administration and operation of the Parish Council. However, such matters relate to the conduct and management of the council and therefore fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review.

2.21.8 Two responses were received from electors residing within the Hooton Roberts Parish area who supported the transfer of the Firsby area to Ravenfield Parish Council. Further details are set out in paragraph 2.16.1.

2.21.9 Ravenfield Parish Council currently has 7 councillors representing an electorate of 2,321. The electorate is forecast to increase to 2,500 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates that a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 9 councillors.

2.22 Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

2.22.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Thorpe Salvin.

2.23 Thrybergh Parish Council

2.23.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Thrybergh Parish Council.

2.23.2 Thrybergh Parish Council currently has 15 councillors representing an electorate of 2,964. The electorate is forecast to increase to 3,001 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 10 councillors.

2.23.3 From an examination of the existing governance arrangements, a potential boundary anomaly has been identified in relation to properties 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close. Whilst these properties are located within the DAC polling district of Thrybergh South Ward, Thrybergh Parish Council, the remainder of Reresby Park Close, including the access road, lies within the DAD polling district of Dalton North Ward, Dalton Parish Council. This arrangement results in properties on the same cul-de-sac being divided between two parishes, which may not reflect the most readily identifiable boundary or local community ties. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3, Map 10. Any potential boundary change would affect three properties and two electors.

2.24 Thurcroft Parish Council

2.24.1 Four responses were received in relation to Thurcroft Parish Council, including submissions from the Parish Council Chair, a Parish Councillor, an elector and one respondent who did not specify the capacity in which they were responding.

2.24.2 In addition, responses were received from the Chair and Clerk of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, who proposed that the Laughton Common area of Thurcroft Parish Council should be transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. Further details of this proposal are set out in paragraph 2.17.2.

2.24.3 The Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council responding on the Parish Council's behalf, stated they have had discussions with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council about the possibility of transferring the Laughton Common area of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. Whilst open to the proposal, Thurcroft Parish Council would need to fully assess the impact before supporting such a change.

2.24.4 One respondent stated they were satisfied with the current electoral arrangements and did not consider any changes to be necessary.

2.24.5 Another respondent expressed satisfaction with the current parish boundary arrangements and the existing number of parish council seats. However, their response indicated a misunderstanding of the current warding arrangements, suggesting that the parish should be divided into two wards covering Thurcroft and Laughton Common respectively. This arrangement is already in place. The apparent confusion arises from the

Thurcroft North Ward, which covers the Thurcroft area, being divided into two polling districts (THB and THC) to accommodate the size of the electorate.

2.24.6 A Parish Councillor considered the current number of councillors to be appropriate, noting that a larger council could make decision-making less effective. However, they felt that council seats should be distributed equally between the two parish wards to avoid a perceived north-south divide.

2.24.7 The Parish Councillor also suggested that councillors should reside within the parish ward they represent and that local councils should be granted greater powers in relation to policing within their parish areas. However, neither issue falls within the scope of this review.

2.24.8 The qualifications required to stand for election as a parish councillor are prescribed in legislation, principally the Local Government Act 1972. Similarly, principal councils have no statutory powers over the governance or decision-making of parish councils. Any changes to these legislative arrangements would require amendment by Parliament.

2.24.9 The Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council proposed reducing the number of council seats from 18 to 13, stating that this would be more appropriate for the size of the electorate and would reflect the difficulties experienced in filling all available seats.

2.24.10 Thurcroft Parish Council currently has 18 councillors representing an electorate of 5,894. The electorate is forecast to increase to 6,016 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 13 councillors.

2.25 Todwick Parish Council

2.25.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Todwick Parish Council.

2.26 Treeton Parish Council

2.26.1 One elector from the Parish responded, stating that they did not believe any changes to the current electoral arrangements were required.

2.27 Ulley Parish Council

2.27.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Ulley Parish Council.

2.28 Wales Parish Council

2.28.1 Two responses were received from electors in the parish. One elector supported retaining the existing governance arrangements.

2.28.2 The other elector considered that the parish had an appropriate number of council seats but suggested that the parish warding arrangements should be removed, stating that residents regard the parish as a single community.

2.28.3 The respondent also raised concerns regarding the operation and administration of the Parish Council. Such matters fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review, as principal councils have no statutory powers over the administration or decision-making of parish, town or community councils.

2.28.4 Wales Parish Council currently has 15 councillors representing an electorate of 5,682. The electorate is forecast to increase to 6,170 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 13 councillors.

2.29 Waverley Community Council

2.29.1 Eight responses were received in relation to Waverley Community Council, including six from electors in the parish, one elector who works in the parish and one from the Parish Clerk on behalf of Waverley Community Council.

2.29.2 There was broad support for retaining the existing parish boundary arrangements and for the parish remaining unwarded, with seven respondents supporting the current arrangements. One respondent suggested that the parish should be divided into parish wards, although no further rationale was provided.

2.29.3 Views on council size were mixed. Three respondents considered the current number of councillors to be appropriate, two felt there were too many councillors, and one considered that additional councillors were required to improve representation and transparency. The response submitted on behalf of Waverley Community Council stated that the current council size of seven councillors remains appropriate, citing the history of uncontested elections, a relatively high turnover of councillors and the challenges associated with recruiting parish councillors within a community predominantly comprising young families and working professionals.

2.29.4 Opinions were similarly divided regarding the parish name. Four respondents considered that the name ‘Waverley Community Council’ appropriately reflects the community it serves, whilst three respondents disagreed, citing concerns regarding the performance, visibility and community engagement of the Council. One respondent suggested that the authority should instead be known as ‘Waverley Council’.

2.29.5 Several respondents expressed concerns regarding the operation and administration of the Parish Council. Such matters fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review, as principal councils have no

statutory powers over the administration or decision-making of parish, town or community councils.

2.29.6 Two respondents suggested that the Council should be abolished.

2.29.7 Waverley Community Council currently has 7 councillors representing an electorate of 3,391. The electorate is forecast to increase to 5,284 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 12 councillors.

2.30 Wentworth Parish Council

2.30.1 Seven responses were received in relation to Wentworth Parish Council, including responses from the Chair of the Parish Council, four electors in the parish, and a Borough Councillor.

2.30.2 The Chair of Wentworth Parish Council stated that the Council plays an important role in representing local residents and supporting community development through its involvement in matters such as planning, environmental initiatives and public spaces.

2.30.3 The majority of respondents supported the retention of the existing parish boundary, warding arrangements, council size and parish name. Two electors specifically highlighted the importance of retaining Strafford Place within Wentworth Parish Council and the Hoober Ward, noting that these arrangements had been in place for many years.

2.30.4 One respondent suggested that the name of Harley Ward should be changed to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

2.30.5 One elector raised concerns regarding the operation and administration of the Parish Council. However these matters fall outside the scope of this review.

2.30.6 The Borough Councillor proposed changing the parish boundary so that an area of park and green space, known as Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground, was removed from the Parish. However, no further details or justification were provided for this suggestion. A map of the area is provided in Appendix 3: Map 11.

2.31 Whiston Parish Council

2.31.1 Responses were received from the Parish Clerk and two electors in the parish, all of whom expressed support for retaining the existing governance arrangements.

2.31.2 One elector felt the Parish Council should provide additional services. However, decisions regarding the services provided by a parish council are a matter for the parish council itself and fall outside the scope of this review.

2.31.3 Whiston Parish Council currently has 9 councillors representing an electorate of 3,798. The electorate is forecast to increase to 4,423 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 12 councillors.

2.32 Wickersley Parish Council

2.32.1 There were three responses for Wickersley Parish Council, one from a Parish Councillor and two from electors in the Parish.

2.32.2 One elector supported maintaining the existing governance arrangements.

2.32.3 The second elector also supported retaining the current parish boundary and warding arrangements. However, they suggested that the number of council seats should be reduced to 12, based on NALC guidance.

2.32.4 The Parish Councillor suggested that the existing parish wards should be removed, although no reason was provided. Whilst they considered the current council size of 16 councillors to be appropriate, they noted that recruiting and retaining councillors was becoming increasingly difficult.

2.32.5 The Parish Council raised concerns that the Wickersley community is currently split across two borough wards. They consider this arrangement does not reflect the community effectively and suggest that a single borough ward, aligned with the existing parish boundary, should be considered.

2.32.6 It should be noted that changes to borough ward boundaries are outside the scope of a Community Governance Review. Principal councils do not have the power to alter their own electoral boundaries, as responsibility for reviewing and amending borough ward boundaries rests with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Consequently, aligning the Borough boundaries with the Parish cannot be considered as part of this review.

2.32.7 Wickersley Parish Council currently has 16 councillors representing an electorate of 6,331. The electorate is forecast to increase to 6,410 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be 13 councillors.

2.32.8 It should be noted that a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted for, and applies across, the whole of Wickersley Parish Council area. A summary of neighbourhood plans and the implications of neighbourhood planning for Community Governance Review proposals is provided in Section 2.10.7 and 2.10.8.

2.33 Woodsetts Parish Council

2.33.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Woodsetts Parish Council.

2.33.2 Woodsetts Parish Council currently has 9 councillors representing an electorate of 1,395. The electorate is forecast to increase to 1,412 within the next five years. NALC guidance indicates a parish of this size would typically be expected to have 8 councillors.

2.34 Requests for new parish council in the Rawmarsh area

2.34.1 Three responses were received supporting the creation of a parish council for Rawmarsh. Respondents cited a perceived decline in local amenities, investment and community influence and considered that parish governance could strengthen local representation, increase community involvement in decision-making and help secure improvements to local facilities and services.

2.34.2 Views varied on the extent of any new parish area, with suggestions ranging from Rawmarsh alone to a wider parish incorporating neighbouring communities.

2.34.3 A parish council covering the whole of Rawmarsh would broadly align with the existing Rawmarsh East and Rawmarsh West Borough Wards and would have an electorate of approximately 13,700.

2.34.4 One respondent suggested that Rawmarsh could be divided into two separate parishes, reflecting the current borough ward boundaries. Under this arrangement, a parish covering the Rawmarsh West area would have an electorate of approximately 6,700, while a parish covering the Rawmarsh East area would have an electorate of approximately 7,000.

2.35 Requests for new parish council in the Wath area

2.35.1 Four responses were received supporting the creation of a parish council for the Wath upon Dearne area. Respondents cited a need for stronger local representation, increased accountability and more locally focused decision-making, particularly in light of ongoing housing and business growth.

2.35.2 A common theme was the feeling that existing governance arrangements do not adequately reflect local needs. Respondents expressed a desire for a stronger local voice, greater resident involvement in decision-making and governance arrangements that build upon the area's strong community identity, active voluntary sector and community assets.

2.35.3 Suggested parish boundaries varied, ranging from Wath upon Dearne alone to a wider parish including Manvers, Newhill and West Melton. Overall, respondents considered that a parish council would strengthen community representation, improve local accountability and provide a more effective mechanism for influencing decisions affecting the area.

2.35.4 Based on the current Wath upon Dearne Borough Ward, a parish council would have an electorate of approximately 6,700. This would increase to approximately 11,500 electors if the Manvers, Newhill and West Melton areas were included.

2.36 General comments received

2.36.1 Both Greasbrough Ward Borough Councillors responded to the consultation and indicated that they did not support the creation of a parish council covering the Greasbrough Ward.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Anston Parish Council

3.1.1 The proposal to transfer the Dinnington Park Avenue Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council, excluding Dinnington Cemetery, to Anston Parish Council was raised by one respondent. The Dinnington Park Avenue Ward contains approximately 360 electors, and no other responses were received in support or of a similar nature to this proposal.

3.1.2 The proposal would create a less coherent parish boundary by leaving Dinnington Cemetery isolated from the remainder of Dinnington St John's Town Council. This could give rise to administrative anomalies and practical difficulties, particularly as access to the cemetery would be through the area of Anston Parish Council.

3.1.3 Regard must also be given to Dinnington St John's Town Council's adopted Neighbourhood Plan, which covers the whole of the Town Council area. Altering the parish boundary could require consequential changes to neighbourhood planning arrangements and may create unnecessary complexity.

3.1.4 Whilst the proposal would predominantly align the parish and Borough Ward boundaries, given the limited support for the proposal and the potential adverse impact on the effective governance of Dinnington St John's Town Council, it is recommended that the existing governance arrangements for Anston Parish Council are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.1.5 Such a proposal may be better suited to consideration when the Local Government Boundary for England next review the Borough ward boundaries.

3.2 Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

3.2.1 As identified in paragraph 2.4.3, four properties on Retford Road are separated from the main residential area of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council by significant physical barriers, namely the River Rother and an industrial estate. The properties also have a closer geographical relationship with neighbouring properties in Orgreave Parish Council.

3.2.2 Given the physical barriers and their proximity to properties in Orgreave Parish Council, it is proposed that consultation be undertaken with electors at 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

3.2.3 As set out in paragraph 2.4.2, Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council currently comprises 15 councillors, however, when considering the current and projected electorates, NALC guidance suggests that a parish of this size would ordinarily be represented by 18 councillors.

3.2.4 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by three to 18 seats.

3.2.5 Based on the projected electorate, the distribution of the council seats across the three parish wards would be:

- Aston-cum-Aughton North: An increase of one seat to six
- Aston-cum-Aughton South: An increase of two seats to nine
- Aston-cum-Aughton West: The number of seats to remain three

3.3 Bramley Parish Council

3.3.1 Consultation responses received in relation to Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council demonstrated differing views regarding the community identity of the Poppy Fields development, which is located within Bramley North Ward of Bramley Parish Council.

3.3.2 Residents and representatives responding under both parish councils expressed differing views as to whether the development should remain within Bramley Parish Council or become part of Ravenfield Parish Council. When considered alongside the Community Governance Review petition submitted by Ravenfield Parish Council earlier in the year, these responses demonstrate a significant level of local interest and justify further consultation with affected electors and parish councils before a final recommendation is reached.

3.3.3 It is therefore recommended that consultation be undertaken with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered in relation to the development.

3.3.4 Whilst the majority of responses relating to council seats favoured retaining the existing arrangement, consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate indicates that a council size of 14 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.3.5 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Bramley Parish Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by one to 14 seats.

3.3.6 Based on the projected electorate, the distribution of the council seats across the three parish wards would be:

- Bramley North: An increase of one seat to seven
- Bramley South: The number of seats to remain four
- Bramley West: The number of seats to remain three

3.4 Brampton Bierlow Parish Council

3.4.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Brampton Bierlow Parish Council. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.5 Brinsworth Parish Council

3.5.1 There was significant support for the Parish boundary to incorporate the BWA polling district, which would align the Parish boundary with Brinsworth Borough Ward. However, a small number of electors from the BWA polling district opposed their inclusion. With differing view, direct consultation with those electors is therefore appropriate.

3.5.2 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

3.5.3 As set out in 2.7.4, one respondent suggested the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary be amended to include the even number properties from 30 to 48 Century View. Century View is built over the boundary between Rotherham Council and Sheffield City Council. Most of the properties on Century View are within Rotherham, but the even numbers from 30 to 48 are within the Sheffield City Council boundary.

3.5.4 The legislation governing Community Governance Reviews assumes that a parish council is located within one principal council area, given that the principal council is responsible for the parish and its governance. In practice, Rotherham Council has no powers to expand a parish boundary into a neighbouring principal council area or to amend the principal council boundary between Rotherham and Sheffield. Therefore, it is not possible to consider this proposal.

3.5.5 Whilst the majority of responses relating to council seats favoured retaining the existing arrangement of 11, consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate indicates that a council size of 14 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.5.6 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Brinsworth Parish Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by three to 14 seats.

3.6 Catcliffe Parish Council

3.6.1 All respondents supported the retention of the existing parish boundary arrangements. Whilst views differed regarding parish warding and the number of councillors, no clear or consistent case for change was identified.

3.6.2 It is recommended that no changes are made to the current community governance arrangements for the parish and that no further consultation is undertaken. The consultation responses did not identify a clear justification for changes to the parish boundary, warding arrangements or council size, and the existing number of parish councillors remains in line with NALC guidance.

3.7 Dalton Parish Council

3.7.1 From the three responses received the common theme relates to feelings of disconnection from Dalton. There were suggestions to rename the Parish Council to better reflect the communities it serves, as well as areas of the Parish forming separate parish councils or being merged with neighbouring parishes.

3.7.2 When considering the governance structure of the Parish, it is set up to allow proportionate representation across the area. Dalton Parish Council is divided into three parish wards, with Dalton East, Dalton North and Dalton South.

3.7.3 Dalton East Ward, comprising Sunnyside and Flanderwell, has the largest electorate of 4,299 and consequently the highest level of representation on the Parish Council, with nine councillor seats. Dalton North Ward, covering Dalton and Dalton Magna, has an electorate of 2,577 and is represented by five councillors, whilst Brecks Ward has the smallest electorate of 835 and is represented by two councillors.

3.7.4 Given the limited support for such significant changes to the governance arrangements, and taking into account that the existing warding arrangements provide fair and proportionate representation across the parish, there is insufficient justification to pursue proposals for the creation of new parish councils or the transfer of areas to neighbouring parishes.

3.7.5 However, given the concerns raised regarding community identity and representation, consideration should be given to whether the name of the Parish Council continues to adequately reflect the communities it serves. A proposal submitted by a Dalton Parish Councillor suggested that the Parish Council be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council. It is therefore recommended that consultation be undertaken with the Parish

Council and parish electors to seek their views on a potential change of name.

3.7.6 In addition, to complement the proposed consultation on a change to the Parish Council's name, consideration should be given to whether the existing parish ward names appropriately reflect the communities they represent. The consultation should therefore also seek views on renaming Dalton East Ward to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton North Ward to Dalton Ward, and Dalton South Ward to Brecks Ward.

3.7.7 A boundary anomaly has been identified on Reresby Park Close, which is in Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council, with the exception of numbers 11, 38 and 40, which are in Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council. A recommendation is set out under Thrybergh Parish Council to consult with the affected electors and both parish councils on the potential transfer of these properties from to Dalton North Ward. Further details are set out in Section 3.21.

3.7.8 Whilst NALC guidance indicates that the current and projected electorate could support a reduction from 16 to 15 councillors, the electorate falls between the recommended bands for 15 and 16 seats. Taking into account the concerns raised regarding representation, it is not recommended to reduce the number of seats.

3.8 Dinnington St John's Town Council

3.8.1 A proposal was submitted under Anston Parish Council to incorporate the Dinnington Park Avenue Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council, with the exception of Dinnington Cemetery, into Anston Parish Council. Given the limited support for the proposal and its potential impact on the effective and convenient governance of Dinnington St John's Town Council, no change is recommended. Further details are set out under Anston Parish Council, in section 3.1.

3.8.2 Firbeck Parish Council and two respondents from the Penny Hill area of Dinnington Town Ward, Dinnington St John's Town Council, proposed that the Penny Hill area be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

3.8.3 It is recommended that further consultation be undertaken on this proposal. Full details of the proposal, supporting evidence and recommendation are set out under Firbeck Parish Council in Section 3.9.

3.9 Firbeck Parish Council

3.9.1 The Parish Clerk of Firbeck Parish Council proposed that several properties currently within the neighbouring Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council and the Maltby East Ward of Maltby Town Council areas should be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council. The proposal was based on the proximity of the properties to Firbeck and the perceived affiliation of residents with Firbeck Parish Council.

3.9.2 The properties identified for transfer from Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council are those at Thwaite House Farm and Lingodell Farm in the Penny Hill area. Two electors in the Penny Hill area submitted responses supporting the proposal to transfer their properties to Firbeck Parish Council.

3.9.3 Dinnington St John's Town Council has adopted a Neighbourhood Plan which covers the whole of the Town Council. Should the properties be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council, any parish boundary change would not automatically amend a designated neighbourhood area or the coverage of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, consequential neighbourhood planning action would need to be considered separately.

3.9.4 Given the support from 25% of the registered electors impacted by the proposal and that part of Thwaite House Farm land is already within Firbeck Parish Council, it is recommended that consultation is undertaken with electors in properties in the Penny Hill area, alongside Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the properties in the Penny Hill area from Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council.

3.9.5 When considering the final recommendation linked to this proposal, regard will need to be given to the impact of the Dinnington St John's Town Council Neighbourhood Plan.

3.9.6 The properties identified for transfer from Maltby East Ward of Maltby Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council are those at Beckridge Farm, Four Lane Ends and Yews Farm.

3.9.7 The current boundary between Firbeck Parish Council and Maltby Town Council also forms the boundary between the Dinnington and Maltby East Borough Wards. Firbeck Parish Council lies within the Dinnington Ward, the properties in the proposal within the Maltby East Ward. The proposed transfer would therefore create a less coherent set of parish boundaries and could result in confusion between parish and borough ward boundaries.

3.9.8 In addition to the administrative boundary, Firbeck Dike provides a distinct physical feature separating Firbeck Parish Council from the properties identified in the proposal. As such, the existing boundary follows a more readily identifiable and coherent geographic feature.

3.9.9 Regard must also be given to the adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Maltby Town Council, which covers the whole of the Town Council area, including the properties subject to the proposal. Any alteration to the parish boundary may require consequential consideration of neighbourhood planning arrangements and could introduce additional complexity.

3.9.10 A further consideration is the absence of support from electors residing within the properties proposed for transfer. Whilst the proposal was put forward by Firbeck Parish Council, no consultation responses were received from residents of the affected properties in support of the change.

3.9.11 Taking into account the potential for less coherent administrative boundaries, the presence of a clear physical boundary, the lack of demonstrated support from affected electors, and the implications for the adopted Neighbourhood Plan, there is insufficient evidence to justify progressing the proposal further as part of this review.

3.10 Gildingwells Parish Meeting

3.10.1 No responses were received in relation to Gildingwells Parish Meeting and it cannot be evidenced that meetings are being held, as required by law.

3.10.2 As the abolition of a parish is generally regarded as a measure of last resort, and would require the approval of the Secretary of State, it is important that electors are first given the opportunity to consider alternative community governance arrangements that would continue to provide local representation and governance for the area.

3.10.3 Given the uncertainty as to whether Gildingwells Parish Meeting is currently fulfilling its statutory functions, it is recommended that further consultation be undertaken with electors in the parish. The consultation should seek views on whether efforts should be made to re-establish the Parish Meeting, whether the parish should be merged with a neighbouring parish council, namely Letwell Parish Council or Woodsetts Parish Council, or whether the abolition of Gildingwells Parish Meeting should be considered.

3.11 Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council

3.11.1 One consultation response was received in relation to Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council, which was supportive of the existing governance arrangements. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.12 Hellaby Parish Council

3.12.1 Whilst 20 responses were received for Hellaby Parish Council, all were supportive of retaining the current governance arrangements. There was particular concern about the loss of community identity, should a merger with Maltby Town Council be considered.

3.12.2 It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.13 Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

3.13.1 No responses were received in relation to Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting and it cannot be evidenced that meetings are being held, as required by law.

3.13.2 Given the uncertainty as to whether Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting is currently fulfilling its statutory functions, it is recommended that further consultation be undertaken with electors in the parish. The consultation should seek views on whether efforts should be made to re-establish the Parish Meeting, whether the parish should be merged with a neighbouring parish council, namely Laughton-en-le-Morthen, or whether the abolition of Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting should be considered.

3.13.3 A merger with Maltby Town Council should not be taken forward for consultation because the available evidence does not demonstrate that this would reflect the rural character, identity or community connections of Hooton Levitt.

3.13.4 As the abolition of a parish is generally regarded as a measure of last resort, and would require the approval of the Secretary of State, it is important that electors are first given the opportunity to consider alternative community governance arrangements that would continue to provide local representation and governance for the area.

3.14 Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting

3.14.1 Two electors in the Firsby area of Hooton Roberts Parish felt they had more affiliation with Ravenfield Parish Council due to their geographical proximity and better reflecting their local community identity and interests.

3.14.2 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with electors in the Firsby area, all electors within the Hooton Roberts parish area, and Ravenfield Parish Council to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish area to Ravenfield Parish Council.

3.15 Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

3.15.1 Both the Parish Clerk and Chair of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council considered that residents of Laughton Common have strong community ties with Laughton-en-le-Morthen and make regular use of facilities and amenities within the parish. On this basis, they proposed that consideration be given to transferring Laughton Common, which currently forms the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council, into Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council.

3.15.2 The Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council, responding on behalf of Thurcroft Parish Council, provided support for this proposal to be explored.

3.15.3 Both Parish Councils indicated that, should the proposal be considered further, they would wish to review its viability, particularly the financial implications, before deciding whether to support its implementation.

3.15.4 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with the electors in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen and Thurcroft Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council.

3.15.5 It should be noted that, should the proposal be implemented, a number of consequential changes may need to be considered for Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, including:

- An increase in the parish electorate to approximately 2,500.
- Any Thurcroft Parish Council assets in the Thurcroft South Ward would be transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council.
- A review of the number of parish councillor seats, with NALC guidance indicating that a council of this size would typically comprise between nine and ten councillors.
- Consideration of parish warding arrangements. Given the distinct settlements of Laughton-en-le-Morthen and Laughton Common, it may be appropriate to establish two parish wards to provide effective and convenient local governance.

Should parish wards be introduced, the allocation of councillor seats between the wards would need to reflect the distribution of electors to ensure fair and proportionate representation across the parish.

3.15.6 Given the uncertainty regarding whether Hooton Levitt Meeting is currently able to fulfil its statutory functions, it is considered appropriate to consult electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish area on a range of alternative community governance arrangements. One option is a merger with a neighbouring parish council, including Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. Any consultation would therefore include electors in Hooton Levitt and the neighbouring parishes that could be affected by the proposals, including Laughton-en-le-Morthen. Further details are provided in Section 3.13.

3.16 Letwell Parish Council

3.16.1 The two responses received in relation to Letwell Parish Council expressed differing views. One respondent was satisfied with the current governance arrangements, whilst the other considered that five councillors was excessive for a parish of Letwell's size and suggested that a merger with Firbeck or Gildingwells should be explored.

3.16.2 Whilst the electorate in Letwell is relatively small, the Parish Council is represented by five councillors, which is the statutory minimum prescribed by Section 16(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

3.16.3 There is no evidence arising from the review to suggest that a merger involving Letwell Parish Council is necessary. However, a potential merger with Letwell forms one of the options being considered as part of the recommendations relating to Gildingwells Parish Meeting.

3.16.4 Given the uncertainty regarding whether Gildingwells Parish Meeting is currently able to fulfil its statutory functions, it is considered appropriate to consult electors within the Gildingwells parish area on a range of alternative community governance arrangements. One option is a merger with a neighbouring parish council, including Letwell Parish Council. Any consultation would therefore include electors in Gildingwells and the neighbouring parishes that could be affected by the proposals, including Letwell. Further details are provided in Section 3.10.

3.17 Maltby Town Council

3.17.1 Whilst a significant number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with individual councillors and decisions made by Maltby Town Council, these concerns relate primarily to the administration of the Council rather than the appropriateness of the current community governance arrangements. Such matters fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review and do not, in themselves, provide sufficient justification for altering parish boundaries, electoral arrangements or the existence of the Town Council.

3.17.2 Although 22 respondents (26.8%) proposed dividing Maltby Town Council into separate East and West parish councils, a substantially larger proportion of respondents (57 respondents, 69.5%) supported retaining Maltby Town Council as a single authority, albeit with differing views regarding the retention of parish warding. The evidence therefore indicates broad support for maintaining Maltby as a single parish.

3.17.3 The creation of separate parish councils would raise a number of practical issues, including the division of assets and liabilities, the future operation of the neighbourhood plan, and the potential impact on effective and convenient local government. Given that the majority of Town Council assets are located within Maltby East Ward, there is a risk that a division of the parish could result in an inequitable distribution of resources and financial responsibilities.

3.17.4 Furthermore, the existence of a single neighbourhood plan covering the whole town demonstrates that Maltby has previously been regarded as a coherent community for neighbourhood planning purposes. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the creation of separate parish councils would better reflect community identities or improve local governance arrangements.

3.17.5 In relation to parish warding, whilst 32 respondents (39.0%) favoured the removal of parish wards, parish warding can play an important role in ensuring representation for distinct communities and can reduce the cost of administering any future Town Council by-elections by limiting polls to

the affected ward rather than the whole Town Council area. No evidence has been presented to demonstrate that the current warding arrangements are preventing effective and convenient local government.

3.17.6 On balance, there is insufficient evidence to justify either the division of Maltby Town Council into separate parish councils or the removal of the existing parish warding arrangements. It is therefore recommended that the current governance arrangements for Maltby Town Council remain unchanged and that no further consultation is undertaken on these proposals.

3.17.7 In line with National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidance, Maltby Town Council's current complement of 18 councillor seats remains appropriate for a parish of its size. Whilst a number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the distribution of seats between the two parish wards, representation is broadly proportionate to the electorate in each ward. Maltby East Ward has an electorate of 6,631 represented by ten councillors, while Maltby West Ward has an electorate of 5,511 represented by eight councillors.

3.17.8 Forecast electorate growth over the next five years does not indicate a need to alter the overall number of councillor seats. NALC guidance would continue to support a council size of 18 members, and the councillor-to-elector ratios across both wards would remain broadly comparable. In Maltby East Ward, the ratio is forecast to change from one councillor per 663 electors to one per 746 electors, whilst in Maltby West Ward the ratio is forecast to change from one councillor per 689 electors to one per 698 electors. Accordingly, the existing ward representation arrangements continue to provide a broadly equitable level of representation across the Town Council.

3.17.9 A proposal was submitted by Firbeck Parish Council to transfer properties at Beckridge Farm, Four Lane Ends and Yews Farm from Maltby East Ward of Maltby Town Council to Firbeck Parish Council. The rationale was based on their proximity and perceived affiliation to Firbeck Parish Council.

3.17.10 Taking into account the potential for the creation of a less coherent administrative boundaries, the presence of a clear physical boundary, the lack of demonstrated support from affected electors, and the implications for the adopted Neighbourhood Plan in Maltby Town Council, there is insufficient evidence to justify progressing the proposal further as part of this review. Further detail on the proposal and considerations are set out under Firbeck Parish Council in section 3.9.

3.18 Orgreave Parish Council

3.18.1 As detailed in paragraphs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, four properties on Retford Road are situated within Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council but are geographically isolated from the remainder of the parish and lie adjacent to Orgreave Parish Council.

3.18.2 As set out in paragraph 3.2.3, it is recommended that consultation is undertaken with the electors of 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

3.18.3 No responses were received in relation to Orgreave Parish Council during the consultation. Therefore, pending the outcome of the consultation proposed above, it is recommended that the existing governance arrangements for Orgreave Parish Council are retained and that no further consultation is undertaken in respect of the parish, other than that associated with the proposed boundary review of the four Retford Road properties.

3.19 Ravenfield Parish Council

3.19.1 As set out in paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2, consultation responses received in relation to Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council demonstrated differing views regarding the community identity of the Poppy Fields development and whether it should remain within Bramley Parish Council or become part of Ravenfield Parish Council.

3.19.2 The responses received, together with the Community Governance Review petition submitted by Ravenfield Parish Council earlier in the year, demonstrate a significant level of local interest in the governance arrangements affecting the development.

3.19.3 Given the differing views expressed and the potential implications of any parish boundary change, it is considered appropriate to undertake further consultation with affected residents and both parish councils before a final recommendation is reached. Further details are set out under Bramley Parish Council in section 3.3.

3.19.4 Two electors in the Firsby area of Hooton Roberts Parish felt they had more affiliation with Ravenfield Parish Council due to their geographical proximity and better reflecting their local community identity and interests. It is therefore recommended that consultation is undertaken on this proposal. Further details are set out under Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting in section 3.14.

3.19.5 Whilst the majority of responses relating to council seats favoured retaining the existing arrangement of seven seats, consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate indicates that a council size of nine seats would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.19.6 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Ravenfield Parish Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by two to nine seats.

3.20 Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

3.20.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Thorpe Salvin Parish Council. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.21 Thrybergh Parish Council

3.21.1 A boundary anomaly exists between Thrybergh and Dalton Parish Councils. Three properties on Reresby Park Close (11, 38 and 40) are situated within the Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council but are physically isolated from the remainder of the parish, whilst the rest of the cul-de-sac falls within Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council. This arrangement may not provide the most effective governance structure and results in an unclear parish boundary.

3.21.2 It is therefore recommended that consultation is undertaken with the electors of 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

3.21.3 Thrybergh Parish Council currently has 15 council seats. When considered against NALC guidance, a parish of this size would typically be expected to have around 10 councillors. However, to maintain effective representation across the parish's two wards, a council size of 11 seats would provide a more proportionate distribution of representation.

3.21.4 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Thrybergh Parish Council and its electors to seek views on decreasing the number of council seats by four to 11 seats.

3.21.5 Based on the projected electorate, the revised warding arrangements would comprise:

- Thrybergh North: reduction of two seats to six.
- Thrybergh South: reduction of two seats to five.

This would bring the overall council size more closely into line with NALC guidance whilst continuing to provide fair and effective representation across both parish wards.

3.22 Thurcroft Parish Council

3.22.1 A proposal has been put forward by Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council to transfer the Laughton Common area, currently comprising the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council, into Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council. The rationale for the proposal is that Laughton Common residents are considered to have strong community links with Laughton-en-le-Morthen and regularly access facilities and amenities within the parish.

3.22.2 The proposal has received support from the Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council confirming the Parish Council's support for the matter to be considered as part of this review.

3.22.3 Both Parish Councils indicated that, should the proposal be considered further, they would wish to review its viability, particularly the financial implications, before deciding whether to support its implementation.

3.22.4 It is recommended that consultation on the proposal to transfer Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council is undertaken. Full details of the proposal and recommendation are set out under Laughton-en-le-Morthen in section 3.15.

3.22.5 It should be noted that, should the proposal be implemented, a number of consequential changes may need to be considered for Thurcroft Parish Council, including:

- A decrease in electorate in the parish to approximately 4,500.
- A review of the number of parish councillor seats, with NALC guidance indicating that a council of this size would typically comprise of twelve councillors.
- If the Thurcroft South Ward was transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, Thurcroft Parish Council would no longer have parish wards.
- Any Thurcroft Parish Council assets in the Thurcroft South Ward would be transferred to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council.

3.22.6 An elector and a Parish Councillor both expressed satisfaction with the current number of councillor seats for Thurcroft Parish Council. However, the Parish Councillor suggested that representation should be evenly distributed between Thurcroft North and Thurcroft South parish wards to help promote balanced representation across the parish and avoid perceptions of a divide between the two wards.

3.22.7 An equal distribution of seats between the two wards would not be appropriate given the significant difference in electorate size. Thurcroft North Ward, which covers the main Thurcroft settlement, has an electorate approximately three times larger than Thurcroft South Ward, which covers Laughton Common. In accordance with the principle of electoral equality, councillor representation should be broadly proportionate to the electorate while also having regard to local geography and community identities.

3.22.8 The Chair of the Parish Council has proposed that the number of council seats is reduced from 18 to 13, stating it is more appropriate for the size of the Council and due to difficulty recruiting.

3.22.9 Whilst difficulty in recruiting Councillors is not a strong reason to reduce the number of council seats, NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate is 13 seats.

3.22.10 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Thurcroft Parish Council and its electors to seek views on decreasing the number of council seats by five to 13 seats.

3.22.11 Based on the projected electorate, the distribution of the council seats across the two parish wards would be:

- Thurcroft North: A decrease of five seats to ten
- Thurcroft South: The number of seats to remain three

3.23 Todwick Parish Council

3.23.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Treeton Parish Council. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.24 Treeton Parish Council

3.24.1 One consultation response was received in relation to Treeton Parish Council, which was supportive of the existing governance arrangements. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.25 Ulley Parish Council

3.25.1 No consultation responses were received in relation to Thorpe Salvin Parish Council. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements are retained and that no further consultation is required.

3.26 Wales Parish Council

3.26.1 Whilst one respondent was satisfied with the current governance arrangements, another proposed the removal of the parish warding arrangements on the basis that the parish functions as a single community. The respondent also sought the abolition of the Parish Council, citing concerns regarding the legality of decisions relating to the administration and operation of the council. Matters relating to the conduct and decision-making of the Parish Council fall outside the scope of this Community Governance Review and have therefore not been considered further.

3.26.2 The current parish warding arrangements for Wales Parish Council were introduced to address a history of frequent parish council by-elections and the associated costs, whilst ensuring representation for the distinct communities of Wales and Kiveton Park. As these factors continue to apply, the existing warding structure remains consistent with the objective of securing effective and convenient local governance.

3.26.3 Whilst the two responses relating to the Parish Council favoured retaining the existing arrangement, consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate indicates that a council size of 13 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.26.4 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Wales Parish Council and its electors to seek views on decreasing the number of council seats by two to 13 seats.

3.26.5 Based on the projected electorate, the distribution of the council seats across the two parish wards would be:

- Kiveton Park: A decrease by two seats to five
- Wales: The number of seats to remain at eight

3.27 Waverley Community Council

3.27.1 Whilst there were mixed views on the number of council seats for Waverley Parish Council, the electorate is predicted to increase significantly over the next five years, due to residential developments. Consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the projected electorate indicates that a council size of 12 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.27.2 Whilst the Parish Clerk has cited difficulties in retaining and recruiting councillors, this should not outweigh the need to ensure that electors are afforded an appropriate level of democratic representation. The number of council seats should reflect the size and characteristics of the electorate, regardless of whether vacancies may arise from time to time.

3.27.3 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Waverley Community Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by five to 12 seats.

3.28 Wentworth Parish Council

3.28.1 The majority of respondents supported the existing arrangements.

3.28.2 A proposal was received from a Keppel Ward Borough Councillor to remove Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground from the parish area. The Recreation Ground is situated within the Harley Ward of the parish and lies at the edge of the existing parish boundary. However, the site is not an asset of the Parish Council and is owned and managed by Rotherham Council.

3.28.3 No rationale or supporting evidence was provided to justify the proposed boundary change. Furthermore, implementation of the proposal would result in a less coherent parish boundary and create a small area of unparished land surrounded by the parish on three sides. In the absence of a clear justification and given the potential to create an anomalous

governance arrangement, there is insufficient evidence to support the proposed change.

3.28.4 One elector proposed that the Harley Ward be renamed the Harley and Hood Hill Ward. No rationale was provided in support of the proposal. However, it is noted that Harley and Hood Hill are the principal populated settlements within the ward, and the proposal may reflect a view that the ward name should better recognise both communities.

3.28.5 It is recommended that consultation be undertaken with Wentworth Parish Council and parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward to seek their views on the name of Harley Ward changing to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

3.29 Whiston Parish Council

3.29.1 The three responses for Whiston Parish Council all supported the current governance arrangements.

3.29.2 Whiston Parish Council currently has 9 councillors. Consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the projected electorate indicates that a council size of 12 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.29.3 It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Whiston Parish Council and its electors to seek views on increasing the number of council seats by three to 12 seats.

3.30 Wickersley Parish Council

3.30.1 The consultation responses demonstrate limited support for significant changes to the current governance arrangements. One respondent, a Parish Councillor, proposed the removal of the parish wards. However, no rationale or supporting evidence for such a change was provided.

3.30.2 Two respondents felt the current number of council seats, 16, was appropriate, although one stated it was becoming increasingly challenging to recruit and retain councillors. The third proposed a reduction in council seats to 12, as this was more in line with national guidelines.

3.30.3 Wickersley Parish Council currently has 16 councillors. Consideration of NALC guidance in relation to the projected electorate indicates that a council size of 13 members would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.30.4 However, when considering a proportional split of seats across the two parish wards of Wickersley, 14 seats would be more effective. This is due to both wards having very similar electorates. Therefore, it is recommended that consultation is undertaken with Wickersley Parish

Council and its electors to seek views on decreasing the number of council seats by two to 14 seats.

3.30.5 Based on the projected electorate, the revised warding arrangements would comprise:

- Wickersley North: A decrease by two seats to seven
- Wickersley South: The number of seats to remain at seven

This would bring the overall council size more closely into line with NALC guidance whilst continuing to provide fair and effective representation across both parish wards.

3.31 Woodsetts Parish Council

3.31.1 Given the uncertainty regarding whether Gildingwells Parish Meeting is currently able to fulfil its statutory functions, it is considered appropriate to consult electors within the Gildingwells parish area on a range of alternative community governance arrangements. One option is a merger with a neighbouring parish council, including Woodsetts Parish Council. Any consultation would therefore include electors in Gildingwells and the neighbouring parishes that could be affected by the proposals, including Woodsetts. Further details are provided in Section 3.10.

3.31.2 Woodsetts Parish Council has nine seats, however, NALC guidance in relation to the current and projected electorate indicates that a council size of eight council seats would be more closely aligned with recommended levels of representation.

3.31.3 It is therefore recommended that consultation is undertaken with Woodsetts Parish Council and its electors to seek views on decreasing the number of council seats by one to eight seats.

3.32 Requests for new parish councils

3.32.1 Three responses proposed the creation of a parish council within the Rawmarsh area, with one respondent suggesting that two parish councils could be established. However, no consistent proposal was put forward regarding the geographical extent or boundaries of any new parish area. Based on the proposals submitted, the area under consideration would encompass an electorate of approximately 13,700.

3.32.2 Four responses proposed the creation of a parish council within the Wath upon Dearne area. However, the proposals varied considerably in terms of the geographical area that any new parish would cover, resulting in estimated electorates ranging from approximately 6,700 to 11,500.

3.32.3 Given the scale of the proposals, the differing views regarding the geographical extent of any new parish areas, and the relatively limited level of support demonstrated through the consultation, the responses received do not provide sufficient evidence of community support to justify undertaking further consultation on the creation of a new parish council in either Rawmarsh or Wath upon Dearne as part of this review.

3.32.4 The creation of a new parish council represents a significant change to local governance arrangements and would ordinarily require clear and demonstrable evidence of local support. In both cases, such evidence has not been provided.

3.32.5 Therefore, it is recommended that no further consideration be given to the proposal at this stage. Should respondents supporting the creation of new parishes wish to pursue the matter further, they may wish to identify and define the proposed parish area and demonstrate wider community support through a petition. Such a petition should meet the statutory threshold required to trigger a petition-led Community Governance Review, thereby enabling the proposal to be considered with evidence of broader local support.

3.33 Recommendations for Cabinet

3.33.1 The Community Governance Review draft recommendations are set out below, for approval by Cabinet.

3.33.2 **Recommendation 1:** That Cabinet approves the retention of the existing community governance arrangements for the following parish, town and community councils and parish meeting, and agrees that no further consultation is required. These arrangements will therefore be carried forward to the Final Recommendations Report:

a) Anston Parish Council
b) Brampton Bierlow Parish Council
c) Catcliffe Parish Council
d) Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council
e) Hellaby Parsh Council
f) Maltby Town Council
g) Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
h) Todwick Parish Council
i) Treeton Parish Council
j) Ulley Parish Council

3.33.3 **Recommendation 2:** That Cabinet approves consultation with the affected parish councils and their electors to seek views on the revision of the number of council seats as outlined below:

a) Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council: An increase of three council seats from 15 to 18.
b) Bramley Parish Council: An increase of one seat from 13 to 14.
c) Brinsworth Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 11 to 14.
d) Ravenfield Parish Council: An increase of two seats from 7 to 9.
e) Thrybergh Parish Council: A decrease of four seats from 15 to 11.
f) Thurcroft Parish Council: A decrease of five seats from 18 to 13
g) Wales Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 15 to 13.
h) Waverley Community Council: An increase of five seats from 7 to 12.
i) Whiston Parish Council: An increase of three seats from 9 to 12.

j) Wickersley Parish Council: A decrease of two seats from 16 to 14.
k) Woodsetts Parish Council: A decrease of one seat from 9 to 8.

3.33.4 **Recommendation 3:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors at 605, 607, 609 and 611 Retford Road, together with Aston-cum-Aughton and Orgreave Parish Councils to seek views on the transfer of the properties from Aston-cum-Aughton West Ward of Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council to Orgreave Parish Council.

3.33.5 **Recommendation 4:** That Cabinet approves consultation with residents of the Poppy Fields development, together with Bramley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the current parish boundary remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered.

3.33.6 **Recommendation 5:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors in the BWA polling district, together with Brinsworth Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary should be extended to include the BWA polling district.

3.33.7 **Recommendation 6:** That Council approves consultation with Dalton Parish Council and its electors to inform consideration of whether Dalton Parish Council should be renamed Dalton and Sunnyside Parish Council and the parish wards renamed to Sunnyside Ward, Dalton Ward, and Brecks Ward.

3.33.8 **Recommendation 7:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors residing in the Penny Hill area, together with Dinnington St John's Town Council and Firbeck Parish Council, to inform consideration of whether the properties within the Penny Hill area should remain within the Dinnington Town Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council or be transferred to Firbeck Parish Council.

3.33.9 **Recommendation 8:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors within the Gildingwells Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the parish.

The consultation should seek views on the following options:

- Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
- Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Letwell Parish Council;
- Merging Gildingwells Parish Meeting with Woodsetts Parish Council; and
- Abolishing Gildingwells Parish Meeting

In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Letwell Parish Council and Woodsetts Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

3.33.10 **Recommendation 9:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors within the Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting area regarding the future community governance arrangements for the parish.

The consultation should seek views on the following options:

- Re-establishing the Parish Meeting
- Merging Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council;
- Abolishing Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting

In addition, consultation should be undertaken with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council to seek their views on the potential merger options and the implications for effective and convenient local governance.

3.33.11 **Recommendation 10:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors residing in the Firsby area and within the Hooton Roberts parish area, together with Ravenfield Parish Council, to seek their views on a proposal to transfer the Firsby area from Hooton Roberts Parish to Ravenfield Parish Council, or to retain the existing parish boundary arrangements.

3.33.12 **Recommendation 11:** That Cabinet approves consultation with electors residing in the Thurcroft South Ward (Laughton Common), together with Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council and Thurcroft Parish Council, to seek their views on the potential transfer of the Thurcroft South Ward of Thurcroft Parish Council to Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council, or the retention of the existing parish boundary arrangements.

3.33.13 **Recommendation 12:** That Cabinet approves consultation with the electors of 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close, together with Dalton and Thrybergh Parish Councils, on the potential transfer of these properties from Thrybergh South Ward of Thrybergh Parish Council to Dalton North Ward of Dalton Parish Council.

3.33.14 **Recommendation 13:** That Cabinet approves consultation with Wentworth Parish Council and parish electors, particularly those in Harley Ward, to seek their views on changing the name of Harley Ward to Harley and Hood Hill Ward.

3.33.15 **Recommendation 14:** That Cabinet approves the commencement of a twelve-week public consultation period on the approved draft recommendations set out in Recommendations 2-13 in this report.

3.33.16 **Recommendation 15:** That Cabinet notes that a final recommendations report will be brought forward following the consultation on the draft recommendations. Cabinet will be asked to approve the final recommendations and recommend their adoption by Council in Spring 2027.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Section 93 (3) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 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 A consultation on the draft recommendations approved by Cabinet will be available online via the Council's consultation portal and in paper format at all Rotherham libraries.

4.3 Targeted communications and local engagement events will also be undertaken to encourage participation from residents, parish, town and community councils and interested parties in the areas affected by the draft recommendations.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, consultation on the draft recommendations will commence on 26 October 2026. To maximise opportunities for engagement with the draft recommendations, the duration of the consultation period will be twelve weeks. Although the consultation will span the Christmas period, the timetable has been designed to provide additional opportunity for participation during January 2027 before the consultation closes.

5.2 Following the second consultation stage, final recommendations will be prepared by the Officer Working Group and reported to Cabinet in Spring 2027, before being referred to Council for approval.

5.3 Any approved changes would then be implemented through a Community Governance Order at the next scheduled elections in May 2028.

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 The costs of staffing the Community Governance Review (CGR) and consultation process will continue to 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. Any changes will be implemented on 1st April 2028, as set out in paragraph 14.5 of the Terms of Reference (Appendix 1).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Council has the power and duty to undertake Community Governance Reviews under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. As stated above a Community Governance Review enables the Council to consider the creation, alteration, abolition, grouping or de-grouping of parishes, together with associated electoral arrangements. The Council must conduct the review in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the 2007 Act and have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

7.2 In undertaking the review, the Council must ensure that appropriate consultation is carried out, that representations received are properly considered, and that any recommendations are based on the statutory criteria, namely the need to secure community governance that reflects the identities and interests of local communities and is effective and convenient. The proposed continuation of public consultation and consideration of consultation responses supports compliance with those duties.

7.3 As stated above some of the proposals set out above may have implications for adopted Neighbourhood Plans. Where relevant, these implications will be assessed before final recommendations are brought forward.

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.

10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 4.

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 5.

11.2 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.

11.3 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, hard copies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel.

11.4 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.

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 decide.

13.3 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 on the draft recommendations.

14. Accountable Officers

Phillip Horsfield, Service Director of Legal, Election and Registration Services (Monitoring Officer)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/09/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/09/2026
Service Director of Legal, Elections and Registration Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	21/09/2026

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This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Community Governance Review

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference

Published: 14 April 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 Rotherham Council is undertaking a Boroughwide Community Governance Review (CGR) which covers all parished and unparished areas of the Borough.

1.2 In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
- The following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 and Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008.

1.3 Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review.

1.4 These terms of reference set out how the review will be conducted and the matters on which the review is to focus.

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

2.1 Guidance on CGRs from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England states that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years. The last Boroughwide CGR in Rotherham took place in 2008.

2.2 It is therefore considered to be an appropriate time to review arrangements for community governance in Rotherham.

3. What is a Community Governance Review?

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

4. Scope of the Review

4.1 The review will cover both parished and unparished areas of Rotherham, to enable us to consider if any changes are needed to the existing parish arrangements.

4.2 The Review will consider whether community governance arrangements across the Borough are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Effective and convenient to the community in that area.

4.3 It will make recommendations with regard to:

- Creating, abolishing, merging, or altering parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of election, the number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding; and
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping existing parishes

4.4 The review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

5. What is meant by the term Community Governance?

5.1 The term 'community governance' is used to describe the variety of ways in which local communities are able to take more responsibilities for local issues affecting their area. A key aspect of community governance is community empowerment, and the ability of local people and organisations to see through specific projects to tackle local issues.

5.2 In parished areas, both the principal council and the parish council have a formal democratic role in terms of community governance. However, a variety of different structures and organisations can also contribute to community governance at a local level - including, for example, local residents' associations and community or neighbourhood forums, all of which make a distinct contribution to the community.

5.3 The review needs to consider all current and any future plans for community governance in making recommendations about parish arrangements.

6. What do Parish Councils do?

6.1 Parish Councils represent the most local form of government and can own land and assets, employ staff, and provide services at a local level. They can raise funds to meet the costs of administration and provision of services through setting a precept which forms part of council tax bills levied on council taxpayers in the parish.

6.2 Parish councils can take different forms but usually are made up of local people who stand for election as parish councillors to represent their area, with elections taking place every four years. They can be the voice of the local community and work with other tiers of government and external organisations to co-ordinate and deliver services and work to improve the quality of life in the area.

7. Parish governance in our area

7.1 At present, there are twenty-eight parish and town councils and three parish meetings in Rotherham.

7.2 Eleven of the parish and town councils are divided into parish wards.

7.3 Appendix A sets out the details of each parish and town council, with maps in Appendix B.

7.4 The Council believes parish councils play a key role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure parish governance in our district continues to be robust and representative. Furthermore, the Council wants to ensure there is clarity and transparency to the area's parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

8. Issues considered in the Boroughwide Community Governance Review

8.1 Parish Boundaries

8.1.1 Parish boundaries should be easily identifiable and reflect the separation of settlements recognised locally as having their own identity. These boundaries should generally reflect the areas between communities with low populations or physical barriers such as water courses or man-made features such as railways or motorways.

8.1.2 A review of parish boundaries is an opportunity to put in place strong boundaries, tied to firm ground detail, and remove anomalous parish boundaries.

8.2 Council size

8.2.1 Council size is the term used to describe the number of parish councillors to be elected to the whole parish council. The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) specifies each parish council must have at least five parish councillors; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those councillors between parish wards, but each parish ward must have at least one parish councillor.

8.2.2 The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population being represented. NALC recommended a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers the practical minimum should be seven. It considered local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, and business convenience makes it appropriate to suggest the practical maximum should be twenty-five.

8.2.3 Within those minimum and maximum limits, the following allocations were recommended by NALC:

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

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

8.3 Parish warding

8.3.1 Parish warding is the division of a parish into wards for the purpose of electing parish councillors, including the number and boundaries of any wards, the number of councillors to be elected for any ward and the names of wards.

8.3.2 In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the legislation requires that consideration be given to whether:

a) The number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of parish councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and

b) It is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.

8.3.3 There is a need to consider not only the size of the electorate in the area but also the distribution of communities within in it.

8.3.4 When contemplating parish ward boundaries there is a need to ensure that consideration is given as to the desirability of fixing of boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

8.4 Names of Parish wards

8.4.1 In considering the names of parish wards, thought should be given to existing local or historic places so that, where appropriate, these are reflected.

8.5 The number of parish councillors to be elected for parish wards

8.5.1 If it is proposed that a parish should be warded, consideration should be given to the levels of representation between each ward i.e. the number of parish councillors to be elected for each ward and the number of electors they represent.

8.5.2 It is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or parish councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

8.6 Ordinary year of election

8.6.1 Ordinary parish elections are held once every four years with all parish councillors being elected at the same time.

8.6.2 The first elections under any new electoral arrangements will take place in the regular cycle of Parish Council elections after the conclusion of the Review, currently scheduled to be held on 4 May 2028, alongside Borough and South Yorkshire Mayoral elections.

8.7 Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

8.7.1 Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under the Local Government Act 1972. “Town” status continues to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act offers a further choice of alternative styles for a parish: community, neighbourhood, and village. However, for as long as the parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.

8.7.2 The ‘name’ of a parish refers to the geographical name of the area concerned, whereas its status or ‘style’ allows for that area to be known as a town, community, neighbourhood, or village, rather than as a parish. The status or style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish, the parish meeting, and the chair or vice-chair of the parish meeting or of any parish council. For example, the council of a parish which uses the style ‘village’ will be known as the ‘village council’ and its councillors as the ‘village councillors’.

8.7.3 As far as existing parishes under review are concerned, the review must make recommendations as to whether the geographical name of the parish should be changed, but it may not make any recommendations for the parish about alternative style. It will be for the parish council or parish meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles.

8.8 Grouping of parishes

8.8.1 Under Section 91 of the 2007 Act a CGR can recommend the grouping or de-grouping of parishes. In some instances, it may be appropriate to group parishes to allow a common parish council to be formed.

8.8.2 De-grouping may also offer the reverse possibility where local communities have expanded. Any grouping or de-grouping needs to be compatible with the retention of community interests, and it would be inappropriate to use it to build artificially large units under single parish councils. However, it could offer a possibility for parishes with less than 150 electors to be grouped with other parishes under an elected parish council despite being unable to form a parish council in their own right.

9. Who will undertake the review?

9.1 As the relevant principal authority, Rotherham Council is responsible for conducting any CGR within its electoral area.

9.2 On 14 April 2026, Cabinet agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with the relevant legal framework and Government guidance.

9.3 While there is a delegation in place to the Chief Executive it is proposed that both the initiation and the outcomes will be considered by Cabinet, and recommendations made to Council who will determine the outcome.

9.4 A comprehensive consultation process will form part of the Review to take account of the views of those living and working within the borough.

9.5 Formal decisions on the final recommendations arising from the review will be made by Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

10.The Consultation process

10.1 In coming to its recommendations in the Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Council must:

- Consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review; and
- Take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

10.2 This will consist of two phases of consultation. The first will seek the initial views and desires of local residents, groups, and stakeholders, and will form the basis of the draft recommendations. The second phase will seek views upon those draft recommendations, to allow final recommendations to be formed.

10.3 The Council will:

- Publish a notice and these Terms of Reference on the Council's website and arrange for copies to be made available for public inspection at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

    - Aston Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Worksop Road, Sheffield S26 4WD

    - Brinsworth Community Library, Field View, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5DG

    - Dinnington Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Laughton Road, Dinnington S25 2PP

- Greasbrough Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Coach Road, Greasbrough, Rotherham, S61 4PU
- Kimberworth Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Church Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 1HA
- Kiveton Park Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Wales Road, Kiveton, Sheffield, S26 6RB
- Maltby Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Braithwell Road, Maltby S66 8JE
- Mowbray Gardens Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Mowbray Gardens, East Dene, Rotherham, S65 2UH
- Rawmarsh Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Barbers Avenue, Rotherham S62 6AE
- Riverside Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE
- Swinton Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Station Street, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 8PZ
- Thorpe Hesley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley S61 2QJ
- Thurcroft Library and Neighbourhood Hub, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD
- Wath Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 4 Sandygate, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 7LW
- Wickersley Library and Neighbourhood Hub, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JJ

- Send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all town and parish clerks.
- Seek to arrange for the notice to be published on parish council websites and notice boards.
- Send a copy of the notice and these terms of reference to all local Members of Parliament.
- Promote the consultation among electors using social media and press releases.

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

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

10.5 The Council will notify any persons or bodies who have made written representations of the outcome of the Review.

10.6 The Council will treat any petitions received during this review as a consultation response and the lead petitioner will be recorded as the point of contact. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, a Council debate shall not be listed in relation to matters upon which the Council is currently undertaking a consultation process.

10.7 Representations will be welcomed by the following methods:

- By completing an electronic survey on the Council's website: www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections
- By email to electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk
- By letter or consultation form to Community Governance Review, Electoral Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

11.Timetable for the Community Governance Review

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

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

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

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

13. Electorate forecasts

13.1 When considering the electoral arrangements of the parishes in the area the Council must consider any likely future change in the number or distribution of electors within five years from the day the review starts.

13.2 Appendix A includes an electorate forecast for the next 5 years for each parish and town council of 1.25%. This is based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population projections for local authorities by single year of age and sex, England data for all ages for Rotherham.

13.3 Appendix A also accounts for an increase in electorates where housing is under construction or planned for construction in the next 5 years. This information has been taken from the Rotherham Housing Lane Supply Monitoring Report published in October 2025.

14. Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and commencement

14.1 When all the required consultation has been undertaken and the review completed the Council may make an Order to bring into effect any decision that it may make. If the Council decides to take no action, then it will not be necessary to make an Order.

14.2 If an order is made, copies of the order, supporting maps and documents setting out the reasons for the decisions taken will be placed at the following locations and on the council's website. They will be publicised in accordance with the requirements of the 2017 Act:

- On the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/elections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Consequential matters

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

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

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

16. Date of Publication

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

Appendix A: Details of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

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

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

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

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

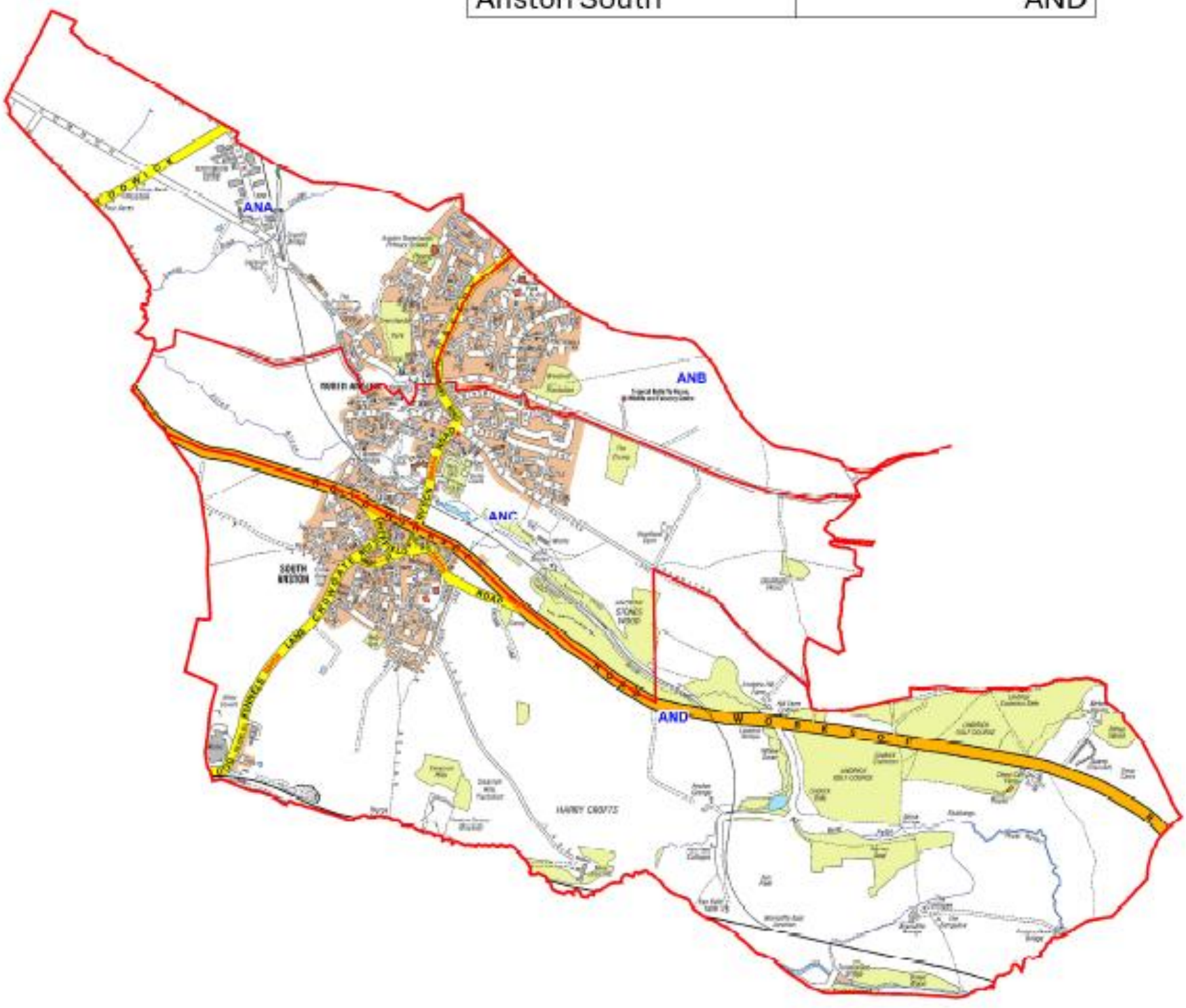
Parish	Parish Ward	Polling District(s)	Electorate (March 2026)	Councillors	Councillor to Elector ratio	Estimated 2031 Electorate
Woodsetts Parish Council		ANE	1,395	9	1:155	1,412

Appendix B

Maps of Parish and Town Councils in Rotherham

Anston Parish Council

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



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Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

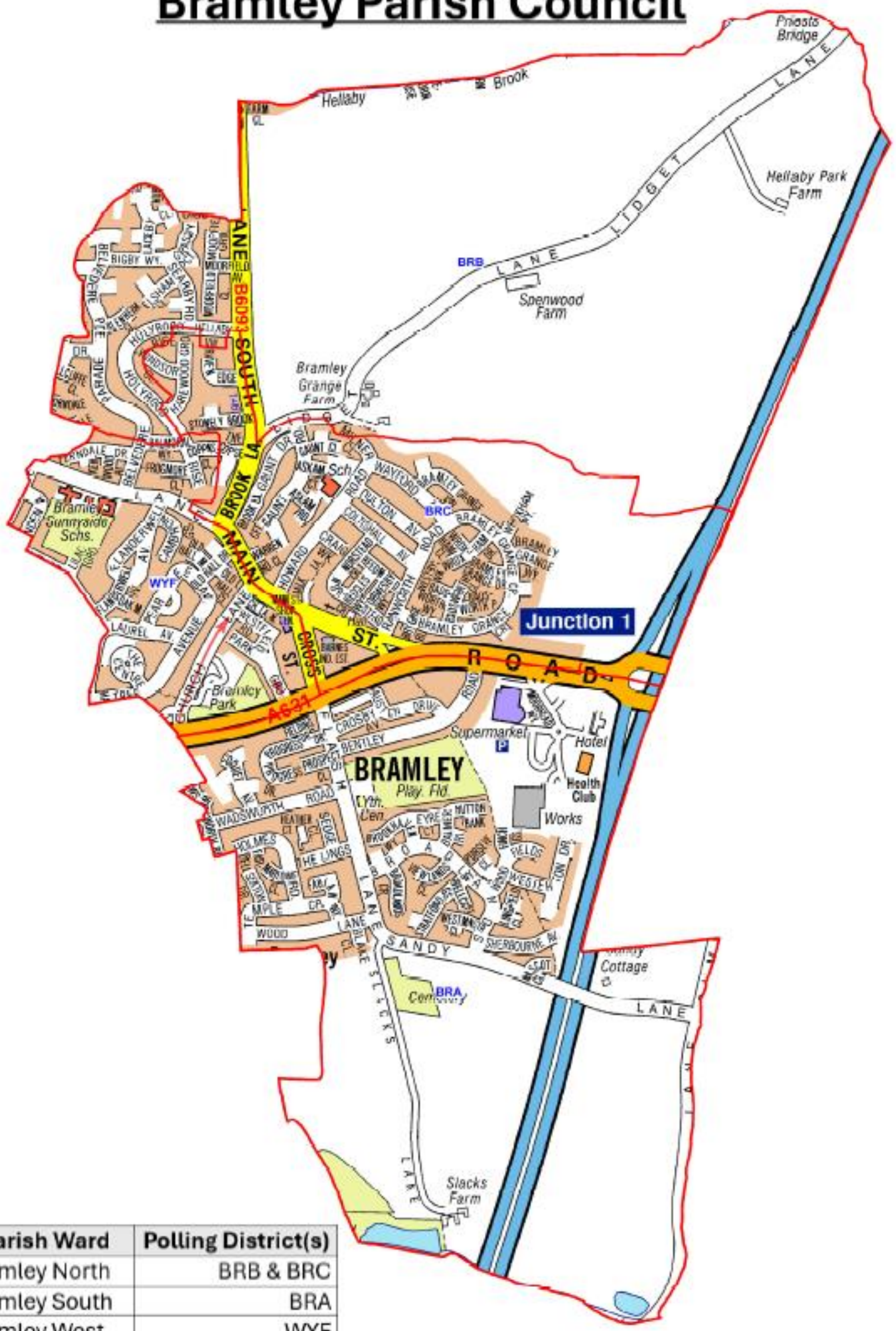
Parish Ward	Polling District(s)
Aston-cum-Aughton North	AUA, AUF & AUG
Aston-cum-Aughton South	ASA, ASB & ASC
Aston-cum-Aughton West	AUC & AUD



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Bramley Parish Council



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

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Brampton Bierlow Parish Council



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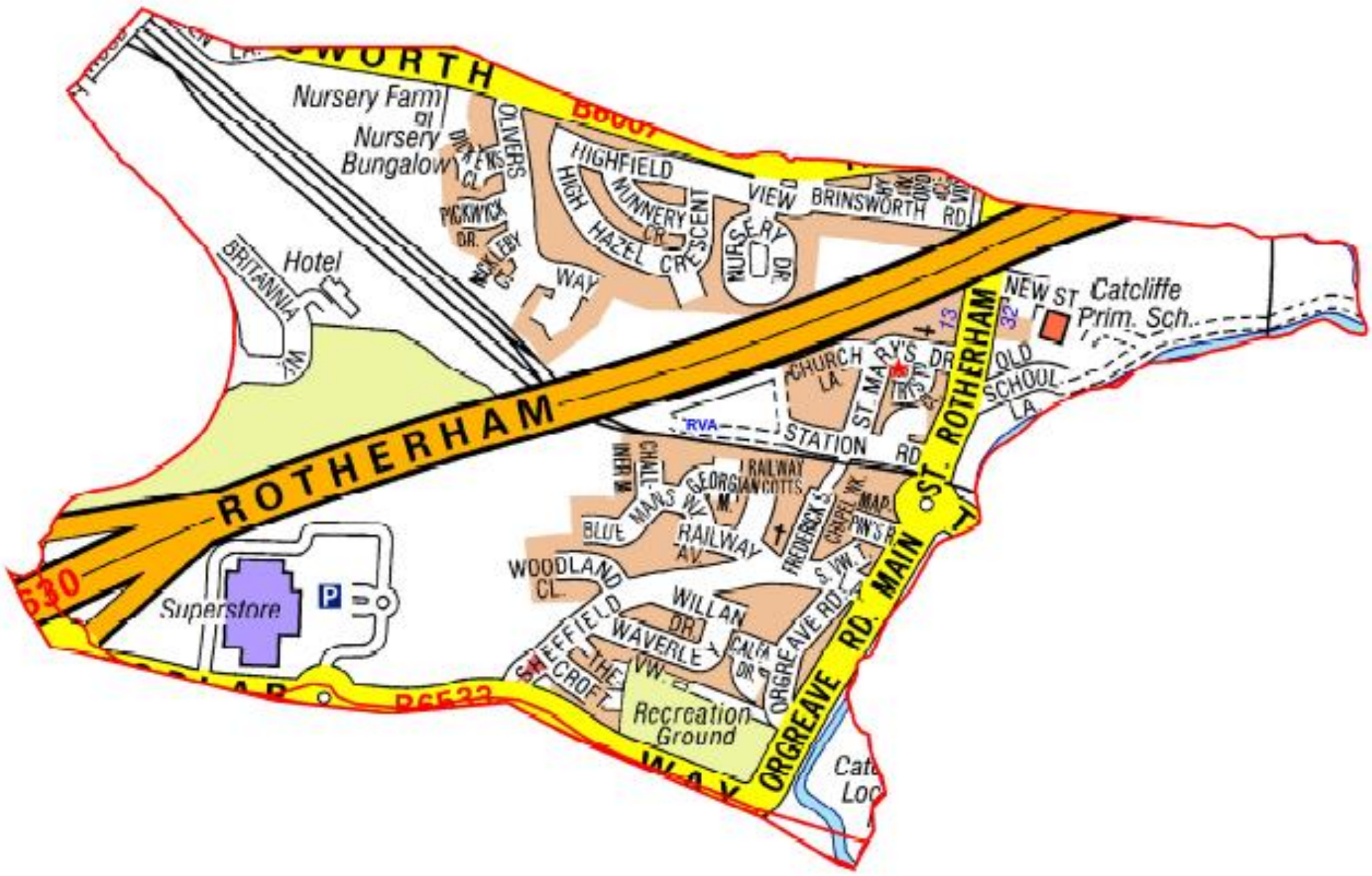
Brinsworth Parish Council



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Catcliffe Parish Council

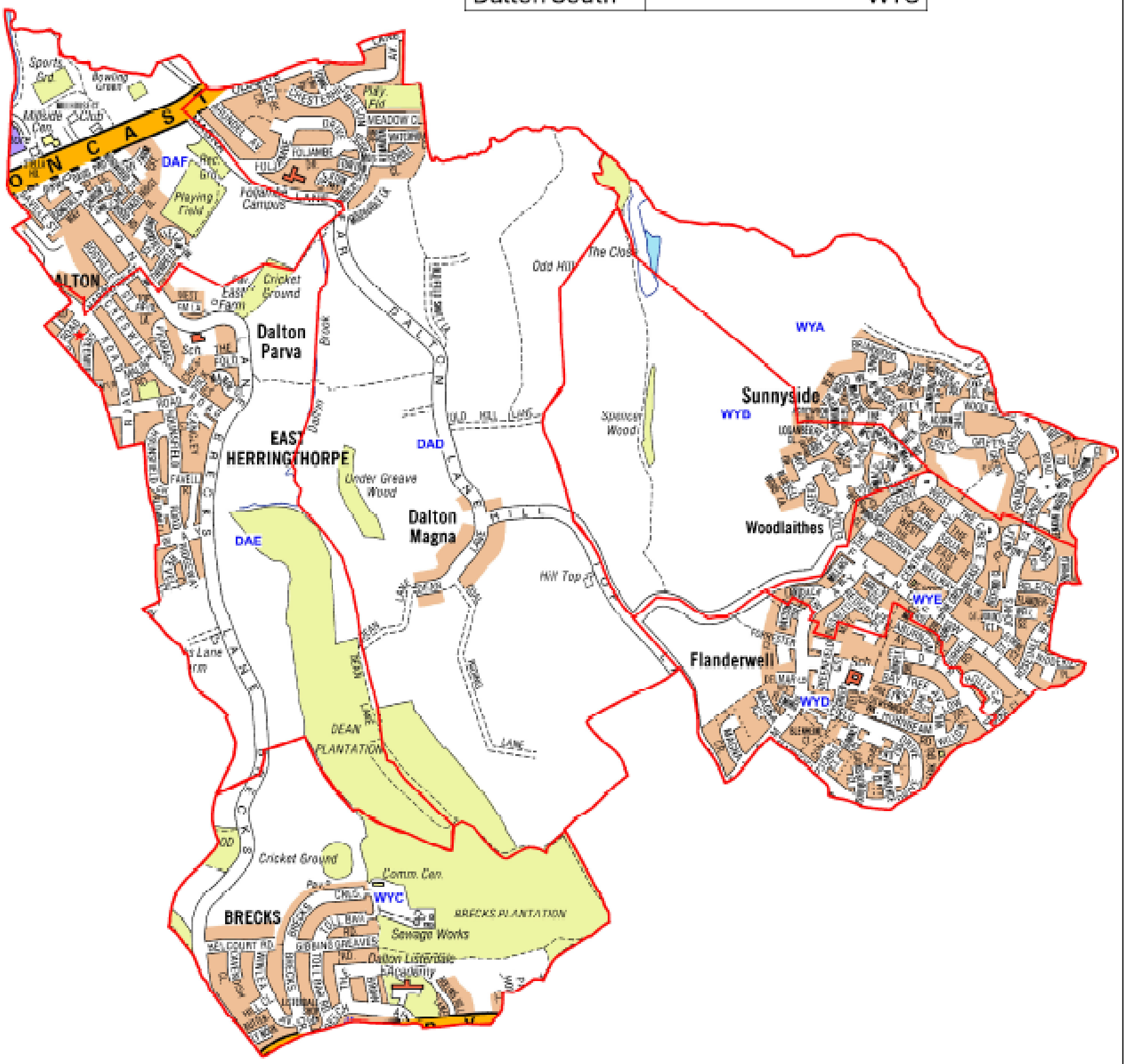


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Dalton Parish Council

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



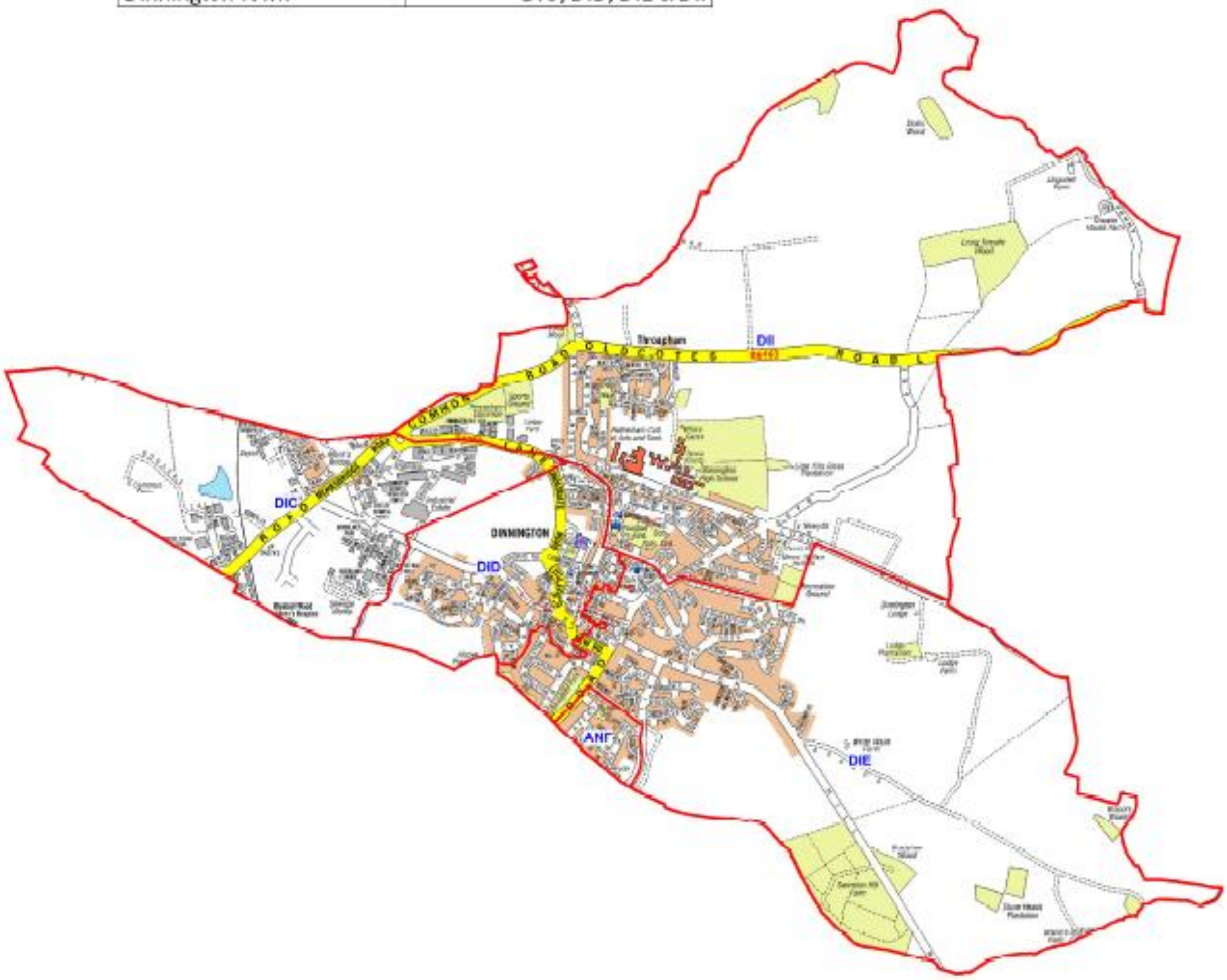
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Dinnington St John's Town Council

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

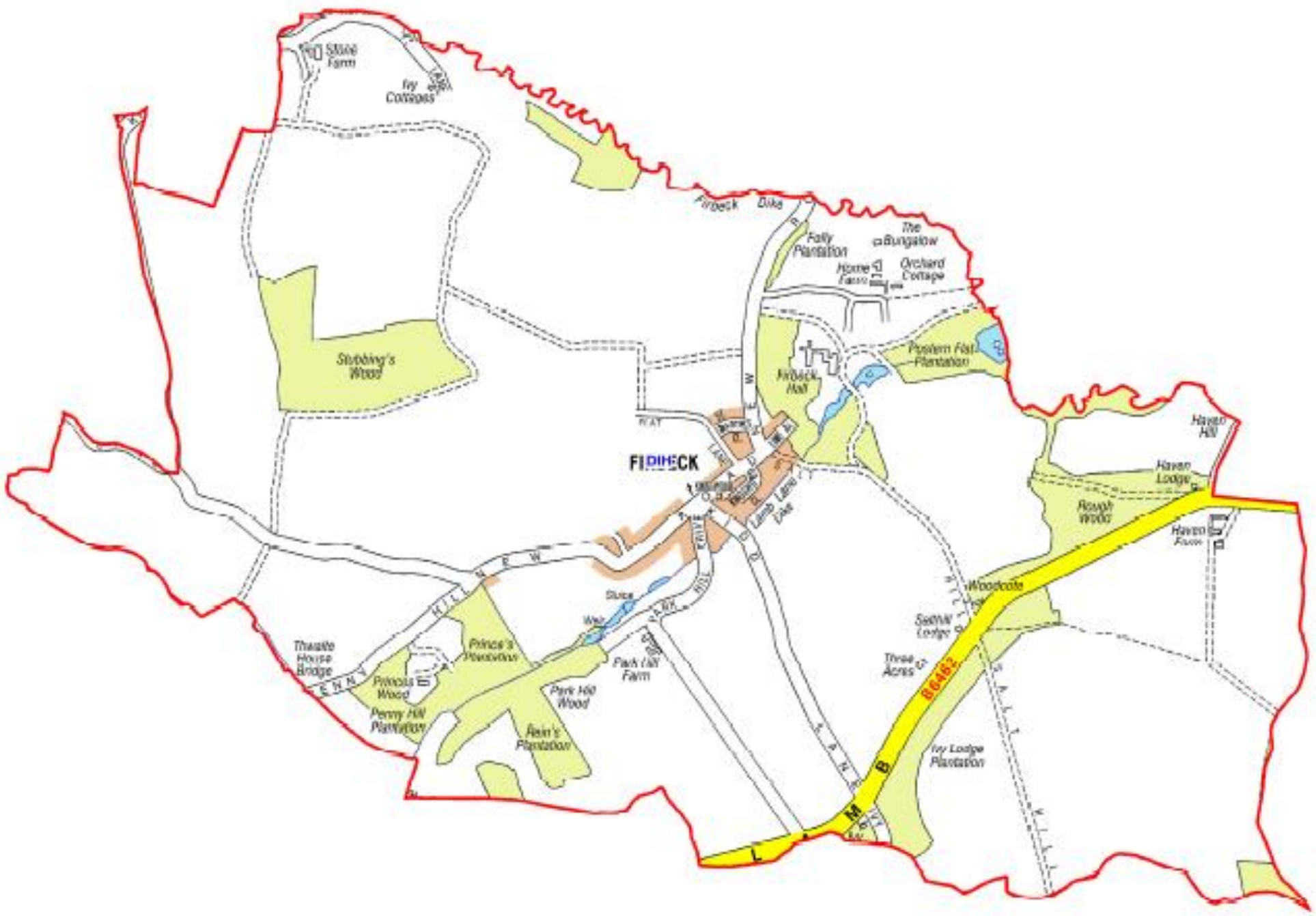


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Firbeck Parish Council

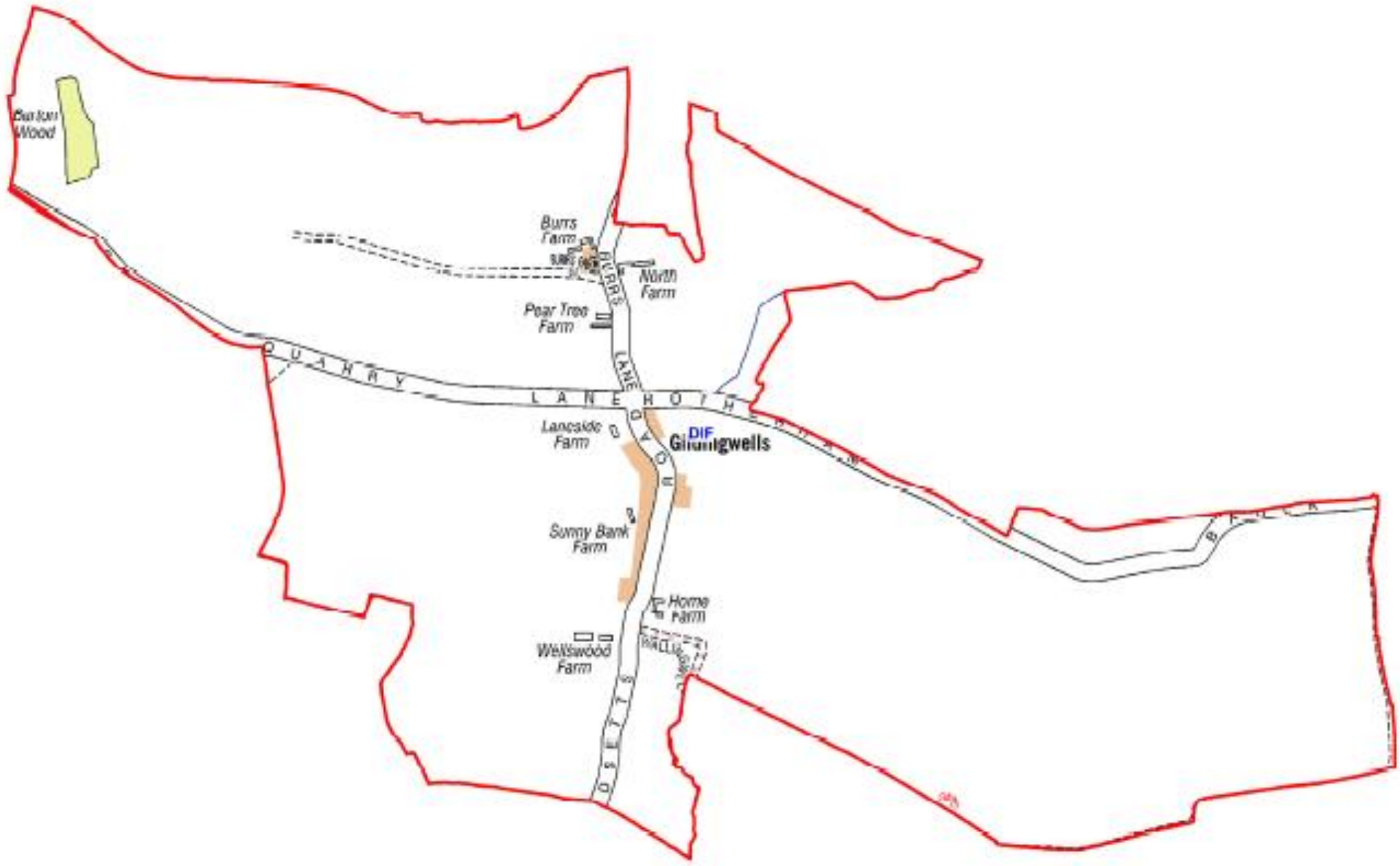


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Gildingwells Parish

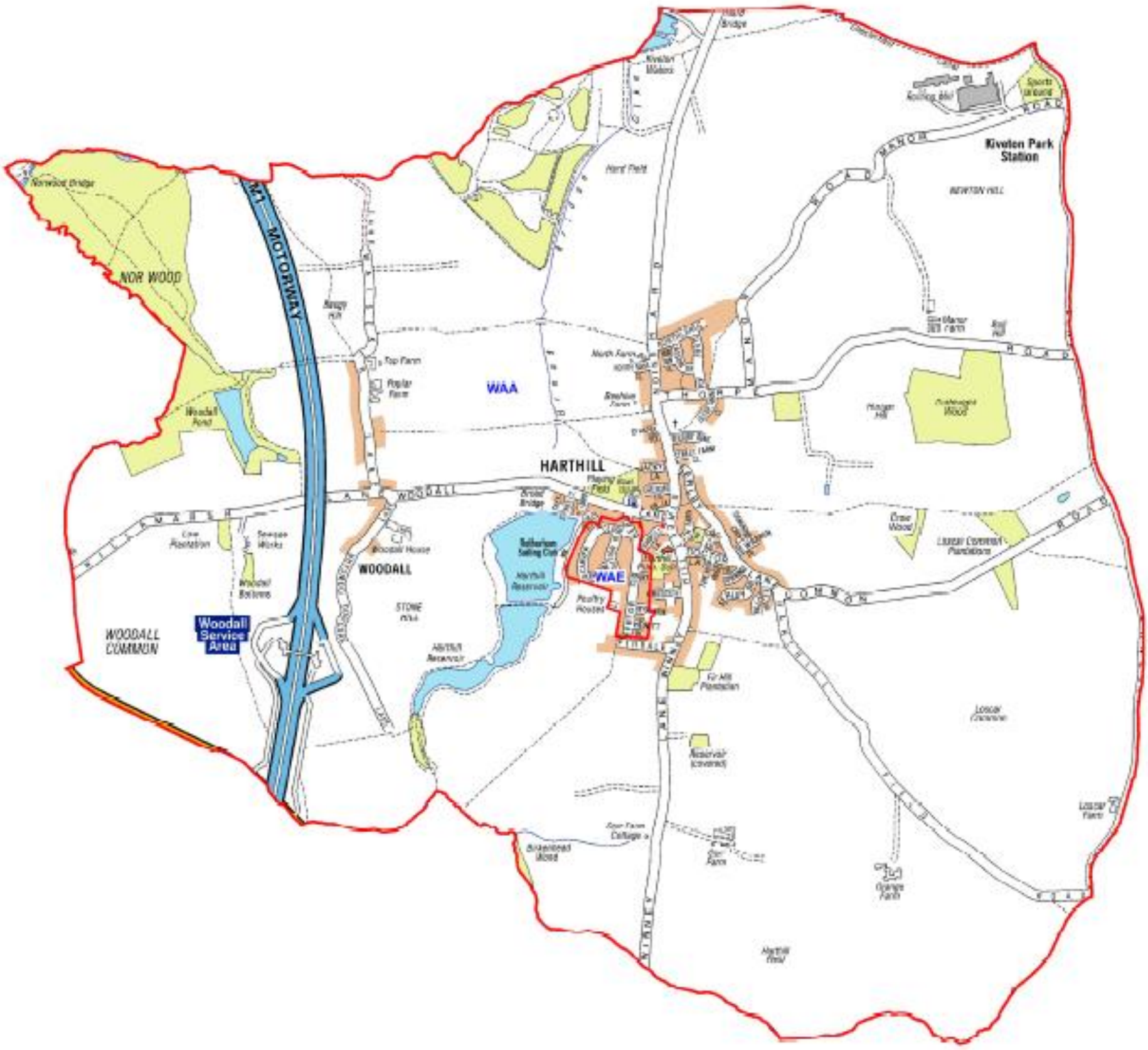


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Harthill with Woodall Parish Council

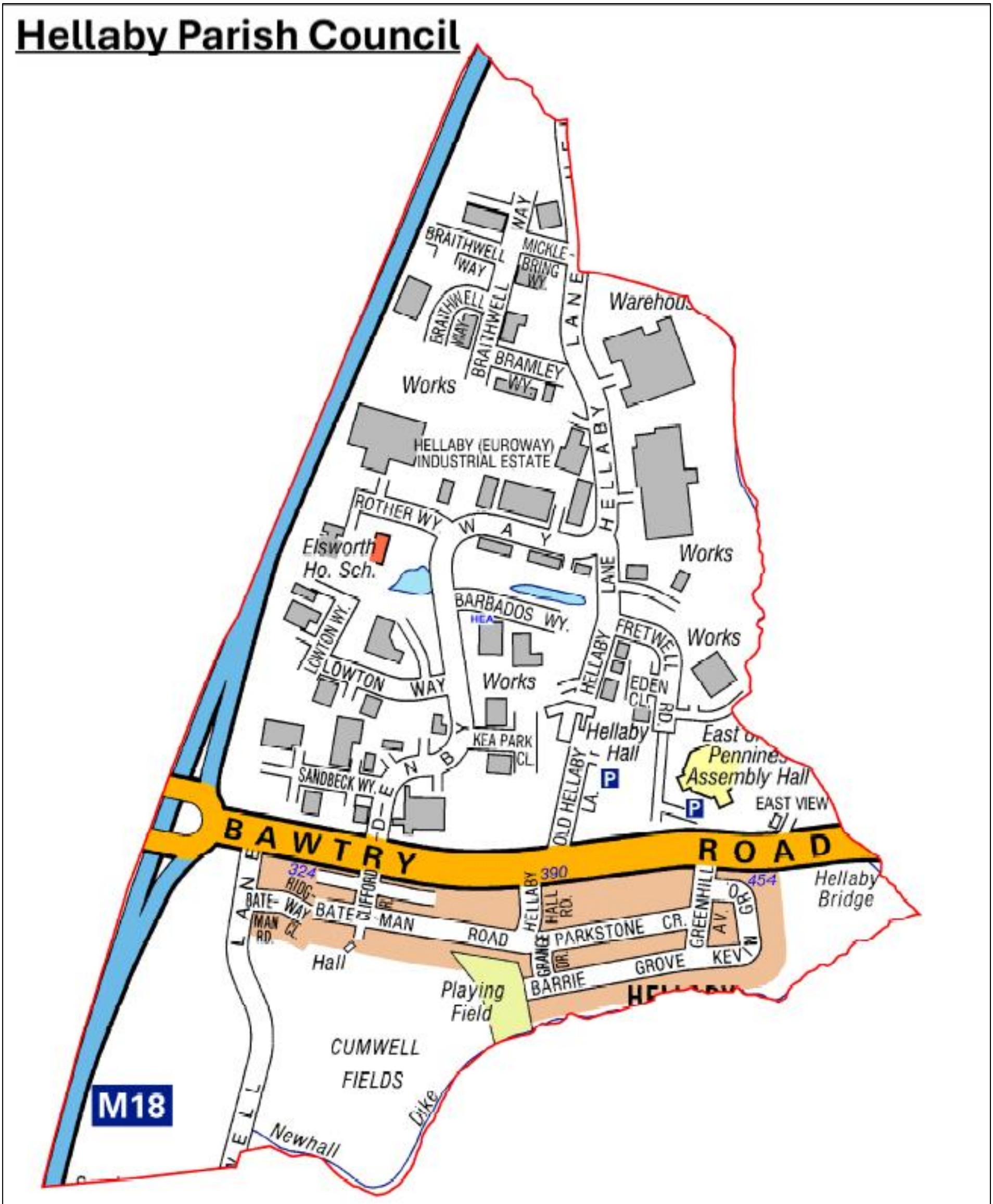


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Hellaby Parish Council

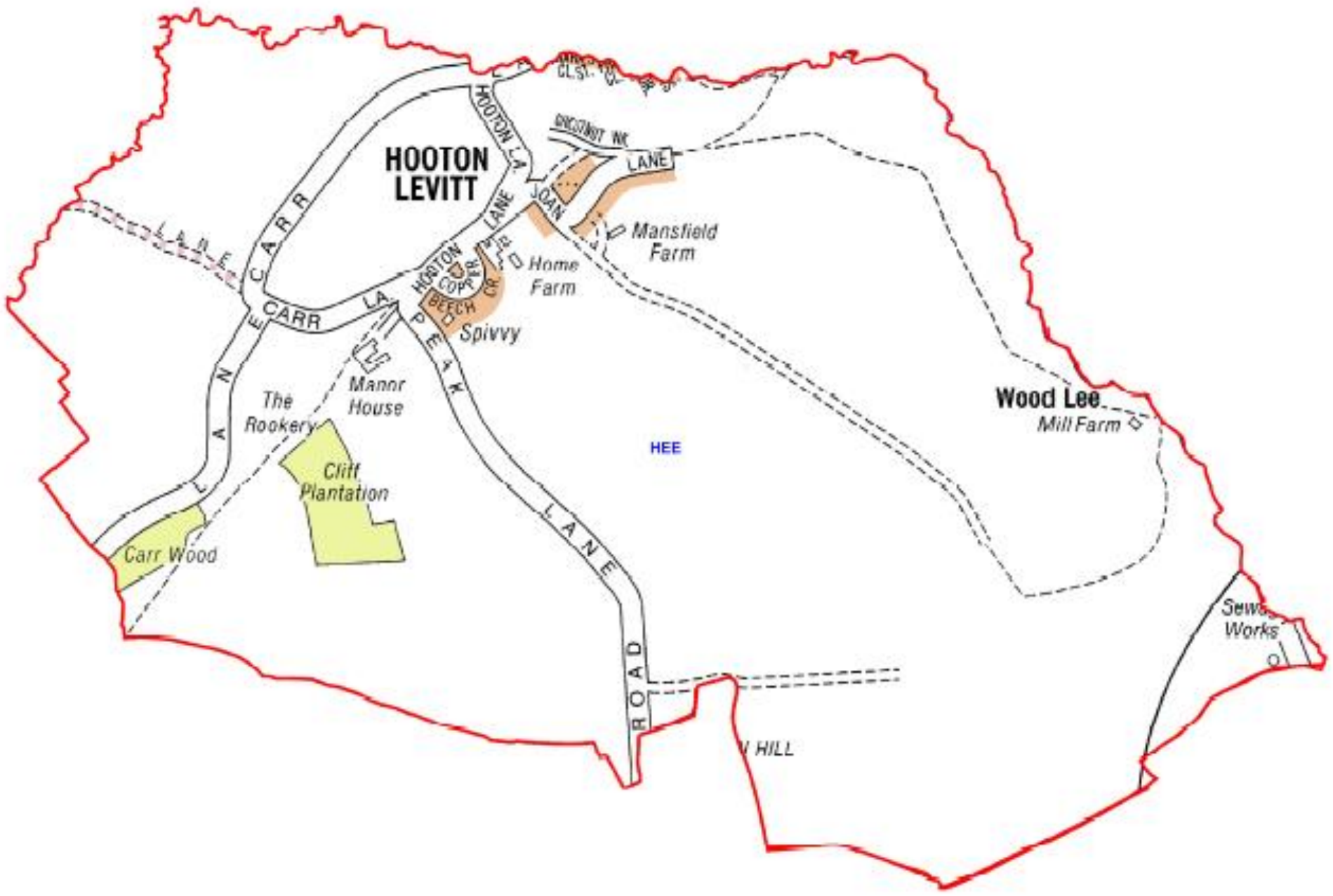


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Hooten Levitt Parish

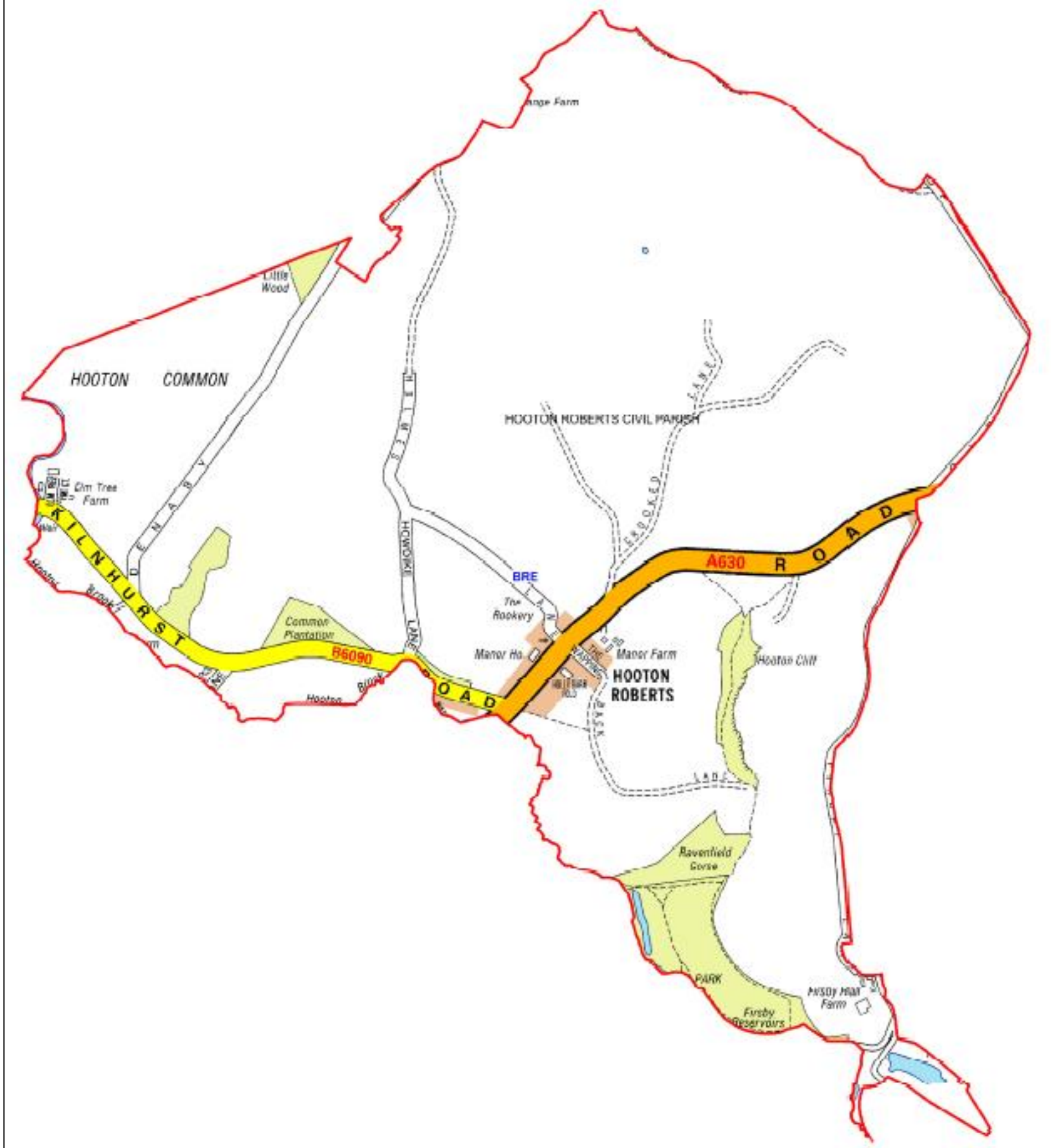


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Hooten Roberts Parish

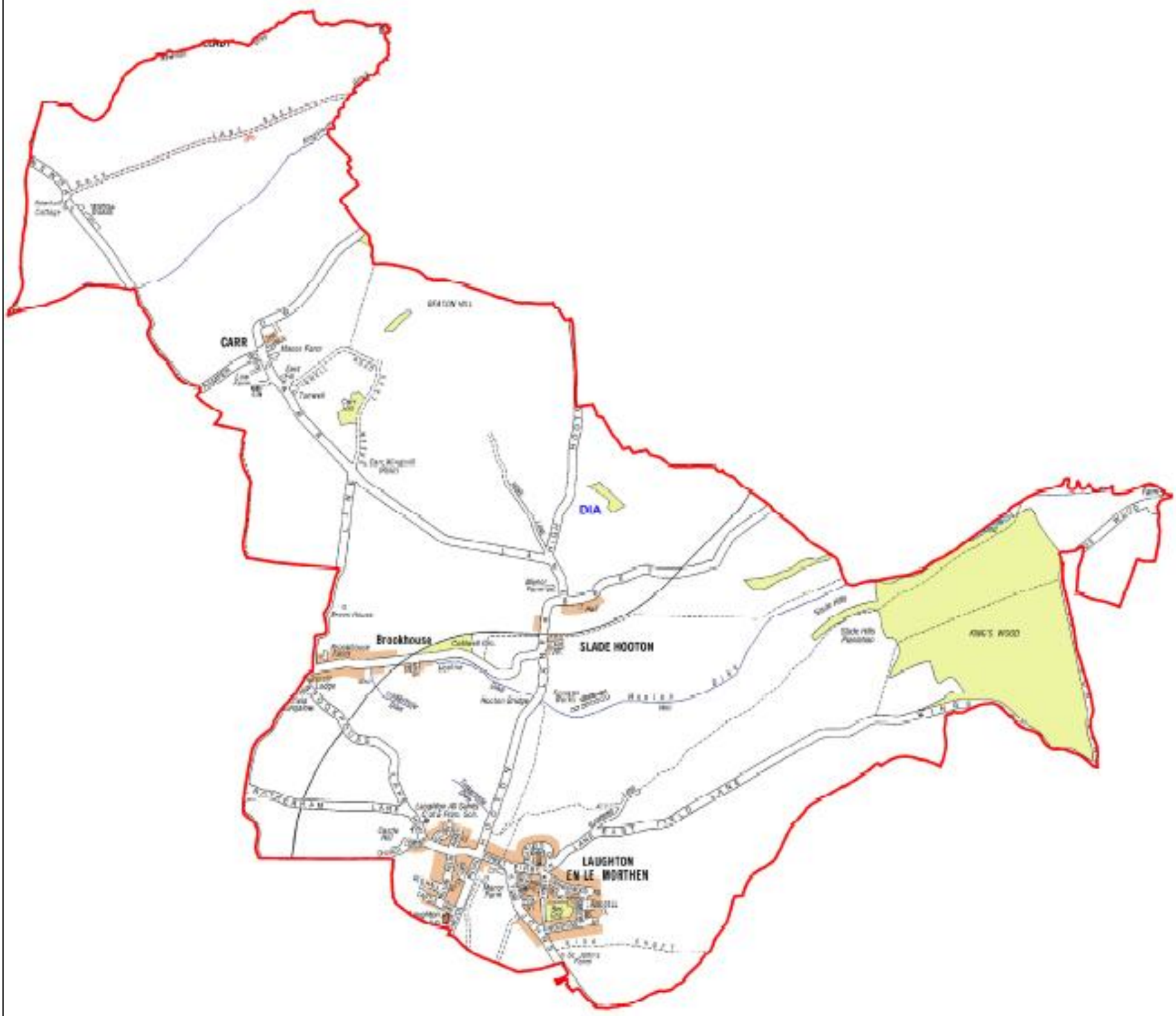


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Laughton-en-Le-Morthen Parish Council



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17/03/2020

Maltby Town Council

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

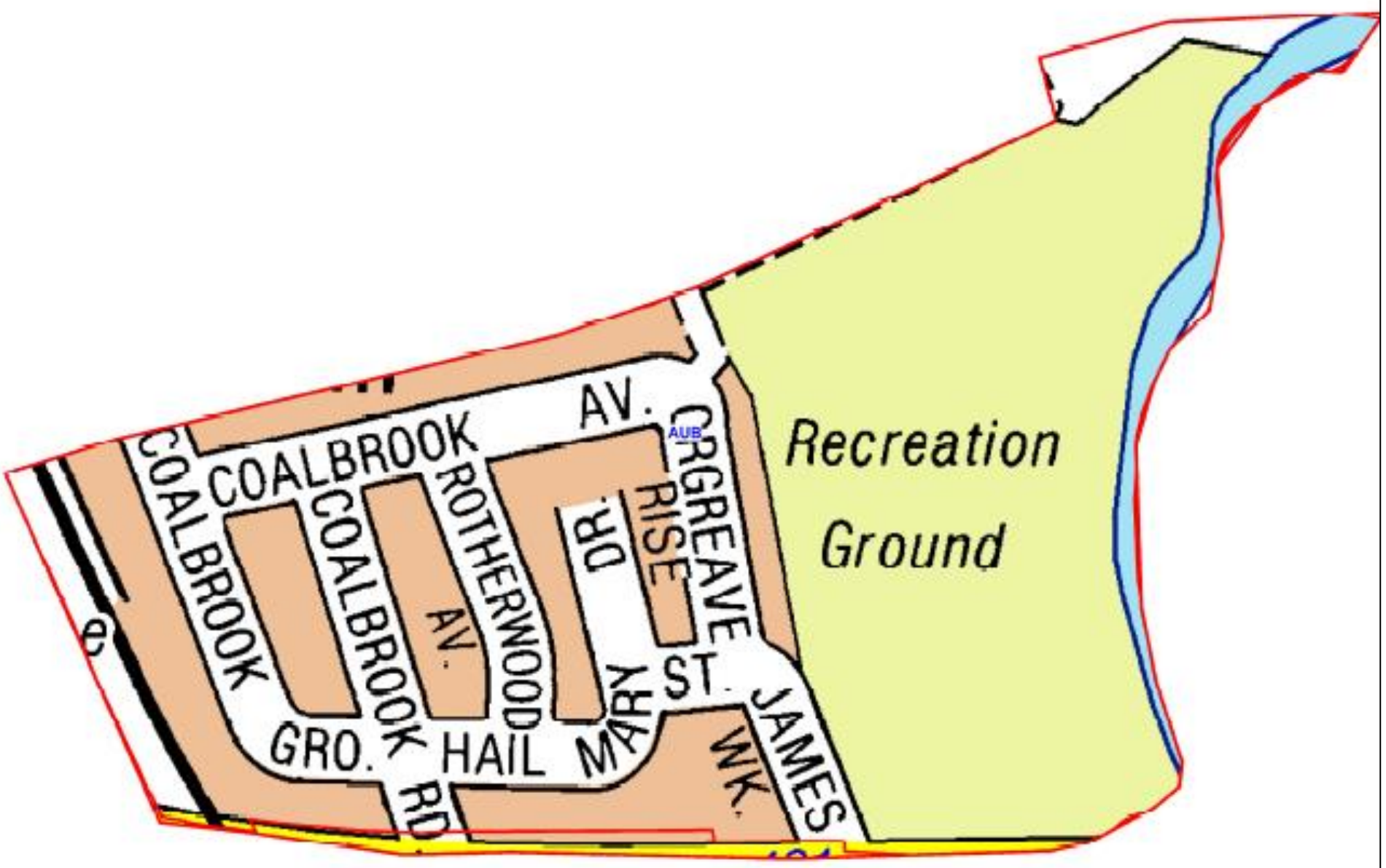


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Orgreave Parish Council

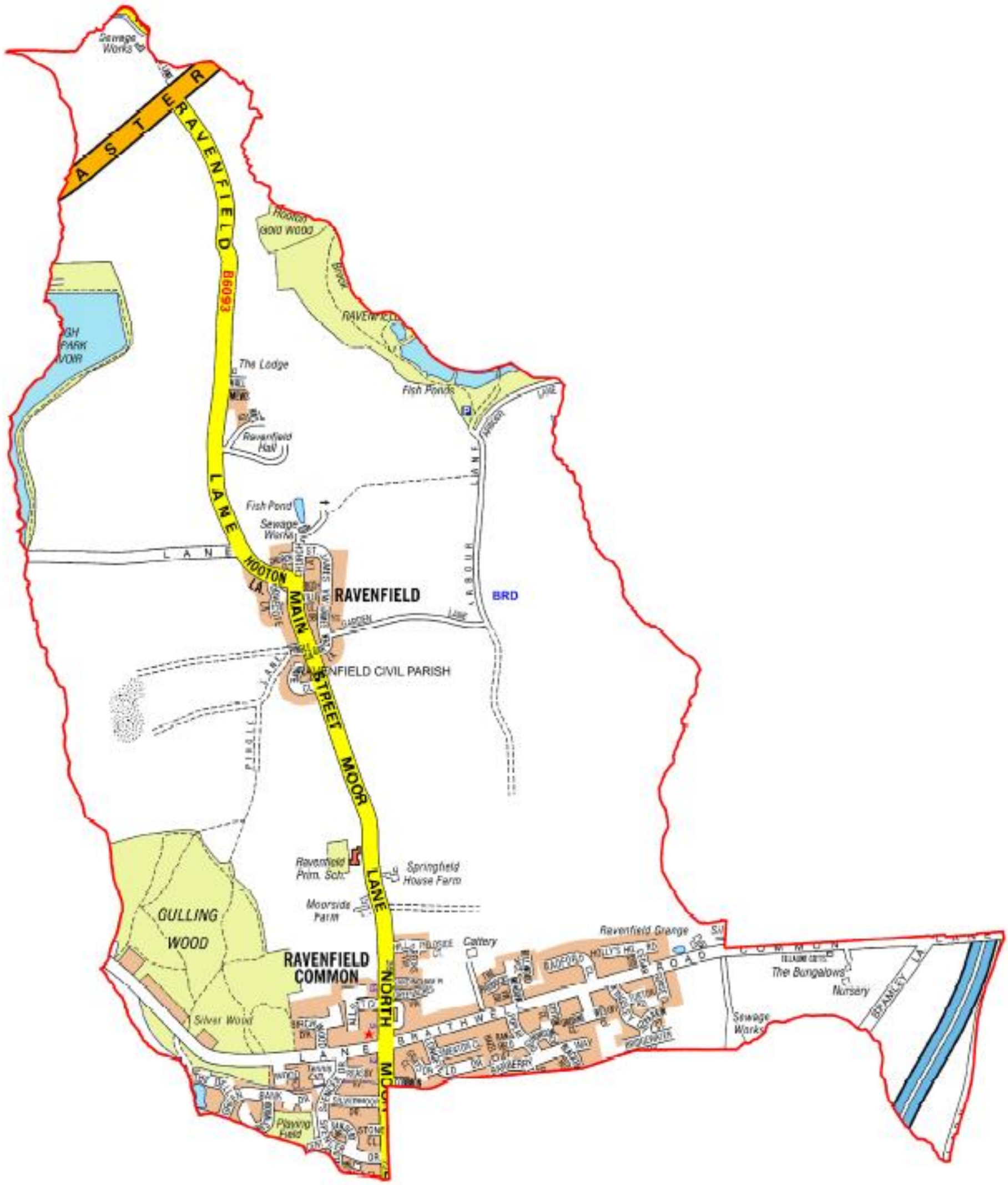


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Ravenfield Parish Council

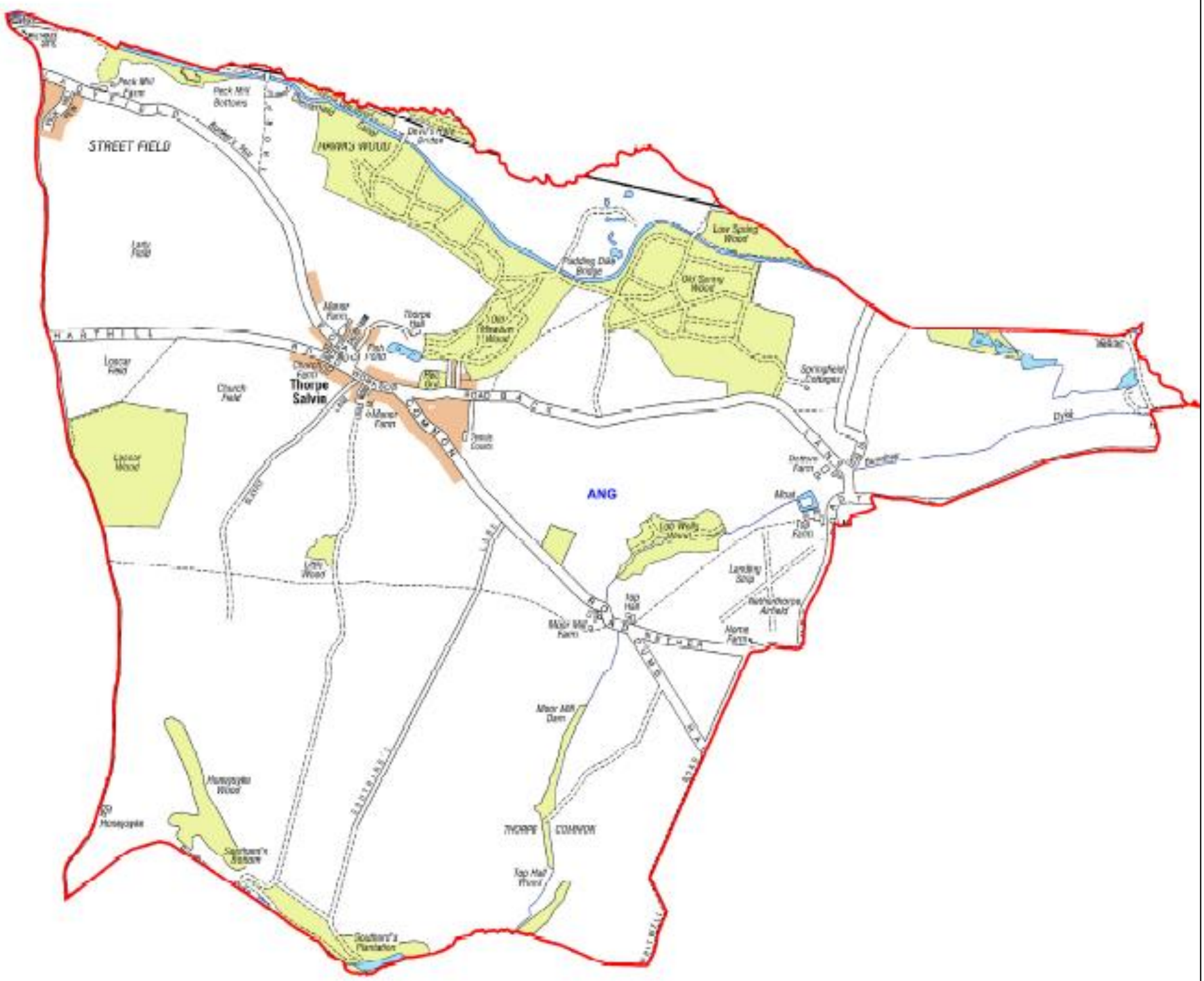


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Thorpe Salvin Parish Council



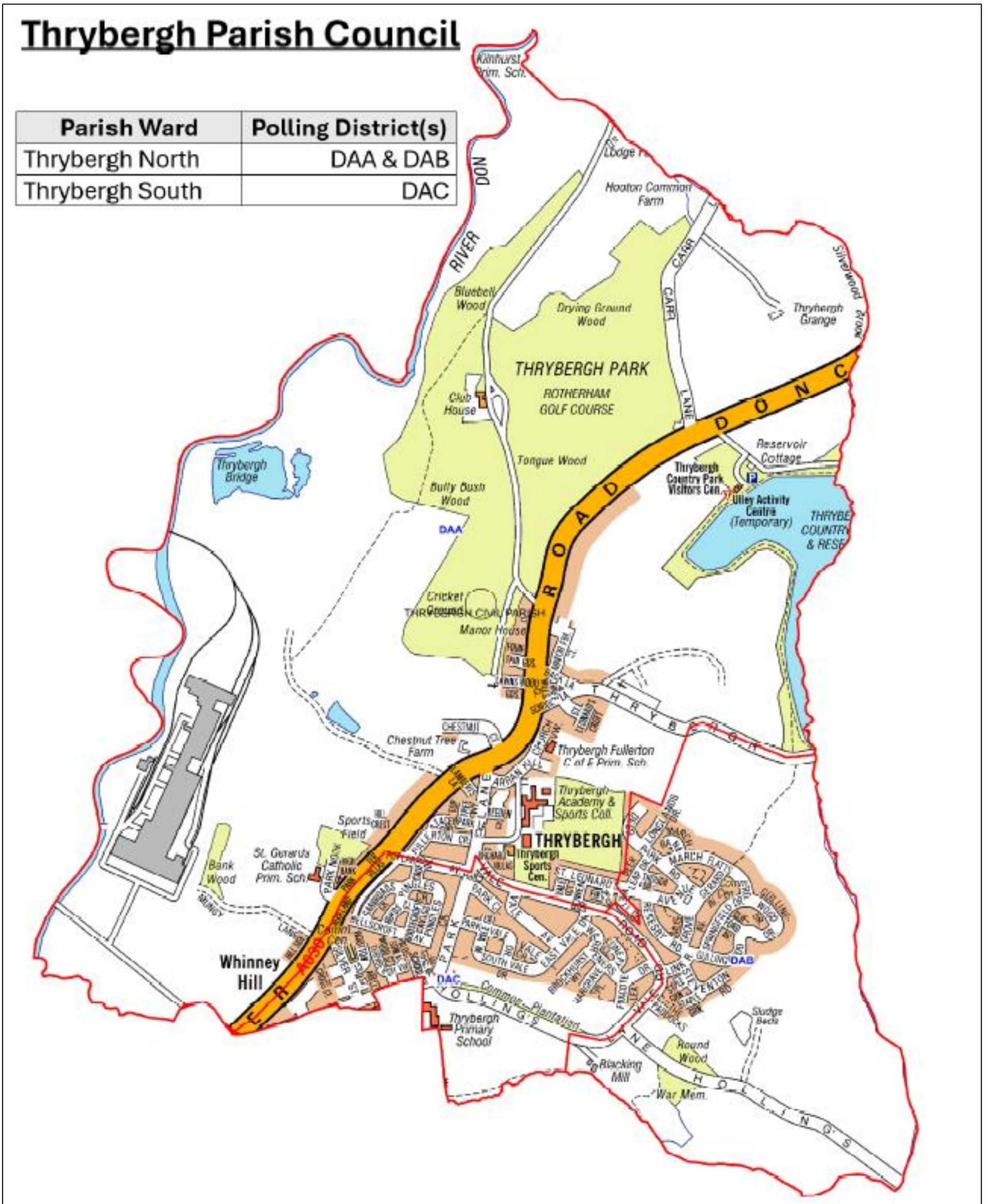
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Thrybergh Parish Council

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



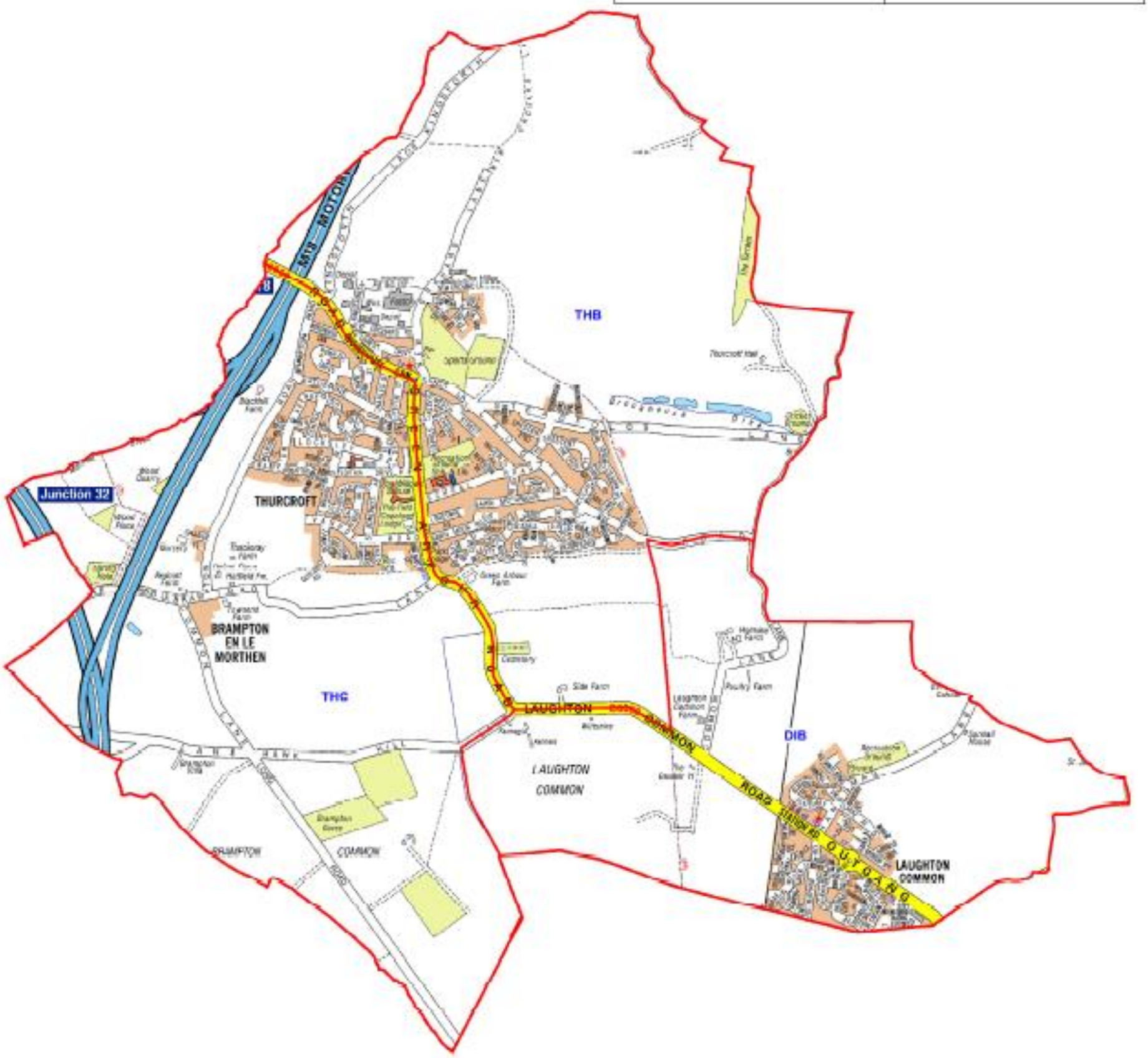
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Thurcroft Parish Council

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

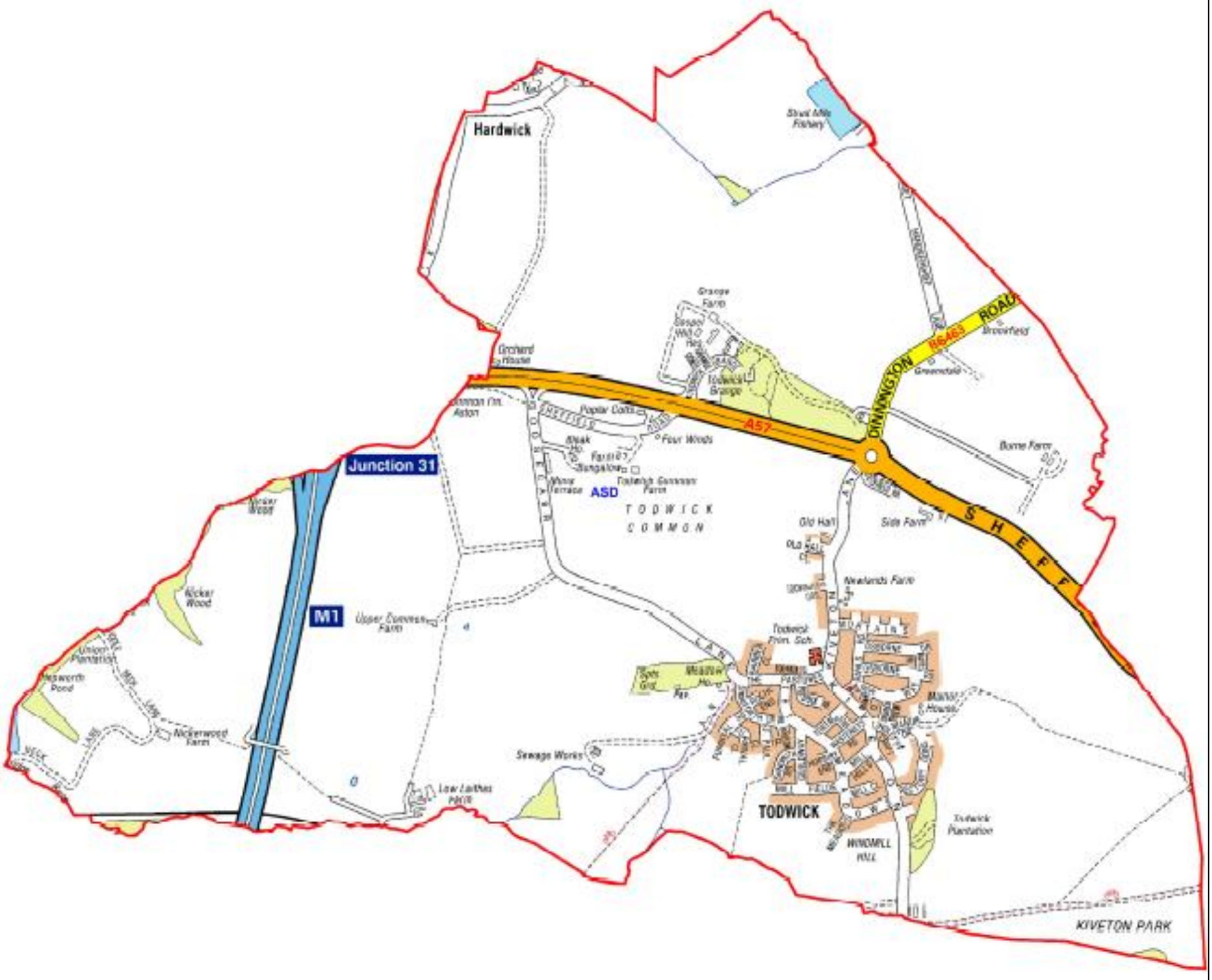


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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

17/03/2026

Todwick Parish Council

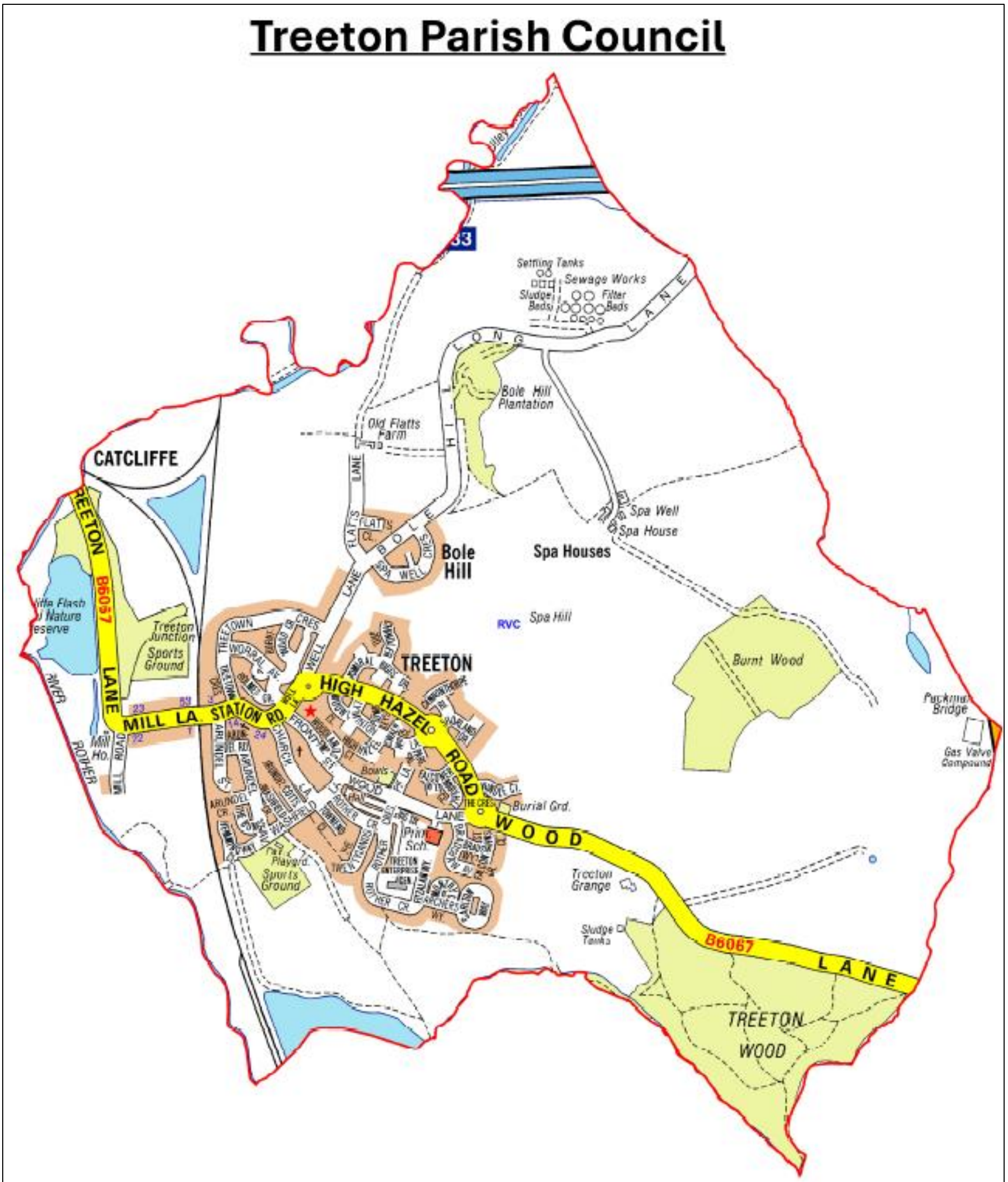


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Treeton Parish Council

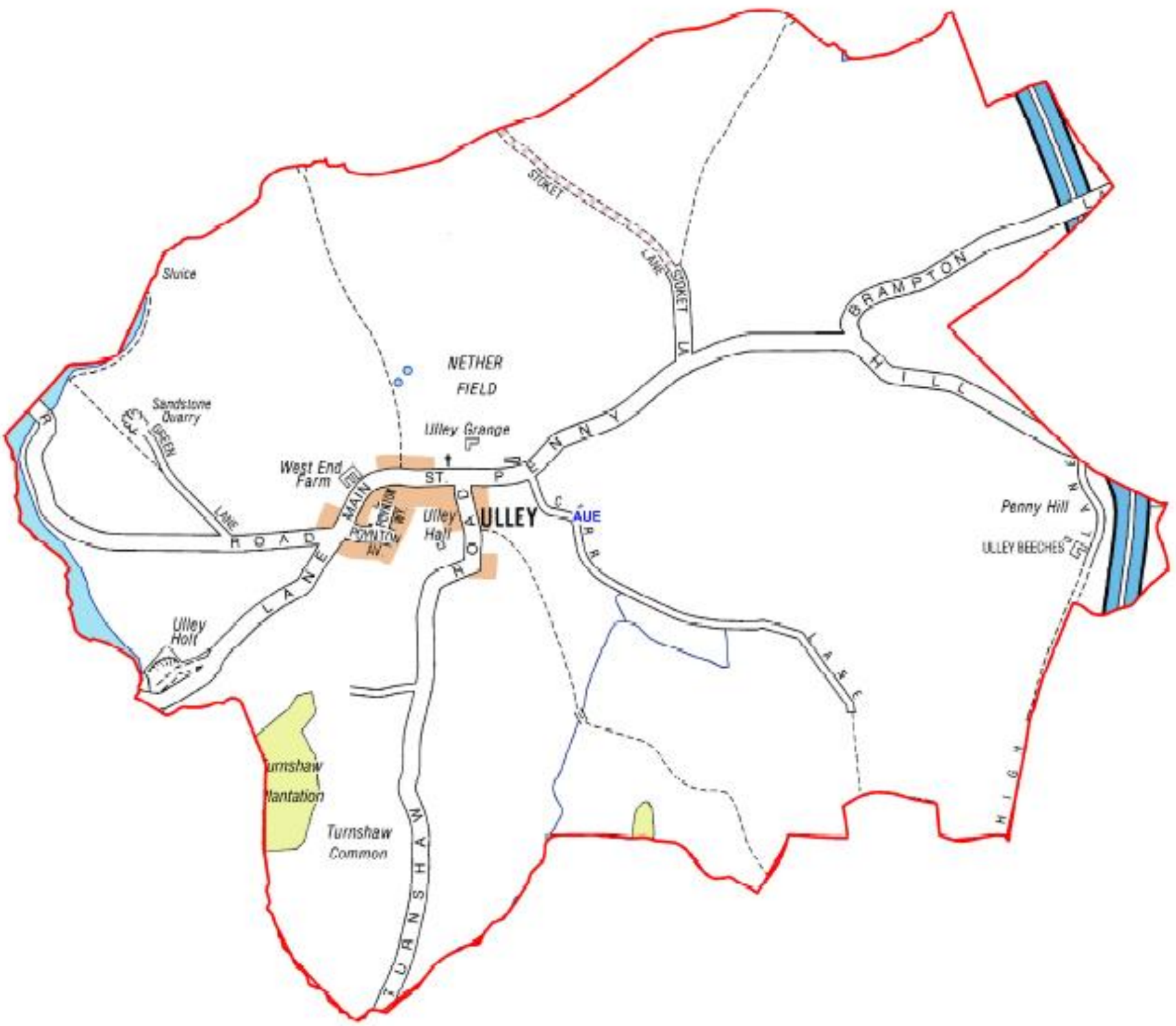


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Ulley Parish Council



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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

17/03/2026

Wales Parish Council

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



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Waverley Community Council



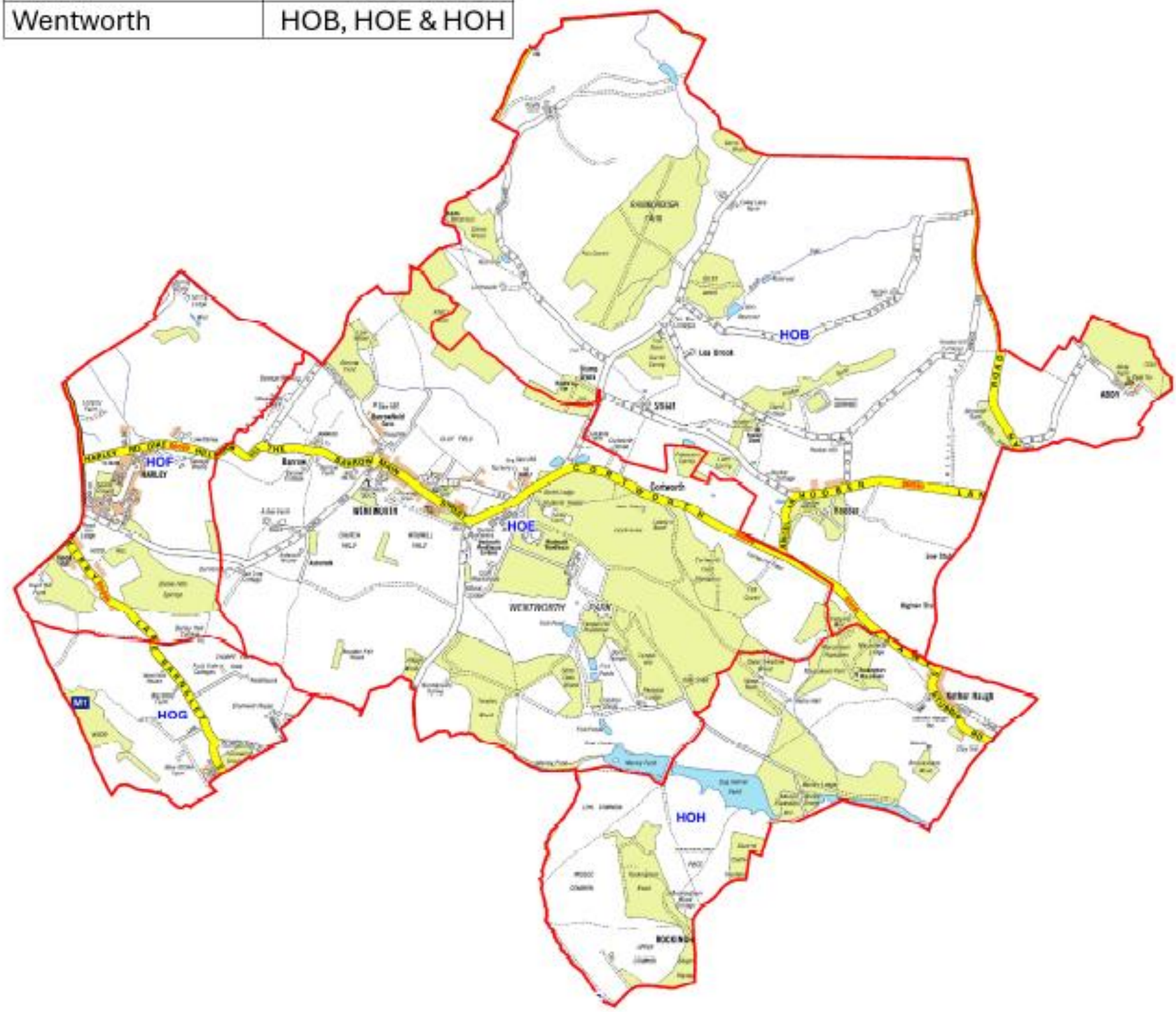
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Wentworth Parish Council

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

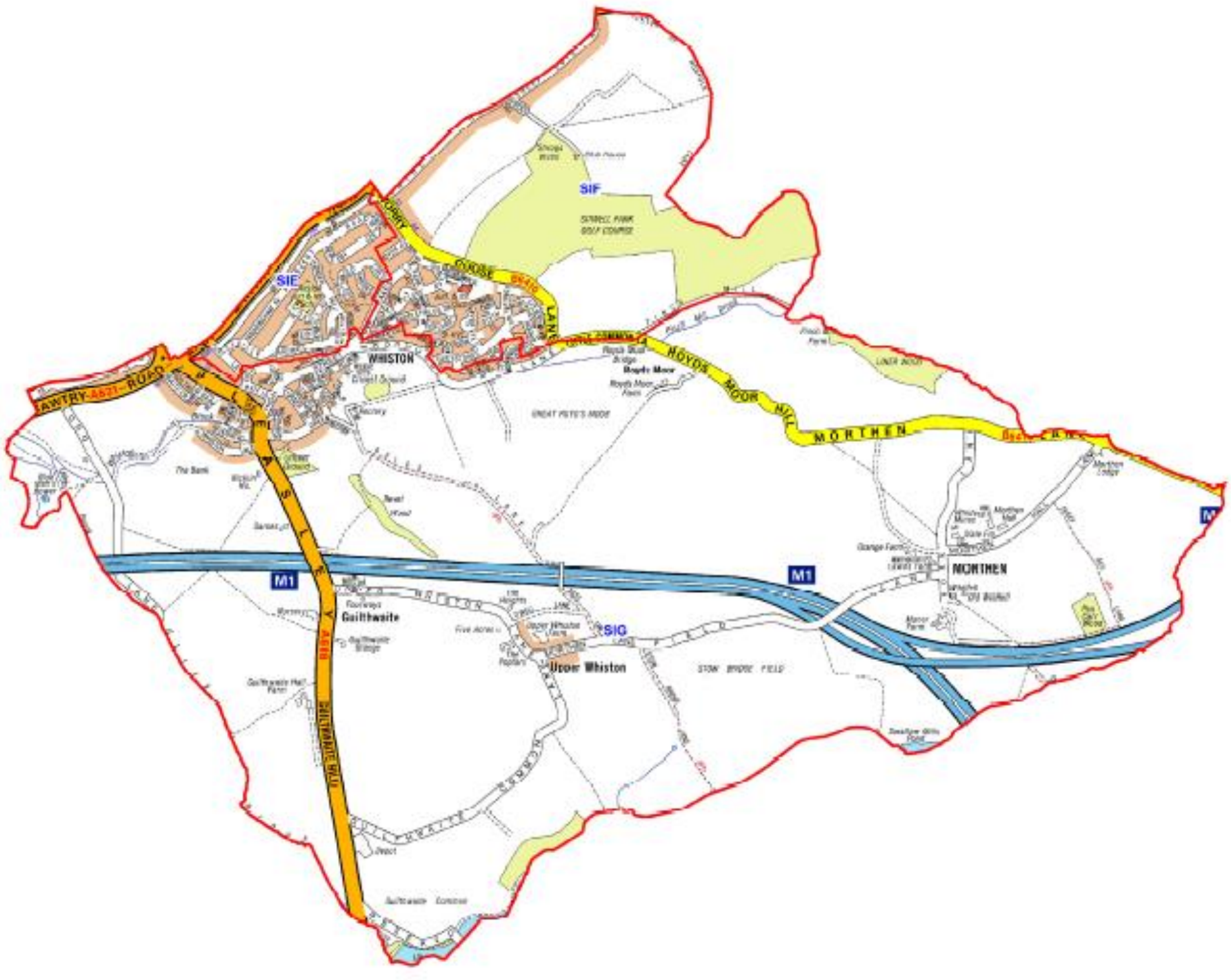


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Whiston Parish Council



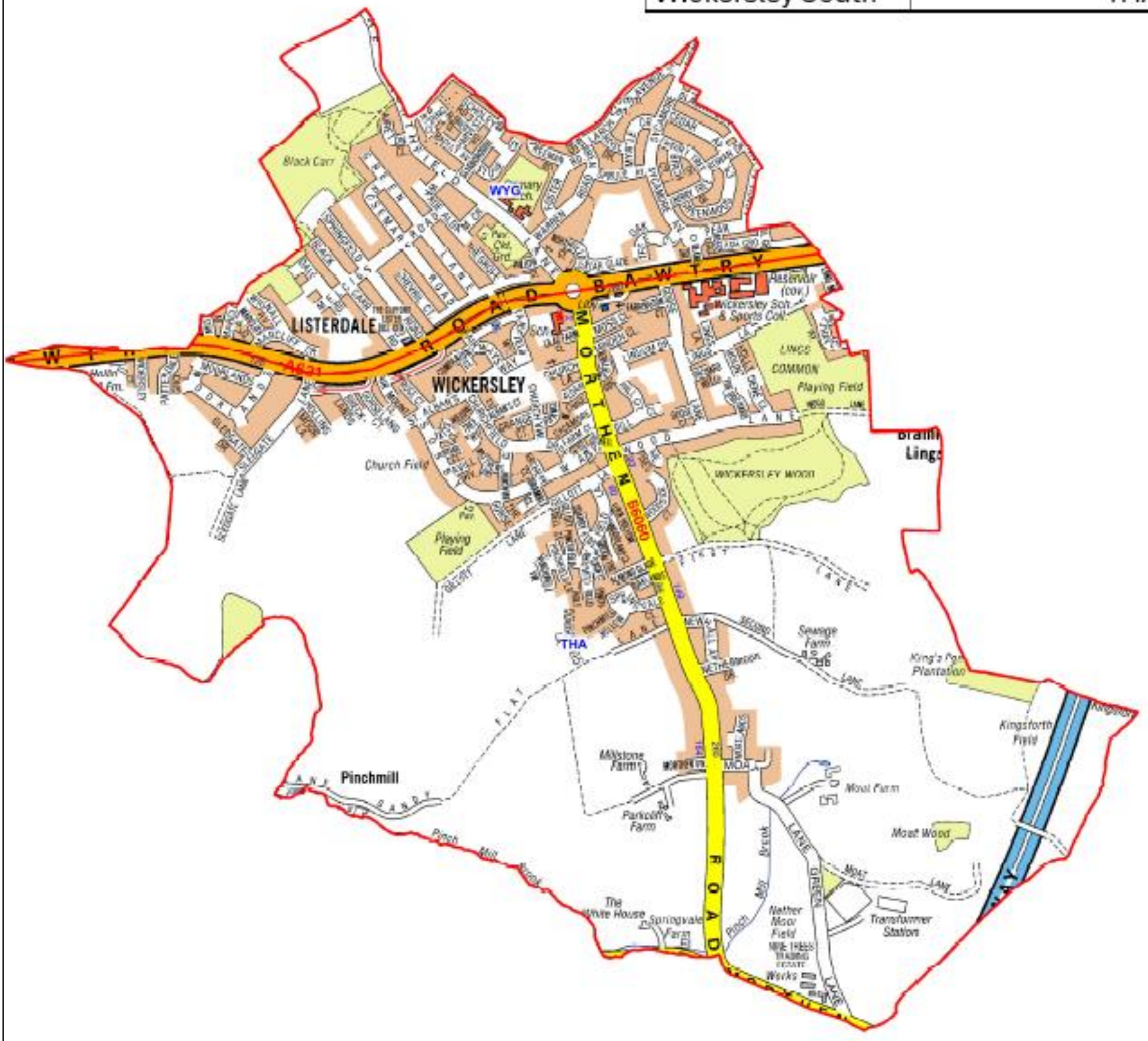
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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

17/03/2026

Wickersley Parish Council

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

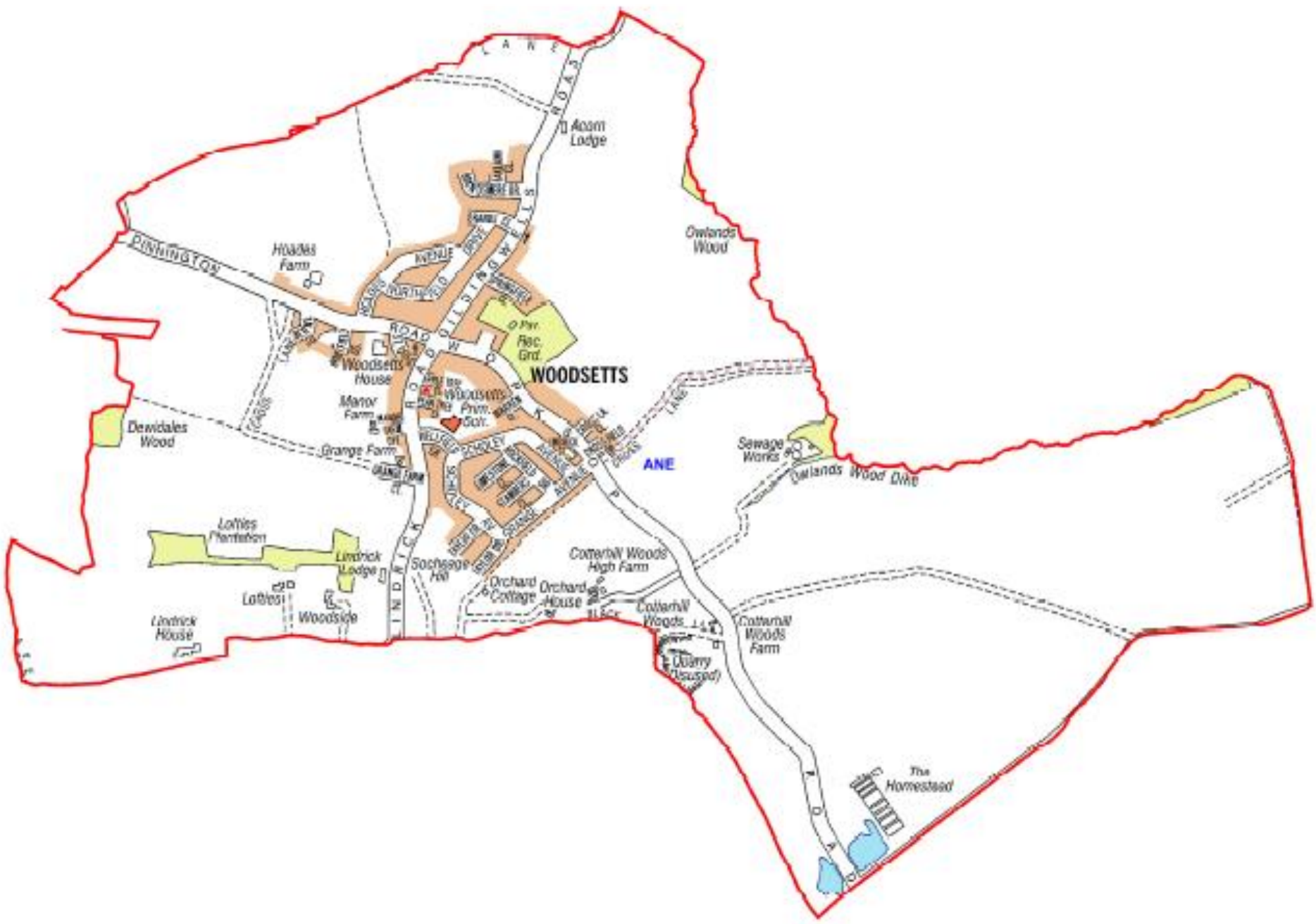


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Woodsetts Parish Council



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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

17/03/2026

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Summary of responses by Parish, Town and Community Councils

Parish, Town & Community Council	Total Responses	Number of responses from individuals	Number of Organisational responses (inc. Parish Councils, Parish & Borough Councillors)	Not stated
Anston Parish Council	**1**	1	-	-
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	**1**	1	-	-
Bramley Parish Council	**19**	12	5	2
Brampton Bierlow Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Brinsworth Parish Council	**14**	7	5	2
Catcliffe Parish Council	**3**	2	1	-
Dalton Parish Council	**3**	2	1	-
Dinnington St. John's Town Council	**2**	2	-	-
Firbeck Parish Council	**2**	1	1	-
Gildingwells Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council	**1**	-	1	
Hellaby Parish Council	**20**	15	2	3
Hooton Levitt Parish	**0**	-	-	-
Hooton Roberts Parish	**0**	-	-	-
Laughton-en-Le-Morthen Parish Council	**2**	-	2	-
Letwell Parish Council	**2**	2	-	-
Maltby Town Council	**82**	-	-	-
Orgreave Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Ravenfield Parish Council	**11**	9	2	-
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Thrybergh Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Thurcroft Parish Council	**4**	1	2	1
Todwick Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-

Parish, Town & Community Council	Total Responses	Number of responses from individuals	Number of Organisational responses (inc. Parish Councils, Parish & Borough Councillors)	Not stated
Treeton Parish Council	**1**	1	-	-
Ulley Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Wales Parish Council	**2**	1	-	1
Waverley Community Council	**8**	7	1	-
Wentworth Parish Council	**7**	4	3	-
Whiston Parish Council	**3**	2	1	-
Wickersley Parish Council	**3**	2	1	-
Woodsetts Parish Council	**0**	-	-	-
Request for new parishes	**9**	9	-	-
General comments	**2**	-	2	-

Individual Responses by Parish Council

Anston Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to the Boundary - Yes - I think the parish boundary should be moved to include the ward of Dinnington Park Avenue (except for the cemetery), as electors of this ward are already in the borough ward of Anston & Woodsetts changes to parish ward boundaries - No - The parish wards should be changed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to the Boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - No - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Bramley Parish Council

Response	Respondent
We have recently moved into a new housing estate (Poppy Fields) which is identified on Royal Mail as Ravenfield but the boundary shows it as Bramley. The parish wards should be changed As above. We use mainly Ravenfield facilities, but we pay to Bramley. Clearly each parish has its own views, and we are aware they have tried to change this for their own reasons. The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Do you feel the Parish name reflects the local community it serves? - Not if it stays as is. Should be Ravenfield and Bramley. Docs online say the numbers of residents could increase of new developments?	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should contain its current parish wards. Number of councillors - The parish council has too many councillors	An elector who does not live in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - yes-. the area on Moor Lane South where the Redrow/David Wilson development is should move from Bramley into Ravenfield as the residents consider that is where they live changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards - Both Ravenfield and Bramley are two separate villages so each parish should retain its own ward name and identity Used interactive map to show changes to parish boundary on Bramley Parish Council Map also used interactive map to show changes to parish boundary on Ravenfield Parish Council Map Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - I feel that 7 parish councillors reflect the views of the community well Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary. Yes - The area on Moor Lane South where the Redrow/David Wilson development is should move from Bramley into Ravenfield as the residents consider that is where they live. Parish should retain its current parish wards. Describe changes: Both Ravenfield and Bramley	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - yes - The parish should have its parish wards removed Describe changes - Many councillors do not live in the wards they represent. Retain the number of councillors and remove the parish wards and make administration easier Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors - It may seem the parish has a lot of councillors for its size. However, to get a reasonable representation of the residents I believe the number of councillors is correct Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Parish Council precept has increased well over inflation rate over the past few years. I feel that its residents are being treated as a cash cow. The council currently has too many employees which takes a huge part of the budget. Suggest the council look at unnecessary costs and make reductions	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors - We need several councillors over a mixed age range to get a wide view of the constituents needs Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: I feel that the councillors are not always open to new ideas as they have got used to doing things in a set way. I'm also not sure why we need so many employees for such a small parish. If the wages were less then the precept would not need to go up so much. Maybe, reassess?	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - yes - Poppy Fields should be in Ravenfield changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - the wards are pointless in a parish Number of councillors - The parish council has too many councillors - Most of the councillors in BRAMLEY are not active Name of the Parish - no it does not reflect the local community it serves - Its not worth having a parish and residents paying over the odds for the precept Other comments and suggestions: Not fit for purpose	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors - Any more councillors would create longer council meetings, if any volunteers can be found. Most councils are looking for more councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: If you amalgamate councils then the smaller council will worry that they will not receive a fair share of the precept. To save money councils will close and sell excess village halls and generally the smaller area will lose their hall	Bramley Parish Councillor
Changes to the Boundary - yes - The new Redrow Development should come under Ravenfield Parish Council changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed. As above the new Redrow Development should be under Ravenfield Parish Council Used the interactive map to show change in boundary Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - no it does not reflect the local community it serves - If the Redrow Development doesn't move into Ravenfield then yes it should change as does not reflect the area the houses are i	Not stated
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Not stated
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: The boundary should not be changed, residents of Poppy Fields are well services by the amenities, the road network/infrastructure (evidenced by the recent works at the bottom of Moor Lane South) and the school catchment that are provided in Bramley Parish	Bramley Parish Council Clerk
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: The boundary should not be changed, the residents of Polly fields are well	Bramley Parish Councillor

serviced by the amenities, road network/infrastructure (evidenced by the recent road works at the bottom of Moor Lane South) and the school catchment that are provided in Bramley parish	
Changes to the Boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has too many councillors - Too many councillors in Bramley who have not interests in the village at all! Name of the Parish - No - They really don't care about the people or the village Other comments and suggestions: Compared to other parish councils i.e. Wickersley they do absolutely nothing for the local community. It's taken us years to even get Christmas lights. The village is a disgrace and unkept. My elderly father collects rubbish from the park and surrounding areas when he walks his dog	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The parish council does not have enough councillors - it has insufficient to be democratic. 3 members of one family seem to overrule every other councillor. Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the community it serves other comments and suggestions: Parish councils should be fully representative of the community it serves. There should be minimal if any conflicts of interest. A review of Parish Councils needs to be undertaken at least bi annually.	An elector who does not live in parish
Changes to the Boundary - Yes - When I purchased my property on the Redrow Poppy Fields estate I was told I live in Ravenfield. All of the conflicting information is now rather confusing as I have always been led to believe I live in Ravenfield and I use Ravenfield's resources not Bramley's changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should wards should be changed - The Redrow Polly Fields estate should be classed as Ravenfield - at it was sold!! Number of Councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - not answered	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - Yes - The New estate - Poppy Fields should be in Ravenfield. The houses sold were said to be in Ravenfield. The houses are adjoining Ravenfield (No Bramley) and the geography of the area suggest the houses are in the settlement of Ravenfield. A previous CGR outlined the position of the New boundary. The people of Ravenfield want the change as do the people on Poppy Fields Number of Councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflects the local community it serves	Ravenfield Parish Councillor

Changes to the Boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the community it serves - The number of Councillors should/hopefully do represent all three districts. And offer a diverse cross section of ages & experience which are vital in any decision making process other comments or suggestions: Concerned re new developments being missed represented e.g. Poppy Fields being labelled as Ravenfield. This is clearly a misrepresentation by the developers. And has consequences for example Bramley is in a Wickersley Academy School catchment where as Ravenfield isn't	Bramley Parish Councillor
Changes to the Boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors - There have been no problems in Bramley and it seems well run. I do NOT agree with Ravenfield parish council extending their boundary into Bramley Parish land. They're only doing it as a money grab Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the community it serves other comments or suggestions: Do not change our boundaries just to suit another parish's greed	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the community it serves other comments or suggestions: Better communications could help. Consultation questionnaires only appeared in the local on 17th June, with only a week to complete	An elector who lives in the parish

Brampton Bierlow Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Brampton Bierlow Parish Council.

Brinsworth Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to the Boundary - yes the boundary should be changed to incorporate the whole of Brinsworth. There is a section of Brinsworth not part of the parish, plus an additional house or two. Do you think the parish should be warded - The parish should remain unwarded The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Additional comments: The parish is extremely beneficial to the area. The only issue that crops up is that the whole of Brinsworth is not part of the parish	Brinsworth Parish Clerk
Changes to the Boundary - Yes To bring all the houses with a Brinsworth postcode into the Parish. The houses to the west of Bawtry Road, the few houses on Century View that are classed as Sheffield and if there are any others. Do you think the parish should be warded - Parish should remain unwarded. The Parish Council does not have enough councillors There are 11 spaces but only 10 at the moment, thought it should be an odd number Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community - yes Additional comments: Some of the residents don't know what powers and responsibilities a Parish Council has and what is the responsibility of RMBC. Especially the keyboard warriors on Facebook	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - yes -Inclusion of area beyond Brinsford road, Roman crescent and Atlas Street and inclusion of the Phoenix sports and social club Do you think the parish should be warded - No the Parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Respondent who works in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - yes - I am charged for the parish council, however half of Brinsworth is not covered and are closer to the parish (think they mean parish hall), which means they have more of a benefit than I do Should the parish be warded - No the Parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Additional comments or suggestions: The parish council uses money to run The Centre, however none of this is passed to the community, the centre is extremely expensive to hire therefore is a barrier to the community	Respondent who works in the parish

Changes to the Boundary - yes - The Parish currently doesn't include the houses on the Phoenix estate. Residents are benefitting from Parish facilities but do not pay towards it which isn't fair on Brinsworth residents Do you think the parish should be warded - No the Parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Don't change anything	An elector who lives in the BWA polling district in Brinsworth Borough Ward
Changes to the Boundary - yes - One side of Bawtry Road isn't parished. The whole of Brinsworth enjoy all the facilities, events that the Parish does. why should only a certain % of the houses pay extra but everyone is free to use Should the parish be warded - No the Parish should remain unwarded - with 11 Cllrs on the Parish this is enough to cover the whole area of Brinsworth Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - There are only 2 ward Cllrs but 11 Parish for a smaller area Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Additional comments or suggestions: for the amount of people involved I would have thought a lot more would be progressing	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: I have lived 36 years north of Bawtry road under Rotherham borough council and have been very happy with the services. I do not wish to be part of the Brinsworth parish	An elector who lives in the BWA polling district in Brinsworth Borough Ward

Changes to the Boundary - yes - The houses on the side of Bawtry Road from the Jubilee Cottages down to the bridge should be included into the Parish of Brinsworth and then they would have to pay the Parish precept Should the parish be warded - The Parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the Boundary - No - I have been informed that you are looking to extend the parish boundary to include the area on the north side of Bawtry Road. A vote was taken for this and was rejected by residents Should the parish be warded - The Parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the BWA polling district in Brinsworth Borough Ward
Changes to the Boundary - yes - I think BWA polling district should be a part of Brinsworth Parish Council. They are part of our village and adding them to the parish council will bring our village together properly. Should the parish be warded - The Parish should remain unwarded. Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of the Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Not stated
The current Brinsworth Parish Council area (polling districts BWB, BWC, BWD, BWE) does not currently incorporate all addresses that have Brinsworth in their address, as those houses north of Bawtry Road (polling district BWA) are not currently in the parish. It is to be noted that in the last Community Governance Review in 2008, a proposal was made to incorporate BWA into Brinsworth Parish Council, however this was overwhelmingly rejected by those residents in a poll of the area at the time. It is also noted that during the LGBCE review of Rotherham in the lead up to the 2021 council elections, that draft proposals for Brinsworth Ward were made by RMBC to only include the Brinsworth Parish Council boundary, however it was argued and accepted by LGBCE that incorporating polling district BWA into Brinsworth Ward kept the whole Brinsworth Community together and having the same representation was logical.	Joint response from both Brinsworth Borough Councillors

Having spoken to residents of BWA polling district, they are rightly concerned about the cost of the precept by becoming part of Brinsworth Parish Council, as this is not something they currently pay at all, given they are currently not part of any parish council. It is to be noted making Brinsworth Parish Council conterminous with the RMBC borough ward boundary (BWA, BWB, BWC, BWD, BWE) would align the parish council boundaries with the defined community of Brinsworth. This would remove an artificial historic boundary that there currently is, that in any practical sense both residents of BWA and current Brinsworth Parish Council area do not currently see. It is noted that over the decades there have been several Brinsworth Parish Councillors elected who have lived in BWA. As ward councillors, we would ask that if this proposal to expand Brinsworth Parish Council to include BWA is moved forward, that residents of BWA are intensely consulted and polled so that their views can be represented. In addition, we feel that the number of parish councillors that there are currently on Brinsworth Parish Council (11) is the maximum number that this should be, even if BWA were to be incorporated into the parish council. It is noted that the NALC guidance is decades old and only a suggestion, not bounded in legislation. We feel that there is scope to reduce this number to 9 parish councillors, even if BWA were incorporated into the parish council. This is due to the fact that contested elections for Brinsworth Parish Council over the last two electoral cycles have improved the quality, transparency, and governance of Brinsworth Parish Council, and that residents having the opportunity to vote in an election for parish councillors every 4 years is a good thing. We feel reducing the number to 9 parish councillors would enable efficient running of the council, and reduces the likelihood of the parish council having to operate with long-term unfilled casual vacancies. The Community Governance Review asks for a comment on whether Brinsworth Parish Council should be warded or unwarded. We feel that this should remain unwarded. We feel that the current arrangement of all parish councillors representing the whole village gives them a mandate and voice for the whole of the village, rather than feeling an obligation to stand up for their ward. Additionally, we do not think that the current polling district boundaries make geographic or community sense for parish wards.	

Catcliffe Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - no Should the parish be warded - the Parish should remain unwarded. The Parish Council does not have enough councillors. Need more councillors to help in village at events and also give more view. Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Catcliffe Parish Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - Yes it should be split into parish wards - It's currently warded as Rother Vale. This seems sensible Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - The councillors do little for their community and to achieve what little they do seven councillors would be enough Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments are suggestions: The council should take a more active role in the community and listen to their parishioners. They are there to help and not be restricted to monthly meetings. Interaction is lacking. Remove some of the red tape. Make councillors a useful entity rather than something to criticise	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - No Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Not enough interest in makeup. Vacancies exist for 2 councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Dalton Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to the parish boundary - No - The parish has grown in size with new housing name of parish - no it does not reflect the local community it serves - name should be Dalton and Sunnyside	Dalton Parish Councillor
Changes to parish Boundary - yes - Living in Brecks we feel very disconnected from the Parish Council. We are very separated from the rest of the parish by fields and woodland, we feel that the Parish Council do little for our area Changes to existing parish ward boundaries: The Parish wards should be changed - When we receive a newsletter (very infrequently) there is nothing relating to our area apart from the ubiquitous plant pots. We'd be better placed connecting with Stag area or Wickersley area. Used the interactive map to show the changes Number of Councillors - The parish councillor does not have enough councillors - I have no idea as I don't know who they are. name of parish - no it does not reflect the community it serves - Dalton is a very small part of the parish - reflect the rest of us. other comments and suggestions: We need more information on who they are and what they do. I've never seen any information on this in my area or on local social media.	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Would group similar area together rather than a split and paying to an area not used that the council don't really provide for Area should cover Flanderwell/Sunnyside	An elector who lives in the parish

Dinnington St. John's Town Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - yes - My property is at Penny Hill, Firbeck but falls with Dinnington TC. The property & those around it relate better to Firbeck both socially and physically, so I propose a boundary change Changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - the parish has the right number of councillors Changes to Parish boundary - Yes - I live at Knott Cross Barn, Penny Hill, Firbeck but my property is located within Dinnington Town Council. My property and those around me relate better to Firbeck - both physically and socially Interactive map used to show details of boundary changes Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the parish boundary - No Changes to existing parish ward boundaries - Yes Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves - Dinnington St John's name originated from the combining of 2 separate areas: Dinnington and St. Johns/Throapham. Both still exist. Shortening the name to Dinnington ignores history and seems unfair	An elector who lives in the parish

Firbeck Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to Boundary - Yes - The following areas have always been considered part of Firbeck and they often turn to the Parish Council for assistance - The Yews, Thwaite House Farm, Lingodell Farm, Beckridge Farm and Four Lane Ends Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Interactive map used to show details Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Firbeck Parish Clerk

Changes to parish boundary - yes - Current boundary excludes a group of house on Penny Hill. These re affiliated with Firbeck , have a Firbeck address. The boundary should include properties in this cluster within Firbeck Parish Should the parish be warded - the parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - the parish has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflects the community it serves	An elector who lives in Dinnington St John's Town Council area.

Gildingwells Parish

No responses were directly received for Gildingwells Parish.

Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors. Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Harthill-with-Woodall Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Hellaby Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors. Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - We are a small parish that has been running since 2011 and has worked well with this number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments or suggestions: I do not understand why this review is necessary when the parish boundaries were only reviewed less than 20 years ago. It was a long and expensive process then and will be more so now. Maybe the council should be spending time and money on more necessary things	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments or suggestions: I do not want our parish council to be taken over by Maltby Town Council. We didn't like Bramley being in charge of us. We fought them just to be Hellaby Parish Council	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it does reflect the local community it serves other comments or suggestions: Hellaby serves the current area well and the "Parish Hall" is well used and managed well within the precept. This area was not catered for when it was part of a larger, one as the councillors from Hellaby, The demographic of Hellaby is very different to the two neighbouring councils.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No - I do not wish Hellaby Parish Council to change or the boundaries to be altered. When we belonged Bramley Parish Council they wanted to sell our Parish Hall which is now very much a going concern. Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - The number of parish councillors is just right for the Hellaby Community. And more houses are due to be built so the Hellaby community will become larger in size Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No - Hellaby has a unique community feel something the government are striving for elsewhere across the country where this has been lost and there is no sense of community support Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded - Keep Hellaby as it is, it has a unique warm community feel, we don't want to be expanded or lumped in with neighbouring places. We have a newsletter, community volunteer litter pickers, events Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Keep Hellaby as it is! Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: I feel the Hellaby Parish area should be kept as is, and not merged with another Parish. The area has a distinct community that is different to its surrounding areas. The boundary should only be expanded to accommodate developments as they occur.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - There are sufficient councillors to work together for the benefit of the community and make decisions. Adding further councillors could cloud the clarity of decision making Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Hellaby is a small community which has unique and diverse needs, recognised by their PC. The residents in general look out and support one another and to be part of a larger parish council would water this down. The centenary hall is a hub for Hellaby Community and people value this resource	Hellaby Parish Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Please leave Hellaby Parish Council as it is.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Hellaby Parish Council do a brilliant job. If it isn't broke, don't fix it.	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Hellaby has fought over the years to retain its identity. Should this change I feel we would lose out. Our precept would be compromised, we would lost the heart of the community, the village hall. We have 5 councillors who work hard and take a pride in their responsibilities for the village	Hellaby Parish Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded- we are a small parish and therefore do not need wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves. The council name reflects the whole of this small community other comments and suggestions: I was one of the residents who was active in breaking away from Bramley. As a parish Hellaby works well for its residents and would be lost if it was added to Maltby. Its size will increase when the proposed new housing goes ahead. We would loose our identity and I believe the only community space we have.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No - I object to the boundaries changing as this would not benefit Hellaby. We fought for the Centenary Hall to be reopened and this would go if we joined with Bramley/Maltby. No more funds available Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded- we are a small parish and therefore do not need wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Hellaby, for its size has sufficient Parish Councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: If more Councillors were elected these need to be encouraged to work together with the younger generation to ensure they are supported	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves comments and suggestions: There's many changes in the community and industrial buildings that have affected the area terribly. Having our own parish council enables us to voice our concerns and they act up requests and suggestions effectively. The hall has activities and events that suit all age groups	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Not stated.
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Not stated.
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: We fought for a long time to keep our hall and to become a parish. Hellaby is a lovely little community and we need to keep our identity	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Hellaby remains a semi rural community despite industrial overdevelopment. Applications for housing developments on safeguarded land lack infrastructure to protect residents' health, amenity re road noise PM2.5 emissions. Funding necessary from council budgets sources/Government. National Highways	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	

Hooton Levitt Parish

No responses were directly received for Hooton Levitt Parish.

Hooton Roberts Parish

No responses were directly received for Hooton Roberts Parish.

Laughton-en-Le-Morthen Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - I feel that the villagers in Laughton Common use the schools in Laughton en le Morthen, use the play areas, use the allotments, use the village hall and would seem viable to let Laughton Common join Should the parish be warded - The parish should be split into parish wards - By joining Laughton en le Morthen the area of Laughton Common would be warded Used the interactive map to show changes to the boundary and warding Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors. Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Chair of Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Parish Council would like RMBC to explore the possibility of Thurcroft South, known as Laughton Common, becoming part of Laughton en le Morthen Parish. A separate email will be sent to electoral team Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The parish has the right number of councillors - An increase of 2 would be needed if Laughton Common was moved across from Thurcroft Parish Name - yes it reflect the local community it serves	Clerk to Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council

Letwell Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded The number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors. - 5 seems excessive for such a small village but it appears to be the minimum. Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Should merge with Firbeck and or Gildingwells Should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors. Parish Name - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: The village is too small to make a council viable. A merge with Firbeck would make sense as they are already linked by the church	An elector who lives in the parish

Maltby Town Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - Yes A new self governing Malty West Parish/Town Council should be established. The current MTC should be split into Maltby East and West. With both sides being financially and independent of each other. Current parish wards - The parish should retain its current parish wards Changes to existing parish ward boundaries: - A new self governing Malty West Parish/Town Council should be established. used interactive map to show the where the new parish should be. The Parish Council has too many councillors. Change to number of councillors - The balance between east and west is not equal Parish name - No it does not reflect the community - no suggestions	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the parish boundary - no Changes to the existing parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Describe changes - The people of Maltby use the facilities in both parishes. It seems pointless to cause division by separating the area. Parish Council has too many councillors Changes - Less is more Parish name - yes it reflects the community its serves Additional comments: - The separation of Maltby into east and west sems to cause division and friction. Surely would be better if returned to one council working towards supporting the town	An elector who lives in the parish

Proposing a new parish council - The creation of a Maltby West Parish Council would improve facilities and events in the west of the parish. At the moment most of the income is split unfairly on the east side of the borough. Inspection of the records will confirm this. The area should cover Maltby West - used interactive map to show the boundary	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to boundary - Yes - One boundary for all of Maltby. Existing ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed. Describe changes - the East is the most deprived and filthy so those responsible need to direct their efforts to this rather than rebuilding their own Council building Number of Councillors - The parish Council has too many councillors changes to number of councillors - 18 councillors is far too many , why are that many needed, How do they mange a workload and shares responsibilities in an organised structure? Parish name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who does not live in the parish
No change to the parish boundary. Parish wards should be changed - I think there should be two parish councils, one to cover Maltby East and one to cover Maltby West. This would be a better option because Maltby West doesn't get its fair share of funding allocation. Parish Council has the right number of councillors Parish name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Yes there should be a change to the parish boundary Change - Turn it back to one area not west and east as this has caused a huge amount of ill feeling and potential division in the town as the conservative councillors want it to have 2 separate councils changes to parish wards - The parish should have its parish removed - Maltby is one place not two Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
No change to the parish boundary. Parish wards boundaries should be removed Describe changes - one single ward for Maltby so everyone has a change to elect all the councillors Number of councillors - Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to Parish Boundary - yes - The councillors should be voted for the whole of Maltby not in 2 halves which is splitting the town. If not Maltby east and west should have its own council existing Parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed. Describe changes - Maltby west gets totally ignored by MTC so doesn't represent the whole of Maltby Number of councillors - Parish Council has too many councillors. Change to number - having less would create less problems and you would end up with better councillors and a fairer mix Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - might as well call it Maltby east council other comments and suggestions - Better off without it	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to Parish Boundary - yes - there should not be an east or west there should only be Maltby changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed Describe changes - get rid of east and west all under one council Number of councillors - The parish has the right number of councillors - for the size of Maltby there's enough Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments or suggestions - We need more traffic wardens in Maltby - car parking on the pavements and double yellow lines	Not stated
Changes to parish boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish has the right number of parish councillors Name of parish - Yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed Number of councillors - the Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed Describe changes - I think was and west wards should be removed and Maltby is a whole which we are Number of Councillors - The Parish has the right number of councillors 18 councillors is more than enough for the running of Maltby as a whole Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments or suggestions - Keep Maltby as one, that is what it is a whole	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions - Maltby Town Council are doing a great job for all	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Describe changes - I think a divided Maltby town wouldn't benefit the residents at all. Yet cause more issues Number of councillors - the Parish Council does not have enough councillors change number of councillors - I think it needs more to have a better overview Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions - Listen to the community more	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby become one or have 2 different councils not 2 parishes changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Describe changes - Malty should be as one they are many in the community who are discriminating Maltby east because they think we get better thought of well that is not the case, if not then they should be 2 different unused interactive map to show changes to parish boundary / and or parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council does not have enough councillors Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the parish boundary - yes - Split Maltby into 2 parishes: Maltby East/West, each with its own council. East dominates resources, leaving west neglected. Separate councils would ensure fairer budgets and better representation changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed Describe changes - Have two separate councils that mirror the RMBC existing boundaries to ensure fair funding for both wards used interactive map to show changes Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors change the number - Not enough representation for West, it needs 9 councillors for each side who live in the parish Name of parish - no it does not reflect the local community it serves what name should it be - Currently its Maltby east council and not Maltby as a whole. Change it to each ward name	Other - Maltby West RMBC Councillor

Other comments or suggestions- I strongly support splitting Maltby into two separate parish councils - Maltby East and Maltby West. East currently dominates resources, leaving West neglected. Separate independent councils would ensure fair budgets, better local representation and responsive services for both areas	
Proposing a new parish council Why - MTC at the moment spends no money from the queens heading out of Maltby - Hellaby. The government has decided the pride money is to be spent on the East. West of Maltby includes a deprived school, not event a play park. MTC should be east and west Describe the geographical areas the new parish should cover: From Hellaby to manor road in Maltby. This I believe gives a more equal split Other comments and suggestions - Maltby needs to be split due to the increasing house numbers and make the west have a more even voice	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to the parish boundary - yes - It should be as one, too much politics going off. Maltby East gets everything Maltby West gets nothing merge back together or 2 parishes. Sick of money going to a parish and nothing in our area changes to parish wards - yes- 2 parishes 2 budgets, Maltby West might get some things done then Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Why - Should have to be voted on too not opted on by existing councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: 2 parished so West get to vote who can be councillors. To many councillors opted on, don't think its right that the West so not get a vote on who goes on. Most of them need sacking and new people on, they have their own agendas which is not for the good of Maltby	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - remove the boundary dividing the village into East and West changes to parish wards - yes - the parish have its parish wards removed Describe changes - One community & not divided into "East and "West. Many residents feel that RMBC Cllrs are allowing, contributing to, an unnecessary division instead working together in the interests of the community Used interactive map to show change Number of councillors - The parish has the right number of councillors Changes - As Maltby continues to grow, having 18 Cllrs is entirely appropriate given the number of community events held throughout the year and the amount of work involved supporting residents across Maltby Parish name - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby parish to be as whole not divided into east/west, I moved here from Derbyshire in 2023 & I have never seen anything like it where a village is divided into 2 with complete different funding changes to parish wards - yes - The parish wards should be changed Describe change - Maltby to become a whole parish not east and west Number of councillors - The Parish does not have enough councillors Changes - It doesn't have enough of the RIGHT councillors, councillors should be people that live in the town/village itself or have previously lived within the town/village and should be a mix of people Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Feedback from the community needed. Local council organised fun days for families to attend. Try and encourage all different age ranges to stand for the council. Be pro-active in supporting the town with issues raised in a timely manner. Spend any funding wisely and for the people of the town	Not stated
Changes to parish boundary - yes Maltby has been split into two west and east. It should go back to all ONE changes to parish wards - yes - Maltby is Maltby Used interactive map to show change Number of councillors - The parish council does not have enough councillors Change - its the same ones that are not doing enough for Maltby. they should be changed we don't get a say in what happens to our money they don't have Maltby interests at heart. Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Should get shut of all the councillors that sit now as they don't listen to the people of Maltby and don't let anyone stand if they don't like them and Maltby should be made one again	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Unhappy with the amount of precept spend on staff wages rather than on the community. Why do we need an Assistant Clerk? Little is left to spend on the community	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby should have 1 ward changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - 1 ward for Maltby Number of councillors - the parish has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments are suggestions: Make Maltby 1 parish ward again	Maltby Town Councillor

Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby should have 2 councils because the current councillors are not fit for purpose. They act and make decisions to suit themselves. It's friends and family that have been co-opted that the prop up the changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - Maltby East and Maltby West Used interactive map to chow changes to boundary Number of councillors - The parish council has too many councillors. Need to be reduced - Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves – Other comments and suggestions: Yes there need to be a forensic audit of accounts. They are not transparent	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - no change to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes the Parish Council's name reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Any kind of change in the parish boundaries or a potential split of Maltby Town Council would be detrimental to the future of Maltby. Maltby is a community that suffers high levels of deprivation with residents facing significant economic hardships. The current council supports all Maltby residents	Maltby Town Clerk on behalf of Maltby Town Council
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Maltby is one town, and should not be divided. Any idea of splitting the Town Council would be detrimental to Maltby as a whole. There would not be enough funding for either side, and many of the current events and buildings would be lost. Maltby Town Council works for all Maltby residents	Respondent who works in Maltby
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Maltby should be viewed as one community. Any split would fracture the town and tantamount to economic suicide. The Town Hall and Sports Ground could not be funded solely by with the east or the west. All current events are held on Manor Field, located in the centre of Maltby	Respondent who works in Maltby

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards - Many residents don't understand why the parish is split into two wards. It divides the community. If boundaries change, they should be merged into one ward Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Maltby has the right number of councillors for both wards based on electorate size. As unpaid elected members, this number is already appropriate and workable for the parish Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: As an elected member and resident, I believe Maltby should not be split into two wards. It divides the community and weakens an established parish with an active Neighbourhood Plan. Keep one parish council best serves all residents	Maltby Town Councillor
Changes to parish boundary -Yes - Maltby town council should change to Maltby East Parish. There should be a new parish council for Maltby West Parish changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - if MTC is changed and reduced in size to become Malty East Parish it needs less councillor. MTC often does no have a full compliment of councillors, it struggles to recruit or engage for West ward Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - should be named Maltby East Parish Council WHY PROPOSING A NEW PARISH COUNCIL - Maltby has almost 20K residents, its size suggests 2 parishes and wards. Currently Maltby Town Council focuses all its attention and spending on the East side of Maltby, yet there is a huge need for attention and spending in Maltby west. Describe the geographical area the new parish should cover - The west side of Maltby, similar or the same as RMBC' Hellaby and Maltby West but without Hellaby used interactive map to highlight the area of the proposed parish council Other comments and suggestions: The new Maltby parish councils - MTC (old) could be Maltby East Parish and Maltby West Parish - Smaller parishes - more manageable and focused in the needs of the relevant community. MTC does not have a favourable reputation within Maltby township - 2 smaller parishes - fresh start and a positive change	Not stated

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - Councillors for the west ward want to form their own parish council in the west ward. I think the forming of another council is unwarranted and is politically driven rather than community driven Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
PROPOSING A NEW PARISH COUNCIL (Maltby) - A new parish council for Hellaby and Maltby West would be of benefit as the existing council spend all its money on Maltby East and makes it difficult for Maltby West to do anything The new parish should cover the existing Hellaby and Maltby West Used the interactive map to highlight the proposed area Other comments and suggestions: A new parish council for Maltby West would mean the community would benefit from the precept enabling the new council to do so much for the residents	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - There should only be 1 ward for the entire parish Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - we need 10 councillors not 18 Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish wards should be changed - There is division within the town council and an inability for the council to make decisions for the benefit for the community as a whole. Decisions bias towards the east ward for events and funding Number of councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - I don't have confidence that all councillors are effective or present enough to fulfil their role, or navigate the opposition within the council to drive and deliver value for the community Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: It's a dysfunctional council in its present form. Relations appear to be irretrievably broken down. Inefficiencies from east and west trying to outdo each other with separate events. It feels like they are without governance, scrutiny, or the ability to take constructive challenge without conflict.	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Needs to be all one not East and West as the Town Council needs to make joint decisions not separate changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed - Maltby Town Council East is predominantly labour councillors and run by a group of cronies, with mother and daughter leading them and objects to anything suggested by west. West are other parties Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - It should be Maltby and Hellaby Town Council Other comments and suggestions: Needs to be elected basis not co-opted as you have groups of friends as councillors with one calling all the shots	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: I believe the current parish and ward boundaries provide clear and effective representation for residents and should remain as they are. Priority should instead given to improving local services, facilities and community support across the whole of Maltby	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: I do not support changing the current parish or ward boundaries in Maltby. The focus should be on improving services and opportunities for all residents, not redrawing lines on a map	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Maltby town council required the number of councillors to enable the council to cover the remit of the council and ensure the residents of Maltby are represented well Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Maltby should stay as one council to retain identity and be able to afford to maintain the sports field, provide a good service and ensure events are put on to bring people together. Also allotments are important and support the residents . Splitting Maltby into 2 wards would be a disaster for Maltby	Maltby Town Councillor

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Fine as it is Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - This is making Maltby town become split because some councillors are causing trouble in the west. This needs to stop! I live in the West and disgusted of how they are behaving changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflects the local community it serves - It should be all under the same umbrella as Maltby not as East and West	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Because Maltby Town Council are bias against the west side, an nothing gets passed as the west councillors get overwhelmingly out voted by the rest, most of which were co-opted on not voted changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should change - so support money's can be spent evenly across Maltby Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has too many councillors - 18 and over half of them do nothing for Maltby unless it benefits them and their friends in some way Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the community it serves - no because it implies unity when there isn't any	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - There should not be a Hellaby and Maltby West ward. Hellaby has never been part of Maltby changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has too many councillors - None of these councillors are voted on, they are co-opted. If anyone who does not agree with them ,will not be co-opted on to council elections should be mandatory Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: All councillors should be voted on not co-opted	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish should retain its current parish wards - Parish warding makes sense - by-election costs would be huge if not warded (e.g. 1 vacancy means all polling stations in Maltby would be used and people to staff them) The warding helps to reduce election costs Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Although I live in the west ward of Maltby Parish the majority of local services are located in the east i.e. High Street, Leisure centre, Coronation Park. I am more than happy for my precept to be spend on improving the areas in the east as this actually benefits the whole of Maltby residents	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Maltby should not be divided as east and west should be all one Changes to the parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Should be voted on and not co-opted as many are friends and family and think they rule the council. Lots of cronies watching each others backs Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - Should not be divided should be all one other comments and suggestions - All councillors should be voted on the council, not co-opted as there are several family members co-opted on who rule by numbers not by fair means. If vote goes against them they resign and they are co-opted back on again weeks later	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to the parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - The town council name is easily confused with RMBC other comments and suggestions: Abolish it, too divisive. Its become a symbol of hate and division particularly on social media	Maltby Town Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Remove the parish completely. The MTC is ineffective and irresponsible. Operates on a partisan basis to the interests of the elected officials who are in the main Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed. Remove the wards as council operates with the majority of councils unelected official trying who do not progress the interests of the village and will lower precept Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has too many councillors - Council has to many councillors and not enough supervision and audit on councillors their behaviours and interests and RMBC are complicit in the same Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves - Abolished other comments or suggestions: If you support the continuation of the MTC then RMBC should be more aggressive in the audit of councillors, their business activities and indirect interests including the RMBC councillors that represent this area and wrongdoing identified and reported	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - yes - I believe the West and East wards should be quashed leaving just a Maltby ward Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - Creating just a Maltby Town Council ward covering both areas Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has too many councillors - I think the number of Councillors should be reduced by 4 to 14 as they struggle to get the full compliment. If wards are kept after the review I would strongly suggest that each ward have even numbers Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves other comments or suggestions: If ward East and west are kept the council should do more to show how money is spent in each area	Maltby Town Councillor and RMBC Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby should be one ward. Resources are open to all residents in Maltby so all residents should have equal say in decisions about the town. This should also save on costs Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - should just be Maltby other comments or suggestions: If ward East and west are kept the council should do more to show how money is spent in each area	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - the Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: MTC is for the whole of Maltby. There's no need for a separate Maltby West council	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No - Maltby is one town and needs to stay that way Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - I am a resident of West and my local high street, family and community area is all in maltby east. I should have a say in all of maltby, and not hellaby. Maltby should be 1 ward with more councillors Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Parish councillors should represent each estate within maltby and elections should be in smaller areas to ensure fair representation across maltby to ensure Cllrs are not just serving their own area Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Certain Cllrs are after more power and demanding maltby be split for personal gain only and not for what is right for Maltby residents. I do not want to be cut off completely from the other half of the town with no say on what happens on the high street, parks and main road through the town	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - yes - Make it one parish with west and east together Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should have its parish wards removed - The west councillors are trying to split our town up and we don't agree that they should do this. We are one town and for the good of maltby should remain as one. Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - They are within governance Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes- Maltby west should be a separate council from Maltby East due to the different priorities and lack of service provision e.g. kids park in the west. There's also been government money awarded to the east. Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - As above, two councils should be created to better suit the town Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - the town can't fill the number it has Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - Should be Maltby East Council and Maltby West Council	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - Maltby East Town Council as it only seems to serve Maltby East and ignores the West Other comments and suggestions: MTC should have Councillors which are elected, the current set up should be abolished and re-established. There are singularly focused fat cats residing on MTC which do not serve Maltby well, not voted in by the constituents and not qualified for it. We need a council for each ward, separately funded	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - The main reason is the likes of MTC they have 5 people sitting on the MTC that have not been voted on so they should be removed Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Yes I don't understand why maltby is split into east and west	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: The Maltby West campaign is a load of crap	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - it should be one ward. Maltby is one community and any money available should be spent across the parish. We don't need two councils at odd with one another and all the extra costs that entails Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - Maltby should be like other communities and work together for the benefit of the whole. It might even help stop the bickering. Maltby isn't two places and should be united Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - I think Maltby has the right number of councillors and they should learn to bring the community together. Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - It should be called Maltby Parish Council Other comments and suggestions	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Maltby is one village. I can't understand why the Maltby West Councillors are trying to cause animosity. It appears they have taken umbrage at the allocation of deprivation funding Maltby East are receiving. It still benefits Maltby as a whole. I reside in the West but have been an East resident	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - The current parish councillors have served the whole of Maltby well. I understand that there are calls for 2 parish councils (East and West), but this is really not needed . Maltby is one parish Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions - I don't really understand why people want to split Maltby in two. The argument is that the east has more money spend on it than the West. Most of the money naturally goes to the East because: A - it has more population	An elector who lives in the parish

B - it has more deprivation Therefore the money share should be larger	
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - The west are campaigning to form their own council which is a backward step for Maltby. Any issues should be addressed at MTC meetings. Having one parish would help to stop conflict. Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - The west ward feel that monies are not distributed fairly between the wards. It is plainly obvious that the east ward warrants higher spending due to aging properties etc Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - 18 Councillors for Maltby is excessive and leads to division and infighting. Fewer councillors would operate more efficiently Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: There is too much time wasted campaigning to split Maltby by wanting a second parish council	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - Why do we have Maltby East & West. Why not North & South?	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Maltby should be "one Maltby" not East or West Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - YES - We don't need two councils Maltby is one town Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - Shouldn't be east and west it should be Maltby as one Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - Two for the west and one for the east is too much should be one for the whole of maltby Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Only ever see Adam Tinsley out and about doing anything he should run the whole of Maltby. The two from the west are absolutely useless never see them. Stealing a wage	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Why: Maltby West gets nothing from the £20m investment - totally unfair. Same tastes, same town, zero benefit. Separate Council and we control our budget, get fair funding, stop being ignored Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - Maltby West has no dedicated representation, so our area's needs are always overlooked. With too few councillors overall, our community's voice gets drowned out, and we end up excluded from funding. Number of Councillors - The Parish Council does not have enough councillors - Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - The current name does not recognise or represent our distinct community. We are treated separately, excluded from investment and have different needs. A clear name - Maltby West Parish Council. Maltby west must be a separate parish with is own council and dedicated budget. We currently receive zero funding from the £20 million investment Other comments and suggestions: Maltby Town Council want nothing to do with Maltby west they should be ashamed. Its not about Labour or Conservative its about Maltby, and if Council puts as much effort into doing things from Maltby instead of trying to block Maltby West councillors from doing anything we might get somewhere.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Maltby should be split in 2 parish councils. Oe for East , one for West. Maltby has grown significantly and still growing with new houses being built. If not 2 councils, then even split of councillors Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - Nothing can be passed at council meetings for Maltby West as East councillors out ways the number of west councillors. Split the parishes in 2 or have even numbers of councillors on both Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - Too many on east side. Needs to be even split Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: As the pride in place money is only for Maltby East there is already undoubtedly a split between Maltby East and West. I feel a split would service both communities better	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - I see no reason why there should be a change in the amount Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The Parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council does not have enough councillors Name of Parish - No it doesn't reflect the local community it serves - Self serving councillors that need to be held accountable. Councillors just keep voting their mates on the council every time they push someone out Other comments and suggestions: 99% of Maltby town councillors aren't fit for purpose. All council meeting should be recorded and made public which Maltby town council refuse to do. RMBC should be making this happen	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: I think all parish councillors should be voted for by the people of the parish	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Maltby Parish should not be divided into Maltby East and Maltby West. It is causing division at a time when there is enough division	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No Changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - yes - Remove the town council and fully integrate into RMBC, the current council is not fit for purpose Changes to parish ward boundaries - the parish council should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: The current council structure is ineffective, calls for more than one council would simply multiply the problem. MTC should be abolished and integrated into RMBC and the extra precept money removed	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Because our parish councils don't work together, its very upsetting for the people who live in Maltby that work together and have friends on each side of the town shop everywhere but the council insist on it being east and west Area should cover One overall council that runs all of Maltby together Other comments or suggestions: Yes, the budget should be shared throughout all Maltby, there should be more Meet ups announced where you can meet your local councillors	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Maltby has become too big and the west does not get any money or time spent on it even though the west side is the biggest contributor so I suggest a new parish council maltby west to include hellaby Area should cover - from Braithwell road maltby to include hellaby other comments and suggestions: It would run a lot better, have people that are interested in this area and not about looking after themselves and their family and friends like we currently have on maltby town council	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Maltby has grown and continues to at pace, Maltby Town Council does not represent all the area anymore and concentrates in particular the east side of the town. Two separate councils would be better as each side is different. Area should cover - Follow the same as the ward boundaries with a Maltby West and East Split. other comments and suggestions: It no longer serves the whole of Maltby, very little is spent on the West side of Maltby. It has the same councillors that have been on for donkeys years and need fresh ideas, having a new council would help residents and RMBC councillors actually achieve things in the West.	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Maltby west consistently ignored and underfunded compared to Maltby east. I think a new Maltby West council would be of great benefit to the overall community of Maltby Area should cover - Maltby west	Not stated

Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - If RMBC have designated Maltby West & Hellaby as an electoral ward I feel we should have our own Parish/Town Council Area should cover - Maltby West & Hellaby Used interactive map to show boundary	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Maltby West, whilst part of the overall Maltby Parish Council, is being controlled by and large by councillors from Maltby East forcing the split in CAP meetings. Maltby is now too big for a single parish council Area should cover - Maltby East and Maltby West & Hellaby are already defined as separate wards, just let them also have separate parish councils other comments and suggestions: Maltby West has been underfunded from the precept and overlooked for years. The expansion of housing in Maltby East will only make this worse	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Two councils will cover all of Maltby and therefore give the rights to all of Maltby Area should cover - it would cover all of Maltby other comments and suggestions: That the council should have people from all walks of life. That one section of the council cannot form a majority because they have alliance of similar interests every time.	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Unfortunately the current council that is MTC does not have the interests of the whole of Maltby. Decisions are made underhanded, behind close doors with no transparency. I feel a total new council is needed as Maltby is falling greatly Area should cover - The current MTC favour the east rather the west which is where the majority of councillors reside. I am based in the east and see no benefit as I live at the upper end of the village , it is all concentrated on the lower part near Tickhill road. other comments and suggestions: As the current council are failing the whole of Maltby and they themselves cause a divide as one MTC/RMBC Councillor demanded a split meeting for the fire service/police etc into East and West I believe a new council should be formed and let a new West Council try to see if they can make any difference	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - The council is not working for Maltby. I have been to lots of meetings and I'm quite shocked at what I hear. We all pay our council tax so why should it not be shared with us all. I think having an east and west council will be fair to everyone. Area should cover - East and west other comments and suggestions: Yes I think make Maltby 2 councils the east and the west with council for the east and the west and split the money and see who really cares and is fair	An elector who lives in the parish

Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - A new council for this side fighting our corner. A playground up on the west side. More community events on the west side. Bins emptied, grass cut, paths re-tarmac, skips. West side council could help with these instead of everything been to the east Area should cover - West side of maltby, Braithwell Road to Addison Road, Rotherham Road area other comments and suggestions: Open for maltby residents to have their say who is on the board, let them vote their own council. Too many people who are getting back handers on east side for their own benefits and forgetting community and residents needs. Clear minute's taken and visual for the whole public to see in meetings.	An elector who lives in the parish
Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - No Christmas lights, hanging baskets beyond the high street. The current councillors for Maltby West work hard to get funding for their ward. Child poverty does not stop at the high street. Allow funds to give them free activities on their doorstop. Area should cover - Maltby West and Hellaby	An elector who lives in the parish

Orgreave Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Orgreave Parish Council.

Ravenfield Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - yes - The boundary is an odd shape. The poppy fields estate is in Bramley parish but was advertised as Ravenfield. Should Ravenfield PC take on extra wear and tear for things like the children's playground should parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Use interacting map to show changes to parish boundaries Number of councillors -The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - it should include Firsby should parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The parish council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in Hooton Roberts Parish area.

Changes to parish boundary - No should parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves. They don't progress in the village. It only suits if it suits them. Some of the councillors like to use their position to their own personal gain Other comments or suggestions: Time for change. Bring in younger councillors who understand the modern world we live in. Times change, progress is good, change is good. Time to ignore the people that think they own the village and shout the loudest to get their own way	An elector who lives in the parish
Change to parish boundary - yes - I would like the small hamlet of Firsby to be within the parish boundary - geographically it is closer that its current parish of Hooton Roberts, historically it appears to have been within Ravenfield should be the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Used interactive map to show change of boundary Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: I feel that during the recent Whitestone proposals on occasions being linked to a parish chair at Hooton Roberts rather than a parish council has left Firsby residents without a voice - we deserve to have a parish council	An elector who lives in Hooton Roberts Parish area
Changes to parish boundary - Yes - To reflect the new developments on Moor Lane South as being within Ravenfield Parish. The developments look and feel part of Ravenfield have been marketed as such, and carry Ravenfield postal addresses should the parish be warded - the parish should remain unwarded Used interactive map to show changes Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	Ravenfield Parish Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Currently live on the Redrow Poppy Fields development. Advertised, sold and planning permission all published under Ravenfield. RMBC issues us a Ravenfield address. Premium paid for Ravenfield area should the parish be warded - the parish should remain unwarded Used interactive map to show changes Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - No - Currently fall under Bramley, but we use all of Ravenfield services (doctors, chemist, schools) and have a Ravenfield address. Should be Ravenfield. Other comments and suggestions: Poppy Fields should be under Ravenfield Parish, RMBC planning application states it is Ravenfield. Issued Ravenfield address, even purchased council houses and listed them as Ravenfield. We use no public services in Bramley. Poppy Fields must be changed to Ravenfield parish immediately	An elector who lives in Bramley Parish Council area
Changes to parish boundary - yes. We bought a house on Poppy Fields estate, thinking we were in Ravenfield. We now know it is in Bramley. Had we know this we may have not purchased the property changes to parish ward boundaries - Yes - no details Number of Councillors - Not answered Name of Parish - Not answered	An elector who lives in Bramley Parish Council area
Changes to parish boundary - yes - The parish boundary should be increased to include the Poppy Field development. Currently this belongs to Bramley Parish Council as it falls within that boundary. However, the development is advertised on sales banners and for the purposes of selling houses as being in 'Ravenfield' The houses across the road are within the boundary of Ravenfield. Also, the people who live on Poppy Fields are surprised that this is within Bramley Parish Council and a number after speaking to them would like it to be within the boundary to them would like it to be within the boundary of Ravenfield. The residents of Poppy Fields use local facilities such as doctors, pubs, shops and schools within the boundary of Ravenfield changes to parish ward boundaries - Yes - no details Number of Councillors - The Parish council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions - explained above	Ravenfield Parish Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - yes - I think the boundary on Middle Lane South should encompass the Poppy Field estate because Ravenfield is on their doorstep. They use the facilities in Ravenfield rather than going into Bramley changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - yes - I live in the Poppy Fields estate and feel that we should fall under Ravenfield, not Bramley. Geographically we are closer and feel a sense of belonging to Ravenfield far more than Bramley changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflect the local community it serves	An elector who live in Bramley Parish Council area
Changes to parish boundary - yes - New Housing Estates being built on the boundary of Ravenfield and Bramley. Currently these estates are classed as Bramley. However, these houses use the resources that are for the residents of Ravenfield. The school and doctors are currently over capacity with nowhere to expand. These new estates should be brought into Ravenfield so that the Parish Council can claim the Parish precept for the benefit of the residents of Ravenfield changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Thorpe Salvin Parish Council.

Thrybergh Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Thrybergh Parish Council

Thurcroft Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflects the local community it serves	Not stated

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - Yes - It seems stupid to split a small village, the population and councillors for north and south are drastically different. It would be easier to split 1 ward for Thurcroft and 1 for Laughton Common Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - The North South divide: It causes the need for a difference in the amount of councillors pro rata and disjoints the councillors from each ward instead of forming equal thinking on matters per ward changes to parish ward boundaries - Yes – The wards should be available to resident in the wards and councillors elected from those wards. Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Too many voices take up too much time Name of Parish - yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: I feel that the local councils should have more power through the policing of their parishes	Thurcroft Parish Councillor
Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - Our current councillor allocation is 18 councillors. We can never fill all our vacancies even through co-option and are agreed that, for the size of the parish community this is too many. Our proposal would be that this number is reduced to 13 as it would give us a better balance and an outside chance of filling all positions. Other comments and suggestions: The parish council recently met with colleagues from Laughton Parish Council where they discussed the position with Laughton Common and whether it would be better placed within Laughton Parish. Though we haven't fully assessed the impact this would have on Thurcroft Parish Council, at this point we are not opposed to further consideration and discussion	Chair of Thurcroft Parish Council

Todwick Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Todwick Parish Council

Treeton Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded -The parish should remain unwarded Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Ulley Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Ulley Parish Council.

Wales Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it reflects the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed - Kiveton and Wales are regarded by parishioners as one area Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - There is scope for people peddling their own agenda and favouring their other interests e.g. giving grants to bodies they are members of too few. A practice practiced carried out regularly at Wales Name of Parish - Yes it reflects the local community it serves other comments and suggestions: Yes!, Disband it! They are totally incapable of acting within the Local Governance Act	An elector who lives in the parish

Waverley Community Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - The councillors do not represent the community and as such it shouldn't be called a community council Other comments and suggestions: Not needed and results in additional council tax expenses on all residents with very little benefit in return	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: Abolish the council. No need for the extra precept to pay for a community centre. Waste of money when costs for everything else is ridiculous	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has room many councillors - The community councillors are invisible in the community and do not engage with the residents. By reducing the number of councillors will make a smaller group to manage better engagement Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves. It should be called Waverley Council. There is no community as the councillors are not actively building that in the community. Other comments and suggestions: The resourcing of the community centre needs to be managed as there appear to be roles being recruited into that could be done on a voluntary non paid basis. This would be more cost effective and provide opportunities for local residents to be involved and engaged with the councillors	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - WCC does nothing for the community should the parish be warded - The parish should split into parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors Name of Parish - No it does not reflect the local community it serves - It doesn't serve the community or any other purpose Other comments and suggestions: Get rid of it!	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council does not have enough councillors - Decisions appear to be made to benefit Harworth and not the residents. More councillors could ensure transparency and more representation of residents' views Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: There are significant concerns with developers, the land trust and Harworth that the council fail to act on. The roads are still unadopted causing safety problems, crashes, accidents, parking/congestion, a state of disrepair. The precept is outrageously high and residents do not benefit from it	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who works in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - WCC has 7 seats since 2019. In the seven-year timeframe, it has had two elections. The first was uncontested with 7 members for 7 seats. The last in 2024, was uncontested again, with 6 members for 7 seats, followed by co-option. Since 2019, the Council has experienced a relatively high turnover of members, reflecting the competing demands on Waverley's predominantly young family demographic, many of whom have demanding professional careers. Our review of the data shows that, over the past seven years, there have been nine new councillors, equating to an average of one to two new members each year. Looking ahead and taking account of the evidence of high member turnover together with the wider national challenge of recruiting parish councillors, it would not be prudent to support an increase in councillor numbers. WCC also wishes it to be recognised that Waverley's busy young family demographic has limited capacity and interest in engaging in local politics. In light of these factors, WCC considers that an increase would not be appropriate. Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	Waverley Community Council Parish Clerk on behalf of Waverley Community Council

Other comments and suggestions: Separately and as an aside, since we have a third of the population under 17, our aim is actually to get a Youth Council in place, so we have fairer representation from the young people who aren't on the electoral role.	

Wentworth Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No - Strafford Place in Thorpe Hesley should REMAIN part of Wentworth Parish Council, as well as Hoober Ward. There should be no boundary change that removes it changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - The name of Harley Ward should be changed to 'Harley and Hood Hill'	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: We want to keep Strafford Place, Thorpe Hesley, within Wentworth Parish Council and Hoober Ward as it has been for at least the past three decades.	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: Our council plays a vital role in local community development, offering representation on matters like planning, environmental initiatives, and public spaces. Residents attend meetings during public participation. Agendas and minutes are maintained to ensure concerns are heard	Chair of Wentworth Parish Council

Changes to parish boundary - Yes - Take the park and green space out of the boundary changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish wards should be changed - to take the park out Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions:	Keppel Ward Borough Councillor
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries -The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries -The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - yes it reflect the local community it serves Councillors who represent Harley also run Mission Rooms in Harley which is run as a business. Councillors do a lot to keep The mission Room building available but it feels like they have a 'hold' on village matters without doing all that is needed for the range of people in the village	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries- The parish wards should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	Chair of Wentworth Parish Council

Whiston Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish wards should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	Whiston Parish Clerk
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish wards should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments and suggestions: They should be more willing to maintain Green space and trees in Whiston. Several of the trees need maintenance and trying to get people to look at them is ridiculous	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - No should the parish be warded - The parish wards should remain unwarded Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Wickersley Parish Council

Response	Respondent
Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has too many councillors - National guidelines are for 12 councillors for the population size - there are currently 16. Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves	An elector who lives in the parish

Changes to parish boundary - No changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should retain its current parish wards Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: The parish council should be more open to involving local people - everything is cloak and daggers. I couldn't even tell you the name of our local councillor	An elector who lives in the parish
Changes to parish boundary - yes - Wickersley Parish should be within one ward and not two and thus should be mirrored by the Borough Boundary changes to parish ward boundaries - The parish should have its parish wards removed Number of Councillors - The Parish Council has the right number of councillors - Although the set number of 16 is correct it is becoming more difficult to recruit and retain. Name of Parish - Yes it does reflect the local community it serves Other comments or suggestions: The Parish suffers because it is split particularly by Borough Boundaries. The Parish NEVER receives representation from the North Ward Borough Councillors, funding and initiatives are not uniform across the village, only represented as one area PACT meeting not two. Wickersley is one village	Wickersley Parish Councillor

Woodsetts Parish Council

No responses were directly received for Woodsetts Parish Council.

Request for new parishes & general comments

Area	Response	Respondent
Rawmarsh	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - All of the staff with parish council are better maintained, less abused by RMBC with things they don want like me builds etc, and they get Christmas decorations Area should cover All of Rawmarsh	An elector who lives in the Rawmarsh area

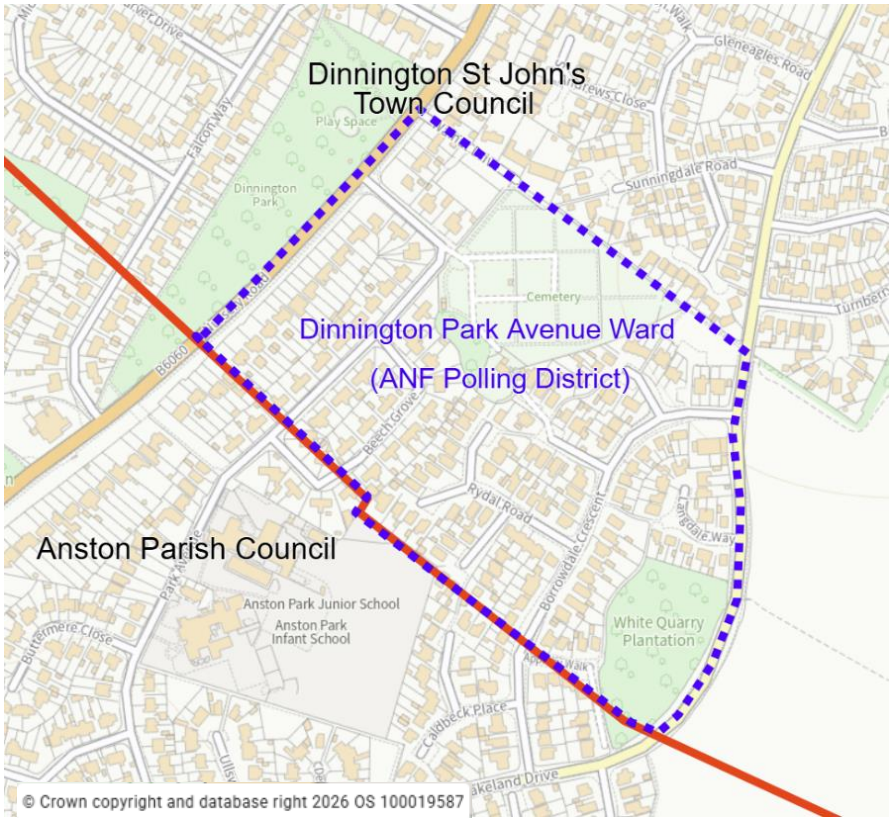
Rawmarsh	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Since Rawmarsh ceased to be a parish I've witnessed the loss of swimming pool, youth club, assets in the park a continuous decline in the area time for it to stop Area should cover Rawmarsh, Monkwood, Parkgate, Kilnhurst, Manor farm, Aldwarke estates Other comments and suggestions: A meeting be called for a referendum of the inhabitants	An elector who lives in the Rawmarsh area
Rawmarsh	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - I believe we are one of the only areas without a Parish Council and I think that reflects in the investment in Rawmarsh. No Christmas lights, hanging baskets, few planters, few poppies, defibrillators and other general care Area should cover - from Upper Haugh around Rosehill Park and to the newer estates at the Wickets would be one and then there would probably be another for the other parts of Rawmarsh. Other comments and suggestions: Just local people to have a say on local needs and issues	An elector who lives in the Rawmarsh area
Wath	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Our 2 ward councillors have only a limited ability to "fight our corner", particularly when one of them does not even live in or visit the area, and so a local parish council would at least provide an alternative and amplifying voice for the area. Area should cover Wath, Manvers, Newhill and West Melton - used the interactive map to show the boundary Other comments or suggestions: Wath is too far away from the centre of Rotherham to garner any attention. Wath used to have Urban District Council which ensured that Wath was a better place to live in than much of the surrounding area. Although that cannot be recreated, a Parish Council would be a step in the right direction	An elector who lives in the Wath-upon-Dearne area
Wath	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - I think there should be a parish council for Wath. There has been a rapid expansion with more homes and businesses in the area, yet we have no parish council to look at issues that may arise, and are left to our own devices Area should cover Wath upon Dearne	An elector who lives in the Wath-upon-Dearne area

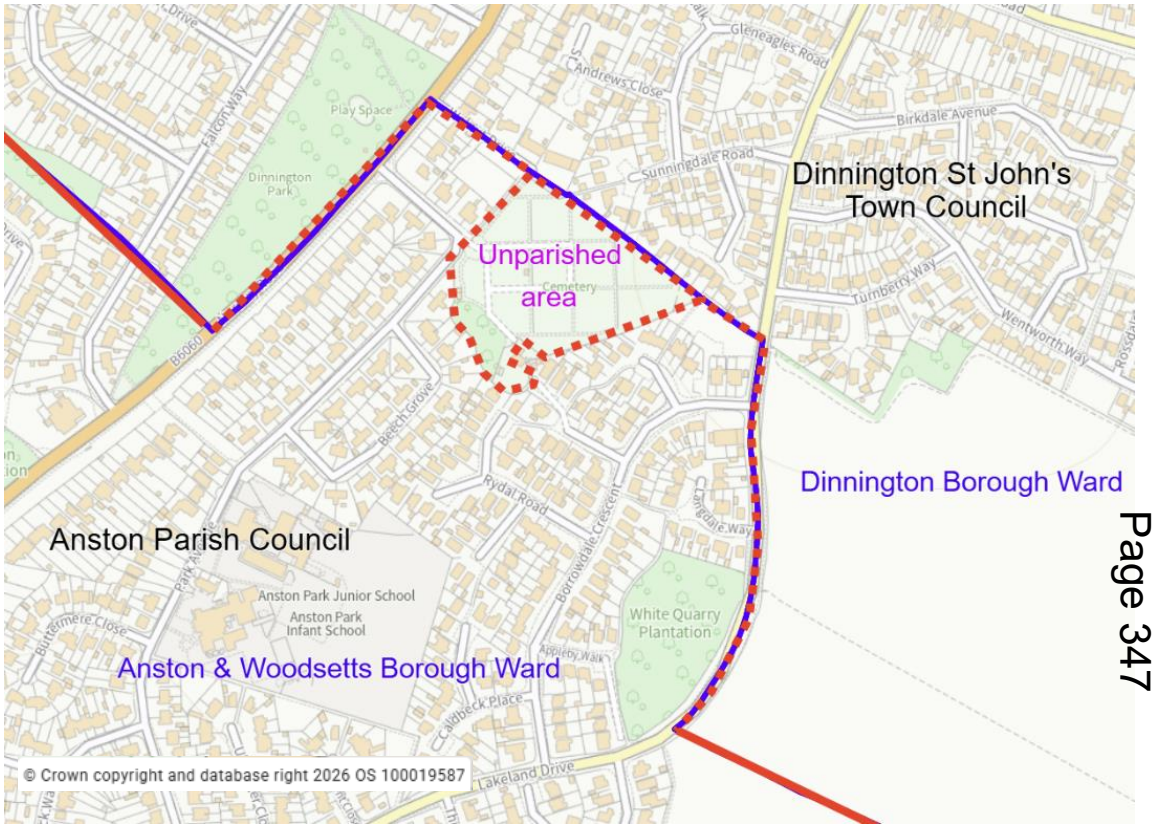
Wath	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - The area has a strong community focus with many active citizens involved in community events and activities. There is also community land in the area left in trust to the local people. Governance of these local areas could be better co-ordinated by locals Area should cover Wath and Manvers from the boundary with Brampton parish council to the boundary with Swinton The local community partnership membership is not advertised and so I feel unrepresented. A PC will involve local people in local politics and policy which would lead to greater understanding of proses. Being non party political would be of great benefit to represent all views.	An elector who lives in the Wath-upon-Dearne area
Wath	Tell us why you think a new parish council would improve local governance - Wath ward currently does not have a parish council. Decision making at a local level will enable better outcomes that are aligned with the needs and desires of people in the community. Decisions taken remotely don't always reflect local needs Area should cover Wath parish Other comments and suggestions: Devolved decision making will provide more local accountability, even in the limited format currently being proposed	An elector who lives in the Wath-upon-Dearne area
Greasbrough	Happy with the ward boundaries as they are and have no interest in being part of any parish council	Borough Councillor for Greasbrough
Greasbrough	Happy with current arrangements -does not want to be a parish	Borough Councillor for Greasbrough

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Appendix 3: Maps of areas relating to consultation responses

Map 1: Dinnington Park Avenue Ward of Dinnington St John's Town Council





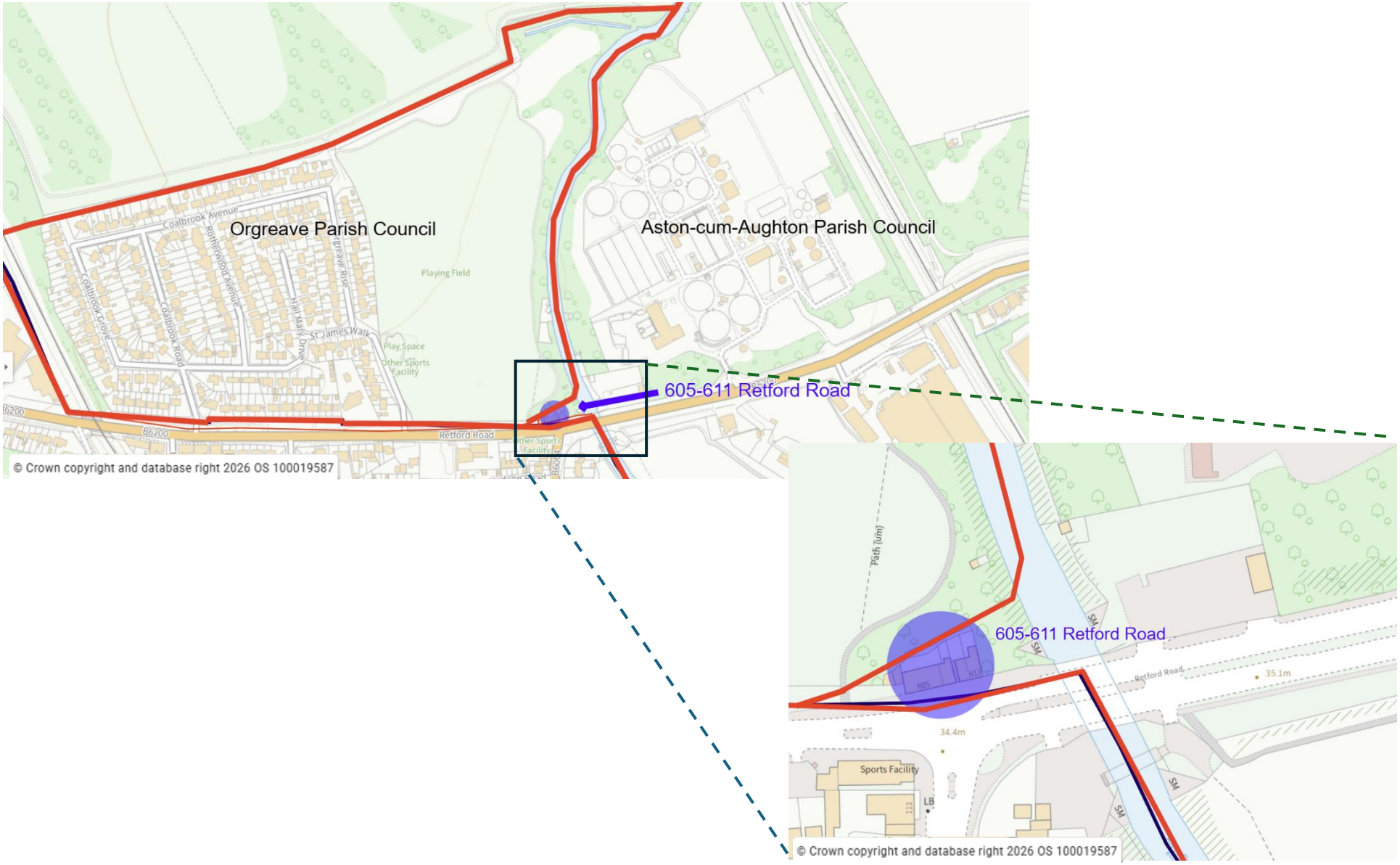
Current Boundary

Solid Red Line: Parish boundary
Dashed Blue Line: ANF Polling District

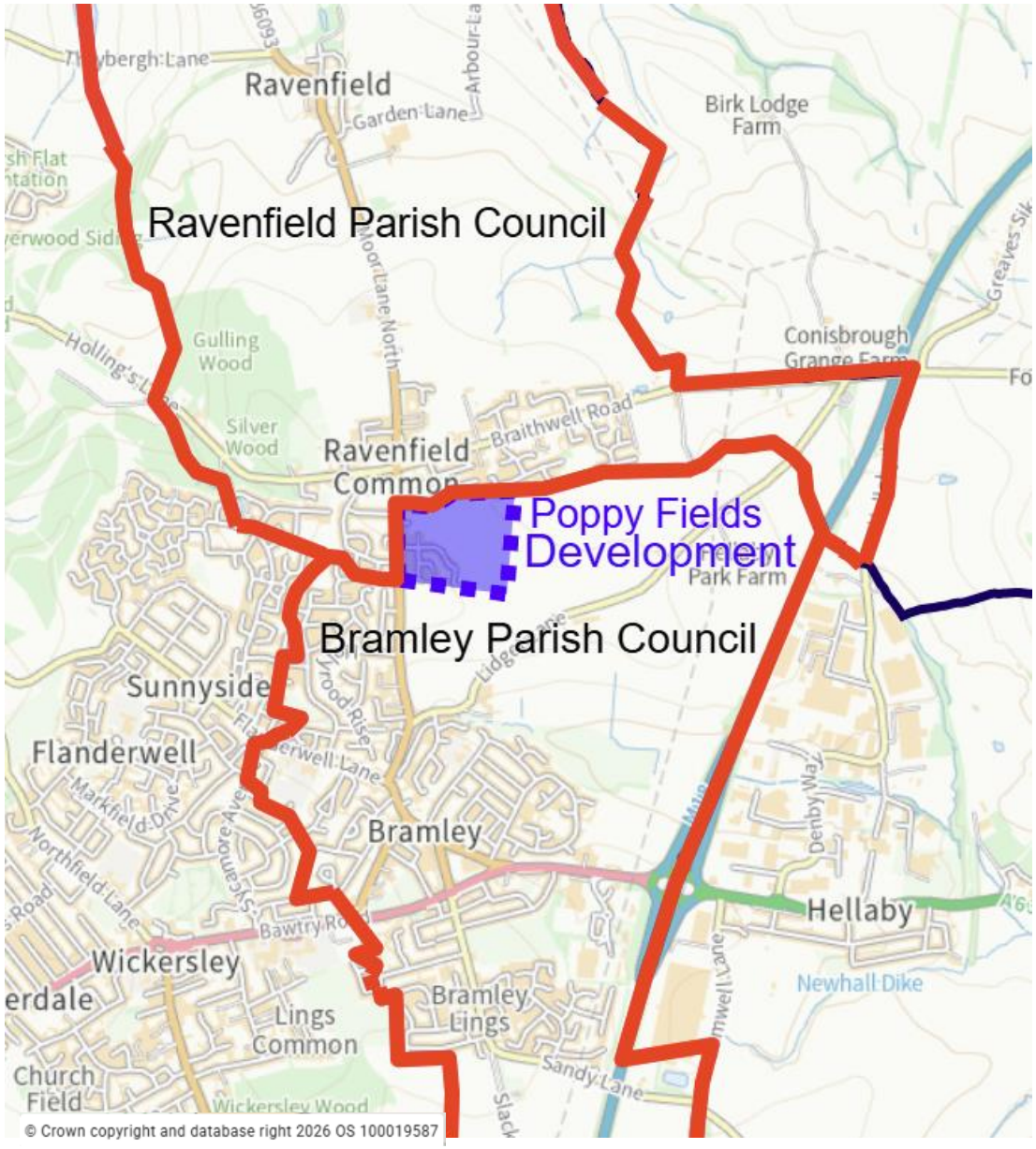
Proposal

Solid Red Line: Current Parish boundary
Dashed Red Line: Proposed amendment to the parish boundary, with ANF (except the cemetery) moving to Anston Parish Council
Solid Blue Line: Borough ward boundary

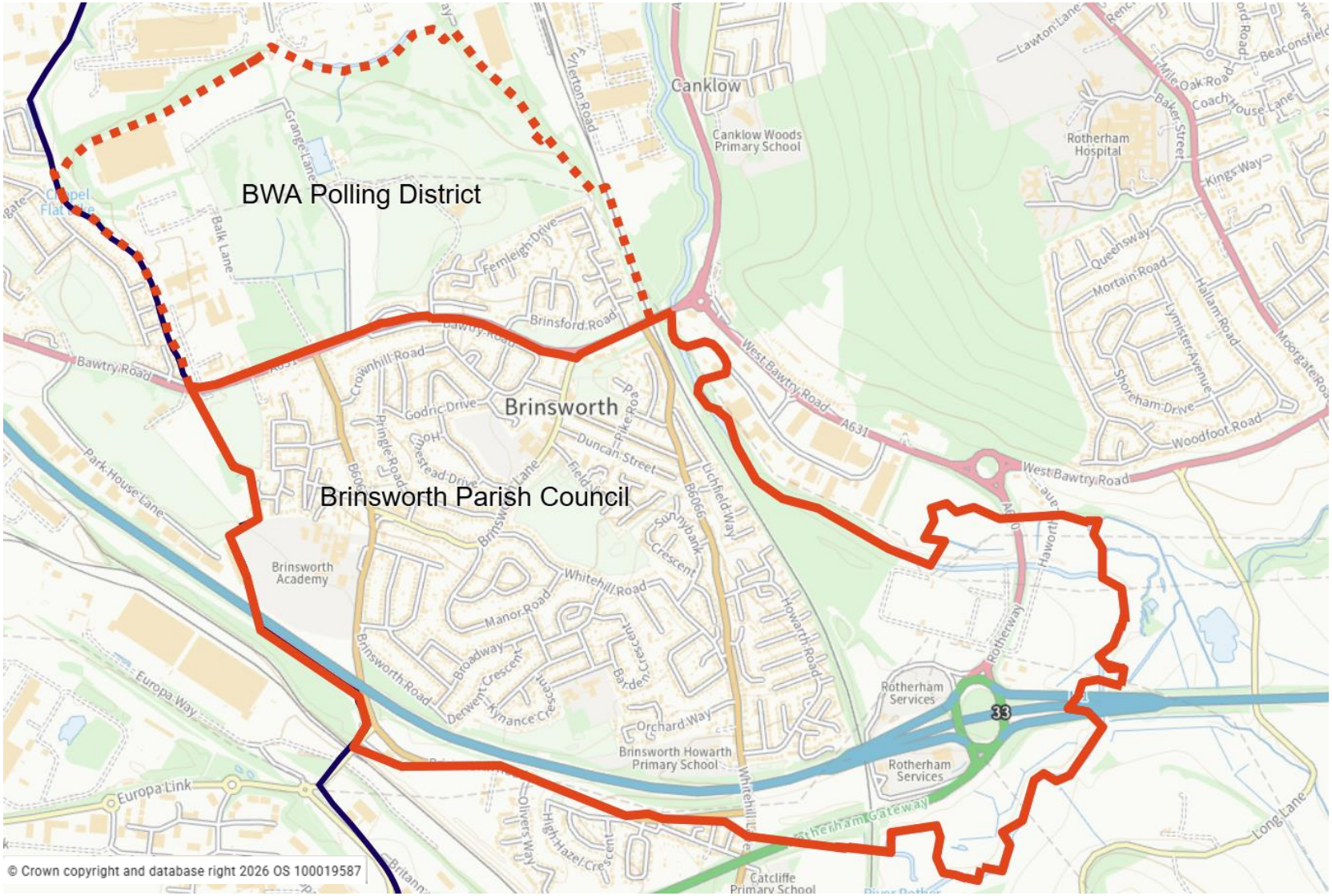
Map 2: 605-611 Retford Road, Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council



Map 3: Poppy Fields Estate, Bramley Parish Council



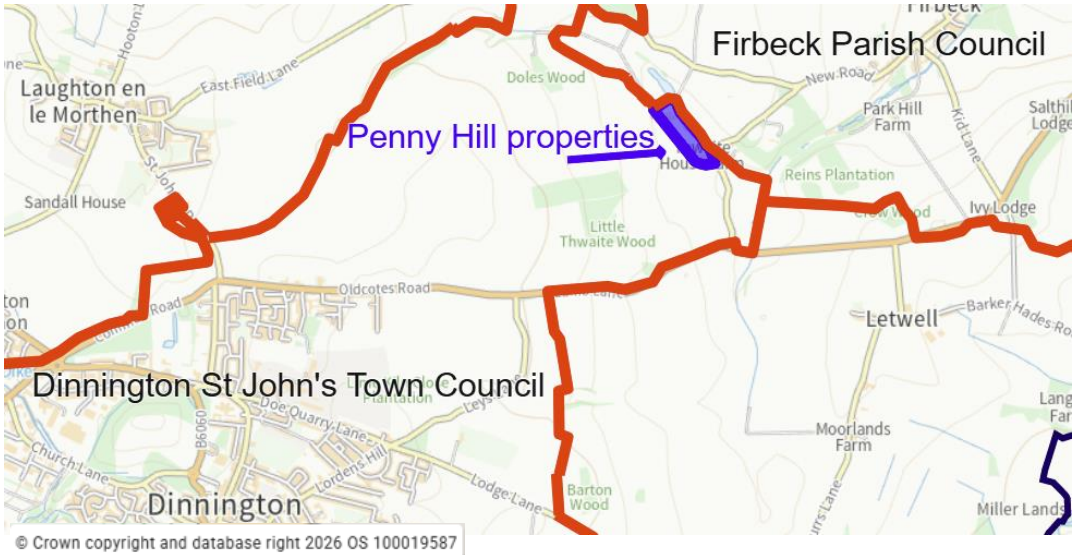
Map 4: Brinsworth Parish Council and BWA Polling District of Brinsworth Borough Ward



Map 5: 30-48 Century View

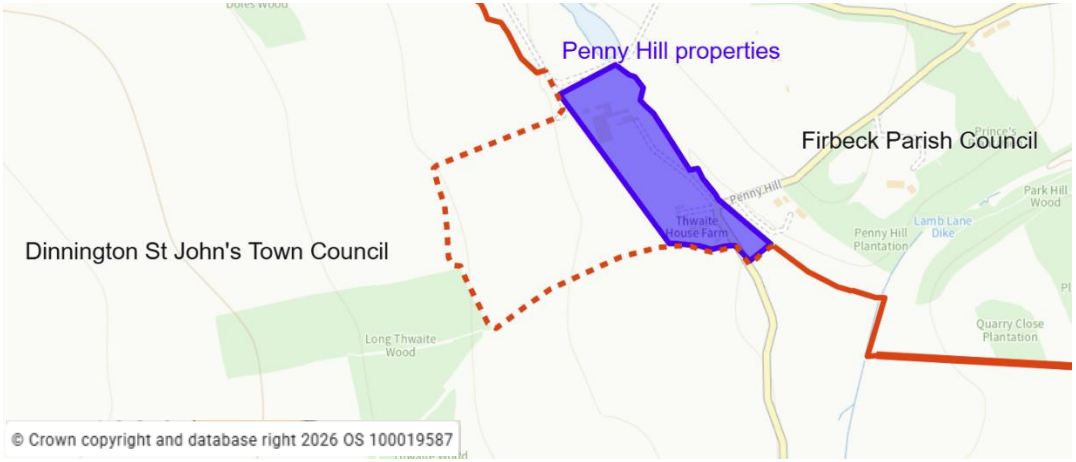


Map 6: Penny Hill, Dinnington St John's Town Council



Current Boundary

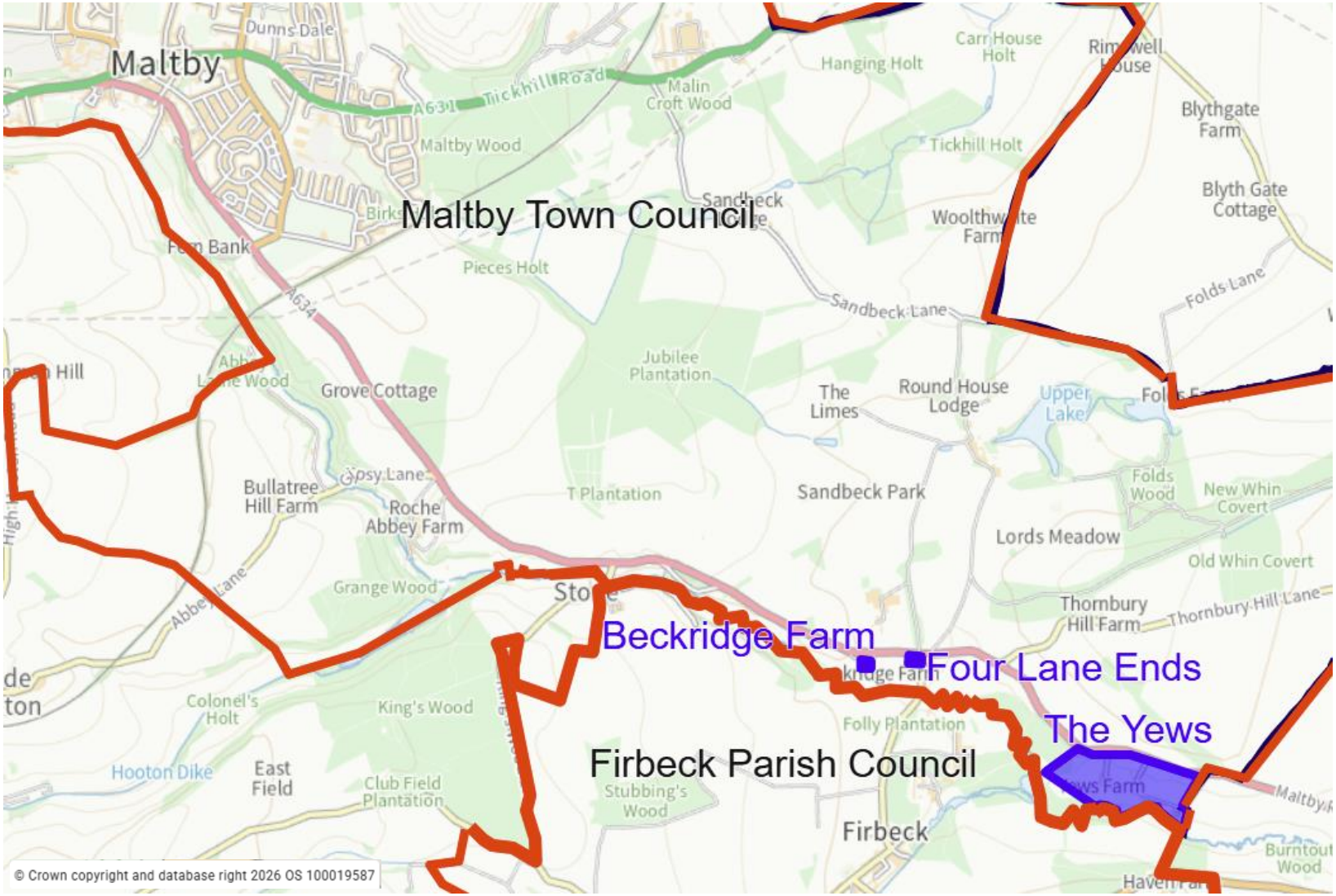
Solid Red Line: Parish boundary
Blue area: Penny Hill Properties



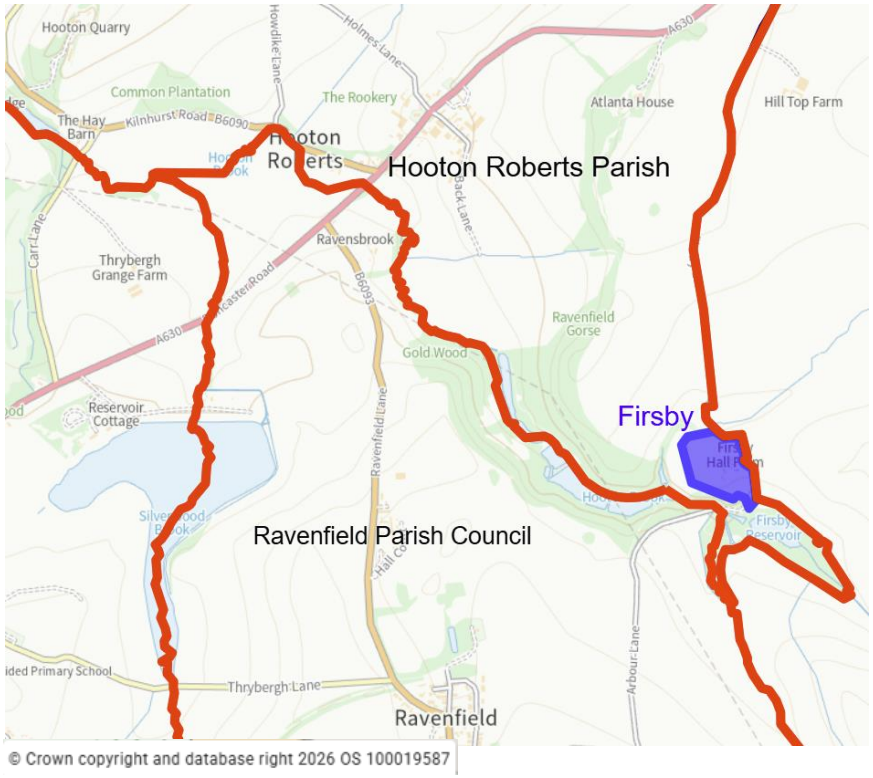
Proposal

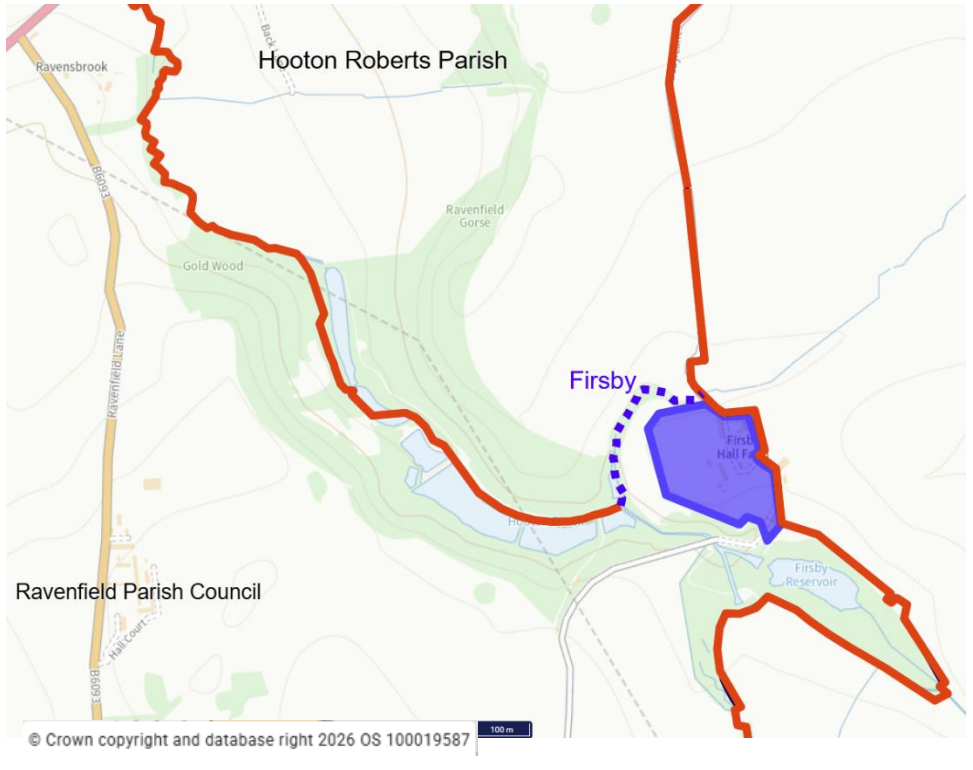
Solid Red Line: Current Parish boundary
Dashed Red Line: Proposed amendment to the parish boundary
Solid Blue area: Penny Hill Properties

Map 7: Beckridge Farm, Four Lane Ends and The Yews, Maltby Town Council



Map 8: Firsby, Hooton Roberts Parish





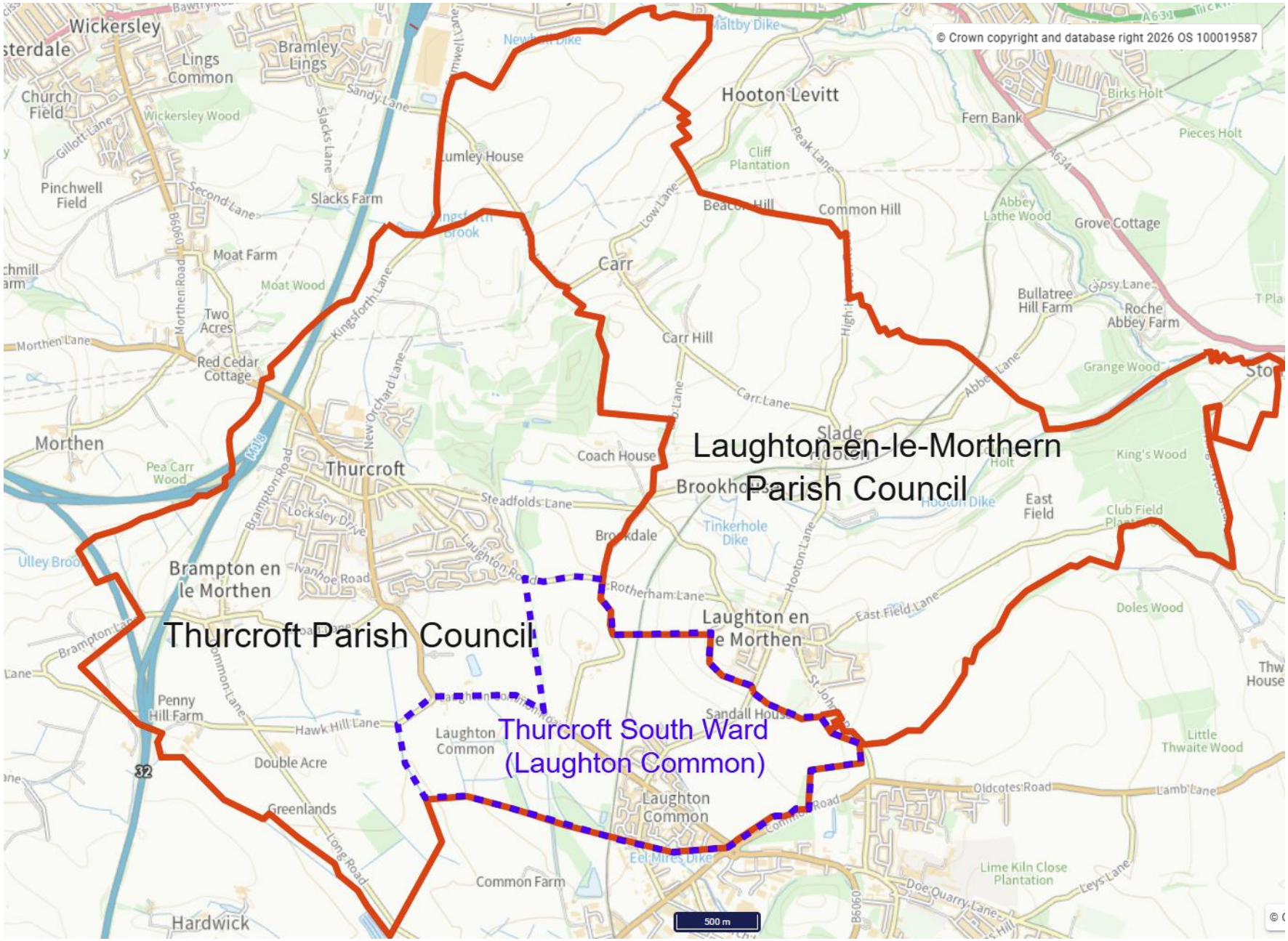
Current Boundary

Solid Red Line: Parish boundary
Blue area: Firsby

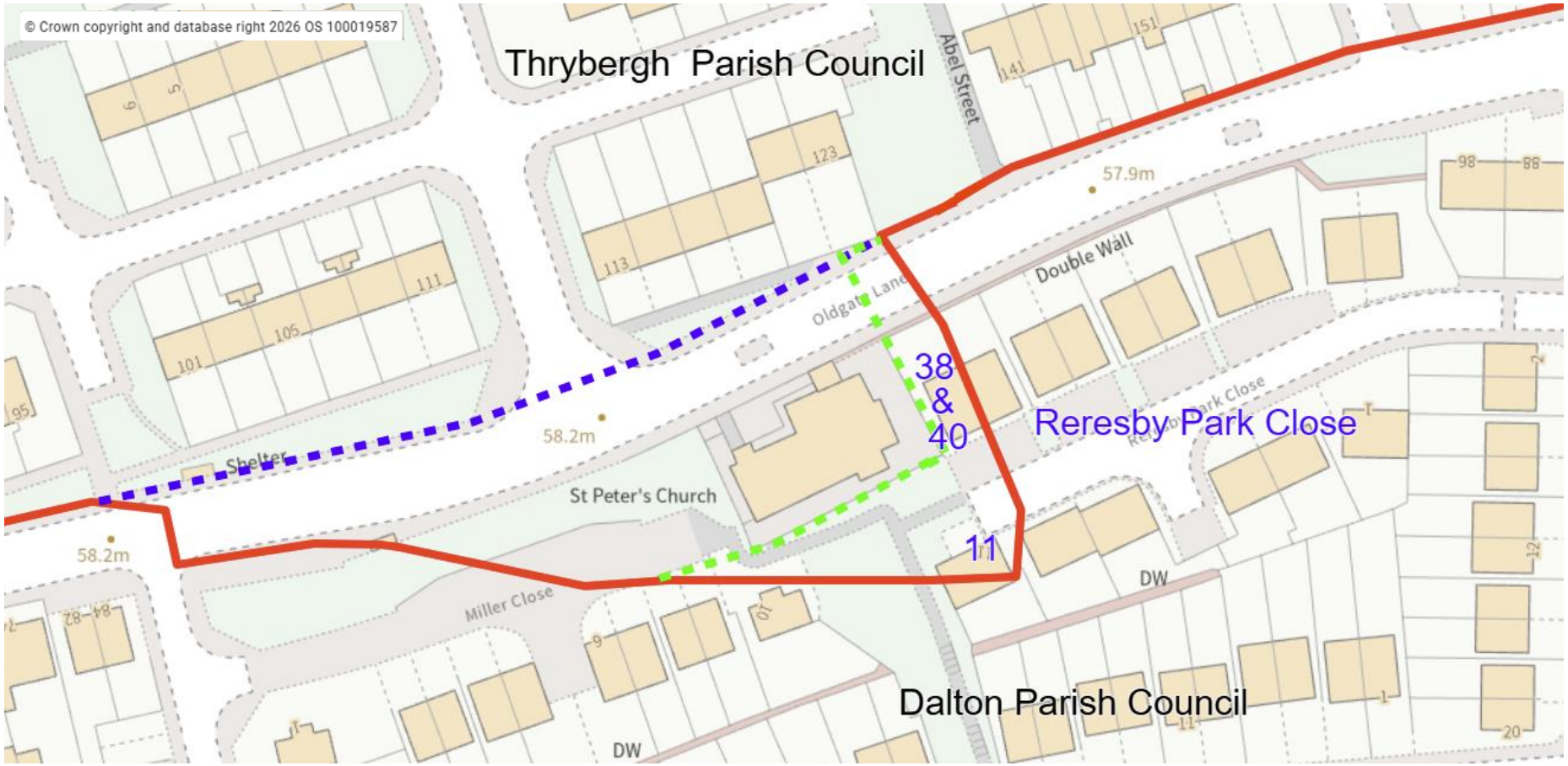
Proposal

Solid Red Line: Current Parish boundary
Dashed Blue Line: Proposed amendment to the parish boundary
Solid Blue area: Firsby

Map 9: Laughton Common, Thurcroft Parish Council



Map 10: 11,38 and 40 Reresby Park Close

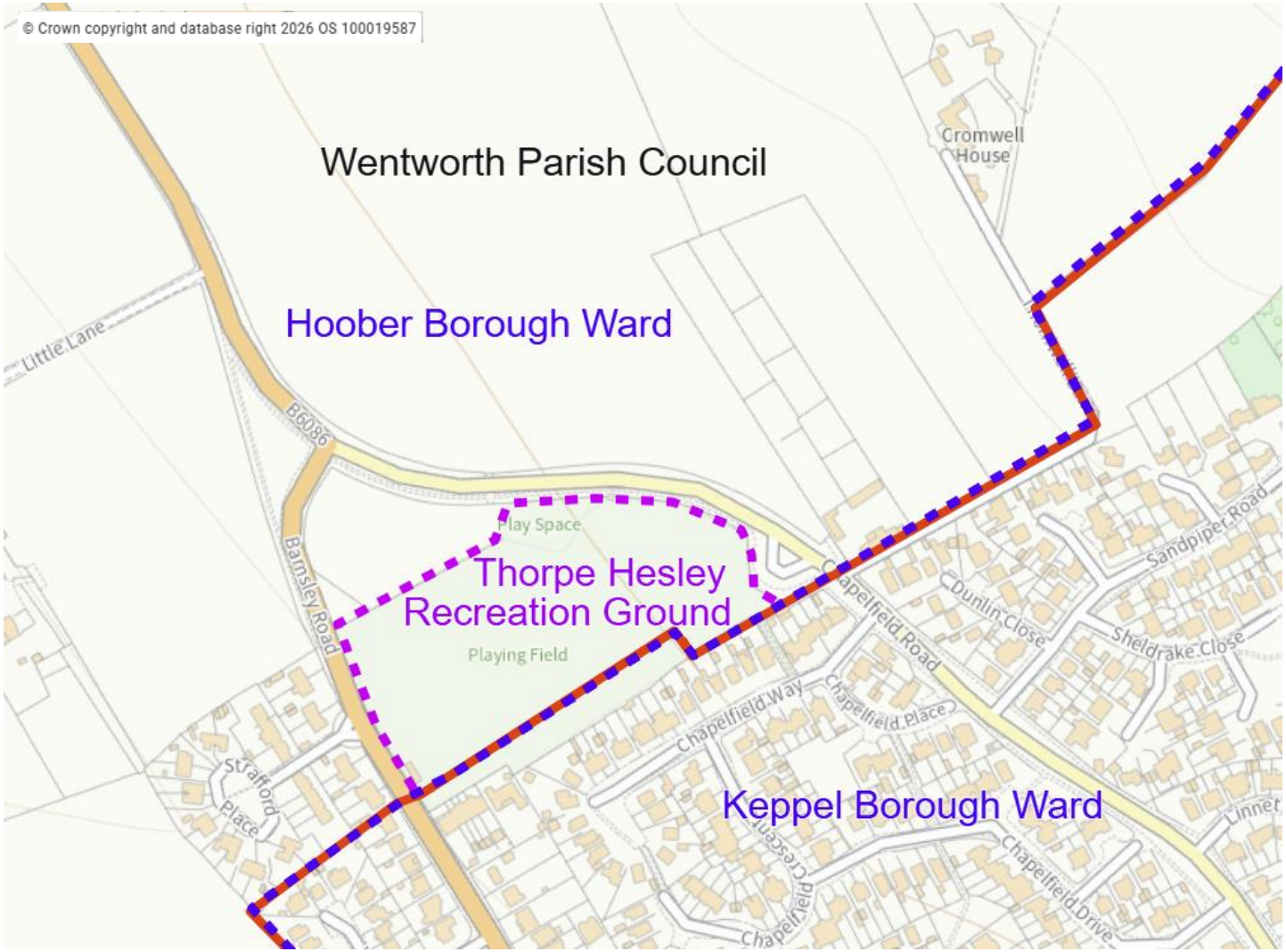


Solid Red Line: Parish boundary

Dotted Green Line: Option for moving 11, 38 and 40 Reresby Park Close into Dalton Parish Council

Dotted Blue Line: Alternative boundary proposal boundary change

Map 11: Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground, Wentworth Parish Council



Solid Red Line: Parish boundary
Dotted Blue Line: Borough ward boundary
Dotted Purple Line: Boundary of Thorpe Hesley Recreation Ground

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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 outcome of consultation on the final recommendations, which will be developed following public consultation on the draft recommendations.

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** N/A
• **Key findings** N/A

• **Actions** N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Phil Horsfield	Service Director, Legal, Elections and Registration Services	10/09/2026

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	10/09/2026
Report title and date	Community Governance Review Recommendations for consultation, 10/09/2026
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, 2/10/2026 – publication date (Cabinet on 10 October 2026)
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	10/09/2026

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

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

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? There are no significant impacts expected relating to resilience as a result of this decision.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolves the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation, changes, and abolishment of parishes to principal councils. The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. As set out in the Guidance on community governance reviews, it is considered good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10-15 years. When carrying out a review, the Council must consult with those residing in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. As well as carrying out online consultation, hardcopies will be made available in all local libraries to minimise the distance residents would have to travel to view it. To minimise the distances residents, would have to travel to any consultation events held as part of the review, the locations will be chosen to ensure a good geographical spread across the Borough. When travelling to consultation events, where possible, Electoral Services staff will car share.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Mike Thomas Electoral Services Manager Electoral Service Corporate Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 696 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement

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

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

Report Author(s)
Wendy G Foster, Governance and Involvement Manager
Wendy-regen.foster@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Council has outsourced a large proportion of its tenant engagement activity for Housing Services for many years. The initial term of the current contract is due to expire in March 2027.

This report proposes an approach to build on the strong foundation of tenant engagement in the Borough through a more agile model which better meets the diverse needs of tenants, the ask of the new housing regulations, and the need to respond swiftly to the changing regulatory environment, as required.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the proposal to introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.

2. Approve the proposal to procure an external provider to manage and deliver a tenant scrutiny function.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Equality Analysis Part A
Appendix 2 – Equality Analysis Part B
Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement

1. Background

1.1 Tenant engagement in Rotherham is thorough and wide-ranging with the Council recently securing Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Exemplar Status for its Tenant Engagement activity. However, with the current contract to deliver tenant engagement externally due to end in March 2027, there has been an opportunity for Housing Services to explore options to build upon and strengthen tenant engagement across the borough, going forward. Following this review, an approach is proposed which seeks to ensure that the Council has a strong and direct connection with its tenants, and tenant led groups, as their landlord, and that the Council is best placed to deliver against its new Tenant Engagement Framework adopted earlier in 2026. The Council also wishes to ensure it is providing the best value to its tenants, via its engagement activity, and that engagement with tenants is fully embedded throughout the whole housing service.

1.2 Rotherham Council has a strong history of effective engagement with its tenants and residents and has worked with a local provider, RotherFed, to successfully deliver engagement activity across the borough for approximately 17 years. The current contract's initial term is due to expire in March 2027. However, since the contract was last procured in 2023, there have been significant changes across the sector which focus on housing providers demonstrating how tenant feedback is heard, acted upon, and influences decision making within policy, service design and delivery and that the landlord must have a direct relationship with its tenant panels and groups. New expectations around this are set out in the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards.

1.3 A full options appraisal has been undertaken to review future delivery arrangements. The appraisal has focused on improving the quality of tenant engagement and outcomes for tenants, rather than delivering cost savings. It also considered how future arrangements align with the Council's Tenant Engagement Framework 2026-30, co-produced with tenants, and updated regulatory requirements.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Whilst the current contract has performed well, there are some limitations which have prevented the Council and RotherFed from having the flexibility needed to respond to the sector's changing requirements. These include data protection issues which reduce the current contract provider's ability to carry out targeted engagement, and difficulties for the Council in evidencing clear outcomes due to an indirect relationship with tenants. It has also been challenging to provide clear evidence of how tenant views and feedback are used to shape and improve services.

2.2 Benchmarking and discussions with TPAS (national, independent tenant engagement experts) has further indicated that outsourcing tenant

engagement is not standard practice, and that no comparable housing providers currently deliver their tenant engagement through an outsourced model.

2.3 The existing delivery model also requires ongoing, focused contract management and lacks the flexibility needed to respond to the sector's changing requirements.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Four options have been considered as part of the options appraisal:

A. Re-procure and outsource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service externally via a full tender process from April 2027.
B. Introduce a hybrid model, with tenant engagement insourced and tenant scrutiny outsourced from April 2027.
C. Fully insource the tenant engagement (including tenant scrutiny) service from April 2027.
D. Extend the current contract for 12 months.

3.2 A comparative appraisal and assessment has been undertaken and scored against the following evaluation criteria:

- Strategic fit,
- Quality of delivery,
- Outcomes, and
- Value for money.

3.3 **OPTION A - RE-PROCUREMENT (EXTERNAL OUTSOURCED DELIVERY)**

3.4 This option retains continuity and perceived independence but does not address the core issues around direct accountability, data-led engagement and alignment with Housing Services.

3.5 Re-procuring the service would offer the opportunity to update the contract specification to align with current priorities. Key benefits include:

- A potential perception of independence around tenant engagement being delivered through a third party
- Working with a third party may feel more accessible and reassuring for some tenants who may be hesitant to engage directly with the Council
- Opportunities for the provider to secure match funding from other organisations to support and enhance this activity

3.6 This option has the following limitations:

- Lack of providers offering an external tenant engagement service.
- Limited flexibility within a contract to strengthen engagement work.
- It is more difficult to stay aligned to changes within housing services/regulation.

- Ongoing challenges in targeting and reaching tenants, particularly where the Council holds relevant data that cannot be shared with an external provider without tenant consent.
- Continued need for contract management.
- Continued low level visibility of Housing staff in neighbourhoods, which has been raised by Elected Members as an area they would like to see improved within their wards.

3.7 The estimated cost for reprocuring the service through an external provider is a minimum of £215k p/a. (The current contract was procured in 2023 at an annual cost of £185k p/a.) Insourcing offers better value for money against the cost of the existing contract.

3.8 It is likely that the cost of reprocuring will increase should the Council chose to continue to deliver through an external provider

3.9 **OPTION B - HYBRID MODEL (Preferred Option)**

3.10 This option best balances independence, accountability, flexibility and deliverability.

3.11 A hybrid model would bring most engagement activity in-house while continuing to outsource tenant scrutiny. This improves alignment with services, and the Tenant Engagement Framework, and offers greater flexibility in key areas. Benefits include:

- Tenant Scrutiny would retain a level of independence from the Council
- An independent Scrutiny function would give confidence to tenants and third parties about the rigor of Scrutiny Panel's analysis and the candour of their feedback.
- Alignment with the new co-designed Tenant Engagement Framework (2026-30).
- Improved quality, consistency and oversight.
- Strengthened links between engagement and Housing Services.
- Enables more targeted and inclusive engagement using tenant data.
- Makes it easier to evidence outcomes and impact.
- Reduces duplication.
- Easier to explore alternative consultation routes and further improve on existing, good quality engagement work.
- Greater opportunities for staff to meet with, and support tenants in their neighbourhoods, and alongside other services and agencies.
- Greater visibility, and stronger relationships between Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) and the Council.
- Increased responsibility for tenant engagement across all teams within Housing Services.
- Clearer accountability for tenant engagement outcomes, with the Council retaining direct oversight as landlord.

3.12 This option has the following limitations:

- There is a risk of limited market interest for a lower value scrutiny contract.
- Limitations around reach and representation could remain in relation to tenant scrutiny.

3.13 The rest of the service would be delivered directly by Housing Services and would bring the same advantages as a fully insourced model (see Option C).

3.14 It should be noted that, the Council's aspiration is that tenant scrutiny would be entirely tenant-managed and tenant led in the future. An external scrutiny provider would offer the specialist skills, independence and expertise needed to work closely with tenant representatives in the short-medium term to build skills, confidence and capacity of the Scrutiny Panel so that, over time, tenants are able to take greater ownership of the function in the longer term.

3.15 **OPTION C - FULLY INSOURCED MODEL**

3.16 This option offers strong alignment and accountability but could reduce the perceived independence of tenant scrutiny.

3.17 Fully insourcing tenant engagement from April 2027 offers many of the benefits as listed under option B, the Hybrid Model. . These include:

- Alignment with the new co-designed Tenant Engagement Framework (2026-30).
- Improved quality, consistency and oversight.
- Strengthened links between engagement and Housing Services.
- Enables more targeted and inclusive engagement using tenant data.
- Makes it easier to evidence outcomes and impact.
- Reduces duplication.
- Greater visibility, and stronger relationships between Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) and the Council.
- Increased responsibility for tenant engagement across all teams within Housing Services.

3.18 Limitations include:

- Some tenants may be reluctant to engage directly with the Council, particularly if they have rent arrears or other tenancy related concerns.
- A perceived reduction in an independent, tenant-led scrutiny function.

3.19 It should be noted that, longer term, the Council's aspiration is that tenant scrutiny would be entirely tenant-managed and tenant led with the Council enabling tenants to operate with greater autonomy.

3.20 The maximum estimated cost of a fully insourced model is £205,258 per annum as the sum allocated to procure tenant scrutiny under Option B would be needed to fund resources to deliver this function directly.

3.21 **OPTION D - 12-MONTH CONTRACT EXTENSION**

3.22 This option provides continuity but defers the strategic changes needed to respond to current regulatory expectations.

3.23 Extending the current contract would provide short-term continuity with the future delivery of tenant engagement being considered again in 12 months' time.

3.24 While extending the current contract would provide short-term continuity, it would also prolong an operating model that may not provide the level of control, assurance and accountability required to demonstrate compliance and evidence how tenants' voices shape the Council's Housing Services going forward. Any extension would only defer the need for a longer-term decision.

3.25 The Regulator of Social Housing now undertakes inspections on a four-year cycle, and the Council has not yet been inspected under the revised regulatory regime introduced in April 2024. With an inspection anticipated within the next 18 months, there is a significant risk that extending the current arrangements could limit the Council's ability to evidence regulatory compliance, demonstrate a clear line of accountability for tenant engagement, and provide assurance that tenant voice is effectively influencing decision-making. This could increase the risk of adverse regulatory findings at the point of inspection.

3.26 The annual cost of the existing contract is £185k per annum. The external provider may request an inflationary uplift should the contract be extended for another 12 months.

3.27 **Recommended Option**

3.28 The recommended option is Option B, the hybrid model. This approach would bring most tenant engagement activity directly into Housing Services, strengthening accountability, oversight, visibility and alignment with the Tenant Engagement Framework, while retaining an externally delivered tenant scrutiny function to provide independence, specialist expertise and confidence in the rigour of scrutiny activity. This model provides the strongest overall response to the issues identified through the appraisal and offers the best balance between tenant confidence, regulatory assurance, service integration and deliverability.

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 Should Cabinet support the proposal to deliver tenant engagement directly, and procure tenant scrutiny externally, the Council will finalise a

project plan to move towards an insourced model with a full communications plan, prioritising consultation and engagement with RotherFed which has delivered the Council's tenant engagement for many years, and current engaged tenants.

4.2 It should be noted that extensive consultation was undertaken to develop the new Tenant Engagement Framework, which was co-designed with tenants. Many of the framework's objectives and actions reflect the changes now proposed.

4.3 A communications plan has been drafted and face to face meetings with senior staff currently delivering the tenant engagement contract (RotherFed), panel chairs, and other engaged tenants, were held in September 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A Core Group has been established to work towards implementing the Cabinet decision and has considered the following key aspects:

a) Communications with provider, engaged tenants and others.
b) Confirmation of the provider's employees whose employment could transfer to the Council via TUPE (if insourced) and associated changes to team structures.
c) Ongoing contract management for the remainder of the current contract.
d) Tender and procurement of an external organisation to deliver either a new external contract and/or an independent tenancy scrutiny function.

5.2 The above activities would need to be carried out before April 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 While there are no direct procurement implications associated with bringing the engagement activity in-house, maintaining the tenant scrutiny as externalised will require procurement considerations. This activity will be required to be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contract Regulations 2015 dependent on the route to market) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Immediate work and prioritisation of this procurement activity will be required to ensure provision is in place for 1 April 2027.

6.2 The cost of the recommended proposal will be picked up as part of the 2027/28 HRA budget setting and HRA business planning process. Any additional pressure or saving will be managed as part of the regular budget monitoring process in 2027/28 and beyond

6.3 The existing cost of outsourced services is £185k per year, based on a contract awarded in 2024.

6.4 It is expected that future bidders will apply an uplift to this sum, of at least the equivalent of inflation resulting in a minimum likely contract value of £208k.

6.5 The estimated total annual cost for procuring the tenant scrutiny element of tenant engagement and bringing the rest of the service back in-house would be a maximum of approximately £205,008:

- £24,750 per annum for the tenant scrutiny support, (equating to 50-55 days per year charged at the lower end of the average day rate for public sector consultancy, of £400-£450),
- The estimated additional annual cost to the Council of employing staff would be a maximum of £175,258, and
- A £5k sum has been identified to continue to support local community groups.

6.6 Colleagues from Financial Services are involved in the Core Group steering the project.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Social Housing tenant engagement is governed primarily by the Regulator of Social Housing's Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard. This requires registered providers to take tenants' views into account in their decision-making about how landlord services are delivered, and to communicate how those views have been considered.

7.2 While there are no substantive legal issues arising from the preferred option, its implementation will directly assist the Council in meeting its regulatory obligation to provide tenants with a 'wide range of meaningful opportunities to influence and scrutinise their landlord's strategies, policies and services'.

7.3 Failure to deliver robust tenant engagement carries significant regulatory risk. The Regulator of Social Housing has the power to downgrade the provider's Consumer Rating, issue Enforcement Notices (performance improvement plans), or levy unlimited financial penalties.

7.4 As stated above, any procurement exercise undertaken to secure an independent tenant scrutiny provider must be conducted in accordance with the applicable public procurement legislation and the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Further, the processing and sharing of tenant information must continue to comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Appropriate information-sharing and contractual arrangements will be required with any external scrutiny provider.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are workforce implications for the Council in the options presented as B and C of this report. Options A and D do not present HR implications for the Council at this time.

8.2 As the options presented as B and C may result in work currently delivered through a contract being alternatively delivered by the Council, a detailed employment status review and due diligence exercise would be undertaken. This will determine whether the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) apply and will identify any associated workforce liabilities and obligations.

8.3 Subject to Cabinet decision on the options presented in this report, HR will work closely throughout implementation to ensure compliance with employment legislation and statutory consultation requirements.

8.4 Implementation of options B or C, as presented in this report, are likely to require a review of the Council's current staffing establishment in connected service areas to ensure the workforce structure, skill mix and management arrangements are aligned to any future delivery models.

8.5 The workforce and recognised Trade Unions will be engaged in line with the Council's Organisational Change policies and procedures and also in line with TUPE regulations throughout the development of the proposal and as part of implementation if either Option B or C is approved for further development. Consideration will also be given to any induction and training needs required.

8.6 Colleagues in Human Resources and Legal Services are involved in the Core Group steering the project.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Should tenant engagement be delivered directly, there is greater scope to use the Housing Service's diverse needs data to encourage members of under-represented groups to engage with the Council on housing related matters.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Council's access to the diverse needs data currently being collated by Housing Services will support the need for tenant engagement to reflect Rotherham's wider demographic.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The option to hold engagement sessions with tenants in venues across the borough could lead to tenants travelling shorter distances to consult with Housing Services.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Not seeking tenders to deliver tenant engagement reduces the opportunity for third sector and privately owned organisations to deliver tenant engagement and the related funding.

12.2 The current provider has been the only preferred bidder and delivered tenant engagement for the Council for approximately 17 years. Publicly accessible records show the organisation is financially stable and they have recently been successful in securing funding to deliver/extend the delivery of three major pieces of work across the borough, over the next three years, outside of the tenant engagement contract.

12.3 The Council will strive to continue its positive relationship with the current provider after the end of the existing contract.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is the potential for existing, engaged tenants who are also on the Board of the current contract provider to disengage, at least in the short term. This risk would be mitigated by managing the communications and messaging about the reasoning behind limiting the next contract to tenant scrutiny only and delivering most tenant engagement directly. The aim would be to foster understanding and invite tenants to continue to work with the Council in shaping and improving Housing Services.

13.2 There is a risk that the extent of work delivered by the current provider may drop in the last few months of the contract given the lack of long-term incentive, and the uncertainty of future contracts with the Council. The contract would continue to be actively managed, through monthly contract meetings and by monitoring associated action plans.

13.3 There could be a perception across the third sector that the Council is removing an opportunity from an often financially uncertain sector. The draft communications plan seeks to deliver clear and consistent messages around why the Council is proposing to deliver tenant engagement directly and the benefits this would bring to tenants.

13.4 The Council would like to foster a positive relationship with the provider and continue to engage with them as a valued, third sector partner.

14. Accountable Officers

Louise Robson, Head of Housing Improvement and Governance

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

Report Author: *Wendy G Foster, Governance and Involvement Manager*
01709 255047, wendy-regen.foster@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Housing Services
Lead person: Wendy G Foster, Governance and Involvement Manager	**Contact:** Wendy-regen.foster@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy/Policy** ☐ **Service/Function** ☑ **Other** **If other, please specify:** A proposal to deliver tenant engagement directly by the Council and externally procure the tenant scrutiny function.	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Council currently outsources part of its tenant engagement work to an external provider called 'RotherFed' through a contract valued at £185k per year. This contract is due to end in March 2027.

A full options appraisal has been undertaken to review future delivery arrangements. The appraisal has focused on improving the quality of tenant engagement and outcomes for tenants, rather than delivering cost savings. The outcome of the options appraisal is that from April 2027, tenant engagement is delivered directly by the Council, with the tenant scrutiny function being procured externally to maintain its independence.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Housing Services revised its approach to gathering information about its tenants last autumn when it began gathering more complete information about tenants EDI information and other diverse needs. This information is being used to tailor the services we deliver for tenants.

When considering GDPR guidance, the extent to which we can share information with the external provider is limited and the Council has increasingly reached out to underrepresented groups directly rather than through the contract, for which Housing Services pays £185k per annum.

- **Key findings**

We have been working towards involved tenants representing the borough's wider demographics and understand that this can be more easily achieved directly, rather than through a contractor. Direct delivery would also offer better value for money.

- **Actions**

To recommend to Cabinet that consideration is given to delivering tenant engagement directly and seek to procure tenant scrutiny externally.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	27 July 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	27 August 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Wendy G Foster Governance and Involvement Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Councillor Beresford	Cabinet Member for Housing	24.08.26
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing, and Public Health	28.08.26

6. Publishing

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

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	
Report title and date	Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement 12 October 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet Report to be submitted to Governance on Friday 28 August 2026.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	20 August 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: Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 24 August 2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Housing Services
Lead Manager: Wendy G Foster Governance and Involvement Manager	**Contact number:** Wendy-regen.foster@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 255047
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☑ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

A proposal to deliver tenant engagement directly by the Council and externally procure the tenant scrutiny function.

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)
Louise Young	RMBC	Officer
Claire Hellier	RMBC	Manager
Wendy G Foster	RMBC	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, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

Tenants of the Council's homes and possibly residents of the borough.
The proposal to deliver the bulk of tenant engagement directly will give the Council greater control to monitor and address the EDI characteristics/diverse needs of panels, groups or individuals where they do reflect the borough's demographic.

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

As of 1 July 2026, the following EDI/diverse needs data is known:

%	Language	%	Nationality	%	Diverse Needs	No. of individuals
0.4	English	97.2	British	80.6	Mental Health	734
34.5	Arabic	0.4	English	8.6	Learning Difficulties	242
1.6	Slovakia	0.3	Prefer Not To Say	3.9	Physical Sensory Sight	80
32.8	Urdu	0.3	Other	1.0	Physical Mobility	465
15.1	Polish	0.2	Slovak	0.8	Other Vulnerabilities	192
9.5	Other	0.2	Pakistani	0.5	Alcohol & Substance Misuse	51
1.8	Tigrinya	0.2	Polish	0.4	Communication	107
2.0	Kurdish	0.2	Afghan	0.4	Physical Respiratory	115
0.6	Farsi	0.1	Iranian	0.4	Physical Sensory Hearing	62
1.5	Afghani	0.1	Iraqi	0.4	Physical Compromised Immune System	26
0.1	Czech	0.1	Sudanese	0.3	Life Events	135

	Pashto	0.1	Czech	0.3	Support Services	19
100	British Sign Language	0.1	Eritrean	0.3	Neuro Diversity	25
	Lithuanian	0.1	Ukrainian	0.2	Consent Declined Do Not Ask	53
	Punjabi	0.1	Lithuanian	0.1		
	Hungarian	0.1	Zimbabwean	0.1		
	French	0.1	Nigerian	0.1		
	Spanish	0.0	Chinese	0.1		
	Chinese	0.0	Latvian	0.1		
	Russian	0.0	Irish	0.1		
	Pakistani	0.0	Romanian	0.1		
	Sorani	0.0	Hungarian	0.1		
	Albanian	0.0	Syrian	0.1		
	Amharic	0.0	Albanian	0.1		
	Romanian	0.0	Dutch	0.1		
	Persian	0.0	South African	0.1		
	Vietnamese	0.0	Sri Lankan	0.1		

All EDI information is known for all engaged tenants.

Housing Services introduced programme of data gathering in the Autumn of 2025, through the Customer Contact Centre and online. Once a critical mass of data is collected, it will be analysed and used across Housing to tailor services and encourage tenants to share their views and shape how we deliver services.

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

Collation is still underway.

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

We currently encourage greater participation from underrepresented groups. This will be easier once the Council is able to deliver the services directly as GDPR limited the information we can share under the existing contract.

Monitoring of engaged tenants is ongoing.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	The issue of bringing the externalised contract in-house is very sensitive hence, only managers have been consulted so far. An area of concern is that many engaged tenants are also on the Board of the external contract partner. In the short term, it is envisaged that we will lose some engaged tenants, at least in the short term.

	Should this occur, it may present an opportunity to further diversify engaged tenants.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	For the reasons stated above, consultation with tenants has not yet taken place. • Briefing and presentation to the Council's Senior Leadership Team, 4 August 2026 • Briefing to Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate Leadership Team, 16 June 2026 • Briefing with Options Appraisal, Housing Senior Management Team, 27 May 2026 SMT, DLT, SLT, Cabinet Member and the Leader supported the proposal not to retender the bulk of tenant engagement work in Rotherham and only engage external parters to deliver the independent Tenant Scrutiny function. The following actions were agreed. 'Subject to Cabinet agreement on the recommended option, the next phase will focus on developing a project plan to ensure managed engagement and clear communication to support a smooth transition. **Engagement with the current provider** Initial discussions with Rotherfed will take place from August 2026. This will avoid disruption to the accreditation work. Engagement will focus on explaining the decision, managing expectations for the remainder of the contract period, and setting out the approach to transition. **Engagement with tenants** Tenant communication and engagement will begin alongside discussions with the provider, consistent and transparent engagement will focus on explaining the reasons for the proposed changes, what it means for tenants, and how the range of opportunities to be involved will continue. While engagement with tenants closely connected to Rotherfed is expected to be challenging, opportunities to re-engage will remain open throughout the transition and implementation period. **Communication and expectation management** Clear and coordinated communication will be planned to manage expectations with tenants, the provider, and

	internal teams. Messaging will focus on continuity, timescales, and what will and will not change during the transition period, recognising that some short-term disruption and disengagement of tenants and the provider is likely. **High-level timeline** • **Spring 2026:** SMT consideration and decision • **August 2026:** Initial engagement with provider and tenants • **Summer - autumn 2026:** Transition planning and mobilisation • **Late 2026:** TUPE and recruitment activity (where required), onboarding and preparation • **April 2027:** the Council start to deliver tenant engagement directly.'

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) If agreed, the proposal will give the Council greater control to reach tenants from underrepresented group. The Tenant Engagement Team reports biannually to Housing Regulatory Assurance Board; the report includes the breadth of engagement opportunities and EDI information. The Council currently has full EDI and diverse needs data for all its regularly engaged tenants. Should Cabinet agree to deliver the bulk of tenant engagement directly, it will be easier to identify and reach out to tenants who belong to an underrepresented group. who have also expressed an interest in sharing feedback on Council's policies and procedures relating to Housing Services. How this is done will depend on the tenant's diverse need.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? The Council will be able to pro-actively target tenants with protected characteristics and gather their views on services and give them the opportunity to shape Housing's policies and processes.

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) We will focus on retaining a positive relationship with the existing provider, and the wider voluntary sector. This is not an EDI related issue.

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.

- The tenant engagement will continue to monitor the protected characteristics of engaged tenants.
- We will reach out to the pool of tenants who have given us permission to contact them regarding tenant engagement and target those from underrepresented groups.
- We will work closely with the external provider of the Scrutiny Service and offer guidance on the need for tenants on the Scrutiny Panel to reflect the borough's wider community.

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: Future Delivery of Tenant Involvement
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing, and Public Health, Housing Services
Lead Manager: Wendy G Foster, Governance and Involvement Manager
Summary of findings:
If the proposal is accepted, it will be easier for the Council to approach tenants who are interested in sharing their views, who are underrepresented.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Share an update on the collection of tenant EDI data with Housing Regulatory Assurance Board	A/D/S/GR/RE/RoB/SO/PM/CPM/O	December 2026
Continue to monitor the protected characteristics of engaged tenants	A/C/S/GR/RE/RoB/SO/C/OG	October 2027
Approach underrepresented groups so engaged tenants reflect the wider demographic of Council tenants	A/C/S/GR/RE/RoB/SO/C/OG	December 2027

***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**
Councillor Beresford	Cabinet Member for Housing	24.08.26
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing, and Public Health	28.08.26

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	24 August 2026
Report title and date	Future Delivery of Tenant Engagement
Date report sent for publication	28 August 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	24.08.26

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	If agreed, the Council will hold more engagement sessions in a range of different neighbourhoods across the borough. This could result in increased use of Neighbourhood Centres.	Emissions could increase as increasing the number of different venues used to engage with tenants may increase utility use (for heating and hot water).	Where possible, sessions could be held immediately before or after other bookings.	Venues for engagement would be monitored to check the reach of engagement. A column would be added to the monitoring sheet re the comfort of the venue, including temperature.
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	It is envisaged that transport emission may decrease due to an increase in consultations being held locally.	The decrease may be negligible but fewer tenants will have to travel to consultation events. Officers' mileage may increase.	Officers continue to car-share, where possible.	The Tenant Engagement Team reimburses tenants' travel expenses (and submit mileage claims). The shifts to each of these will be monitored through financial changes.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None	Most community centres have crockery for serving hot drinks so very little waste is produced during tenant engagement events.			Officer could make a note of any possible increases in waste produced, and whether the neighbourhood centre has the facility to recycle waste.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	Homes and domestic buildings will not be used for tenant engagement.			

Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	There are no plans to build or refurbish any possible venues.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	There are no plans to remove or plant any trees or change any vegetation.			
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: The Council may provide information resources at events: it as assumed that these resources will neither increase or decrease emissions as they will replace materials previously supplied by the external contracted provider.					

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

Officers may need to account for difficulties with specific venues, in terms of accessibility in extreme weather and floods and potential overheating through solar gain. More targeted tenant engagement with clearer evidence of outcomes, as proposed in the recommended, hybrid model of service delivery may have longer-term, positive outcomes for the service provided by the Council to its social housing tenants, including where dwellings' characteristics might exacerbate exposure to the effects of climate change *e.g.*, through internal overheating.

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

Should Cabinet authorise the recommendation, Tenant Engagement Team would record comfort and accessibility information for each venue to assess suitability for future use. Temperature and ease of reaching the building, as well as the ability to provide hot/cold drinks, will be recorded.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Wendy G Foster Governance and Involvement Manager Housing Services Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 690 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Homelessness Prevention – Commissioned Services

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

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

Report Author(s)
Michelle Kaye, Head of Housing Options
Michelle-ach.kaye@rotherham.gov.uk

Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager
Lisa.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report sets out proposals for the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, to provide accommodation with support, for people who are at risk of rough sleeping.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the proposals to:

1. Re-procure the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

2. Re-procure dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

3. Procure an Accommodation Hub specifically for women for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend up to a further 2 years.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)
Appendix 2 Equality Analysis Form (Part B)
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

A National Plan to End Homelessness - GOV.UK

Rotherham's Housing Strategy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Homelessness Prevention Grant – Commissioned Services

1. Background

1.1 The Government's National Plan to End Homelessness was published in December 2025 and aims to make homelessness 'rare, brief and non-recurring'.

In this plan the government pledges to:

- **Halve long-term rough sleeping:** Focusing support on those with complex needs.
- **End unlawful B&B use:** Eliminate the use of B&Bs for families, limiting stays to a maximum of 6 weeks.
- **Prevent more homelessness:** Increasing the rate of intervention to stop households from becoming homeless.

The Government provides a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (HRSDAG) to local authorities to help prevent homelessness, reduce rough sleeping, and support people at risk of losing their homes through local housing and support services.

1.2 The Council's Housing Strategy 2025-30 'Priority Three' is to support residents to live independently, including through prevention of homelessness, with the following aims:

- We will work with partners to help our most vulnerable residents live independently.
- We will provide a range of housing to suit the needs of individual households.
- We will end rough sleeping in Rotherham and work to prevent our residents from becoming homeless.

1.3 The Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 was agreed by Cabinet in May 2026, with the following vision:

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

The four key priorities are:

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

2. Key Issues

2.1 Following a consultation and re-profiling of the HRSDAG, the Council received a revised allocation in 2025/26 followed by a further increase in 2026/27 which incorporated the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme,

which was previously commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) directly with service providers in Rotherham.

2.2 Rough sleeping continues to be prevalent in Rotherham. In 2025/26, 688 reports of rough sleeping were received, with 256 verified instances recorded. These verified instances do not equate to 256 unique individuals, as some people were reported multiple times while being supported over several months. During the same period, the Council's Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) team supported 104 single people and 8 couples, including individuals who engaged with the service on more than one occasion (again accounting for duplicate instances).

2.3 The Strategic Commissioning team has worked alongside Housing officers to undertake an analysis of need and demand, to formulate recommendations for the commissioned provision, including all commissioned provision funded under the grant.

2.4 **Rough Sleeper Initiative Accommodation Hub (RSI Hub)**

2.4.1 The Council commissions an Accommodation Hub for Rough Sleepers and this is currently provided by Target Housing Ltd, with a contract term that ends on 31 March 2027. The Accommodation Hub consists of 7 bedrooms, with communal facilities, private space in which to receive one-to-one support and an additional, smaller room suitable for short, overnight stays in emergency situations. Due to the levels of risk and complexity, the RSI Hub is available to males only.

2.4.2 Staff from Target Housing Ltd are based onsite and provide trauma-informed support linking in with mental health, drug and alcohol services, building skills and resilience to work toward independent living. During office hours there is also an onsite officer from the Council’s Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) team, leading on move-on options. Overnight and during weekends there is an onsite security and concierge service.

2.4.3 Data from the last two years shows that 70% of RSI Hub (single male) placements result in a positive move on compared with 56.3% of single male hotel placements that ended with a positive move.

2.4.4 Support and accommodation in the RSI Hub aims to be for up to six weeks before moving to a stable accommodation, with or without support, according to need. Moving on from the RSI Hub for service users with enhanced complexities can be slower than the six weeks expected, particularly where there are limited move-on options due to barriers such as rent arrears or substance use. The service provider and RSI team have fed back that the six-week target can cause a barrier, and a more flexible, person-centred approach would be preferable.

2.4.5 Historically this service has been funded by the Council’s Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant, that has now been incorporated into the HRSDAG, and

there has been no opportunity to increase the contract value since August 2020.

2.5 **Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP)**

2.5.1 From April 2026 the Council's HRSDAG has incorporated the funding previously granted directly to providers (by MHCLG) to provide the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP). This service provides accommodation and support to people who have a history, or are at risk of, rough sleeping. The accommodations are single person properties dispersed across the borough. The accommodation used has been purchased and/or refurbished by the two providers (Action Housing and South Yorkshire Housing Association) specifically for this purpose following capital funding awarded directly by Government. People using the service receive support in their home or community giving them the opportunity to live independently and manage their own tenancy with an intensive level of wrap around support.

2.5.2 Following the receipt of supplier proposals, the Council was able to retain a similar service provision by directly awarding a contract to each of the current providers through the Housing Related Support Flexible Purchasing System, for one year, with the option to extend for a further six months. This ensured continuity of support for residents living in the accommodation and receiving the service. There are 26 units in total located across the borough in North, Central and South areas.

2.5.3 The current contracts end on 31 March 2027 (with an option to extend until 30 September 2027).

2.5.4 Contract performance and outcomes for both contracts have been monitored by the Council since April 2026. Contract performance during the first quarter of delivery has been positive, demonstrating strong demand for and effective management of the service. Overall utilisation of the available RSAP properties was 96.2%, maximising the use of the accommodation resource. Two service users successfully moved on from the programme within the contract key performance indicator (KPI) of achieving move-on within 18 months, whilst one service user sadly passed away due to a long-term illness. All three resulting void properties were re-let within the agreed property turnaround timescales, ensuring minimal vacancy periods. The service users who moved on also received sustained engagement throughout their time on the programme, with the contractual expectation of three or more support contacts per week being achieved, reflecting the intensive wraparound support model that underpins the service.

2.5.5 As RSAP accommodation is provided across the borough, this presents an opportunity for greater flexibility to respond when a placement is showing signs of failure. This allows for planned moves to more suitable provision or, where necessary, a step-up to the RSI Hub to access enhanced on-site support.

2.6 Single Dispersed Supported Accommodation

2.6.1 The Council also commissions Target Housing Ltd to provide units of dispersed accommodation and support for up to 28 people. This is a mixture of individual accommodation and houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs), with a maximum of two occupants.

2.6.2 This service was historically provided using joint grants from the Council and Probation Services and was retained and repurposed following an increase to the Council's HRSDAG funding in 2025. This was achieved through a variation to the contract held by Target Housing Ltd to provide accommodation and support at Elliott Court. The variation agreement ends 30 March 2027.

2.6.3 This provision is for single people who are homeless and not specifically ring-fenced for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping. It is predominantly used for people who the Council has deemed to have a priority need (under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017).

2.6.4 The commissioned provision for accommodation and support for single people is performing well, with accommodation utilisation reaching 96.0% of available units in quarter 1 of 2026/27. Seven service users moved on from the provision during this period. Of those leaving the service, five achieved positive move-on outcomes, whilst two exited due to receiving custodial sentences. The average void period across these properties was six days, significantly below the KPI target of 15 days, ensuring accommodation is brought back into use quickly and made available to those in housing need. These outcomes demonstrate effective tenancy management, strong demand for the service, and positive progress in supporting individuals to move towards greater independence.

2.7 Conclusion - current commissioned provision

2.7.1 The needs analysis found that the current level of provision is meeting the needs of homeless people, people who are found to be rough sleeping or at risk of sleeping rough; however, some restrictions and limitations around time permitted in accommodation could be reviewed to allow for a more flexible, person-centred approach.

2.7.2 Anyone who moves on from the commissioned accommodation is offered support by the Council's commissioned floating support for homelessness prevention. This service will continue wrap around support and is well placed to identify early indicators of deterioration and engage the person's support network to prevent a repeat of homelessness.

2.7.3 The Council also commissions 'Housing First', which can support people in any tenancy type, which will remain a move-on option for people with the most complex needs, requiring longer term support.

2.8 **Provision for Women**

2.8.1 Women who are found to be rough sleeping have limited options for immediate placement, and with no commissioned provision this means placements will be made in a hotel or bed and breakfast, where onsite support is limited. Data from the last two years shows that single females, who make up 11.6% of the cohort, have lower positive outcomes than single males (82.35% of the cohort, with the remaining 6.05% being couples) with 38.5% of females having a positive move-on. 70% of single males who were accommodated at the rough sleeper hub moved on positively and 56.3% moved on positively from hotel placements.

2.8.2 The numbers of women verified as rough sleeping in Rotherham are low but do exist. Women experiencing homelessness often avoid "rough sleeping" (visibly sleeping on streets), instead staying in hidden, unsafe situations to protect themselves from gender-based violence. While this keeps them safer from public violence, it places them in precarious, hidden circumstances that often lead to further exploitation, severe mental health deterioration, and exclusion from official homelessness services.

2.8.3 The Women's Rough Sleeper Census 2025, carried out by the RSI Team in partnership with Solace Women's Aid and neighbouring local authorities, revealed that there were 22 vulnerable women in Rotherham who were forced into hidden homelessness.

2.8.4 For women there is currently no commissioned accommodation with onsite support.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option One (Recommended)**

3.1.1 Re-commission the **RSI Accommodation Hub – Single Provider**. Feedback from stakeholders suggests that the size of the current provision is both manageable in terms of risks and complexity of residents and meeting demand.

3.1.2 The current contract value is £171,000 per annum; however, this has not been uplifted throughout the contract term (as dependent on a specific ring-fenced grant) and there have been increased costs associated with the delivery of the service. It is recommended therefore that this service is procured with an increased budget of **£200,000** per annum, funded from the HRSDAG. Whilst a maximum number of units will be set to enable the provider to manage risks associated, the exact number of units and contract value will be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms will enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI.

3.1.3 The length of placements in the provision will be determined by need, with a plan agreed with the individual, service provider and RSI Officer at the

commencement of the placement, with an aim of moving people on within 3 months.

3.1.4 Re-commission the **Single Dispersed Supported Accommodation** and **Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme as a combined service.** The accommodation will be dispersed across the borough with visiting support from the provider that can be flexible according to need, but with at least one visit per week.

3.1.5 This service will be made more flexible to enable access for people within the rough sleeping cohort as well as single homeless people. This would relieve pressure on the current RSI accommodation hub, acting as a step-down provision from the intensive onsite support.

3.1.6 This provision is currently £230,854 per annum, £205,854 allocated through the HRSDAG. It is recommended that this service is procured with a budget of **£231,000** per annum, with an anticipation of approximately fifty units dispersed across the borough in locations agreed by the Council during the tender process. The exact number of units and contract value will be determined through the procurement process. The contract terms will enable the provider to seek an uplift to the contract at the point of extension in line with CPI.

3.1.7 The length of the placement will be determined by need, with a plan agreed by the individual, service provider and RSI Officer (for those placed by the RSI team) at the commencement of the placement, with an aim of moving people on within 18 months.

3.1.8 This service will work with the Council's RSI team to take referrals both for people moving on from the more intensive onsite support service and those who are able to move directly into dispersed accommodation.

3.1.9 The provision should be flexible and successful providers (if multiple) should work together so that if a placement fails, an option of a different placement is explored. It is also expected that if the provider identifies a deterioration and the need to step up to more intensive support, a placement at the RSI Hub is explored.

3.1.10 **Procure a Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for Women – Single Provider**

3.1.11 Operating in a similar way to the RSI Accommodation Hub for males, it is recommended that a 'women only' hub be established and procured with an annual budget of £208,000. Feedback from the market and key stakeholders suggests that this provision should be for approximately 5 units with a focus on trauma stabilisation.

3.1.12 Support duration should be according to need but similarly to the RSI hub, with an aim of moving people on within 3 months.

3.1.13 The Council will work with the successful provider to identify the right type and location, incorporating the views of women who have experienced homelessness, with the final decision being made by the Council as part of the procurement process.

3.1.14 **Proposed Model and Budget Allocation for Commissioned Services**
The following services are to be commissioned. The values listed below represent the budget allocation for each project which will be shared with the market at the time of each tender, the final contract value will be determined through the procurement evaluation process. Should extension terms be utilised, an uplift in line with CPI may be sought by the successful provider.

Current Service	**Proposed Service**	**Current Contract Value per annum**	**Revised Contract Value per annum**	**Total contract value (over 3 years**	**Including Extension term (over 5 years)**
RSI Accommodation (7 units)	Project 1 - RSI Accommodation Hub – Males, 18+ (approx. 8 units)	£171,078	£200,000	£600,000	£1,000,000 (+ uplift for extension years)
RSAP (25 units)	Project 2 - Dispersed Accommodation for Single Homeless People (including people at risk of rough sleeping) (approx. 50 units)	£123,854	£231,000	£693,000	£1,155,000 (+ uplift for extension years)
Dispersed accommodation and Support (28 units)		£107,000			
	Project 3 - Accommodation Hub – Women only, 18+ (approx. 5 units)	N/A	£208,000	£624,000	£1,040,000 (+ uplift for extension years)
Total		**£401,932**	**£639,000**	**£1,917,000**	**£3,195,000**

3.1.15 The Council will undertake a formal review of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy in 2030/2031 as a statutory function under the Homelessness Act 2002. It is recommended therefore that there will be opportunity to extend this provision for up to a further two years (March 2032), this can be taken in any combination and gives the Council the flexibility to retain the provision or commission services differently following the review and implementation of any new strategy aims.

3.2 Other options considered are listed below.

3.2.1 **Option two (not recommended)**

The Council could commission a second accommodation service which could be used as a step-down provision from the RSI Hub, which would cost

approximately £200,000 and would be male only (as a move-on option from the RSI Hub). There are two ways this could be achieved and the Council has explored both the opportunity to purchase a building (which would significantly increase costs) and commission the support or to procure a service to provide both the accommodation and support.

3.2.2 The data analysed shows a continual need for RSI accommodation for both women and men and the grant available could be better utilised to develop a women's accommodation-based hub.

3.2.3 The needs analysis showed that a flexible approach to accommodation and support that could be stepped up and down would prevent people from falling out of the system and instances of repeat homelessness. Due to the dispersed accommodation and support secured by the Council in recent years it is recommended that this accommodation is used as step-down for males from the RSI Hub and that a further service for women (where there is a gap) is developed.

3.2.4 Whilst a step-down hub for males could be utilised, it would not allow for this grant funding to address the gap in supported accommodation services for women and is therefore not recommended.

3.2.5 **Option 3 (not recommended)**

The Council could decide to not re-procure the services at the end of the contract term; alternative models could be to use the Council's own stock to increase temporary accommodation or use hotel/B&B placements and commission accompanying support. This would require less funding for commissioned services and would ensure the Council is not tied into long term contracts, should there be a sudden decline in need. It would also mean the Council retained control over support to independence.

3.2.6 This would either require increasing the Council's Temporary Accommodation stock (which could negatively impact the Council's Housing Register and would require an increase in resource to provide support, advice and housing management) or if Temporary Accommodation stock is not available, the Council could place in hotels and B & B accommodation. However, this could significantly increase temporary accommodation costs.

3.2.7 This option is not recommended as hotel placements are more costly and do not allow for a trauma-informed support environment; this option does not incorporate feedback from people with lived experience and would be expected to have significantly lower outcomes.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Residents who engaged with the consultation to inform the Council Plan agreed that 'tackling homelessness' was an important issue.

4.2 During the consultation for the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026 – 2031, 46.8% of respondents had

experienced homelessness, giving a good insight into priorities and barriers, highlighting a need for trusted, accessible services and stronger multi-agency support.

4.3 The Council, along with service providers, have collected the views and experiences of people using the services included in this report for continuous improvement. This reflects some of the positive feedback of people who engaged with the strategy consultation.

4.4 One person, who was persistently supported by the RSI team, before agreeing to move to the RSI Hub and went on to step-down to the dispersed RSAP provision has said:

"The RSI Team didn't give up on me and that meant a lot."
"I said yes on the fourth time and I'm so glad I did because I'm doing well"
"I've misused all my life and coming here has changed my whole mentality because I want this to work."

4.5 Another person said they like that it is safe and that the staff support him with accessing Alcohol and Drug support.

4.6 Another person said that they like the staff and sometimes the other people, are happy they are not living in a tent anymore and have been helped to get Universal Credit.

4.7 People have also said that they want to be involved in using their own experiences in future services and the Council will continue to work with people accessing the services to develop service specifications and in continuous service delivery and improvement.

4.8 Key stakeholders have been consulted during the development of these recommendations. As identified in the strategy consultation activity, a key factor in delivering these services is a multi-agency response. Colleagues in Adult Social Care including the Complex Lives team have been consulted on these proposals. Feedback has been that they work with a high number of women with multiple complexities where repeat homelessness and a lack of suitable provision present as barriers to achieving stability. This mirrors the feedback from accommodation and support providers, including the Council's Housing First commissioned provider.

4.9 The procurement of women-only provision will include all key stakeholders, including Housing and Adult Social Care, who will assist in engaging women with complex lifestyles in developing the specification for the provision.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing the Proposed Approach

5.1

Activity	Date	Lead
Further Competition Tender publication – Project 1	November 2026	Procurement
Further Competition Tender publication – Project 2	November 2026	Procurement
Contract Award – Project 1	January 2027	Procurement / Commissioning
Contract Award – Project 2	January 2027	Procurement / Commissioning
Contract Start – Project 1 (including transition)	April 2027	Commissioning / Housing
Contract Start – Project 2 (including transition)	April 2027	Commissioning / Housing
Further Competition Tender Publication – Project 3	March 2027	Procurement
Contract Award – Project 3	June 2027	Procurement / Commissioning
Contract Start – Project 3	October 2027	Commissioning / Housing / Adult Social Care

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The different schemes making up the proposed approach will have an annual cost of £639k. There is a budget available for this from the HRSDAG.

6.2 The Council established a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS), a pseudo-Dynamic Purchasing System, on 2 October 2023 in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended). The FPS has an indicative initial term of five years and may continue beyond this period where it remains fit for purpose and continues to meet service requirements.

6.3 As the FPS remains open to new applications through periodic evaluation rounds, providers interested in delivering these services on behalf of the Council may apply to join at any time.

The FPS was established under the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 (as amended) and, under the Procurement Act 2023 transitional arrangements, all admissions to the FPS and subsequent call-off procurements will continue to be conducted in accordance with PCR 2015 (as amended).

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Council exercises a range of statutory housing and homelessness functions, including duties relating to the prevention and relief of homelessness under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996, the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The proposals contained within this report support the delivery of those functions and the Council's strategic objectives in relation to homelessness prevention and rough sleeping.

7.2 The recommendations involve the procurement of housing related support services through the Council's Housing Related Support Flexible Purchasing System. Any procurement exercise must be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Constitution, in particular the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and applicable procurement legislation. Appropriate contractual arrangements should be completed before service commencement.

7.3 In making its decision, Cabinet must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Members should consider the accompanying Equality Analysis, including the evidence supporting the proposed development of accommodation provision specifically for women experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Option 1 and Option 2 as presented in this report do not present any direct HR implications for Rotherham Council. Should the various procurement processes lead to awards to different providers, analysis would be required to determine whether the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) apply. In the event that it does, the TUPE of staff from a current provider to any new provider would be a provider-to-provider agreement, without direct involvement for the Council.

Implementation timeframes will need to take account of any consultation timelines in line with TUPE regulations, should the above situation occur.

8.2 Option 3 is likely to present some direct HR implications for the Council. Full analysis would be required to determine if TUPE would apply. Additionally further analysis would be needed to determine if a review of existing positions and/or creation and establishment of new funded positions within the Council’s employment would be required to support delivery of this model.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Rough sleeping is the most acute and visible form of homelessness, posing serious risks to rough sleepers’ health, safety and wellbeing. People who are at risk of rough sleeping are vulnerable adults, often with multiple complexities. Data shows the most common needs for people presenting as

homeless (mental health, physical disabilities, substance dependency, domestic abuse, and offending behaviours), highlighting the importance of trauma informed, person centred approaches that respond to multiple challenges simultaneously.

9.2 The commissioned services will adopt a trauma-informed approach and address the root cause of homelessness. The Housing Related Support Flexible Purchasing System has a number of member organisations with the right skills and experience to deliver these services and will be the vehicle used to procure the provision detailed in this report. However, this cannot be done in isolation: these services will crucially bring together professionals to develop joint support plans. Key stakeholders, representative of Mental Health Services, Adult Social Care, Health, Drug and Alcohol, Police, Complex Lives, Probation and Domestic Abuse, will be identified by the service provider to jointly support individuals. Further to this, for the accommodation-based services, the providers will arrange onsite support and the space for this to be delivered from the above stakeholders.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The proposed commissioning of a women only supported accommodation service is a non-statutory, established approach to long term homelessness. It is reserved for the most complex and disengaged women within the homeless population that fall either outside the eligibility criteria for alternative provisions or where alternative services do not support their needs. The service will work alongside the Council's offer to alleviate and prevent homelessness. The proposed commissioning of a women only supported accommodation service will operate in a similar way to the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for males. This provision will support service users identified through needs analysis. The procurement exercise (including co-production) will aim to ensure the services are reaching those most in need of the service and equity will be incorporated into service and access design. Considering equality and diversity, it will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting group or individual needs and encouraging participation. No negative implication is envisaged.

10.2 A full Equality Analysis can be found at Appendix 1 and 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no negative implications envisaged. A full Climate Impact Assessment can be found at Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Engagement with providers from the Housing Related Support Flexible Purchasing Scheme (FPS) co-production approach will be taken into account, in the development of the specifications and service development.

12.2 Preventing and alleviating homelessness reduces demand on a range of public services particularly in health, social care, mental health, and emergency services. A multi-agency approach is the best way to support people who have experienced homelessness and key partners will be involved in the development and delivery of services, including voluntary sector services.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a risk that the provider market is unable to provide the services for the budget available. For example, the RSI hub budget has not been uplifted since 2020. What this has meant is that the provider is more reliant on the rental income to maintain viability of the service and therefore reluctant to keep open any void units. This increases the pressure to fill spaces and risks placements being made on availability of units over the need of individuals. The provider produces an annual service cost analysis, which has been used to inform the recommended revised contract value, and this has informed a budget increase recommended in this report, through the HRSDAG. The financial viability of the procurement remains a risk until the market has responded to the procurement.

13.2 There is a risk that there is no availability of accommodation in which to provide the required service. This may result in delays to the contract commencing.

13.3 There is a risk that in not significantly increasing the provision, the Council continues to need costly emergency or hotel provision or is unable to reduce temporary accommodation. The needs analysis shows a continued demand for the service. This does not mean however, that future need won't fluctuate and has the potential to increase. The FPS can be used to procure further provision if required, however, as the Council continues to increase move-on options and address barriers to moving on through the Strategy delivery plan, it may be considered a higher risk to commission too much short-term provision that is not needed. The success of the model proposed in this report will depend on buy-in from all key partners. It is proposed therefore that a core project group is established to mobilise the services.

13.4 There is a risk in undertaking a re-procurement as there are vulnerable people living in the current provision; a procurement exercise may result in different provision which would mean a managed move or potential gaps in provision. Bidders will be required to submit plans for transitions and current providers will be required to submit exit plans, and all professionals in the support network of each individual affected will be included in a multi-disciplinary project team to oversee the transition process.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	21/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

Report Author:

*M*ichelle Kaye, Head of Housing Options
Michelle-ach.kaye@rotherham.gov.uk

Lisa Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager
Lisa.elliott@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

APPENDIX 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Homelessness Prevention Grant – Commissioned Services	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Strategic Commissioning
Lead person: Matt McMullen	**Contact:** Matthew.McMullen@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [X] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
• The proposed commissioning of a female only supported accommodation service. A non-statutory, established approach to long term homelessness. It is reserved for the most complex and disengaged females within the homeless population that fall either outside the eligibility criteria for alternative provisions or where alternative services do not support their needs. The service will work alongside the Council's offer to alleviate and prevent homelessness. • Re-procurement of the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

- Re-procurement of the dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

Data is collected relating to profile of people using the services, including protected characteristics. There will be no change to the collection and analysis of this data.

All providers will undergo a tender process. Equality and Diversity will be included in the Quality section of the tender process. Providers will be monitored and held to account for the duration of the contract.

As the proposals do not recommend any reduction in the level of service provision, there should be no impact to customers in accessing the service. The procurement exercise (including co-production) will aim to ensure the services are reaching those most in need of the service and equity will be incorporated into service and access design.

The proposed service for women only supported accommodation service, supported and identified through a commissioning led needs analysis of Housing Related provisions.

The new proposed women only supported accommodation service will provide an inclusive service. This will be monitored along with quarterly monitoring data and will allow commissioners to ensure the service is positively supporting people with protected characteristics.

The proposed re-procurement of Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub will have no impact.

The proposed re-procurement of dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping will also have no impact.

- **Key findings**

A snapshot of people using Housing Related Support services under current contract terms has been conducted in February 2026 and compared with data taken in April 2022 providing a baseline of need and will support future monitoring of equality data.

In addition, Temporary accommodation use was monitored between the financial years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Temporary accommodation uses between 24/25 and 25/26

Type of Placement - Male or Female, Single or Couple

Hotel - Year	Single Males		Single Females		Couples		Total
2024/25	94	**83.9%**	13	**11.6%**	5	**4.5%**	112
2025/26	91	**81.3%**	13	**11.6%**	8	**7.1%**	112
Total	185	**82.6%**	26	**11.6%**	13	**5.8%**	224

Snapshot data has shown that:

Race – The differences between the two timescales highlights some change with White British service users being the predominant group 87.2% in 2022 and 79% data recorded in 2026. This data will be collected and regularly monitored.

Sex – Across all Housing Related Support services females continue to present as the prominent group with 51.9% in 2026 and 55.9% in 2022

Sexual orientation – There is a slight variation between 2022 and 2026, whereby 93.2% of service users identified as heterosexual in 2022 compared to 90% in 2026.

Disability – There was a marginal increase in service users with disabilities in recorded between 2026 compared to 2022. An increase from 44.4% to 51.29%.

Religion and belief– A higher proportion of people accessing Housing Related Support services stated they followed a Religion/Faith in 2022 with 64.6% holding no faith compared to 59% in 2026.

Age – The majority of service users in 2022 were over 25 years of age at 74.8%. This has reduced to 53% in 2026. Although this could be due to increased young adult provisions.

Marital and civil partnership – Single service users have increased from 85.9% in 2022 to 88% in 2026.

Gender reassignment: There where 2 entries of service users having gender reassignment or in the process during the 2022 snapshot survey, increasing to 5 in 2026.

The above findings will continue to be monitored to build an ongoing picture of people accessing the services, this can then be benchmarked against data for the Rotherham population and data of people accessing homeless services to ensure services reflect the need.

Actions

- Ensure the voices of people who use the service are captured in the design of the new service specification

• Include accessibility in quality standards • Include EDI assessment as part of tender process • Continue to measure EDI data for services	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	02/07/2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	14/08/26
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Matt McMullen Commissioning Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Ian Spicer	Executive Director, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	02/09/26

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	02/07/2026
Report title and date	Housing Related Support for Rough Sleepers October 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	03/09/26
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	14/08/2026

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PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Homelessness Prevent Grant – Commissioned Services	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 14/08/2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Matt McMullen	**Contact number:** Matthew.McMullen@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Michael Lord	RMBC	Commissioning Support Officer
Lisa Elliott	RMBC	Strategic Commissioning Manager
Matt McMullen	RMBC	Commissioning Officer

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

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

As part of the commissioning cycle a needs analysis and review of commissioned provisions for Rotherham Rough Sleepers took place in 2026. The data reviewed evidenced a continued need for two provisions that contractually expire 31 March 2027 and highlighted a gap in provision for adult single females at risk of rough sleeping.

1. The proposed commissioning of a single adult female only supported accommodation service (similar to the single adult male rough sleeper accommodation hub).

2. Re-procurement of the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub (single adult males)

3. Re-procurement of the dispersed accommodation with support for single people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping

- The proposals will have no implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community
- The proposals will not affect service users negatively
- The proposals will impact positively on female rough sleepers
- The proposals will positively impact commissioned activities by providing additionality to a need not currently met.
- The proposals will not affect the council's workforce or employment practices

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

A snapshot of people using Housing Related Support services under current contract terms has been conducted in February 2026 and compared with data taken in April 2022 providing a baseline of need and will support future monitoring of equality data.

In addition, Temporary accommodation use was monitored between the financial years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

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

The monitoring of pregnancy and maternity was not captured during the assessment of commissioned Housing Related Support services, though this is captured by Housing Services as part of the homelessness assessment.
This will be incorporated into future collated analysis. The proposed services for this procurement will not determinately impact on this protected characteristic.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?
All providers will undergo a tender process. Equality and Diversity will be included in the Quality section of the tender process. Providers will be monitored and held to account for the duration of the contract.

Data is collected relating to profile of people using the services, including protected characteristics. There will be no change to the collection and analysis of this data (other than the addition of pregnancy/maternity identified above).

As the proposals do not recommend any reduction in the level of service provision, there should be no impact to customers in accessing the service. The procurement exercise (including co-production) will aim to ensure the services are reaching those most in need of the service and equity will be incorporated into service and access design.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	The RSI rough sleeper hub has been a commissioned service since 2020. Throughout the duration of this contract, service users exiting the support have completed a survey “Voice of the Service User”. This data is continually reviewed and monitored as part of the quarterly performance reviews that take place with the provider and has shaped the development of the provision. The exit survey results demonstrate very high levels of satisfaction with the service. Residents consistently praised staff, safety, accommodation and practical support. Most respondents reported improved confidence, wellbeing and optimism about the future. Feedback suggests the service is delivering strong outcomes, with only limited recommendations for change and a common message from residents being to continue the service in its current form. Exit surveys and data are collected across all commissioned Housing Related Support provisions by each provider. The data informs commissioning of the impact against service objectives. The data received across dispersed adult supported accommodation and the RSI Rough Sleeper Hub indicates positive outcomes against KPI’s.

	In addition, consultation with services users will be carried out during the service specification development stage.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	As part of the needs analysis key stakeholders within the Rough Sleeper Pathway were consulted. Stakeholders from Homelessness Team, RSI Team and commissioned service providers (Action Housing, Target Housing, SYHA, and Roundabout) were all sent a list of questions regarding the rough sleeper pathway, below is a summary of the key findings and recommendations. Key Findings: There are gaps in provision, highlighting particularly for females, people with disabilities, and individuals with higher or more complex needs, alongside limited awareness of available services. Frequent transitions between services and short timeframes disrupt progress, with insufficient longer-term, stable supported accommodation options available. Sustaining tenancies is a significant challenge due to limited life skills, risks such as exploitation, and insufficient preparation for independent living. Partnership working is generally positive but inconsistent, with gaps in coordination, data sharing, and involvement from key services such as health. System inefficiencies, including duplication, unclear pathways, and people being turned away or 'bounced' between services, impact outcomes.

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) Two of the proposed activities are re-procurements of current services (Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub and Single dispersed supported accommodation) therefore they will have no detrimental impact for residents with protected characteristics and are monitored as part of service delivery. The third proposal is a new provision which will add additionality to support female service users identified through needs analysis.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Yes, the proposed commissioning of an additional female-only supported accommodation service will address a gap in commissioned provision (single women without children, women who have experienced abuse but not meeting the refuge criteria and women with substance misuse and trauma). A female-only provision reserved for the most complex and disengaged females within the homeless population that fall either outside the eligibility criteria for alternative provisions or where alternative services do not support their needs will provide a targeted intervention to improve safety, engagement, and outcomes for this cohort, rather than as a system-wide model. The continuation of the single adult dispersed accommodation and Rough Sleeper hub (adult males) will also alleviate pressure on the existing homeless services by providing additional specialist support to a complex and highly vulnerable cohort of the homeless population. All commissioned services will work alongside the Council's offer to alleviate and prevent homelessness.
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The proposals are to retain the current provision of Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub and dispersed accommodation with support for single people. These will have no change or additional impact The proposed commissioning of a female-only supported accommodation service operating in a similar way to the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Hub for males. The Council will work with the successful provider to identify the right accommodation for this provision. Therefore, the impact to the local community will be minimal.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Homelessness Prevention Grant – Commissioned Services

Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Lead Manager: Matt McMullen

Summary of findings:

A snapshot of people using Housing Related Support services under current contract terms has been conducted in February 2026 and compared with data taken in April 2022 providing a baseline of need and will support future monitoring of equality data.

In addition, Temporary accommodation use was monitored between the financial years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Temporary accommodation uses between 24/25 and 25/26

Type of Placement - Male or Female, Single or Couple

Hotel - Year	Single Males		Single Females		Couples		Total
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Total	185	**82.6%**	26	**11.6%**	13	**5.8%**	224

Snapshot data has shown that:

Race– The differences between the two times scales highlights some change with White British service users being the predominant group 87.2% in 2022 and 79% data recorded in 2026. This data will be collected and regularly monitored.

Sex – Across all Housing Related Support services females continue to present as the prominent group with 51.9% in 2026 and 55.9% in 2022

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Disability – There was a marginal increase in service users with disabilities in recorded between 2026 compared to 2022. An increase from 44.4% to 51.29%.

Religion and belief– a higher proportion of people accessing Housing Related Support services stated they followed a Religion/Faith in 2022 with 64.6% holding no faith compared to 59% in 2026.

Age – The majority of service users in 2022 where over 25 years of age at 74.8%. This has reduced to 53% in 2026. Although this is likely due to an increased young adult provision.

Marital and civil partnership – Single service users have increased from 85.9% in 2022 to 88% in 2026.

Gender reassignment: There were 2 entries of service users having gender reassignment or in the process during the 2022 snapshot survey, increasing to 5 in 2026.

The above findings will continue to be monitored to build an ongoing picture of people accessing the services, this can then be benchmarked against data for the Rotherham population and data of people accessing homeless services to ensure services reflect the need.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Ensure the voices of people who use the service are captured in the design of the new service specification (through Market engagement activities)	**All**	**11/26**
Include accessibility in quality standards	**All**	**11/26**
Include EDI assessment as part of tender process	**All**	**11/26**
Continue to measure EDI data for services	**All**	**11/26**

***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
Ian Spicer	Executive Director	02/09/2026

7. Publishing

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

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

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	14/08/2026
Report title and date	Equality Screening Assessment Part A Housing Related Support for Rough Sleepers
Date report sent for publication	22/09/2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	14/08/2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None	There are no anticipated impacts from the services recommended for a re-commission as there are no changes. The proposed new service includes a staff provision based at the residential unit (approx. 3 staff members) which will include supporting residents to attend appointments essential to the support aspect of the contract.	The impacts will not increase from alternative provisions.	As part of the tender process providers will need to clarify their commitment to carbon emissions and how providers would achieve this.	This will be monitored in their social value commitments and annual data performance returns.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None	There are no anticipated impacts from the services recommended for a re-commission as there are no changes. The proposed new service will be a domestic dwelling however this will just be a change in living space for	none	The provider successful in the tender process will be responsible for the disposal of waste as part of landlord responsibilities.	N/A

		the cohort therefore no increase anticipated.			
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	There are no anticipated impacts from the services recommended for a re-commission as there are no changes. The proposed new service will be a domestic dwelling however this will just be a change in living space for the cohort therefore no increase anticipated.	none	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	None			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	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? People experiencing homelessness are recognised as an at-risk group in Government guidance on hot weather and health: working to prevent homelessness through targeted housing related support could mitigate some vulnerability to climate change impacts in Rotherham.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
This is a recommendation to Cabinet on the re-commissioning of existing services for rough sleepers alongside commissioning of new a female only supported accommodation service. There are no identified increased carbon impacts to the level of service; providers tendering for the contract may offer to deliver support using alternative, low-carbon modes of travel such as public transport, active travel or electric vehicles, where possible. Housing related support works to protect some of the most vulnerable people in Rotherham from harms which include heightened exposure to climate change impacts.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Matthew McMullen Commissioning Officer Strategic Commissioning Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	UK Health Security Agency. 2024. *Supporting vulnerable people before and during hot weather: people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough.* [Online]. [Accessed 3 October 2025]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-vulnerable-people-before-and-during-hot-weather-people-experiencing-homelessness-and-sleeping-rough#why-people-experiencing-homelessness-are-at-risk-in-hot-weather
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 684 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Draft Street Trading Policy

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

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

Report Author(s)
Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The effective regulation of street trading is central to the continued regeneration and economic vibrancy of the Borough. This report proposes a regulatory approach that would see the control, and promotion, of street trading achieved through the use of consents issued by the Council in accordance with a Street Trading Policy.

In order to introduce the framework, the Council must first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Cabinet is asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation in relation to the adoption of Schedule 4 and approve a draft Street Trading Policy which will be consulted on at the same time. A further report will be presented to Cabinet early in 2027 outlining the outcome of the consultation and making a final recommendation regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining the final recommendations regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Draft Street Trading Policy
Appendix 2 Equalities Assessment
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
None.

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Draft Street Trading Policy

1. Background

1.1 Uncontrolled street trading can adversely affect local communities and undermine the economic stability of an area and the businesses that operate within it.

1.2 The current approach to regulating street trading within Rotherham is inconsistent. Street Trading is currently being utilised by a small number of traders that operate at locations within Rotherham using permissions provided many years ago, or through the misuse of parking bays and car parks.

1.3 Street traders are currently able to operate with minimal regulation and without appropriate consideration of the consequences of their activities on other local businesses (particularly those that trade from retail premises). In addition, the absence of a clear framework means that the way that street traders operate currently is not transparent, equitable or fair. In addition, the introduction of a street trading framework will allow well managed traders to develop and flourish, further supporting business growth and employment opportunities.

1.4 In order to effectively regulate street trading, the Council must first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The adoption of this legislation, together with the introduction of a clear Street Trading Policy, will provide the Council with the framework to ensure that street trading is controlled, fair, appropriate and contributes to business growth throughout the Borough.

1.5 Cabinet are asked to consider the adoption of the relevant legislation and review the draft Policy. Cabinet are also asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation on both aspects as outlined in section 4 of this report.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The control of street trading in Rotherham is currently achieved through a combination of powers provided by Highways and Planning legislation. The control of street trading is not the primary purpose of this legislation, and so it is largely ineffective.

2.2 Although there is limited regulation of street traders through food hygiene and trading standards legislation, in general, the traders that operate currently are not bound by any requirements regarding the safety and suitability of the unit that they trade from, the quality of the products that they supply or the hours of operation (and the consequential impact that this may have on the local area).

2.3 The ineffectiveness of the current approach has led to a small number of traders establishing themselves as a semi-permanent presence within the Borough or during particular events (events in Rotherham Town Centre or matches at the New York Stadium for example). In addition, the lack of transparency about how the current traders operate has created a situation whereby new businesses that seek to trade on the Borough's streets are unable to do so, resulting in missed opportunities for traders to enhance the offer to residents during major events and to support wider business growth.

2.4 The current arrangement has resulted in a situation where traders are unable to trade lawfully on the public highway, unless they are trading from a "pitch" allocated to them by the Council, or are trading on private land. The allocation of these pitches took place over 20 years ago, which means that any new businesses that want to trade on the Borough's streets are unable to do so as pitches are not reviewed / tendered on a periodic basis.

2.5 Some traders have attempted to circumvent these restrictions by purchasing a number of parking tickets for on-street parking bays and positioning their trading unit within the bays. This reduces the availability of parking bays that can be used by the general public, particularly those that are near to events that are taking place in the Borough.

2.6 The uncontrolled nature of street trading in Rotherham means that the personal details and / or identities of those involved in street trading are not known (which is not the case with those that trade from fixed retail units). This undermines the consumer protections that are afforded to customers through the Consumer Rights Act 2015 (as the identity of the trader is not known), meaning that customers are exposed to financial and safety risks due to the sale of poor quality, unsafe or counterfeit items.

2.7 The lack of awareness and control of those involved in street trading further undermines the safety of the public as none of the traders have been vetted or assessed as being suitable to engage in a transient activity such as street trading, especially considering that some street traders will market their products directly at children and are likely to come into close contact with them during their trading activity (for example, ice cream vendors and toy sellers during events).

2.8 The Council recognises the positive impact that well managed street trading can have on the local area, and the wider Borough. Furthermore, it is considered likely that some smaller or niche traders may utilise street trading as a way of developing their business and growing their customer base. This may lead to the business establishing itself as a more successful, more permanent presence in Rotherham.

2.9 In order to address the issues identified above, and to assist with new business development within the Borough, the Council believes that it is necessary and important to introduce a new framework that will promote the benefits of street trading, whilst at the same time protecting local people and neighbourhoods from the negative effects of the current approach.

2.10 The Council has the option of utilising the provisions within Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (referred to hereafter as “Schedule 4”), which would allow far more effective control over street trading within the Borough.

2.11 The provisions within Schedule 4 allow the Council to designate a street according to one of three statutory designations:

- Prohibited street – street trading is prohibited at all times.
- Licence street – street trading is prohibited without a licence granted by the Council.
- Consent street – street trading is prohibited without the consent of the Council.

2.12 Where a street is not designated according to one of the above categories, the Council is not able to regulate trading on that street (except for using existing powers within Highways and / or Planning legislation).

2.13 Street Trading Consents and Street Trading Licences are similar in nature and are both very effective at controlling street trading. Consents have all the benefits of licences but are much more flexible and allow for a quicker more dynamic response to issues that may affect trading, such as safety or security concerns or events taking place within an area.

2.14 Although not required by the legislation, it would be best practice for the discharge of the provisions within Schedule 4 to be done in accordance with a policy that sets out the Council’s approach to street trading in Rotherham.

2.15 The Street Trading Policy will allow the Council to ensure that trading takes place in an appropriate manner and without adverse impact on the local community (for example by minimising nuisance and regulating the number and location of traders within an area).

2.16 The Policy will also allow the Council to set out conditions and expectations that would apply to street traders, such as:

- the safety and suitability of trading units
- the standard of hygiene for traders selling food items
- waste disposal
- trading times and limitations on trading in certain areas
- background checks on traders.

2.17 The street trading requirements will apply to mobile traders (such as ice cream vans) and traders trading from fixed locations (“pitches”) or stalls. As certain locations are expected to be in high demand (for example those in Rotherham Town Centre), the draft Policy makes it clear that in some cases the limitations on the number and locations will mean that trading can only take place from a designated pitch or pitches.

2.18 Specific street trading pitches will be identified in these high demand areas. Pitches will be allocated to traders that have applied for a consent by a specified date, with traders being asked to specify three preferred pitches. If the number of traders seeking to trade from these pitches exceeds the number of pitches that are available, then pitches will be allocated on a random basis in order of preference indicated by the trader when making their application. Consents will be issued for a period of up to two years and a waiting list will be maintained where appropriate in the event that a pitch becomes available during the two-year period.

2.19 To use the provisions within Schedule 4, the Council must first adopt the legislation. The process by which this must be done is set out in law, but in summary it will include:

- Undertaking consultation with key stakeholders regarding the adoption of Schedule 4.
- Provision of notice to the Highways Authority and South Yorkshire Police.
- Publication of a public notice in the local press.
- Consideration of any comments received during the consultation period.
- If appropriate, the adoption of Schedule 4 by full Council.
- Publication of a notice confirming the decision to adopt Schedule 4.

2.20 As has been outlined above, it would be best practice to develop a Street Trading Policy that sets out the Council's approach to regulating street trading within the Borough. A draft Policy has been produced and is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It is proposed that the Policy is subject to a period of public consultation at the same time as the consultation on the adoption of Schedule 4. The outcome of the consultation and recommended next steps with regards to both these elements will then be presented to Cabinet after the consultation has closed and the responses have been collated and analysed.

2.21 Schedule 4 makes it clear that the Council may charge such fees as is considered reasonable for the grant or renewal of a street trading licence or a street trading consent. It is difficult to quantify the costs that may be associated with the administration of a street trading framework within Rotherham. The most similar existing process is that of Pavement Licences issued under the Business and Planning Act 2020. This legislation allows Councils to charge fees up to £500 for new Pavement Licence applications and £350 for the renewal of existing licences.

2.22 With this in mind, it is proposed that the fee for a new consent is set at £500. The initial consent would be valid for a two-year period and will allow the Council to fully consider the impact and costs of the new framework and for any adjustments to be aligned with the annual budget and fee setting process. Whilst full payment would normally be required in advance, in order to support traders, the Council will accept the payment of the two-year consent fee by instalments (£170 payable on application, then three further

payments of £110 due 6, 12 and 18 months after the consent is issued. In order to enable the instalment mechanism, traders will need to agree to setting up a direct debit arrangement. If a trader opts to pay by instalments, then the consent will be issued until the date that the first instalment becomes due, it will then be extended by the appropriate period once the instalment has been paid. The consent will lapse if the direct debit defaults and the instalment is not paid by other means by the due date and the trader will be required to apply for a new consent in order to continue to trade.

2.23 The Council recognises that the nature of street trading is such that some traders may only require a consent for a one-off event, or for a short period of time. In view of this, the Council is proposing to introduce lower fees for consents that last for a shorter period of time. The fees charged comprise an application fee and a contribution to the enforcement and monitoring of the street trading framework, and as a result the fee charged increases with the duration of the consent. The proposals for shorter term consents are as follows (these fees cannot be paid by instalments and must be paid in advance):

- one-day consent £40
- one-month consent £120
- three-month consent £160
- six-month consent £220
- one year consent £340

2.24 The fee for the one-day consent has been set at a low level as the Council recognises the importance of street trading for some new businesses. It is possible that the cost of the one-day consent may not cover the administrative cost of issuing the licence, but the Council is keen to support new businesses as they develop and as this is a new approach, full costs and overall levels of recovery are unknown. The suitability of this approach will be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.

2.25 The Council will charge an administration fee if the trader wishes to make any administrative amendments to the consent during the period that it is valid (for example, change of name or address). The fee will be comparable to the fees charged for administrative changes to other licences or permits that are issued by the Licensing Service (currently £28).

2.26 Although the Council recognises that businesses will find the introduction of any new fee to be a challenge, the fee of £500 is considered fair, reasonable (the equivalent of less than 70 pence per day for the full two year licence) and has been assessed by the Government, following consultation, as being an appropriate fee to be charged for the level of work that is likely to be involved in the administration of the scheme. Furthermore, the proposed fee compares favourably with the fees charged by neighbouring authorities. Publicly available information suggests that the fee for a food trader consent in Barnsley Town Centre is £6000 per year, or £600 per year for a food trader consent in other parts of the Barnsley Borough, and the fees in Sheffield range from £200 to £500 for an annual pitch outside of the city centre, with the cost of city centre pitches varying depending on location.

2.27 The proposal regarding the fee and the charging structure will be included in the consultation. The final fee structure will be confirmed and agreed when the Policy is brought back to Cabinet for approval early in 2027 (subject to the outcome of the consultation).

2.28 Although the provisions within Schedule 4 will significantly improve the Council's ability to regulate street trading in Rotherham, it is important to note that there are a number of activities that are not considered to be street trading and as a result will fall outside of the framework outlined in this report. These exemptions include:

- Trading by any person that holds a Pedlar's Certificate issued under the Pedlars Act 1871 provided that the person is acting as a pedlar and not a street trader (Pedlar's Certificates are issued by South Yorkshire Police).
- Trading in a market or fair.
- Trading in a trunk road picnic area.
- Trading as a news vendor.
- Trading which is carried on at a premises used as a fuel filling station or is carried on at premises used as a shop or in the street adjoining premises so used and as part of the business of that shop.
- Selling items as a roundsman.
- Trading in accordance with a Pavement Licence (issued under Highways Legislation or the Business and Planning Act).
- Authorised street collections.

2.29 As a matter of policy, a Street Trading Consent will not be required for the following activities:

- Sales of articles by householders on land within the curtilage of their property, for example garage sales or items produced by a small business operating from a residential property.
- Goods from working farms or smallholdings sold at the premises where they were produced.
- Trading as part of an established travelling fair where permission for the event has already been granted by the Council.
- Trading as part of a market where permission for the market has already been granted by the Council. For the purposes of this policy, a "market" is defined as one or more stalls falling under the control and management of a person or organisation on land or premises that they have the right to manage or occupy. For example, a farmers' market or retail event organised by a local business and taking place on land that is under their control.
- Trading within an organised community event, village fete, school / college event, event organised by a Parish / Town Council or any event of a similar nature (including events organised or facilitated by Rotherham MBC). This is subject to the event area being clearly

defined and identifiable, and the trader having been provided with written permission from the event organisers to trade at the event.

2.30 The exemptions and policy positions have been included in the proposed approach as the Council recognises the importance of such activities for local communities and neighbourhoods and it is not the aim of the policy to prevent these activities going ahead where this is clearly in the public interest.

2.31 It should also be noted that if the provisions were adopted, it would be recommended for there to be a period of transition that would allow existing traders to adapt to the new framework and obtain relevant permissions if required.

2.32 Three approaches have been considered with regards to the control of street trading. With the exception of option a), all options will require the adoption of Schedule 4 and should be supported by a Street Trading Policy. The three approaches are outlined below.

2.33 a) Designate all streets in the Borough as “Prohibited Streets”.

Designating all streets as prohibited streets will mean that street trading cannot take place in any part of the Borough at any time under any circumstances. As has already been said, street trading is beneficial to the local economy, provided it is effectively regulated. Indeed, in some circumstances the provision of street trading would be desirable and something that the Council would be keen to promote (for example, during an event). This option is not recommended.

2.34 b) Designate all streets in the Borough as “Licence Streets”.

This option would see the introduction of a statutory framework that would allow the Council to implement conditions, limitations and other requirements that will allow the effective regulation of street trading. Under this option, street trading would only be permitted if the trader is in possession of a licence issued by the Council.

However, although there are benefits to this option, the statutory nature of the process restricts the Council’s ability to vary or remove licences due to security, safety or operational reasons. For example, if circumstances were such that it would be undesirable to permit street trading in a particular area at a particular time (due to security or safety concerns), then the Council would be unable to vary a licence or prevent street trading taking place as these reasons are not specified within the legislation. This would mean that the Council would be unable to take urgent action as a result of specific local circumstances. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

2.35 c) Designate all streets in the Borough as “Consent Streets”.

This option would allow the Council to effectively control street trading across the Borough through the issuing of consents. Consents would be issued in

accordance with a Street Trading Policy, and the Council would have the ability to apply conditions, limitations and other requirements (similar to the licences referred to in option b) above).

The Council has the option of giving different designations to different streets across the Borough (e.g. designating some streets prohibited streets, and others as consent streets), and this option has been considered. However, this approach could potentially restrict the Council's ability to deal with applications on a case-by-case basis. For example, a general prohibition on street trading in a particular area would prevent the trading from taking place even if the individual circumstances meant that such trading was desirable on a particular occasion (for example during a special event).

The use of consents would have the same benefits as the use of street trading licences, but their use will allow the Council to vary or remove a consent if this is required due to operational, safety or security reasons (which would not be possible if licences were to be used). The ability to effectively regulate street trading, combined with the additional flexibility that consents afford means that this option is the preferred approach. **This is the recommended option.**

2.36 All the above approaches would require a level of enforcement in order to ensure that the specific requirements relevant to each approach are being adhered to. There will be requirement for enforcement in the first year as the requirements are phased in.

2.37 Enforcement of the street trading framework will primarily fall to the Council's Licensing Service, and this activity will be undertaken in addition to the existing enforcement activity that is undertaken by the officers within the service. However, there will be an expectation that other Council teams (such as the Trading Standards and Street Safe teams) will assist with enforcement of the framework where the opportunity arises.

2.38 Enforcement activity will include, but is not limited to, identification of traders operating without the relevant consents, failure to adhere to consent conditions and non-compliance with the requirements of individual consents (e.g. trading times and locations not being adhered to).

2.39 Enforcement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council General Enforcement Policy, with the ultimate sanction being the removal of a street trading consent and / or the prosecution of an individual trader.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 There are two options that have been considered.

3.2 Option 1 – the Council does not consult on the adoption of Schedule 4 and the implementation of a Street Trading framework.

3.3 This may arise either because Cabinet chose not to introduce the framework or decides to introduce the framework without consultation.

3.4 This option is not recommended for the following reasons:

3.5

1. The current arrangement is ineffective and inconsistent. The effective regulation of street trading is considered to be a contributor to the Borough's regeneration plans and its continued economic success.

   A failure to adopt Schedule 4 and a Street Trading Policy would allow this approach to continue, and the issues / concerns identified within this report will not be addressed.

2. Choosing to adopt Schedule 4 and introducing a Street Trading Policy without having first consulted on them would open the Council up to legal challenge via judicial review. In addition, by not taking the views of stakeholders into account, the Council increases the likelihood of there being unintended consequences introduced by the policy (which may then have a detrimental impact on the economic health of local businesses and the Borough in general).

3.6 Option 2 – consult on a proposal to adopt Schedule 4 and a Street Trading Policy.

This option will enable the Council to give consideration to introducing a street trading framework that has been developed after taking into account the views of all stakeholders that could potentially be affected by the policy.

The Council would also have the confidence that any policy introduced would withstand a legal challenge and would best deliver the aims and objectives of the Street Trading Policy. This is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 If approved by Cabinet, officers will commence a formal consultation as soon as possible following the decision. The consultation will last for eight weeks, and include the following:

- Online consultation via the Council's website.
- Direct consultation with any existing street traders that the Council is aware of.
- Consultation with groups representing communities and businesses in the local area.
- Consultation with groups representing children and young people, vulnerable adults and those sharing a protected characteristic.

4.2 As has been mentioned elsewhere in this report, the consultation will seek views on the proposed charging framework – including whether the current arrangements are appropriate for mobile vendors (such as ice cream vans).

4.3 Following the consultation period, the responses will be analysed and collated and a report presented to Cabinet for consideration with a recommendation regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the approval of a Street Trading Policy (dependent on the outcome of the consultation).

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The consultation will commence by the end of November 2026 and continue for an eight week period.

5.2 A report regarding the findings of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in early 2027, following analysis of consultation responses.

5.3 As referred to in section 2 above, there is a statutory process that must be followed should the decision be made to formally adopt Schedule 4. Further detail on the timelines associated with this will be provided in the report that is presented to Cabinet following the consultation.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report proposes consulting on the introduction of a range of fees for a new Street Trading consent. These are detailed in 2.22 and 2.23. These amounts are not final and may change as a result of consultation. It is not envisaged that any charging will take place before 1 April 2027. Proposed fees will be considered as part of the annual Budget and Council Tax Report and approved by full Council if agreed.

6.2 It is not known how much income this new fee will generate and whether it will cover the costs of administering and enforcing the licences. This will be considered as part of the next update to Cabinet.

6.3 There are no implications for procurement introduced by this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Section 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 provides the power for the Local Authority to resolve that Schedule 4 to the Act shall apply to their district and, if a council so resolves, that the Schedule shall come into force in their district on such day as may be specified in the resolution.

7.2 Schedule 4 of the Act relates to street trading which is defined as the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street. Paragraph 2.28 of this report outlines the activities under Schedule 4 which are not deemed to be street trading.

7.3 The Local Authority cannot pass a resolution unless a notice of intention has been published in a local newspaper, a copy has been served on the chief of police for the area and on the responsible highway authority, and where

applicable the consent of the highway authority or relevant corporation has been obtained. Schedule 4 sets out the publication requirements and detail as to representations which can be made to the Local Authority in relation to the proposed resolution.

7.4 Schedule 4 Paragraph 9 sets out the provision around the setting of fees. A district council (which includes a Metropolitan Council) may charge such fees as they consider reasonable for the grant or renewal of a street trading licence or a street trading consent.

7.5 Adopting a Street Trading Policy will ensure that the Local Authority operates consistently and provides transparency to those who wish to apply, which in turn minimises the risk of legal challenge in relation to the decision-making process.

7.6 Consultation is legally required as set out within Schedule 4 once a decision has been made to adopt the provisions and pass a resolution; there are also strict notification requirements. There is no legal requirement to consult prior to this point but it is recommended, particularly given that the adoption of a specific policy is also being considered. To consult at this point ensures transparency and allows the views of businesses, residents, stakeholders etc to be taken into account.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 This report is seeking the approval of Cabinet to undertake a period of consultation with regard to the control of street trading, and as such there are no HR implications introduced by this report.

8.2 The administration of the Street Trading Policy (if introduced) will be undertaken by the Council's Licensing Service. The introduction of a framework is not expected to result in excessive demands being placed upon the service, and therefore at this stage any demand will be met utilising existing resources.

8.3 The need for additional staffing resources will be reassessed after the first year; any increase in staff numbers will be funded through the application fees associated with the framework. Fees will be reassessed if additional staff are required and will be set at a level that ensures full cost recovery (which will mean that fees may increase after year one).

8.4 The enforcement of the street trading framework will primarily be undertaken by the Licensing Service, however there would be an expectation that other services would offer support as appropriate (for example, the Street Safe and Trading Standards teams). Training will be provided to all those that are involved in the enforcement of the new framework, and relevant delegations / authorisations would be updated to reflect the new powers. The involvement of partners such as South Yorkshire Police will also be requested where appropriate, although it is accepted that the involvement of the police may not always be possible.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 This report is seeking approval to consult (rather than a decision to adopt the legislation or policy), therefore there are not thought to be any direct implications for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

9.2 However, the proposed street trading framework will help to protect children and vulnerable people through the restrictions / conditions that it will introduce. For example:

- Applicants seeking permission to trade on the street will be required to provide a Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (basic level). This will allow the Council to assess the suitability of applicants prior to providing permissions to trade.

- Restrictions with regard to the locations and times that traders can trade (not trading outside schools / colleges at certain times or on certain days).

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An initial screening assessment has been carried out, and this indicates that the proposals within this report will not have any implications for equalities or human rights.

10.2 A full consultation process will be undertaken prior to any decision being made to adopt the legislation or approve the Street Trading Policy; this will include groups representing those that share protected characteristics. Any comments received will be fully considered prior to a decision being made.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This report is seeking the approval of Cabinet to undertake a period of consultation with regard to the control of Street Trading, and as such there are no implications for CO2 emissions and climate change.

11.2 However, if the proposal is introduced, conditions will require a consent holder to dispose of waste in accordance with Environmental legislation – a failure to do so may result in the consent being withdrawn.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners that are introduced by the proposals within this report.

12.2 As referred to above, it may be the case that the Licensing Service request support from partners such as South Yorkshire Police with regard to the enforcement of the street trading framework (if introduced). There is however

no expectation that support will be provided as it will depend on the resources that are available.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 A failure to effectively manage street traders within the Borough could have an adverse impact on the regeneration activity taking place within the Borough and the economic stability of businesses that operate in areas that are attractive to street traders (Rotherham Town Centre for example).

13.2 The introduction of the framework will address this risk but will itself present additional risks related to the efficient administration and enforcement of the street trading framework. As has been referred to above, in the first year it is expected that this activity will be met using existing resources – this will be reviewed at the end of year one and any additional resources will be funded through the fees that are charged as part of the framework (if adopted).

13.3 Any incidental costs associated with the introduction and implementation of a street trading framework will be met from within the Licensing Service budget (these costs include those associated with advertising/public notices, consultation etc.).

14. Accountable Officers

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	22/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

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Appendix 1

Rotherham MBC
Street Trading Policy

(DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION)

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Introduction

The aim of this Street Trading Policy ("the Policy") is to enable the Council to take a consistent and transparent approach regarding the control of street trading within the Rotherham Borough.

It is anticipated that the approach will create a street trading environment which complements premise-based trading, is sensitive to the needs of residents, provides diversity and consumer choice.

This Policy relates to all street trading activities within the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

Whilst each application will be dealt with on its own merits, this Policy gives prospective applicants an early indication as to whether their application is likely to be granted or not. It also provides prospective applicants with details of what is expected of them should an application be granted.

The Policy recognises the importance of street trading in Rotherham and that it can add to the vibrancy and vitality of the area whilst not adding to nuisance, crime, and disorder, or cause other problems.

This Policy will be subject to monitoring and review after five years or more frequently should legislative changes deem this necessary. However, the Licensing Service will regularly review the policy and make any changes to reflect minor, administrative or legislative changes or to amend any inconsistencies between the legislation and the policy. Any significant changes (such as a significant change to the application process) will only be made after appropriate consultation and with the approval of the Council's Cabinet.

The overall objectives of this Policy are to:

- Ensure that any permitted street trading is properly regulated as to where, when, and how it takes place.
- Prevent obstruction of the Borough's highways.
- Ensure the safety of the public and of the traders permitted to trade.
- Ensure any activities do not cause nuisance or annoyance to the public and those traders surrounding the permitted street trader.
- Protect public health through the control of street trading.
- Ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place for children and vulnerable persons.
- Ensure that traders operate within the law and act fairly in their dealings with the public.

Policy Application

Street Trading means the selling, exposing, or offering for sale of any article in a street. The term 'street' includes any road, footway, or other area to which the public have access without payment (this can include private land and car parks).

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (hereafter referred to as "the Council" or "Rotherham Council") has adopted Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 which means that consent is required before trading in certain places.

This Policy applies to all street trading activity in Rotherham. The policy does not apply to:

- activities such as placing goods for sale on the street from a shop, street cafes operating from fixed premises or the siting of "A" boards on the street (as this is not within the remit of the Act), or
- activities which are not considered to be street trading, including:

    - Trading as a pedlar under the authority of a 'Pedlars Certificate.'
    - Trading conducted by a roundsman.
    - Trading in a charter market or a statutory market.
    - Trading as a news vendor (newspapers and periodicals).
    - Trading at a petrol station.
    - Trading in a trunk road picnic area provided by the Secretary of State under section 122 of the Highways Act 1980.
    - Trading on or at premises used as a shop or in a street adjoining premises so used and as part of the business of the shop.
    - The operation of facilities for recreation or refreshment under Part VIIA of the Highways Act 1980.

As a matter of policy, a Street Trading Consent will not be required for the following activities:

- Sales of articles by householders on land within the curtilage of their property, for example garage sales or items produced by a small business operating from a residential property.
- Goods from working farms or smallholdings sold at the premises where they were produced.
- Trading as part of an established travelling fair where permission for the event has already been granted by the Council.
- Trading as part of a market where permission for the market has already been granted by the Council in writing. For the purposes of this policy, a "market" is defined as one or more stalls falling under the control and management of a person or organisation on land or premises that they have the right to manage or occupy. For example, a farmers' market or retail event organised by a local business and taking place on land that is under their control.
- Trading within an organised community event, village fete, school / college event, event organised by a Parish / Town Council or any event of a similar

nature (including events organised or facilitated by Rotherham MBC). This is subject to the event area being clearly defined and identifiable, and the trader having been provided with written permission from the event organisers to trade at the event.

Street Designation

The Act states a Local Authority can designate its streets in three ways; these are:

- 'Consent Street' – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited without the consent of the local authority.
- 'License Street' – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited without a license granted by the local authority.
- 'Prohibited Street' – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited.

The Council has adopted Schedule 4 of the Act for the whole of its areas and on XXXXXXXXX made a Resolution to determine that all streets within the Rotherham Borough are designated as 'Consent Streets' with effect from XXXXXXXXXX. The effect of this designation is that street trading in any street within this area is not permitted without first obtaining a Street Trading Consent from the Council.

It is a criminal offence to engage in street trading in a Consent Street without authorisation.

Food Traders

In addition to having a Street Trading Consent, any traders selling food must be registered with the appropriate Food Authority as a food business. If you operate a mobile food vehicle, you should be registered with the council where your vehicles are kept, this is not where you trade. All traders must be registered before applying and be able to provide evidence of your registration when applying for a Street Trading Consent.

Whether a trader is hot or cold food a current Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate will still be required.

Most but not all, food businesses get a food hygiene rating, ratings range from 0 to 5, with 5 being the best. Ratings are allocated by inspectors following their inspection of your business, a sticker will be given stating your food hygiene rating, and this must be displayed where customers can see it.

As a food trader we would expect you to achieve and maintain a minimum Food Hygiene Rating of a ‘3’.

Existing businesses whose food hygiene rating falls below a ‘3’, will automatically suspend their current Street Trading Consent. The Consent will come out of suspension if and when the minimum food hygiene rating is regained. Continued suspension may result in the Consent being terminated.

New applicants will be required to supply evidence of their existing food hygiene rating of a ‘3’ or above, or their ‘awaiting inspection’ status.

All food businesses will be checked to ensure they are registered, and their hygiene rating or inspection verified.

Mobile Traders

Mobile traders must move from position to position remaining stationary for no longer than 20 minutes to initially attract customers and thereafter only long enough to serve customers present. The vehicle must move on as soon as the last customer has been served, and no other customer is clearly awaiting service.

The Consent Holder must ensure that any stopping position does not infringe any parking or traffic requirements or cause obstruction of the highway and does not present any dangers to other road users or pedestrians.

A Street Trading Consent does not allow trading in Council owned car parks. Additional permissions would be required from Parking Services.

Mobile street traders must not stop within 100 metres of any school, measured from the main entrance to the school grounds, during the school day from an hour before and an hour after without the written consent of the school. Any written consents obtained from the school must be provided at the application stage.

The use of chimes and other audible signals:

Section 62 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (CoPA) set outs requirements with regard to noise in streets.

It is an offence under section 62(1)(b) of CoPA to use a loudspeaker in the street for the purposes of advertising any trade or business. However, there is a specific exception for the operation of loudspeakers between 12pm and 7pm if they are fixed to vehicles used to convey and sell perishable commodities for human consumption to the public, such as ice-cream, provided that they do not give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity.

The Secretary of State has issued an approved code of practice that gives guidance on minimising noise from ice-cream van chimes. It should also be taken as applying equally to any other sounds made by a loudspeaker fixed to a vehicle from which perishable goods are sold to the public. Mobile traders are expected to show compliance with this code, as doing so will help to show that that a vendor has complied with section 62 of CoPA. Compliance with the code will also help to demonstrate that a vendor has used “best practicable means” to prevent, or counteract, the effects of any nuisance resulting from the chiming.

The current version of the approved code of practice can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-noise-from-ice-cream-van-chimes.

For the avoidance of doubt, mobile ice cream vans are vehicles adapted for the sale of ice cream and only sell ice cream, cold soft drinks, cold sandwiches, confectionery, crisps, and frozen lollipops.

Static Street Trading

Static Street Trading is trading in one site for more than 20 minutes. If a trader wishes to move around various parts of the borough, they are required to apply for the appropriate Mobile Street Trading Consent.

Static Street Trading is where a pitch is identified, and a Consent Holder trades only from that pitch within the terms and conditions of the Consent issued.

These pitches are usually very specific, and traders are given consent based on the detailed plan submitted with their application.

It would be up to the trader to locate a pitch and make an appropriate application with the Council.

Applicants must contact the appropriate services prior to submitting an application to discuss any issues they may have and whether any other permissions are required.

It is not possible for traders to move pitch, even just a short distance, without the prior consent of the Council.

A Multiple Static Site Consent can be requested for traders who wish to trade in more than one location on a different day(s) of the week under the same Street Trading Consent. A total of two trading pitches will be authorised.

All applications will be dealt with under their own individual merits, however when determining an application, the proximity of existing nearby shops, cafes, and other trades that primarily trade in the same articles will be taken into account.

Sale of Alcohol

To sell alcohol, as well as having to hold a Street Trading Consent, licence authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003 would also be required. Where authorisation is granted under the Licensing Act 2003 conditions may be attached to the Street Trading Consent. These conditions may include but are not restricted to the following:

- The trader adopting a challenge 25 policy.
- Restrictions on the sale of alcohol in open containers
- Times at which alcohol may be sold, and the locations not to be near schools, voluntary or third sector services.

Any street trader wishing to sell alcohol should contact the licensing team for further information.

Commercial Selling of Vehicles on the Highway

The commercial selling of a vehicle on the highway falls within the scope of street trading and therefore a Street Trading Consent is required from Rotherham Council.

Additional restrictions are set out in Section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This states that a person is guilty of an offence if at any time, acting in the course of a business selling motor vehicles, leaving two or more motor vehicles parked within 500 metres of each other on a road(s) where they are exposed or advertised for sale.

Trading on Private Land

Where your proposed trading pitch is on privately owned land you must seek permission from the relevant landowner. You must provide us with a letter or email from the landowner confirming you have permission to trade on their land, including the days and times of permitted trade. We will require the landowners' details for verification purposes.

Unregistered land is land that has not been recorded in the Land Registry, which is the official database of land and property ownership in England and Wales. Unregistered land may have no clear title or evidence of ownership, or it may have been inherited or transferred informally over time. Trading on unregistered land without authorisation can expose you to legal risks and liabilities, such as legal proceedings from the owner of the land. If a Street Trading Consent is to be considered we may request further documentation to be signed and agree to trading at your own risk, for these types of requests we will always seek advice from our legal department before any decisions can be made.

The onus is on the applicant to research the proposed trading site, i.e. planning permission, legal right to trade, food and safety, waste provisions, highway restrictions etc.

Trading on National Highways' Trunk Roads

Any consent issued to trade on a National Highways operational assets will be subject to the following additional conditions and restrictions:

- Applications will automatically be refused if there are any safety or environmental concerns.
- Semi-permanent structures such as 'portacabins' or sheds will not be erected in any of the laybys and must be in a position to leave at a moment's notice.
- A Street Trading Consent will not supersede National Highways right to ask a Street Trader to move or cease trading if they feel there are safety or environmental concerns.
- Vehicles/trailers should be sited in an 'ox bow' type layby where grass or concrete areas separate the layby from the main carriageway.
- All vehicles/trailer units must be removed at the end of each working day.
- No flags or signs are to be placed on National Highways land.
- All litter must be removed at end of each working day.
- Any Street Trader can be asked to move or cease trading by National Highways, the local authority or emergency services without notice.
- National Highways reserve the right to close any of the laybys on both a temporary and a permanent basis, Street Traders will have no right to recompense.

Street Trading in a Town or District Centre

Where appropriate, the Council will issue street trading consents that will permit trading from specific streets or pitches within a town or district centre within the Borough.

Any consent issued for such areas may be subject to additional conditions or restrictions, which may include limitations as to the number, location and trading times.

There may be times when the permitted area will be unavailable due to utility, maintenance or construction works. This is a normal function of the Highways Authority and utility companies and will not, therefore be subject to compensation.

For special events which may take place within these areas, the Council may issue a notice suspending or revoking all street trading consents for a particular area and / or period of time. No compensation will be offered for relocation or removal of a street trading consent under these circumstances.

Businesses may be permitted to place up to one 'A' board on the highway – this should not exceed 800mm in height and 500mm in width. 'A' boards and other free standing pavement signs should be placed, either in an area 600mm immediately in front of their stall or in line with an adjacent line of bollards. It should be remembered that at least 1.8m of clear footway must be retained between the board and the stall or bollards/obstruction, and boards should allow at least 450mm clearance between the board and the kerb edge.

External tables and chairs may only be used upon written approval from the Council.

Application Process

An application for a Street Trading Consent cannot be given tacit approval, as it is in the public interest that the Council must undertake checks before any application can be granted. Consents will be provided in writing to the person named on the application form.

Any application for a Street Trading Consent must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be over 17 years of age.
- The name of the business must not be the same as, or be similar to, that of an existing static retail business or another street trader

The application must be submitted with the following documents and information:

- A completed and signed Street Trading Consent Application Form
- The appropriate application fee, a non-refundable fee of £100, is payable for an initial enquiry to carry out checks including the suitability of a proposed location. If the site is not approved the £100 fee will be retained to cover administrative costs. If the application is approved the applicant must submit the balance of the relevant fee before the Council will issue the Street Trading Consent.
- A recent passport size photograph of all Consent Holders.
- Applicants must have obtained a valid basic DBS check dated within 6 months (see section 17 for more information on DBS's)
- Proof of identification for name and address (you cannot provide one form of identification for both:
    - Proof of name: current passport, birth certificate, current UK, or EEA photocard driving licence, or benefit letter.
    - Proof of address: utility bill or bank statement issued within the last 3 months, current council tax year bill, UK driving licence, tenancy agreement or mortgage statement.
- Proof of right to work in the UK: a current passport, drivers' licence, residence permit or a bank statement.
- In respect of an application for a Consent to trade from a fixed site, a location plan of where the vehicle or stall will be positioned in an appropriate scale to identify the exact location of the vehicle or stall and surrounding areas and streets. The plan must clearly identify the proposed street trading site, and the ground dimensions it will cover.
- Where the Consent area is on private land written approval is required from the landowner including trading days and times.
- Colour photographs of the vehicle/stall from which trading is proposed to take place, the images must show the front, back and side of the vehicle/stall.
- Dimensions of the vehicle or stall and any identifying marks, e.g. vehicle registration etc.
- Gas safety certificate for any trailer or vehicle.
- Vehicle test certificate
- Declare you have registered as a food business (where appropriate).

- If trading in food, evidence and details of any food hygiene qualifications, food hygiene score rating or awaiting inspections status.
- Any permissions or consents already granted about your proposed operation, for example, planning consents, late night refreshment premises licence, cafe licence or waste disposal agreement.
- A valid certificate of insurance policy covering third party and public liability risks for at least £5 million, which must cover street trading.
- Any other additional information specified on the application form or requested by the Licensing Service that may reasonably be required in order to assess the suitability of the applicant, trading unit or site.

Once all the above documents and relevant application fees have been submitted the Council will conduct all necessary checks and consultations before deciding on whether to grant a Street Trading Consent.

Other than judicial review, there is no statutory right of appeal against a decision to refuse to grant, amend, vary, or revoke a Street Trading Consent.

Street trading consents will be issued subject to a number of conditions, these will be applied to consents on a case by case basis. The general conditions outlined at Appendix A will normally apply to all consents, however the Council reserves the right to add, amend or omit conditions to individual consents as is considered necessary.

Following receipt of an application, advice may be sought from the Highways Authority with regards to the size of the layby and to ensure that there is safe access and egress.

Applicants shall ensure that any location supports the aims and objective of this Policy and should take the following into account when deciding on a location.

- Traffic flow – applicants should ensure there are enough potential customers to sustain a business.
- Size of layby – applicants should ensure there is sufficient room for numerous cars/lorries, etc.
- Proximity to competition – applicants must consider current trading of similar goods in the area. Street Trading Consent will normally be refused where there is similar trading of goods in the area.
- Toilet facilities – applicants must consider such facilities are provided if selling hot food and drinks.
- Access to and egress from layby – applicants must ensure that there is safe access into and egress from the layby.
- Crossing a carriageway – applicants must ensure that customers are not obliged to cross a carriageway to access the layby.

Renewals

Street Trading Consents that have not been renewed by their expiry date will automatically cease to exist and trading must cease until such time as a new Street Trading Consent has been granted.

All renewal applications must be submitted a minimum of 20 working days prior to the expiry of the current Street Trading Consent to allow for processing of the application. A completed renewal form and application fee will need to be submitted.

Generally, no further consultation will be necessary when dealing with a renewal application, however the Council reserves the right to consult where there are or have been concerns raised in the previous Street Trading Consent period.

Applications for renewal of a Street Trading Consent will be granted once proved that no substantiated complaints have been received regarding:

- The manner in which the Consent Holder has conducted their business.
- The Consent Holder or any authorised assistant's conduct
- Where no relevant objections have been received
- In addition, a new criminal record disclosure will only be required every 3 years.

The majority of documents requested in the initial application process will need to be produced at every renewal.

Checks will be made to ensure there have been no changes from the original application, these checks will include verification of any permissions granted including the trading location.

The responsibility for ensuring renewal of Street Trading Consents rests solely with the Consent Holder, the Council is not obliged to send out reminders. If a renewal application and fee are not submitted, then the Street Trading Consent will lapse.

A renewal application will not be accepted after the expiry of any existing Street Trading Consent. The effect of this will be that a trader will not be permitted to trade until a new application and fee has been submitted and the Street Trading Consent is granted.

Street trading consents will be issued subject to a number of conditions; these will be applied to consents on a case by case basis. The general conditions outlined at Appendix A will normally apply to all consents, however the Council reserves the right to add, amend or omit conditions to individual consents as is considered necessary.

Transfers and Amendments

Street Trading Consents are non-transferable, the Consent Holder may employ any person to assist in the conduct of the business but may not let, assign, or part with his/her interest or possession under this Street Trading Consent or any part thereof but he may surrender it at any time. The rights granted by the Street Trading Consent cannot be sublet, transferred, or shared with any other person or party and is personal to the Consent Holder.

No amendments (e.g., date changes, location, type of stall or van) may be made without the prior written consent of the Council.

Any Street Trading Consent which is valid but is no longer required should be surrendered to the Council in writing.

Fees

The fees associated with the Street Trading framework will be periodically reviewed by the Council.

Additional charges may be made for the recovery of reasonable costs associated with the collection of refuse, cleansing of streets or other remedial work required due to the acts or omissions of a street trader.

Should the Consent Holder wish to vary the Street Trading Consent at any time during the duration of the Street Trading Consent, an administration fee will be charged. The administration fee will be in line with administration fees charged for other licences and consents issued by the Licensing Service.

Where a Street Trading Consent is surrendered during the life of the Consent, no refund will be made unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If a Street Trading Consent is revoked by the Council due to a change in external circumstances (e.g. closure of a street due to roadworks) then a pro rata refund will be issued of any fee paid (excluding instalments that are due but not paid by the time of the revocation). Deductions may be taken from the remaining balance before refunding the Consent Holder for the reasonable cost of repair to any damage caused, removal of any discarded materials, additional cleansing costs, along with appropriate administration fees.

If a Street Trading Consent is revoked by the Council due to breaches of conditions or non-compliance with this policy by the Consent Holder, no refund will be made by unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Payment must be made in full when the application is submitted. The only exception to this is for 2 year consents where the trader opts to pay by instalments. In these cases, the consent would be issued until the date that the next instalment falls due and will be extended once each instalment is paid, If an instalment is not paid within 28 days of it becoming due, then the consent will lapse and the trader will be required to apply for a new consent.

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

Whether you have been convicted of any relevant offence, we will ask for a basic DBS disclosure to be submitted with each application. Any convictions or proven criminal behaviour will be assessed. A basic disclosure will be required every three years once an application is granted.

Guidance regarding basic checks, including how to apply and the information disclosed on a basic certificate, please visit:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-checks

If any convictions are recorded on the certificate, the application will be referred for further internal evaluation to determine a decision.

See Appendix B for guidelines relating to the relevance of convictions.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Council is committed to compliance with all applicable Data Protection Law. This includes the Data Protection Act 2018; the Data Protection Act 2018 is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information about our use of personal information can be found on the Council's website. www.rotherham.gov.uk

Enforcement

Where activities are conducted without a Street Trading Consent or where conditions are breached, the Council will look to gather evidence and take enforcement action as appropriate.

The Highway's Authority and South Yorkshire Police have the power to remove any obstructions from the highway.

Any enforcement action will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's General Enforcement Policy, and in particular will be:

- Proportionate in applying law and seeking compliance.
- Consistent in approach.
- Targeted towards Consent Holders not complying with their Street Trading Consent and conditions or unlawful activity.
- Transparent in helping Consent Holders to understand what is expected of them.

APPENDIX A

STREET TRADING CONSENT STANDARD CONDITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 SCH. 4

The Street Trading Consent will stipulate the Consent Area, the type of vehicle or stall, and description of goods, any other relevant information, and additional conditions. The Consent Holder must comply with all conditions outlined in this Policy. Failure to comply with any condition attached to the Street Trading Consent May result in the revocation of such Consent.

Rotherham Council reserves the right to alter or amend these conditions at any time.

1. Consent holders shall notify the Council of any changes to their details such as name, address, telephone number or email address as soon as it occurs. A fee is applicable for amendments.
2. The consent holder will be issued with a Street Trading Consent, certificate, and conditions.
3. The Consent Holder shall at all times have a copy of the Street Trading Consent available for inspection on request to any Police Officer or Officer of the Council.
4. The Certificate must be clearly displayed on the vehicle or stall and must be visible to the public and customers.
5. Where the Consent Area is on private land where the public have access without payment, there is a requirement to have a Street Trading Consent. The applicant for the Consent must first obtain prior written approval from the landowner and this must accompany the application.
6. Where the Consent area is on council land, unless approval is obtained from the council, no street trading activities will be allowed.
7. The grant of a Street Trading Consent shall not be deemed to give any approval or consent which may be needed under any Byelaw, enactment, or regulation other than schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
8. The Consent Holder shall meet all statutory duties and obligations placed upon them relevant to the nature of the street trading e.g., planning consent, Health, and Safety at Work Act 1974, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Food Safety Act 1990, Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013, Regulations (EC) No. 852/2004, The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and the Licensing Act 2003. This list is not exhaustive, and it is the responsibility of the Consent Holder to ensure full compliance of all relevant legislation particularly any relevant Highway legislation.
9. The Consent Holder is not and shall not hold themselves out as being the servant or agent of the council whether orally or in writing.

10. The Consent Holder shall not hold themselves out as having the power to make, vary, discharge, or waive any byelaw or regulation of any kind.

11. It is the duty of the Consent Holder to establish the ownership of the land to which the Street Trading Consent relates and seek permission from the owner to trade from that location. This may involve additional restrictions and payment for which the Council are not responsible.

12. Consent Holders and authorised assistants must be 17 years of age.

13. The Consent Holder must have a valid insurance policy for public liability providing cover to a minimum amount of £5,000,000, a certificate of which must be produced upon application.

14. There may be times when the permitted area will be unavailable due to utility, maintenance or construction works. This is a normal function of the Highways Authority and utility companies and will not, therefore be subject to compensation.

15. Nothing contained in these conditions shall relieve or excuse the Consent Holder or his/her employees or agents from any legal duty or liability and the Consent Holder shall indemnify the Council in respect of all claims, actions, demands, or costs arising from the Street Trading Consent.

16. No damage shall be caused to the public highway as a result of the street trading activity taking place and the Consent Holder shall reimburse the council of any costs in repairing any damage caused.

17. The Consent Holder shall not sell any type of food, goods, or merchandise other than that specified in the Street Trading Consent.

18. The Consent Holder must confine the selling of goods and merchandise within the approved consent area and will not be permitted to erect additional tables, awnings, or any other structure.

19. There shall be no sale of goods that are likely to conflict with those provided by nearby shops and premises.

20. No live animals (e.g., mammal, reptile, fish, or bird) shall be permitted to be sold from any stall or vehicle.

21. The Consent Holder shall not knowingly allow the sale of any counterfeit/fake material and shall comply with any relevant Trading Standards legislation.

22. The Consent Holder shall not knowingly allow the sale of any goods prohibited for sale by Rotherham Council. We have a range of items that are excluded, details can be obtained from the Licensing Service.

23. No trading of hot food or drinks shall be permitted before 5am or after 11pm or sales of alcohol unless a Premises Licence has been issued or a Temporary Events Notice served on the Council and objected to, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

24. The Consent Holder shall not hold any auction or like sale.

25. Trading may only take place on the days and during the times specified on the Street Trading Consent.

26. The Consent Holder shall trade only from the consent area indicated on the Street Trading Consent.

27. A Consent Holder may employ any other person(s) to assist them in trading without a further Consent being required.

28. Consent Holders and any authorised assistant(s) shall ensure that the public and authorised officers are always treated with courtesy. Consent Holders shall ensure that their authorised assistant(s) are competent, courteous, and helpful.

29. The Consent Holder shall conduct a risk assessment to ensure that highway safety is not compromised and shall not prevent the Highways Authority, National Highways, and utilities from undertaking its duties.

    (Please note works such as excavations can be carried out without prior notice. The Council will revoke a Street Trading Consent following any reasonable request from the Highways Authority and National Highways (where applicable)).

30. The Consent Holder shall conduct their business in such a manner to ensure they do not:

    - Cause a nuisance to the occupiers of adjoining properties.
    - Cause an obstruction to the vehicles or pedestrians on the highway.
    - Cause a danger to occupiers of adjoining properties or to other users of the highway.
    - Cause annoyance or inconvenience to the users of the highway.

31. A Consent Holder may trade in a Consent Street from a vehicle or stall. The Consent Holder shall only trade from a vehicle or stall described in the Street Trading Consent.

32. Any vehicle or stall used must be positioned entirely within the approved Consent area.

33. Any vehicle or stall used by a Consent Holder in the course of street trading shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with any relevant legislation and to the satisfaction of all reasonable requirements of the Council and (where applicable) National Highways as to its construction, safety, appearance, and any display of advertisements. A high standard of presentation and appearance will be expected.

    In addition, the Consent Holder shall maintain the stall or vehicle in a clean state at all times and its structure shall be kept in good order, repair, and condition.

34. Any motor vehicle used for the purpose of Street Trading shall be in a roadworthy condition and have the relevant documents i.e. insurance, tax, and MOT to make the use of that vehicle on a road legal.

35. The vehicle or stall shall not be left unattended at any time and shall always be supervised by a person over the age of 17 years.

36. Outside of the permitted daily trading period the Consent Holder shall remove the approved vehicle or stall from the Consent area together with any and all objects or things of any nature whatsoever placed by the Consent Holder in the Consent area (whether directly and ancillary to street trading or otherwise) which for the avoidance of doubt shall include (but shall not be limited to) planters, ornamental devices of any description, furniture, portable or other fencing, waste bins, heating and lighting apparatus, unless the Council has agreed otherwise previously in writing.

37. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall remove the vehicle/stall and goods within a reasonable time after the expiry of the time for trading specified in the Street Trading Consent.

38. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall remove the vehicle/stall and goods for so long as may be necessary in the event of an emergency or in exercise of the council's highways power and duties, if reasonable required to do so by an authorised officer.

39. No Consent Holder shall trade at their authorised Consent area on dates when road closure directives are in place for special events other than with the permission of the organisation applying for the closure order.

40. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall not make any excavations or indentations of any description whatsoever in the surface of the highway or place or fix any equipment of any description on or in the said surface.

41. External tables and chairs may only be used upon written approval from the Council after first obtaining the appropriate highways permission from the highway's authority.

    (Please note 'the highway' includes the carriageway and a portion of the footway and the verge, the highway is not just the road.)

42. The Consent Holder and the vehicle/stall must comply with all relevant road traffic and highways legislation. Possession of a Street Trading Consent does not override parking restrictions or other traffic regulations.

43. A Consent Holder shall not leave their vehicle or stall in the street in which they trade, apart from in an approved parking space, except for the purpose of loading and unloading goods. Such loading and unloading shall be conducted as quickly as possible and the vehicle removed immediately on completion. This condition shall not apply when waiting restrictions are in force.

44. All businesses have a legal responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and other related legislation to safely contain and legally dispose of any waste produced from your business. You may be prosecuted should you not comply with these requirements.

45. The Consent Holder and authorised assistant(s) must provide adequate refuse storage adjacent to the sale area. The storage must be a substantial construction, waterproof and animal proof. The trade waste must be removed at the end of each working day or if the amount of refuse warrants it, when the container is full, whichever is the sooner. Public litterbins are not to be used.

46. The Consent Holder and authorised assistant(s) will be responsible for keeping the area surrounding the vehicle or stall in a clean and tidy condition.

47. The Consent Holder shall make such provisions as are necessary to prevent the deposit on any street of solid or liquid refuse and no discharge shall be made into any surface water drains.

48. Layby traders shall ensure that the whole of the layby and adjacent verge/footpath (but not the carriageway) to a distance of 10 metres be kept free of litter and refuse at all times, whilst resident.

49. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall comply with any directions given by the council from time to time regarding the handling, storage, and removal of refuse.

50. No advertisements shall be displayed on the consent area that relates to any goods, commodities, or services other than what is approved in the Street Trading Consent.

51. No advertising is permitted other than on the stall or vehicle. The fixing of signs or marking of the highway or street furniture is specifically prohibited by the Highway's Authority.

52. No poster, advertisement, signage or decoration of an unsuitable material or nature shall be displayed, sold, or distributed on or about the vehicle or premises. For example, any material in breach of the Obscene Publications Act 1959, any material that is considered indecent, scandalous, offensive, or likely to be harmful to any person likely to purchase it.

53. Signage and similar material must not have the appearance of a traffic sign, or be of such a nature as to distract motorists and other road users on the highway,

54. A-Boards, flags or any other signage are not to be placed on National Highways land.

55. A-Boards should not exceed 800mm in height and 50mm in width. A boards and other free standing pavement signs should be placed, either in an area 600mm immediately in front of their stall or in line with an adjacent line of bollards. At least 1.8m of clear footway must be retained between the board and the stall or bollards/obstruction, and boards should allow at least 450mm clearance between the board and the kerb edge.

56. Any lighting provided at the Consent area by the Consent Holder must be approved by Rotherham Council. If the Consent Area is located on, or adjacent to the public highway, the lighting must also be approved by the highway's authority. Strobe lights will not be used in any circumstances.

APPENDIX B

Guidelines relating to the relevance of convictions for Street Trading

The Policy and guidelines relate to applications for the grant or renewal of a Street Trading Consent, as well as current holders of those authorisations.

These guidelines do not deal with every type of offence, and do not prevent the Council from taking into account offences not specifically addressed in the guidelines or other conduct, which may be relevant to an individual's application.

Each application will be decided on its own merits and will be assessed whether an applicant is a suitable person to hold or to continue to hold a Street Trading Consent. Unspent convictions or conduct of applicants will take the following into consideration:

- Whether the conviction/incident is relevant.
- The seriousness of the offence/incident.
- The length of time since the offence/incident occurred.
- Whether there is a pattern of offending behaviour or similar conduct.
- Whether a person's circumstances have changed since the offence/incident occurred, and the circumstances surrounding the offence/incident, and the explanation offered by that person.

Where an applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence, the Council cannot review the merits of the conviction.

The following are given as guidance to certain categories of offences for new applications or renewals of Street Trading Consents:

Dishonesty

Holders of a Street Trading Consent must be persons who can be trusted. It is easy for a dishonest trader to take advantage of the public. Members of the public using Street Trading outlets expect the trader to be honest and trustworthy.

For these reasons, a serious view will be taken of any unspent convictions involving dishonesty. In general, a new applicant or renewal application is unlikely to be granted a Street Trading Consent where an application is made within 3 to 5 years of a conviction or from the date of release from a period of imprisonment.

Violence

Street traders will have close contact with the public, therefore, to minimise any risks, a serious view will be taken where offences of violence involve a loss of life, a Street Trading Consent will be refused.

In other cases, a period of 3 to 10 years, free of convictions, or from the date of release from a period of imprisonment, depending upon the nature and seriousness of the offence(s), will generally be required before an application is likely to be considered favourably.

Drugs

Where an applicant as a conviction for an offence that relates to the supply or importation of drugs and the date of the conviction or the release date from a period of imprisonment is less than 5 to 10 years before the date of the application, a Street Trading Consent will be refused. After 5 years from a conviction or the date of release from a period of imprisonment, the circumstances of the offence and any evidence which shows that a person is now suitable to hold a Street Trading Consent will be taken into consideration.

An application will normally be refused where the applicant has a conviction for an offence relating to the possession of drugs and the date of the conviction or the release date from a period of imprisonment is within 3 to 5 years of the date of the application. After a period of 3 years from conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment, consideration will be given to the circumstances of the offence and any evidence to show that an applicant is a suitable person to hold a Street Traders Consent.

An application will normally be refused where an applicant has more than one unspent conviction for offences related to the possession of drugs and the last conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment is less than 5 years before the date of the application.

Sexual and Indecency Offences

As the holders of Street Trading Consents (for example those who sell ice cream), have access to children, applicants who have unspent convictions for rape, indecent assault, any sexual offence involving children and any unspent conviction for an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will normally be refused a Street Trading Consent.

Where an applicant has a conviction for a sexual offence such as indecent exposure, they will normally be refused a Street Trading Consent until they can show a substantial period usually between 5 and 10 years free of any such convictions from the date of conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment.

When considering applications, the Council may take into account any information of a sexual nature which does not amount to a criminal offence that is brought to its attention where that information may indicate that an applicant may not be a suitable person to hold a Street Trader Consent. It will normally require a period of not less than 5 years free of such incidents from the date on which the incident occurred or, if more than one from the date of the last incident.

Motoring Convictions

In most cases, motoring offences are unlikely to be relevant when deciding if any applicant for a Street Trading Consent is a suitable person. However, there may be instances where the nature of the Street Trading is such that, by its very nature the

applicant is required to drive (for example ice cream sellers) or the offences are of a serious nature.

In those cases, an applicant for a Street Trading Consent would be expected to show a period usually between 3 and 5 years of any such offences from the date of conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment.

Formal Cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices

For the purposes of these guidelines, the Council will take into account cautions and penalty notices, however the longer the period since the caution/penalty notice was imposed the less relevance it is likely to have.

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

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

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

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

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

1. Title	
Title: Draft Street Trading Policy	
Directorate: **Regeneration and Environment**	**Service area:** Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead person: Alan Pogorzelec	**Contact:** Alan Pogorzelec
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
We are recommending that Cabinet approve a period of consultation on the following: • adoption of legislation that will allow the Council to regulate street trading, and • approval of a draft street trading policy. This screening assessment is limited to this recommendation.

Appendix 2

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

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

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

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

Appendix 2

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?**

We have tried to consider the impact that the policy and adoption of the legislation would have on those that will be affected by the policy. This includes current traders, members of the public and local businesses. We have done this by applying the draft policy requirements and framework to those traders that we are aware of that currently undertake an element of street trading, and also thought about the likely impact of this on local businesses and residents.

There is no empirical data that we can use as part of this assessment, however we will be undertaking a full equality analysis following the consultation that is carried out (subject to the approval of Cabinet).

- **Key findings**

The policy have an impact on local businesses, current traders and members of the public. Although we expect that this impact will be a positive for residents and local businesses (by ensuring fairness and a more effective regulatory framework), we accept that those traders that currently undertake an element of street trading may consider that they are adversely affected by the proposal as they are now subject to regulation that they previously would not have been.

The proposal to undertaken consultation on a policy may result in concern from all of those that would be affected by the policy and regulatory framework should it be introduced.

As we only have limited information regarding those traders that currently undertake street trading, and those that use their services, it cannot be said with certainty that there will not be an impact on any person that has a protected characteristic. We should therefore be mindful of this when carrying out the consultation and ensure that this is taken into consideration by Cabinet when making the final decision with regard to the adoption of the policy and regulatory framework.

- **Actions**

1. We should undertake comprehensive consultation prior to any further decision being made in relation to the formal adoption of the policy and Schedule 4.
2. The consultation must include consultation with groups representing those that share a protected characteristic.
3. This information should inform a full equality analysis that will be carried out in advance of any final decision being made by Cabinet / Council.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	4/1/2027 (or following completion of the consultation if earlier)

Appendix 2

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	1/2/2027
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Alan Pogorzelec (Licensing Manager)

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director (Regeneration and Environment)	08/09/26
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.	07/09/26

6. Publishing

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

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

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

Date screening completed	14/4/26
Report title and date	Draft Street Trading Policy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 12th October 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/4/2026

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?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease		Conditions would be attached to consents that require holders to dispose of waste in accordance with environmental legislation.		
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: None.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? No.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: The proposed conditions will ensure that those given consent to trade on the streets will be required to dispose of their waste in accordance with environmental legislation. A failure to do this may result in the consent being withdrawn.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Alan Pogorzelec Licensing Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	None.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	n/a
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 630 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 12 October 2026

Report Title
Local Plan

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

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

Report Author(s)
Emma Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
01709 254752 or emma.ottewell@rotherham.gov.uk

Winsze Lam, Assistant Planning Policy Manager
01709 822874 or winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
Government planning reforms introduced through the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 came into force on 25 March 2026. The Regulations require local planning authorities to prepare a new style Local Plan through a prescribed process including gateway assessments, statutory consultation stages and adoption within a 30-month plan-making period, following an initial four-month commencement phase.

Government guidance and the Regulations state that the Local Planning Authority is required to submit and publish a 'Notice of Intention to Commence' (Regulation 19), submit and publish a Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 4 and 5) that will replace the Council's current Local Development Scheme, and undertake a scoping consultation (Regulation 20). These tasks must be completed prior to the submission of a Gateway 1 self-assessment to the Planning Inspectorate. Subject to successful outcome of the Gateway 1, the Council can proceed to the prescribed 30-month plan-making process.

The Council must now commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan and establish suitable governance arrangements to ensure delivery within the required timescales.

This report seeks approval of the Local Plan Timetable, establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group as well as delegated authority arrangements for procedural matters

required throughout the Local Plan process to ensure that the Council can respond as necessary to the new streamlined plan making system.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this report and approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

2. Approve the publication of the Local Plan Timetable attached at Appendix 1 and note that it supersedes the current Local Development Scheme timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

3. Approve the publication of the formal 'Notice of Intention to Commence' by 30 October 2026, at the latest, in line with Regulation 19.

4. Approve the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 2.

5. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy:
   - to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable during plan preparation;
   - to approve, publish and submit all documents required for the statutory Scoping Stage (Regulation 20);
   - to approve publication and submission of documents required for Gateway 1 (Regulation 21); and
   - to approve the content and commencement of consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23).

6. Agree that Planning Board and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout plan preparation.

7. Agree to receive a further report as the Local Plan progresses towards plan content and evidence consultation (Regulation 23(1)(a)) and seeking approvals for subsequent stages - Gateways 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Local Plan Timetable
Appendix 2 Local Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference
Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment Part A
Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment Part B
Appendix 5 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Legislations
Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

Government Local Plan Guidance
30-month local plan process: an overview

Engaging the public when preparing a local plan
Creating a plan timetable

National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026)

Local Plan Documents
Rotherham Local Plan 2013 - 2028
Rotherham Local Development Scheme (September 2025)
Rotherham Call for Sites
Local Plan Funding (Officer Decision - 03/07/2026)

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

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Local Plan

1. Background

1.1 The Government has introduced a new plan-making system through the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The Regulations require local planning authorities to prepare Local Plans through a prescribed process consisting of a four-month commencement period followed by a statutory 30-month plan-making process. This includes three Gateway assessments, statutory consultation stages, examination and adoption.

1.2 The Council's existing Local Plan was adopted under the former planning system. To maintain an up-to-date development plan and ensure that the Council has continued local control over future development, a new Local Plan must now be prepared, commencing in 2026 and with an anticipated adoption in 2029, and covering the period up to the 2040s (i.e. a 10–15-year period upon adoption).

1.3 The Local Development Scheme was adopted in September 2025 (Cabinet 15/09/2025, Item 53 refer). The LDS sets out a broad timetable for preparing a new Local Plan in response to changes to national planning policy and revised housing requirements for Rotherham.

1.4 The Planning and Infrastructure Bill published in March 2025 introduces Spatial Development Strategies (SDS), to be prepared by Combined Authorities. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) will be responsible for preparing the SDS for South Yorkshire, in conjunction with the constituent local authorities. The Rotherham Local Plan will need to align with the emerging South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy.

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduces significant changes to the planning policy framework. Matters that are currently contained within Local Plans may in future be addressed either through National Development Management Policies (NDMPs), which will provide nationally consistent development management policies, or through Spatial Development Strategies (SDSs), which will establish strategic planning priorities across wider geographic areas. The Local Plan will therefore sit within a broader planning framework and will focus more directly on local priorities, site allocations and locally distinctive policies. Consequently, the emerging Local Plan is expected to differ considerably from the adopted Local Plan in both its content and structure.

1.6 Under the new plan making system, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are required to begin the preparation of a new Local Plan to replace an existing Local Plan within five years of the adoption of the Local Plan. The intention is that Local Plans are kept up to date and, whilst content will be able to be carried forward, this marks a shift to five-year plan making cycles moving forward. Under these changes, assuming a new Local Plan is adopted by 2029, the Council would be required to start a new Local Plan by 2034.

2. Key Issues

Government Expectations

2.1 The NPPF and associated plan-making reforms place a strong emphasis on the timely preparation of up-to-date local plans. National guidance encourages local planning authorities to commence preparation of new local plans under the new plan-making system as soon as possible and establishes statutory milestones for doing so.

2.2 LPAs are also bound by the new legislation to prepare new Local Plans. The Regulations provide powers for Government intervention where local planning authorities fail to make satisfactory progress in preparing a Local Plan. This is to ensure LPAs adhere to the expectations that the Government are setting out, and that the level of growth that the Government aspires to is being planned for and delivered.

2.3 Without clear Government guidance on transitional arrangements, authorities preparing a new Local Plan cannot be assured of any protection from higher housing requirements until its adoption. Consequently, the Council remains vulnerable to speculative development and development proposals on unallocated sites across the Borough.

2.4 Although site allocations have been one of the critical parts of the plan-making process, the role of the new Local Plan is now very focused on spatial strategy and the delivery of new development. The Government is also putting increased emphasis on delivering supporting infrastructure alongside new development. Local infrastructure provision and the impact of new development on such infrastructure is increasingly a national focus from communities, including concerns that improvements (especially in social infrastructure) are not being delivered in step with new development. The Local Plan must be supported by a new Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which will assess current service provision and, in due course, the impact of proposed development on infrastructure.

2.5 The NPPF clearly supports more of a role for inclusion of local design policy, guidance, and high-level coding into new style local plans which brings opportunities to continue to raise the bar for high-quality design and place-making to the benefit of everyone.

2.6 The Government is also keen to introduce more standardised, digital Local Plans which intend to reduce inconsistency between the approaches of different LPAs as well as speeding up their preparation.

Local Plan Timetable

2.7 As part of the preparatory work for the new Local Plan, the Council launched a ‘Call for Sites’ exercise in June 2026 to identify land with potential for development. The exercise invites submissions from landowners, developers, stakeholders and the wider public to establish the availability of sites across the Borough through the plan-making process.

2.8 In addition to the ongoing Call for Sites exercise which commenced in June 2026, there will be three further public consultation stages which must be carried out: a scoping consultation during the four-month lead in; a consultation

on the proposed plan content and evidence between Gateways 1 and 2; and a consultation on the draft Local Plan before Gateway 3 and Submission. The Government will publish more guidance on undertaking consultations in due course, with a drive to more digital engagement and a focus on reaching as wide and diverse a range of consultees as possible.

2.9 There are three key checks, or 'gateways', which need to be passed to progress the plan, as shown in Figure 1. Passing Gateway 1 (self-assessment) marks the end of the 4-month lead in period and signals the start of the formal 30-month plan making period. Passing Gateway 3 means the plan is ready to be submitted for Examination. In between these two milestones is Gateway 2 where a Planning Inspectorate (PINS) assessor will provide observations and advice on the Local Plan and the progress towards a 'sound' plan being delivered.



Figure 1 – Local Plan Process (Extract from Government Guidance)

2.10 The proposed indicative Local Plan Timetable is shown in Figure 2. The formal timetable for the new Local Plan, for which approval to publish is sought under Recommendation 2, is presented in Appendix 1.

Regulations	Stages	Date
	Call for Sites	June 2026
Reg.19	Notice of Intention to Commence	30 October 2026
Reg.20	Scoping Consultation	January 2027
Reg.21	Gateway 1 Self-assessment	26 February 2027
Reg.23	Plan Content & Evidence Consultation	July - September 2027
Reg.26	Gateway 2	January 2028
Reg.27	Draft Plan Consultation	June - August 2028
Reg.31-32	Gateway 3	October 2028
Reg.34	Submission for Examination	January 2029
Reg.35	Examination	January - June 2029
Reg.39	Adoption	July 2029

Figure 2 – Rotherham Local Plan Timetable

Local Plan Steering Group

2.11 The new plan making system places greater emphasis on front-loaded engagement, project management, and governance. Numerous procedural decisions will be required between Cabinet and Full Council decision points, including consultation material, evidence publication, timetable revisions, and Gateway submissions. Delays in governance processes could adversely affect the Council's ability to meet statutory deadlines.

2.12 A Local Plan Steering Group has therefore been proposed to provide strategic oversight, cross-party engagement and programme management. The principal function of the Steering Group is to promote the timely and efficient preparation of the Local Plan. Informal discussion and debate within the Steering Group is intended to prepare the ground for key decisions to be made within the normal publicly accountable reporting structures of the Council.

2.13 The Steering Group, comprising relevant members and officers, is intended to:

- Enable early political and corporate understanding and buy in to the preparation and review of the Local Plan.
- Encourage informal discussion to guide ongoing technical work and formulate options, often on potentially controversial subjects (e.g. housing development sites).
- Facilitate improved efficiency in corporate and key stakeholder contributions to Local Plan preparation and consultations (e.g. the Rotherham Partnership).
- Help mitigate identified risks associated with delivering the Local Plan to quality, budget and timescale requirements.
- Advise on reporting arrangements for key issues to be addressed within the Council’s publicly accountable formal decision-making process.

2.14 Support will be required from wider Council services, particularly in relation to infrastructure planning. These will include, but are not limited to, Highways and Drainage, Education, Green Spaces, Public Health, Assets, Strategic Housing, Regeneration and Economic Development (RiDO), Pollution Control, Policy, Strategy & Engagement, Finance and Legal Services. Certain teams such as Highways will be represented in the internal Local Plan Project Team meetings to ensure consistent input throughout the process and reporting to the Steering Group.

2.15 The Local Plan Steering Group will operate in a non-executive advisory capacity and will not exercise any executive or policy-making powers. All key decisions will remain subject to the Council's established decision-making framework. The Terms of Reference (Appendix 2) establish governance arrangements and identify matters suitable for delegated decision making whilst reserving policy decisions to Cabinet and Full Council. The Planning Board and Overview & Scrutiny Management Board will also be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout the process.

Authority Delegations

2.16 The preparation and adoption of the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Documents of the current plan took approximately nine years. With the fundamental changes to the plan-making system, as set out in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.5, the statutory requirement now is for Local Plans to be prepared, examined and adopted within a 2.5 year timeframe. Therefore, the timings for each stage and the governance mechanism to achieve this accelerated programme are crucial.

2.17 The proposed delegations relate to the procedural and administrative matters of Local Plan preparation and are necessary to support delivery of the Government's statutory 30-month plan-making process. Recommendations 5 and 6 would enable the Council to fulfil the requirements of the Regulations up to, but not including, Gateway 2 (Regulation 26), with approvals delegated to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.

2.18 The arrangements are necessary to comply with a prescribed national timetable. Under the new system, the Council is required to maintain and regularly update a statutory Plan Timetable, publish documents at key milestones, and progress through a series of gateway stages within prescribed timescales. Delegating authority for Scoping Stage (Regulation 20), Gateway 1 (Regulation 21) and consultation on proposed plan content, draft vision and supporting evidence (Regulation 23) will allow the Council to respond promptly to emerging evidence, meet statutory deadlines and maintain momentum in accordance with the approved Plan Timetable.

2.19 The proposed arrangements provide appropriate democratic oversight and are intended to facilitate the effective management of the plan-making process. They do not extend to the determination of substantive planning policy matters which remain the responsibility of Cabinet and Full Council.

2.20 Gateway 2 represents the first formal stage at which observations and advice on the emerging Local Plan are sought from the Planning Inspectorate. It is therefore considered an appropriate point for Cabinet to receive a progress update and, if necessary, consider further delegations for subsequent stages of the process through to Gateway 3 and beyond. Key policy decisions, including the preferred spatial strategy, site allocations, submission of the Local Plan for examination and adoption of the Plan, will continue to be subject to the Council's formal decision-making procedures.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1 (Recommended)

3.1 Approve the commencement of preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan, the publication of the Local Plan Timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence, the establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group, and the proposed delegated authority arrangements to support plan preparation.

This option provides a clear and proportionate governance framework, ensures effective member oversight and engagement throughout the plan-making process, enables statutory requirements and milestones to be met efficiently, and supports the timely preparation and delivery of the Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

Option 2

3.2 Retain existing governance arrangements and require Cabinet approval for all procedural matters.

This option is not recommended because it would cause unnecessary delays and increase the risk of failing to meet statutory milestones. While the Constitution provides a mechanism for calling additional Cabinet meetings to deal with urgent or emergency matters, and for the call-in process to be suspended where appropriate, reliance on these provisions would not provide an efficient or proportionate approach for routine procedural decisions and could still create practical difficulties in meeting required timescales as set out by Government.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The proposed governance arrangements have been developed through discussions with Planning Policy officers, Governance, Legal Services and senior officers. Subject to approval, the Local Plan Steering Group will include representation from Cabinet Members, opposition members and relevant officers.

4.2 The Local Plan itself will be subject to statutory consultation at the Scoping Stage, Plan Content and Evidence Stage and Proposed Plan Consultation Stage, together with engagement throughout the examination process.

4.3 Public engagement in Local Plan preparation will be established in line with Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and Government guidance (see background paper). The methodology and media will be set down in the bespoke Local Plan Community Engagement Strategy.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Government has established a backstop date of 31 December 2026 by which local planning authorities must publish a Notice of Intention to Commence and submit Gateway 1 documentation by 30 April 2027. From the initial Notification to Commence date, all LPAs are essentially now following the same prescribed

statutory timetable for plan-making with the 4-month lead-in time to get ready followed by Gateway 1 and the 30-month process.

5.2 The proposed timetable (set out above in paragraph 2.10) includes commencement of plan preparation by 30 October 2026, Gateway 1 in February 2027, Gateway 2 in early 2028, Gateway 3 in late 2028, submission in January 2029 and adoption during summer 2029.

5.3 Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Cabinet Member supported by the Local Plan Steering Group and Planning Policy Team, will be responsible for implementation of the Local Plan Timetable and governance arrangements.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The preparation of the Local Plan requires officer resources, statutory consultation, evidence studies, legal advice and potential challenge, costs charged by Planning Inspectorates (PINS) for examination, the need for an independent Programme Officer, and so forth.

6.2 On 4 March 2026, Council approved the creation of a £2.2m reserve to fund preparation of the Local Plan, as part of the 2026/27 Budget and Council Tax Report. Expenditure will be incurred in line with the resource plan set out in the officer decision dated 3rd July 2026. It is noted that £2.2m is an estimate and there is risk that costs are higher than this. The drawdown of the reserve each year will reflect the costs incurred in that financial year. Both expenditure and the remaining balance of the reserve will be monitored through the Council's established financial monitoring arrangements, and a specific update will be provided to Cabinet through the Financial Outturn Report annually in July.

6.3 This report also sets out the timeline for the next Local Plan for which work will need to commence in 2034. This cost needs to be built into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

6.4 Where there is a need to procure specialist evidence for certain technical evidence base documents, these must be undertaken in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependent on the route to market) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Local Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. Submission and adoption of the Local Plan remain matters reserved to Full Council.

7.2 The recommended delegation arrangements are limited to procedural and administrative matters required to support Local Plan commencement and preparation and are consistent with the Council's Constitution and the legal requirements for the commencement and the preparation of the Local Plan set out in the Regulations pursuant to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) regulations 2026.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The Local Plan will be led by the Planning Policy Team with support from officers across the Council.

8.2 No direct Human Resources implications arise from this report. Any future staffing requirements will be considered through normal Council processes.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Local Plan will help shape future housing, education, health and community infrastructure provision across the Borough.

9.2 No direct implications arise from the governance proposals contained within this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equality Screening Assessment is included in Appendix 3 of the report, and an Equality Analysis is included in Appendix 4 of the report.

10.2 The Local Plan process includes extensive consultation and engagement opportunities and must have due regard to Equality Act duties throughout its preparation.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment is included in Appendix 5 of the report. A Climate Change Officer has reviewed the assessment (Tracking Reference: CIA 693).

11.2 The decision to commence preparation of a new Local Plan is expected to have an overall positive effect on climate change mitigation and adaptation. At this stage, the climate impacts are largely indirect, as the decision initiates the plan-making process rather than adopting specific planning policies. However, the new Local Plan will play a key role in addressing climate change through the development of future land use, infrastructure and planning policies, and will have a significant influence on carbon emissions, environmental sustainability and climate resilience across the Borough.

11.3 While the decision itself will not directly result in significant greenhouse gas emissions, the new Local Plan will establish the framework for future growth and development. This presents an opportunity to embed policies that support the transition to a low-carbon economy by reducing emissions from buildings, transport and energy use, while promoting renewable and low-carbon energy generation, sustainable travel, green infrastructure and measures to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. Although development facilitated by the Plan may give rise to construction and operational emissions, these impacts can be managed and mitigated through the planning policy framework and development management processes. The climate implications of the emerging Local Plan will be assessed and monitored through the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and supporting evidence base, with ongoing monitoring reported through the Authority Monitoring Report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Preparation of the Local Plan will involve close working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, neighbouring authorities, statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.

12.2 Partners will be engaged through statutory consultation stages and ongoing joint evidence work.

12.3 Local Plan Infrastructure Stakeholder Group and Officer Group will be established.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The principal risk is failure to meet the statutory timetable, leading to programme delays and potential intervention. There is no provision within the Regulations for a longer plan-making timetable. Failure to make satisfactory progress may result in Government intervention. The proposed governance and delegation arrangements are intended to mitigate this risk by enabling timely decision-making throughout the process.

13.2 Further risks include changes to national policy, delays in evidence preparation and dependencies on the emerging Spatial Development Strategy. These will be managed through programme governance and the Local Plan Steering Group.

14. Accountable Officers

Simon Moss, Service Director of Regeneration and Environment

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/09/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/09/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/09/26

Report Author: Emma Ottewell, Head of Planning and Building Control
01709 25 4752 or emma.ottewell@rotherham.gov.uk

Winsze Lam, Assistant Planning Policy Manager
01709 82 2874 or winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Rotherham Local Plan Timetable

About

This timetable has been prepared under Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. It came into effect from 8 July 2026, in line with section 15B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

The new Local Plan Timetable replaces the Local Development Scheme September 2025. The timetable gives expected dates for the important stages of preparing the new Rotherham Local Plan for 2029.

The Council will review the timetable monthly and keep it updated with any changes throughout the course of the Plan's preparation and publish a clear and concise schedule of amendments should any changes be required on the Council's website.

The timetable will also be updated when the Council publish:

- Gateway 1 self-assessment
- Observations or advice received from the Planning Inspectorate under Gateway 2
- Observations or advice received from the Planning Inspectorate under Gateway 3
- The inspector's recommendations and reasons at the end of the independent examination of the plan

The timetable is available for public inspection at the Riverside House (Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE) during normal opening hours and copies are available upon request for members of the public at cost price; please email localplan@rotherham.gov.uk to make an appointment.

Timetable

Regulation	Stage	Dates
19(1)	Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan preparation	30 October 2026
20(1)(b)	Notice of Scoping Consultation	04 January 2027
20(4)	Date by which representations for the Scoping Consultation must be received	25 January 2027
21(3)	Publication of Self-Assessment Summary	26 February 2027
23(1)(a)	Notice of Plan Content and Evidence Consultation	26 July 2027
23(4)	Date by which representations must be received on Plan Content and Evidence Consultation	05 September 2027
26	Commencement of Gateway 2 (Observations and Advice from Planning Inspectorate)	11 January 2028
27(1)(a)	Notice of Proposed Local Plan Consultation	26 June 2028
27(4)	Date by which representations must be received on Proposed Local Plan Consultation	21 August 2028
31	Commencement of Gateway 3 (Prescribed Requirements Assessment from Planning Inspectorate)	06 October 2028
34	Submission of Local Plan for Examination	05 January 2029
39	Adoption	13 July 2029

Appendix 2

Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group

Terms of Reference and Constitution

1. Purpose

The Local Plan Steering Group ("the Group") is established to support the preparation of the new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the adopted Local Development Scheme. (September 2025, Appendix 1).

Unlike the previous plan-making process, the Government has set out a tight 30-month timeframe for the preparation of a new Local Plan. The system includes three Gateways, two rounds of statutory consultation, Gateway assessments by the Planning Inspectorate, examination and adoption. A Local Plan Steering Group with appropriate officer delegated authority can play a critical role in ensuring that Rotherham Council is able to maintain momentum and avoid governance-related delays.

The Group provides a cross-party forum for member engagement, strategic discussion and oversight throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

The Group will oversee the statutory process for the preparation, review and delivery of the Local Plan, including the preparation of associated Local Plan evidence and documents. Its role is to review evidence, consider emerging issues and policy options, monitor progress, identify risks and provide strategic guidance to officers.

The Group is advisory in nature and does not replace the formal decision-making responsibilities of Cabinet or Full Council. Its purpose is to support informed decision-making by ensuring members are actively engaged throughout plan preparation and are able to provide strategic input at key stages of the process.

The Group operates in accordance with:

- The Council's Constitution
- Relevant statutory planning legislations (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2026 and associated regulations)
- The Council's decision-making framework, including Cabinet and Full Council responsibilities

2. Membership

Membership of the Group shall comprise elected members and officers with responsibility for, or an interest in, the preparation of the Local Plan. Core membership shall include:

- Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy (Chair);
- Head of Planning and Building Control (Vice-Chair);
- Leader of the Council or nominated deputy;
- Two representatives from opposition parties;

- Executive Director and senior officers as required;
- Planning Policy Manager and Assistant Planning Policy Managers
- Governance Lead; and
- Nominated Legal Officer.

The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, to prompt the attendance of appropriate Cabinet Members, ward members, parish representatives, specialist officers or external advisers to attend meetings where matters of particular relevance are being considered as required by agenda content. Such attendees shall not be members of the Group unless formally appointed.

Agendas, minutes and supporting papers shall be circulated to relevant officers and departments as appropriate. Attendance arrangements and circulation lists shall be reviewed periodically by the Chair in consultation with the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

3. Constitutional Status and Decision-Making

The Group is an advisory member body established to provide oversight and guidance during the preparation of the Local Plan. It has no executive, regulatory or decision-making powers. Formal decisions shall be taken in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.

Minutes of the meeting are to be included on Planning Board agendas for information.

Working alongside the Steering Group, the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy has limited delegated authority for certain procedural and administrative matters associated with the Local Plan process. These delegations are intended to support efficient programme management and maintain progress through the statutory plan-making timetable. Delegated powers shall not extend to substantive planning policy decisions:

- to approve updates to the Local Plan Timetable throughout the duration of the plan-making process, and as required, in line with Regulation 6
- to approve, publish and submit all documents relating to, and required by, the statutory 'Scoping Stage' (Regulation 20)
- to approve for publication and submission all documents relating to and required by Gateway 1 (Regulation 21)
- to agree the content of and commencement of Consultation: Proposed Local Plan content and required evidence, including draft vision (Regulation 23)

The Group enables Cabinet and Full Council to focus on major policy decisions at the appropriate statutory stages. Development Plan Documents form part of the Council's Policy Framework. All significant planning policy decisions shall remain reserved to Cabinet and/or Full Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution. These include, but are not limited to:

- The preferred spatial strategy;
- Housing and employment land requirements;
- Site allocation options;
- Publication of the Local Plan;
- Submission of the Local Plan for examination; and
- Adoption of the Local Plan.

The Group shall provide recommendations and advice to Strategic Leadership Team, Cabinet and Full Council as appropriate, whilst supporting effective governance and member engagement throughout the Local Plan process.

Major issues may be dealt with in briefing sessions for all Council Members or reported to the appropriate scrutiny committee as required.

4. Decision Gateway and Process

Stage	RMBC Decision Gateway
Gateway 1 - Readiness	Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
Gateway 2 – Emerging Plan	Cabinet
Gateway 3 – Draft Plan Consultation	Cabinet
Submit Plan for Examination	Full Council
Examination management, hearings, statements, evidence responses	Officers and / or Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
Main Modifications consultation	Officers and / or Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
Adopt Local Plan	Full Council

Details of each stage are set out in Appendix 1.

5. Role and Functions

The Group will play an important role to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations are fulfilled.

Preparation of a Local Plan requires numerous procedural decisions between statutory milestones, including:

- Commissioning evidence studies
- Agreeing consultation material
- Approving stakeholder engagement activity
- Responding to Gateway recommendations
- Agreeing updates to the programme
- Authorising consultation documents
- Approving technical corrections and evidence updates
- Responding to Inspector requests during examination

The Group has responsibility to:

- Provide strategic oversight of Local Plan preparation
- Request and review reports, evidence and policy options
- Provide steer on options and consultation approaches
- Identify risks and delivery challenges
- Make recommendations to SLT, Cabinet and full Council
- Ensure compliance with statutory and national planning requirements

The Group will ensure the Council can respond quickly on additional evidence requirements, policy revisions, further engagement needs and programme changes.

6. Meetings and Quorum

The Local Plan Steering Group will ordinarily meet on a monthly basis.

Additional meetings may be convened by the Chair where required to consider significant policy matters, statutory consultation stages, Gateway requirements, examination matters or other issues affecting the delivery of the Local Plan programme.

This arrangement will ensure:

- It aligns with key project management milestones.
- It allows members to influence emerging policy before formal decisions are required.
- It provides regular oversight of risks, budget, evidence studies and consultation outcomes.
- It promotes early engagement on key issues, reducing the need for last-minute consideration when reports are presented to Cabinet or Full Council.

The quorum for meetings of the Local Plan Steering Group shall be five members or 50% of the appointed membership, whichever is the greater.

Where the Chair is absent, the Vice-Chair shall preside. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, members present may appoint a Chair for that meeting.

Meetings that are inquorate may receive information and discuss matters but may not make recommendations on significant policy issues.

7. Reporting and Scrutiny

The Governance Lead shall be a standing adviser to the Local Plan Steering Group and shall:

- provide assurance regarding constitutional compliance, decision-making processes, delegated authority, transparency, risk management, scrutiny engagement and reporting arrangements.
- maintain oversight of governance risks and shall advise the Chair, Cabinet, Full Council and the Monitoring Officer on matters affecting delivery of the Local Plan programme and compliance with the Council's constitutional requirements.

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board will provide check and challenge through its usual function and may, for example:

- review governance arrangements;
- review programme performance;
- monitor risks;
- test stakeholder engagement;
- consider implementation of Inspector recommendations.

The Group reports to Cabinet, and decisions may be subject to Overview & Scrutiny Management Board review and call-in.

The Group will advise and propose to update Cabinet before the local plan process reaches Gateway 2 (Reg 26) stage, which is the point at which initial observations and advice on the proposed Local Plan are sought from the Planning Inspectorate. This is an appropriate point to update Cabinet on progress and to agree delegations for the next stages of the process to Gateway 3 (Reg 31) stage and beyond.

Planning Board and Overview & Scrutiny Management Board will be updated and consulted at appropriate stages throughout the process.

Report	Frequency
Programme status report	Six-monthly
Gateway readiness update	Prior to Gateway 2 and Gateway 3
Examination progress report	Following hearings
Main Modifications update	As required
Lessons learned review	Following adoption

8. Officer Responsibilities

Officers shall provide professional planning, legal, financial and technical advice to the Steering Group; prepare reports, evidence and recommendations; ensure compliance with statutory plan-making requirements; manage engagement with stakeholders and the Planning Inspectorate; and implement actions arising from decisions of the Steering Group, Cabinet and Council.

Officers act under delegated powers and must ensure decisions are lawful and evidence-based.

Officers should not make the political decisions about the spatial strategy, site allocations or policy direction. Those decisions are reserved to Cabinet and/or Full Council as required by the Constitution.

Details of officers' responsibilities are set out in Appendix 2.

9. Transparency

The Group shall operate in accordance with Access to Information Rules and the Guidance in relation to the Member Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 3.

10. Duration

The Group shall operate for the life of the Local Plan preparation process with the Local Plan anticipate being adopted in mid-2029.

Appendix 1 - Decision Gateway and Process

Gateway 1: Readiness Assessment (Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy approval)

Gateway 1 is a local authority self-assessment of readiness to commence the formal 30-month plan preparation process. The authority must:

- Publish a Local Plan timetable.
- Have governance and project management arrangements in place.
- Have undertaken the required notice and scoping consultation.
- Publish a Gateway 1 self-assessment summary.

The regulations do not prescribe a specific council body that must approve Gateway 1, advice sought from the Local Plan Steering Group would be take into account when seeking approval from **Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member.Gateway 2: Assessment of Emerging Plan (Cabinet approval)**

Gateway 2 occurs after consultation on proposed content/evidence and before consultation on the proposed Local Plan. It is assessed by a Planning Inspector acting as a Gateway Assessor. The purpose is to:

- Consider progress towards a sound plan.
- Identify potential soundness issues.
- Review progress towards prescribed requirements.
- Provide observations and advice that the authority must have regard to going forward.

Before entering Gateway 2, officers should obtain approval from the **Cabinet** to:

- Approve the draft evidence base and emerging strategy.
- Authorise submission to Gateway 2.

Gateway 3: Pre-submission Compliance Assessment (Cabinet and Full Council approval)

Gateway 3 takes place after the final consultation on the proposed Local Plan and before submission for examination. The Gateway 3 assessor tests whether:

- Prescribed legal requirements have been met.
- The authority is practically ready for examination.
- The plan can proceed to examination.

A plan that fails Gateway 3 cannot proceed to examination until deficiencies are corrected. A plan that passes Gateway 3 must then be submitted for examination.

Cabinet recommends publication of the proposed Local Plan for the final consultation.

Following consultation and Gateway 3, **Full Council** authorises submission of the Local Plan for examination.

Examination (Officers, Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member approval)

Once submitted, the examination is controlled by the appointed Inspector. The Inspector examines whether the Plan is sound and during the examination there are often decisions about:

- responding to Inspector questions;
- Statements of Common Ground;
- hearing session participation;
- consultation on Main Modifications;
- evidence updates.

These should be resolved within **executive and officer** functions under delegated powers.

Main Modifications (Officers, Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member approval approval)

If the Inspector concludes that Main Modifications are needed, the Council will need authority to:

- consult on the Main Modifications;
- submit consultation responses back to the Inspector.

Delegated authority from Full Council would be sought at submission stage, to the **Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member**, to deal with modifications that arise during examination.

Adoption of Local Plan (Full Council approval)

Once the Inspector has issued a report recommending adoption (with or without Main Modifications), adoption of the Local Plan amends the Development Plan and therefore falls within the Policy Framework reserved to **Full Council**.

Appendix 2 – Officer Responsibilities

Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment

- Corporate sponsorship of the Local Plan.
- Securing resources and cross-council support.
- Resolving strategic issues affecting delivery.
- Acting as the senior accountable officer for the plan-making programme.
- Decision making in consultation with the Cabinet Member to approve updates to the Timetable throughout the duration of the plan-making process, and as required (in line with Regulation 6) and to approve, publish and submit all documents relating to, and required by, the statutory 'Scoping Stage' (Regulation 20)

Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment / Head of Planning & Building Control

- Providing senior management oversight.
- Ensuring the Local Plan aligns with wider corporate objectives.
- Escalating key issues to Strategic Leadership Team, Cabinet and Council.
- Acting as the principal professional adviser to Elected Members.

Planning Policy Manager / Assistant Planning Policy Managers

- Project managing Local Plan preparation.
- Preparing reports for the Steering Group, Cabinet and Council.
- Coordinating consultants and technical studies.
- Managing the Local Plan programme and timetable.
- Reporting progress against Gateway requirements and examination milestones.
- Identifying risks, budget pressures and resource requirements.

Governance Lead

- Advise whether matters are: Steering Group business; Cabinet business; Full Council business; Officer delegated decisions.
- Ensure compliance with the Council's Constitution and decisions do not inadvertently exceed delegated powers.
- Advise on Policy Framework implications.
- Monitor whether governance arrangements support delivery of the 30-month timetable.
- Ensure recommendations are clear and legally robust.
- Verify that decisions are properly recorded and confirm audit trails exist for key decisions.

Legal Services

- Advising on statutory requirements.
- Ensuring compliance with:
    - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
    - Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023;
    - Local Planning Regulations;
    - Council Constitution;
    - Public law requirements.
- Reviewing reports, consultation processes and examination procedures.
- Advising on legal risks and challenge.

Democratic Services

- Noting minutes and action logs.
- Managing decision-making procedures.
- Coordinating Cabinet and Full Council approvals.

Specialist Officers

Their role is to provide technical evidence and advice relevant to Local Plan policies.

Depending on agenda items, these may include:

- Development Management representatives
- Housing Strategy officers
- Economic development officers
- Transport officers
- Climate change officers
- Education and infrastructure officers
- Finance officers
- Corporate communication officers

Appendix 3 – Guidance in relation to the Member Code of Conduct for Local Plan Steering Group

Purpose

The Local Plan Steering Group has been established to provide member oversight, strategic direction and informed input into the preparation, review and monitoring of the Local Plan.

Members of the Steering Group are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct, integrity and transparency to ensure that Local Plan preparation is fair, lawful, evidence-led and undertaken in the public interest.

This Code supplements the Council's adopted Members' Code of Conduct and should be read alongside the Council Constitution, Planning Protocol and any related guidance. The Local Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and is therefore a matter of significant public interest.

General Principles

Members shall:

- Act in the public interest at all times.
- Promote and maintain public confidence in the Local Plan process.
- Support lawful and evidence-based decision-making.
- Treat fellow members, officers, consultees and stakeholders with respect.
- Demonstrate openness, accountability and integrity.
- Avoid conduct which could bring the Council or the Local Plan process into disrepute.

Role of the Steering Group

Members shall recognise that the Steering Group:

- Provides strategic oversight of Local Plan preparation.
- Considers evidence, options and emerging policies.
- Makes recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council where appropriate.
- Does not determine planning applications.
- Does not replace the formal decision-making role of Cabinet or Full Council.
- Does not fetter the discretion of members when participating in future Council decisions.

Evidence-Led Decision Making

Members shall:

- Consider all evidence presented objectively and with an open mind.
- Have regard to professional planning advice.
- Ensure that recommendations are based upon planning evidence and sound planning principles.

- Avoid advocating outcomes that are unsupported by evidence or contrary to legal requirements.

Members should be prepared to reconsider previously expressed views in response to new evidence, consultation responses or legal advice.

Pre-determination and Pre-disposition

Members may hold preliminary views on Local Plan matters but must:

- Remain open-minded throughout the plan-making process.
- Consider all relevant evidence before reaching conclusions.
- Avoid making public statements that indicate they have finally determined their position on matters yet to be considered by the Steering Group, Cabinet or Full Council.

Members should recognise the distinction between:

- Predisposition – having an initial view; and
- Predetermination – having a closed mind.

Only the latter is inappropriate.

Relationship with Planning Applications

Members shall recognise that:

- Local Plan preparation and development management are separate functions.
- Site allocations considered through the Local Plan process do not predetermine future planning application decisions.
- Participation in Local Plan discussions does not prevent participation in planning application decisions, provided members remain able to consider each application on its merits.

Interests and Transparency

Members must:

- Declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other registerable interests in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
- Declare any additional interests relevant to Local Plan matters.
- Withdraw from discussions where required by the Council's Code of Conduct or legal advice.
- Be open and transparent about meetings or communications that could reasonably be perceived as influencing the Local Plan process.

Engagement with Developers, Landowners and Stakeholders

Members may engage with stakeholders as part of their representative role. However, they shall:

- Listen to views without giving commitments or assurances.
- Avoid creating an expectation that particular sites, policies or proposals will be supported.

- Ensure that significant representations received outside formal consultation processes are shared with officers where appropriate.
- Not seek or accept any gift, hospitality or benefit that could reasonably be perceived as influencing their judgement.

Confidentiality

Members shall:

- Respect the confidential status of exempt or legally privileged information.
- Not disclose confidential information obtained through Steering Group meetings unless authorised to do so.
- Use confidential information only for its intended purpose.

Members should recognise that some evidence, legal advice or commercially sensitive information may be circulated in confidence.

Working with Officers

Members shall:

- Treat officers with courtesy and respect.
- Respect the professional neutrality of officers.
- Not place officers under pressure to reach a particular conclusion.
- Recognise that officers are responsible for providing impartial professional advice.

Challenges to officer recommendations should be made constructively and through proper channels.

Collective Working

Members shall:

- Participate constructively in meetings.
- Respect differing views.
- Support informed debate.
- Focus discussions on planning merits, evidence and strategic outcomes.

Members should avoid personal criticism of colleagues, officers or stakeholders.

Media and Public Statements

Members remain free to express political views but shall:

- Distinguish clearly between personal views and formally agreed Council positions.
- Avoid making statements that could undermine public confidence in the integrity of the Local Plan process.
- Refrain from announcing outcomes before formal decisions have been made.

The Chair should normally act as the principal spokesperson for the Steering Group unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

Attendance and Preparation

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings regularly.
- Read agenda papers in advance.
- Participate actively in discussions.
- Undertake any training relevant to Local Plan preparation and planning law.

Members who are unable to attend should notify Democratic Services in advance wherever possible.

Breaches of this Code

Any alleged breach of this Code shall be referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration.
The Monitoring Officer may:

- Provide informal guidance;
- Recommend further training;
- Refer the matter to the Standards and Ethics Committee where appropriate; or
- Take any other action available under the Council's constitutional arrangements.

Member Commitment

Members appointed to the Local Plan Steering Group are expected to sign the following declaration:

> **I acknowledge that preparation of the Local Plan is one of the Council's most significant strategic functions. I agree to comply with this Local Plan Steering Group Member Code of Conduct, the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, and all relevant legal and constitutional requirements in carrying out my responsibilities as a member of the Local Plan Steering Group.**

Member:
Signature:
Date:

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: Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area:** Planning Policy
Lead person: Winsze Lam Assistant Planning Policy Manager	**Contact:** 01709 82 2874 winsze.lam@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This screening relates to a Cabinet report seeking approval to commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The report seeks approval of the Local Plan Timetable, publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence, establishment of a Local Plan Steering Group and delegated authority arrangements to support preparation of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan will guide future development, infrastructure provision and land use decisions across the borough and will be subject to statutory consultation and engagement throughout its preparation.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

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

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

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

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

The report establishes the governance arrangements for the preparation of a new Local Plan. Consideration has been given to equality and diversity through the proposed statutory consultation and engagement processes, which will seek participation from a wide range of communities and stakeholders across the borough.

The publication format of the Local Plan timetable will be in accordance with Government's specific requirement and is in compliance to accessibility standard.

The report recognises that the Local Plan process must comply with Equality Act duties and that consultation arrangements will be designed to reach a diverse range of residents and stakeholders.

The Local Plan itself will be accompanied by equality impact assessment work as it progresses through plan preparation.

- **Key findings**

The governance arrangement, publishing Local Plan timetable do not directly impact any protected characteristic group.

However, the Local Plan will ultimately influence housing delivery, infrastructure provision, accessibility to services, transport, health, education and community facilities across the borough. Consequently, there is potential for future impacts on groups with protected characteristics and vulnerable communities. Effective consultation and engagement will be important to ensure all communities have opportunities to participate in the plan-making process.

- **Actions**

Undertake a full Equality Analysis (Part B) as the Local Plan progresses.

Ensure consultation methods are accessible and available through a range of formats and channels.

Engage with protected characteristic groups and representative organisations throughout Local Plan preparation.

Continue to assess equality impacts at key plan-making stages, including Scoping Consultation, Plan Content and Evidence Consultation, and Draft Plan Consultation.

Reflect equality considerations in the Local Plan Community Engagement Strategy.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	28 August 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	28 August 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Winsze Lam Assistant Planning Policy Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director	09/09/2026
Councillor Williams	Cabinet Member	14/09/2026

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	28 August 2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority 12 October 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet Meeting: 12 October 2026, to be sent for publication with the Cabinet report.
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	28 August 2026

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

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

This form:

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

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

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

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 28 August 2026	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area:** Planning Policy
Lead Manager: Emma Ottewell Head of Planning and Building Control	**Contact number:** 01709 254752
Is this a: [x] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Emma Ottewell	RMBC	Head of Planning and Building Control
Winsze Lam	RMBC	Assistant Planning Policy Manager
Helen Sleigh	RMBC	Assistant Planning Policy 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, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

This report seeks approval to commence preparation of a new Rotherham Local Plan, approve the Local Plan Timetable, establish a Local Plan Steering Group and approve delegated authority arrangements required under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The proposal affects all residents, businesses, community organisations and stakeholders across the borough, as the Local Plan will ultimately shape future development, housing, employment, infrastructure and environmental policies.

The intended outcome is to ensure the Council complies with statutory plan-making requirements and maintains an up-to-date development plan.

Call for Sites engagement undertaken in June 2026 via Citizenspace and future statutory consultation stages will be subject to a Community and Engagement Strategy for:

- Scoping Consultation.
- Plan Content and Evidence Consultation.
- Proposed Local Plan Consultation.

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

- 2021 Census data for Rotherham showing an ageing population profile, varying levels of disability and long-term health conditions, and diverse ethnic and faith communities across the borough.
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation and socio-economic data identifying significant areas of deprivation and health inequality within the borough.
- Housing needs evidence demonstrating requirements for affordable housing, specialist accommodation for older people, accessible and adaptable homes, and provision for different household types.
- Existing Local Plan evidence relating to transport accessibility, access to services, employment opportunities, environmental quality and health outcomes.
- Previous Local Plan consultation responses and Call for Sites submissions received during June and July 2026.

- National planning policy and guidance which requires local planning authorities to consider the needs of different groups within the community when preparing development plans.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?
At this commencement stage, detailed equality impacts of future planning policies cannot yet be fully assessed as policy content has not been prepared. Further equality evidence and consultation responses will be gathered throughout plan preparation.

Whilst baseline equality information is available, more detailed evidence regarding the potential impacts of emerging policy options on protected groups will be developed as the Local Plan progresses. Further engagement and consultation responses will help identify specific barriers, needs and opportunities for different communities. All further information gained throughout the consultation process will be included in future equality documentation when updates on the Local Plan are reported to Cabinet.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?
Equality impacts will be monitored throughout preparation of the Local Plan through:

- Monitoring participation rates and consultation responses from a broad range of communities and protected groups where information is available.
- Reviewing consultation feedback to identify any barriers to participation or unintended adverse impacts.
- Assessing equality implications as evidence studies and policy options are developed.
- Reporting findings through the Local Plan Steering Group and Council governance arrangements.
- Updating Equality Analysis documentation at key milestones, including consultation stages and before formal decision points.
- Monitoring whether consultation methods remain accessible and inclusive and making adjustments where necessary.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	A borough-wide Call for Sites exercise was undertaken between June and July 2026 as part of the evidence gathering stage for the new Local Plan. It is also proposed to extend this process until the end of 2026. The exercise was promoted through the Council's website, social media channels and communications with stakeholders including landowners, developers, statutory consultees and interested members of the public. The exercise sought information on land that may be available for future development and helped establish an initial understanding of development opportunities across the borough. The responses received will inform future evidence gathering and assessment work but did not involve decisions on site allocation or planning policy. Further public consultation will be undertaken during the preparation of the Local Plan, including:

	• Scoping Consultation. • Plan Content and Evidence Consultation. • Proposed Local Plan Consultation. These stages will provide opportunities for residents, businesses, community organisations and groups representing people with protected characteristics to influence the content of the Local Plan.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Discussions have taken place during July and August 2026 with Planning Policy officers, Legal Services, Governance, Equalities colleagues and senior officers regarding: • The statutory requirements introduced through the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. • Appropriate governance and decision-making arrangements. • Timetable requirements for preparation of a new Local Plan. • Approaches to consultation and engagement. • Ensuring equality considerations are embedded throughout plan preparation. These discussions have informed the governance structure, delegated authority arrangements and proposed engagement approach set out in the report.

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 report itself relates to governance, decision-making and procedural arrangements required to commence preparation of a new Local Plan. The proposals do not directly change planning policy or development outcomes. However, the Local Plan that will emerge from this process will influence matters that are particularly important for people with protected characteristics, including: • Suitable and accessible housing for older people and disabled residents. • Access to employment opportunities. • Access to healthcare, education and community facilities. • Public transport connectivity and active travel opportunities. • Design of safe and inclusive places. • Access to green infrastructure and environmental improvements. The governance arrangements, timetable and consultation processes proposed by this report create opportunities for all communities to participate in plan preparation and ensure equality considerations can be incorporated as policy options are developed and assessed.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?
No significant barriers have been identified from the governance, timetable and delegation arrangements proposed in this report.

Potential barriers may arise during future consultation activities if engagement methods are not accessible to all groups. These risks will be addressed through the Local Plan Community Engagement Strategy and ongoing equality assessment.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?
Yes. Although the report itself establishes governance arrangements rather than planning policies, it enables preparation of a Local Plan that can positively influence equality outcomes across the borough.

Potential positive impacts include:

- Supporting delivery of housing that meets a wider range of needs, including affordable, accessible and adaptable homes.
- Providing opportunities to improve access to employment, education, health services and community facilities.
- Supporting investment in transport infrastructure and sustainable travel options that improve accessibility.
- Promoting inclusive design principles which help create safer and more accessible places.
- Ensuring all communities have opportunities to influence future planning policies through consultation and engagement.
- Supporting compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty throughout preparation of the Local Plan.

The proposed Community Engagement Strategy will help reduce barriers to participation by promoting accessible and inclusive consultation methods.

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)*

A positive effect is anticipated.
The Local Plan process provides structured opportunities for residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders to engage in discussions about the future development of the borough. Transparent consultation and engagement activities can help build understanding of different needs and priorities across communities.
Opportunities will be provided through formal consultation stages, online engagement and targeted stakeholder engagement activities. Feedback received through these processes will help inform policy development and ensure a broad range of views are considered during plan preparation.

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

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

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

Title of analysis: Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Planning Policy
Lead Manager: Emma Ottewell
Summary of findings:
The report relates primarily to governance, procedural and administrative arrangements necessary to commence preparation of a new Local Plan. No direct adverse equality impacts have been identified. The future Local Plan itself may have significant impacts on people with protected characteristics through decisions relating to housing, employment, transport, infrastructure and services. Consequently, equality considerations will continue to be embedded throughout plan preparation and consultation. Appropriate monitoring and engagement arrangements will ensure that groups with protected characteristics are able to participate meaningfully in the process and that equality impacts are assessed as policy options emerge.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Prepare accessible Community Engagement Strategy for Local Plan consultations	All	01/27
Undertake equality review at each statutory consultation stage	All	Ongoing

Monitor consultation responses and participation by protected groups where possible	All	Throughout plan preparation
Update Equality Analysis as policy options emerge and before major decision stages	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
Emma Ottewell	Head of Planning and Building Control	28 August 2026
Simon Moss	Service Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport	08/09/2026

7. Publishing

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

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

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

Date Equality Analysis completed	28 August 2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Local Plan: Timetable, Governance Arrangements and Delegated Authority Cabinet, 12 October 2026
Date report sent for publication	07 September 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement **equality@rotherham.gov.uk**	28 August 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?	Decrease		The new Local Plan will provide the policy framework for future employment and commercial development and can include policies to improve energy efficiency, support renewable energy generation, low-carbon heating and sustainable design standards. This has the potential to reduce operational emissions from new non-domestic development.	Climate-related Local Plan policies will be informed by the evidence base, Sustainability Appraisal and examination process.	Monitoring can be undertaken through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) upon Local Plan Adoption.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown		The Local Plan can influence the location of future development, encouraging development in sustainable locations and supporting active travel and public transport. This may help reduce reliance on private car travel and associated emissions.	Transport evidence and infrastructure planning will inform the Plan. Monitoring through plan indicators and AMR reporting.	Monitoring can be undertaken through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) upon Local Plan Adoption.

Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown		The Local Plan can support circular economy principles, waste reduction, recycling infrastructure and sustainable construction practices.	Waste-related policies and monitoring indicators incorporated within the Plan and supporting evidence base.	Annual monitoring based on the indicators and work strategically with SYLPAs and SYMCA.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease		The new Local Plan will determine where housing growth takes place and can include policies relating to energy efficiency, low-carbon design, renewable energy and climate resilience, helping to reduce future residential emissions.	Sustainability Appraisal, and viability testing.	Annual monitoring of housing delivery and policy effectiveness through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) upon Local Plan Adoption.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Unknown		Preparing a new Local Plan is likely to facilitate future development which will generate embodied carbon and construction-related emissions. However, policies within the Plan can seek to minimise these impacts through sustainable construction standards and development management requirements.	Consider inclusion of policies promoting sustainable construction methods, resource efficiency and reduced embodied carbon.	Monitor through planning permissions and AMR reporting.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Increase		The Local Plan can protect and enhance green infrastructure, woodland, peat, biodiversity and urban tree cover, contributing to	Green infrastructure and possible carbon emission assessment policies.	Local Sites and biodiversity monitoring through the AMR and associated strategies.

			carbon sequestration while also improving resilience to climate change.		

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

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?
The decision to commence preparation of a new Local Plan is expected to have a positive impact on the Borough's resilience to climate change. The Local Plan provides the opportunity to incorporate policies addressing flood risk, overheating, water management, green infrastructure, biodiversity enhancement and climate adaptation measures. This will help ensure that future development is resilient to the increasing risks associated with extreme weather, including flooding and heatwaves.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The decision to commence preparation of a new Local Plan is expected to have an overall positive effect on climate change mitigation and adaptation. At this stage, the climate impacts are largely indirect, as the decision initiates the plan-making process rather than adopting specific planning policies. However, the new Local Plan will play a key role in addressing climate change through the development of future land use, infrastructure and planning policies, and will have a significant influence on carbon emissions, environmental sustainability and climate resilience across the Borough.

While the decision itself will not directly result in significant greenhouse gas emissions, the new Local Plan will establish the framework for future growth and development. This presents an opportunity to embed policies that support the transition to a low-carbon economy by reducing emissions from buildings, transport and energy use, while promoting renewable and low-carbon energy generation, sustainable travel, green infrastructure and measures to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. Although development facilitated by the Plan may give rise to construction and operational emissions, these impacts can be managed and mitigated through the planning policy framework and development management processes. The climate implications of the emerging Local Plan will be assessed and monitored through the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and supporting evidence base, with ongoing monitoring reported through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Winsze Lam

	Assistant Planning Policy Manager Planning Policy, Planning & Building Control Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	N/A
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 693 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer