

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time:- Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 1.30 p.m.

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

Membership:- Councillors McKiernan (Chair), Tinsley (Vice-Chair), Adair, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, Cowen, Duncan, Garnett, Jackson, Jones, Mault, Rashid, Stables, Taylor, Thorp, Mrs Kay Bacon and Mrs M. Jacques.

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

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2026 (Pages 3 - 21)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2026 as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Questions from members of the public and the press

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

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

during consideration of any part of the agenda.

6. Improving Places Select Commission - Terms of Reference (Pages 22 - 23)

Shared for information purposes only.

7. Health, Welfare and Safety Panel - Representative from the Improving Places Select Commission (Pages 24 - 25)

To seek a representative from the Improving Places Select Commission to sit as a member on the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel.

8. Housing Strategy 2025-30 Progress Report Year 1 (2025-26) (Pages 26 - 52)

To receive and consider the Housing Strategy 2025-30 Progress Report Year 1 (2025-26), which provides an update on progress in delivering the Housing Strategy 2025-2030 during year one (from April 2025 to March 2026).

9. Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (Pages 53 - 64)

To receive a presentation on the development of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, following the Workshop held with IPSC Members in April 2026.

10. Improving Places Select Commission - Work Programme 2026 - 2027 (Pages 65 - 67)

To consider and endorse the outline schedule of scrutiny work for the 2026-2027 municipal year.

11. Urgent Business

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

**The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission
will be held on Tuesday 1 September 2026
commencing at 1.30 p.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



John Edwards,
Chief Executive

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 21 April 2026

Present:- Councillor McKiernan (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Allen, Jackson, Mrs M. Jacques, Jones, Lelliott, Mault, Rashid, Sheppard, Stables, Thorp and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adair, Beck and Taylor and Mrs Kay Bacon.

The following officers and partners were also in attendance:-

Councillor Lynda Marshall - Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces
Councillor John Williams - Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & the Local Economy
Councillor Brian Steele – Chair of Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd
Andrew Bramidge - Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Polly Hamilton - Service Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism
Charlotte Evans - Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd
Jon Hinchliffe - Green Spaces Manager
Kevin Burke - Principal Officer, Creative Programming & Visitor Experience
Helen Sleight – Assistant Planning Policy Manager
Martin Hughes – Head of Neighbourhoods
Megan Hinchliff - Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager

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

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

57. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2026

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2026 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sheppard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 61 (Allotments Annual Update 2025) on the grounds that they held a Board Member position on the Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd and therefore would not ask any questions on this item or vote on any recommendations.

59. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

60. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda

that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

61. ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL UPDATE 2025

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces (Cabinet Member), introduced the item and welcomed Charlotte Evans from the Rotherham Allotment Alliance Ltd (RAA) and Councillor Steele, Chair of the RAA, to the meeting.

Councillor Steele explained the background to the RAA, a co-operative, non-profit organisation. The RAA was established as a limited company in 2020 and took over the management of council-owned allotments on behalf of the council from this date.

Councillor Steele reported that the RAA was still waiting to complete the lease arrangements associated with the transfer of allotment sites into long-term self-management by the RAA. This delay had been due to legal complexities but officers at the RAA and the council had been working with solicitors to try and resolve outstanding issues.

It was explained to Members that the RAA managed its own budget and expenditure and all administration associated with the letting of allotments was managed by Charlotte Evans. There were 10 directors on the Board of the RAA, two of which were specialist directors and two were RMBC councillors. The shareholders of the RAA were the allotments holders and £1 of their first rent payment entitled them to a share in the RAA and allowed them to attend and vote at the RAA's annual general meeting and other shareholders meetings.

Councillor Steele further explained that the RAA had two different types of allotments – those that were directly managed by the RAA and those which were managed under "Societies", which managed the allotments on the RAA's behalf. Each Society had a small committee, a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and two other members and would manage the site and collect rents themselves. These Societies received a reduction in their rents to reflect the cost-saving to RAA in them managing these issues themselves.

Jon Hinchcliffe, Green Spaces Manager, reiterated to Members that the delays experienced in completing the lease were due to technical legal reasons rather than operational reasons, and assured Members that all sites continued to be effectively and safely managed by the RAA in the meantime. Whilst responsibility for management sat with the RAA, the council retained oversight and ongoing assurance through annual reporting and monthly meetings. Once the lease was finalised, the long-term self-management of allotments by the RAA across the borough would be fully embedded.

The Chair invited Members of IPSC to raise questions and queries on the Allotment Annual Update 2025 and in the ensuing question and answer

session the following points were raised:-

Councillor Allen referred to the difficulties in filling vacancies on the Board and asked how the RAA approached the recruitment of new directors. Councillor Steele responded that the allotment holders themselves generally came forward to sit on the Board. There were two spaces on the Board for members with more specialist knowledge, in areas such as Finance and Health & Safety. The Board had recently lost its Health & Safety specialist, but Councillor Sheppard had stepped up to take on this role temporarily until another Health & Safety specialist could be found. Councillor Steele stressed the importance of this role as the biggest health & safety issue in dealing with allotments was asbestos.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Allen asked whether the RAA had considered having a stall at the annual Housing Service Tenant Conference, which was usually held at the New York Stadium. Councillor Allen commented that a presence at this event could drum up more interest and awareness in the RAA and any vacancies on the Board.

Councillor Steele confirmed that the RAA always had a stall at the Rotherham Show, within the agricultural tent, and asked for representatives from the allotments to attend. The RAA also worked with the Neighbourhood teams in the northern areas of the borough where most of the allotments were – for example, Rawmarsh, Wath, Clifton Park, and Kimberworth.

In a further question, Councillor Allen asked for more information about the concerns referred to at page 53 of the Agenda Pack regarding the contract for routine grass-cutting with the council, and the outcome of recent discussions on this. Councillor Steele confirmed that some discussions had taken place with Jon Hinchliffe's team but that more discussions were needed to try and resolve the issues under the contract. These issues were largely that some fences had been damaged when grass and allotment hedges had been cut. This had led to complaints from the allotments about the damage caused. Fences were often needed for security and the damage would need to be rectified. There were also issues regarding overhanging trees but under the agreement with the council, the RAA was not allowed to trim or cut any trees without the council's permission.

Jon Hinchliffe provided a further update on the grounds maintenance contract with Neil Archer's team at the council. Neil Archer had been asked to attend future monthly meetings with the RAA and the council in order to try and resolve these issues.

The Chair enquired about the status of the Board vacancy to be filled by RMBC. Councillor Steele explained that this vacancy was referred to in the 2024 Annual Report and had now been filled by Councillor Sheppard. Councillor Marshall occupied a Board position as Cabinet Member and portfolio holder for Allotments, and Councillor Sheppard held the other

RMBC appointed Board position.

Co-optee Mrs M. Jacques, commented that the Tenant Conference which Councillor Allen had referred to was currently being planned and that details of the relevant contacts could be provided if the RAA wished to attend in future.

In a further question, Mrs M. Jacques asked who was responsible for any asbestos found on allotment sites. Jon Hinchliffe responded that the Grounds Maintenance teams would be responsible for safe removal of any asbestos. Councillor Steele further confirmed that where asbestos was found on any allotment site, the RAA would immediately contact specialist contractors to ensure that it was removed and disposed of safely. The RAA had a clear Asbestos Policy for health and safety compliance. Mrs M. Jacques asked whether the RAA would cover the cost of removal and Councillor Steele confirmed that the RAA would be responsible for the cost but had occasionally sought support and grants from the council to help with this.

Councillor Thorp asked why the spread of allotments that came under the RAA were largely in the north of the borough and why allotments in other areas such as Whiston, didn't come under the management of the RAA. Councillor Steele explained that some allotment holders wanted to manage themselves as a Society and that in these instances, the RAA would provide them with a set of standard Society rules to follow. If a Society came under the umbrella of the RAA, it would be expected that minutes of its Annual General Meeting and financial details were provided to the RAA for oversight. Societies would be responsible for their own sites and managing tenants but there was an appeals process for the allocation of allotments, and any disputes would be dealt with via the RAA.

The Chair asked for clarification on whether all allotments which came under the RAA and were covered by the Annual Reports were under council ownership. Councillor Steele confirmed that all allotments covered by the reports were ultimately owned by RMBC and overall oversight and management was undertaken by the RAA, but that the Societies also managed certain aspects of some allotments on the RAA's behalf.

Councillor Thorp asked who owned and was responsible for other allotments within the borough that were not covered by the RAA's report. Councillor Steele explained that when the RAA was set up, Parishes within the borough were allowed to retain control of allotments within their areas if they wished to. This had been the case in areas such as Maltby and Whiston. There were also some privately owned allotments within Rotherham.

The Chair asked if the RAA would be interested in taking on management of other allotment sites within the borough. Councillor Steele commented that it would depend on what state the allotments were in and confirmed

that the RAA were currently in discussions about taking over management of a site that had been within the Wentworth Estate, Sandymount allotments in Wath. Work needed to be carried out by the council first to put these allotments back to a standard that the RAA would be willing to take over.

Councillor Jones asked whether, given the high demand for allotment places in the area, consideration had been given to looking at bringing the other side of South Side allotments under the management of the RAA. Jon Hinchliffe responded that this could be looked at, depending on the level of work that would need to be carried out to bring the site up to standard.

The Chair thanked officers for their input and members for the questions asked.

Resolved:-

1. That the progress made toward the self-management of allotments in Rotherham, including progress on finalising the lease arrangements between the Council and the RAA be noted; and
2. That the progress made by the RAA during 2024 and 2025, as set out in the Annual Reports at Appendices 1 and 2 be noted.

62. SOUTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor Marshall, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces (Cabinet Member), introduced the item and explained that in 2021, the new Environment Act had introduced a statutory requirement for the preparation of local nature recovery strategies. South Yorkshire was one of 28 areas in England that had worked on producing a strategy, led by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

The Cabinet Member explained that the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Strategy) sought to identify existing valuable habitats, priority species, priorities for nature recovery and opportunities for enhancing biodiversity across the sub-region. The Strategy had been developed collaboratively with the four South Yorkshire local authorities and the Peak District National Park Planning Authority, alongside voluntary and public sector partners and would provide a strategic evidence base for nature recovery.

The Strategy would not place legal obligations on landowners but would inform planning, support funding bids, influence wider policy, and would help to attract public, voluntary and private sector investment into South Yorkshire's green environment.

Kevin Burke, Principal Officer - Creative Programming & Visitor

Experience (Principal Officer) took Members through the update presentation, highlighting the following points:-

- The origin of the Strategy could be traced back to the 2015 Paris Agreement, where European and world countries agreed to aim for 30% of all land to be under positive management by 2030. The current level in South Yorkshire was reported to be around 15%.
- The Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had been leading on the introduction of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, with the aim of identifying locations to create or improve habitats and provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.
- The Strategy was intended to be community-centred, with the aim of helping communities map out what actions they would need to take to enjoy and interact with their local environments fully.
- It was a statutory requirement for South Yorkshire to produce a Strategy and whilst there was no statutory requirement to implement it, the local planning authority would have to have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy when preparing its next comprehensive local plan, and in taking decisions on planning applications once the Strategy had been approved. The Strategy would provide a basis to build upon. The Principal Officer explained that SYMCA had been working closely with the Planning and Green Spaces teams. Planning would be central to how the Strategy moved forward and there would be a need to consider the existing Local Plans that were already in place in order to try and align priorities.
- The Strategy would provide an opportunity to co-ordinate the response to bio-diversity loss across the South Yorkshire area. It would also encourage action through highlighting opportunities for targeting investment in wildlife creation and could help to guide private investment in nature and carbon markets.
- The Strategy would not provide the ability to force landowners or managers (including the council itself) to make changes to an identified piece of land, nor would it prevent land uses or grant permissions. The Strategy would provide non-binding guidance but could be viewed as an opportunities map for bio-diversity in the South Yorkshire area.
- It was explained that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries globally. There were a number of areas across South Yorkshire that were islands of habitat that could be improved. One of the aims of the Strategy would be to try and connect those corridors to link the islands of habitat up.

- Species abundance had declined by 19% on average, with 1 in 6 species in the UK threatened with extinction. The Strategy would provide a positive opportunity to pull people and organisations together to protect and increase wildlife populations and habitats.
- An example of recent work carried out in Rotherham in joining two ancient woodlands in Herringthorpe via the creation of a new meadow was provided. This kind of work would help to re-connect wildlife habitats. There were many local wildlife sites and areas of bio-diversity across the borough where small tweaks and improvements could be made to make a big difference to species habitats.
- As the Strategy covered the whole of South Yorkshire, it would provide opportunities to work with bordering local authorities to create soft boundaries for wildlife and nature. Detailed overview maps had been produced for Rotherham where each type of land and habitat had been identified and mapped. This would be very useful but some ground-truth work would need to be carried out to verify the accuracy of the maps.
- It was explained that the Strategy was due to be published in December 2026. The council had been provided with the latest draft (version 3) but the process of the constituent local authorities within South Yorkshire reviewing it had been slowed down by local elections in some areas. The next version of the Strategy (version 4) should be provided to local authorities imminently for their approval and then a period of public consultation on the Strategy would be launched over the summer months. Various events had been arranged for this consultation period. The draft Strategy for consultation would be presented to Cabinet in June 2026.
- The draft mission statement of the Strategy would be not to only restore thriving, connected natural habitats across South Yorkshire, but to create new ones and to reverse the decline of species and to do this urgently for people in South Yorkshire.
- The draft principles that underpinned the mission statement would be to:-
 1. Improve the quality and extent of habitats;
 2. Build climate resilience;
 3. Work in partnership;
 4. Value wildlife everywhere; and
 5. Connect people with nature.
- The different categories of habitats within the borough would be looked at to identify the issues affecting them. This would include areas of urban nature, which were often overlooked. There were

many good examples in Rotherham of the development of areas of nature within the urban landscape, such as the current public realm works being carried out along the River Don in the town centre.

- The potential delivery mechanisms for the Strategy would be via the public and private sector, the Environment Agency, community groups and DEFRA, whose overarching vision would be to embed the Strategy into local decision-making, such as planning. This represented an opportunity for Rotherham to work with partners and local communities to identify what the Strategy could do for Rotherham. Overall governance and oversight on the Strategy would come from SYMCA, which had established a Steering Group to drive the Strategy forward.

The Chair invited Members of IPSC to raise questions and queries on the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and in the ensuing question and answer session the following points were raised:-

Councillor Sheppard expressed his encouragement for the valuable work being done on the Strategy. With regard to engaging and reconnecting people with nature, Councillor Sheppard enquired whether engagement with local schools would form part of the Strategy, given that it would be young people who would be valuing and, hopefully, protecting nature in the decades ahead.

The Principal Officer responded that there were some pilot projects underway with local schools, such as at Winterhill School. However, the resource available within the Green Spaces team to deliver such community projects was limited and increased resource would be required to carry out more engagement work with schools. The Service Director for Culture, Tourism & Sport (Service Director) was looking into potential bids and grants that could support this kind of engagement work. The Principal Officer agreed, however, that youth involvement was vital to the success of the Strategy and that wherever communities asked for help or guidance, the council would do its best to provide it.

In a further question, Councillor Sheppard commented that there been a recent increase in the percentage of DEFRA money going towards natural flood management in the new funding settlement and asked whether any work had been done with Connected by Water, which had a South Yorkshire footprint. There could potentially be some overlap in the delivery of schemes which would benefit local nature and could open up potential funding sources. In response, the Principal Officer confirmed that service had been working with the Flooding team closely on two projects at Whiston and Laughton. This had highlighted simple things that could be incorporated into larger-scale infrastructure projects that were fantastic for bio-diversity and there was increased partnership working between internal council services on this.

Councillor Stables mentioned that as Councillor for Maltby,

representations had been made for the planting of more trees in the Maltby area. Councillor Stables had encountered difficulties in finding any information on Maltby within the interactive map. The Chair confirmed that at the last SYMCA Overview & Scrutiny meeting, it had been explained that not all of the information had been incorporated into the interactive map but that it was hoped it would be completely accessible by the time the consultation draft of the Strategy was published.

The Principal Officer confirmed that the interactive map was not yet fully functional. The Principal Officer commented that Maltby is an area valuable with an underlying rock strata of magnesian limestone, which created rare habitats across part of the borough. The Maltby area presented a lot of opportunities under the Strategy and the Principal Officer offered to visit the area and conduct a walk around with local Councillors to talk through what could be proposed with regard to habitats in the area. Councillor Stables confirmed that they would be keen to arrange this visit.

Councillor Jones expressed their support for the aspirations of the Strategy and echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Sheppard that work with schools and young people was vital. However, Councillor Jones expressed concern for the lack of any enforcement powers within the Strategy and whether as an all-encompassing vision for nature recovery, all parties would genuinely buy into it or whether private landowners or companies would continue to oversee the destruction of natural habitats without fear of any consequences or sanction.

The Principal Officer commented that at a high-level, DEFRA and the Environment Agency had bought into the Strategy and it was hoped that communities and smaller local groups such as Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust would also support delivery of the Strategy and its aims, and would report any wrongdoing to the council. There was however, currently no legislation forcing local authorities to deliver on the aims of the Strategy and therefore no associated enforcement powers.

Helen Sleight, Assistant Planning Policy Manager (Planning Officer), further commented that DEFRA oversaw the Environmental Land Management Scheme for the private sector. It was hoped that farming landowners would properly engage in the Strategy, but the buy-in from non-farming private landowners could be more questionable. The Planning Officer explained that when planning applications were received that related to rural areas, the habitat map would be consulted to determine how decisions should be made to maximise bio-diversity net gain. The thresholds for considering bio-diversity net gain were due to change in July 2026, with the smaller sites net gain thresholds being raised and changing to 0.2 of a hectare. This would represent a big change for the council as planning authority and also for developers. Bio-diversity net gain considerations should also guide how DEFRA awarded grants to landowners for their land management practices.

In a supplementary comment, Councillor Jones shared the view that if there was no ability to prevent people, developers or companies from destroying existing habitats, there was a risk that the Strategy would be nothing more than an aspiration.

Councillor Thorp referred to the proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project at Whitestone Solar Farm, which if approved, could devastate large areas of wildlife habitat which would be difficult to replace. Councillor Thorp questioned whether if this project was approved, it would defeat the objectives of the Strategy.

The Principal Officer commented that there would continue to be examples where the preservation of nature and habitats had not been managed well. However, the Strategy did provide an opportunity not seen before with habitat loss, to quickly identify other areas and to try and to develop these and move on.

Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods reminded Members that they had the opportunity to consider and promote nature recovery as part of their ongoing ward priorities, and that some wards within the borough had already identified these issues on their list of priorities. Members were due to review their ward priorities in June 2026 and the Head of Neighbourhoods suggested that Members may wish to consider the discussions that had taken place at this meeting when reviewing these priorities.

In relation to the off-set of bio-diversity net gain, Councillor Tinsley asked what was being done to focus re-investment from companies/developers within South Yorkshire, to ensure that the local area felt the benefit? The Planning Officer explained that the way bio-diversity net gain worked was that more would have to be delivered to off-set the further away from the development itself. The council would first try and get the net gain delivered on-site (within Rotherham), but if that wasn't possible, it would be hoped that it could be delivered off-site within the South Yorkshire area or other neighbouring authorities with similar character areas, such as North-East Derbyshire and Bassetlaw. The aim would be to replace lost habitats with the same type of habitat.

The Planning Officer confirmed that there was currently only one established habitat bank within the Rotherham area and that the council was keen to establish further habitat banks within the borough, once resource and funding would allow. Some initial work looking at potential sites and reviewing local wildlife sites under council ownership had been started but needed to be progressed to the next step. Work on the Strategy had recently taken priority due to the tight timescales involved.

In response, Councillor Tinsley commented that it appeared that work to establish further habitat banks within the borough should be prioritised to ensure that Rotherham was not left behind when large scale developments came along and the net gain work was delivered in other

areas outside of the borough, to the detriment of local wildlife. Councillor Tinsley asked that an additional recommendation to this effect be considered by IPSC.

Councillor Mault asked how the Strategy, as a SYMCA-led project, would link in with Local Plans across the South Yorkshire local authorities given the increased targets for housing developments that had also been placed on local authorities to deliver.

The Planning Officer confirmed that in the work of writing planning policies, local councils had been told to “have regard” to the Strategy and to try to embed it within their Local Plans. It was clear that the Strategy should inform Local Plans going forward and guide decision-making when considering developments on green-belt land.

In a follow up question, Councillor Mault asked whether communication and connections between the South Yorkshire local authorities were likely to improve over their individual Local Plans?

The Planning Officer responded that SYMCA would be working on a spatial development strategy, which would be a South Yorkshire-wide overarching development strategy. With regard to the current Strategy under consideration, the four local authorities, along with the Peak District National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and the local Wildlife Trusts had all been heavily involved and had collaborated in pulling the Strategy together. DEFRA would be providing funding to SYMCA for delivery of the Strategy but decisions on exactly how that funding would be spent would be taking place at Chief Executive-level across South Yorkshire.

The Service Director commented that they felt very positive about the future of work related to nature recovery in Rotherham, which had been supported excellently by the Principal Officer and the Planning Officer and their teams. The Service Director pointed out that it was important to remember some of the wider benefits of engaging with nature in an area like Rotherham, which has a greater volume of green space than the national average in England.

However, the challenge for Rotherham would be that there were fewer than average numbers of people engaging with this green space. Engagement with green spaces helped residents in supporting their mental and physical health and was proven to be important for child development. It also encouraged social interaction and community cohesion, which in turn would contribute to reduced loneliness. The Service Director commented that the green spaces within the borough represented a source of civic pride for residents in Rotherham.

The Service Director confirmed that work would be carried out to create a departmental officer group to ensure that colleagues that worked on the Strategy were supported by teams across the whole council. Service was

also working closely with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Connected by Nature and a range of other partners to try and secure funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support further bio-diversity and natural heritage work.

Councillor McKiernan commented that he was encouraged by the evidence of joined-up working across the council on nature recovery and the Strategy

Councillor Allen commented that whilst they appreciated that the work on the Strategy was entirely necessary and laudable, they remained concerned that it could be of little meaningful value without any powers or sanctions attached to it. Councillor Allen requested that IPSC consider writing to SYMCA and DEFRA to express Members' concern around the lack of any enforcement powers behind the Strategy.

Councillor Steele, as RMBC representative on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at SYMCA and as Overview & Scrutiny Management Board Chair, advised Members that once the consultation draft of the Strategy had been released, IPSC would be able to write a letter to SYMCA and DEFRA expressing their concerns. Councillor Steele agreed that the Strategy represented excellent opportunities but was lacking in any power.

The earlier proposed recommendation by Councillor Tinsley regarding the development of further habitat banks within the borough was also discussed. The Planning Officer explained that delivery of habitat banks would be within the remit of the council rather than SYMCA. The council would sell "bio-diversity units" to pay for the long-term creation of habitats and approval from Cabinet would be required to create further Council-owned habitat banks .

The Executive Director confirmed to Members that the Strategy was due to go to Cabinet in June, shortly after the Strategy would be released for public consultation. At this point, it would be possible for IPSC to make additional recommendations to Cabinet as part of the council's formal response to SYMCA under the consultation.

As a final comment, Councillor Allen suggested that, bearing in mind the Head of Neighbourhoods' point around setting ward priorities, a Member Briefing on the Strategy could be useful.

The Chair thanked officers for their input and members for the questions asked.

Resolved:-

1. That the contents of the presentation in relation to the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy be noted;

2. That the following matter be referred to the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board for presentation to Cabinet, on behalf of the Improving Places Select Commission, when Cabinet considers the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy in June:-
 - a) That, as part of the Council's wider work on bio-diversity net gain, it be requested that the Service give consideration to prioritising the development of additional habitat banks within the Borough, to ensure that these are established in advance of any large-scale infrastructure projects which could create an urgent requirement to compensate for habitat loss; and
3. That the Chair, on behalf of the Improving Places Select Commission, writes to both the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) expressing Members' concerns around the advisory nature of the Strategy and the absence of any associated enforcement powers.

63. UPDATE ON ROTHERHAM PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME

At the Chair's invitation, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & the Local Economy, Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member), introduced the update presentation and reminded Members that Rotherham had been awarded two schemes under the government's Pride in Place programme – Rotherham Central and Maltby, both of which had been awarded £20 million of funding over the next 10 years. The Rotherham Central area covered the geography around the town centre and the surrounding built-up neighbourhoods and communities on the edge of the town centre.

The last update to IPSC in October 2025, had been brought just prior to the council submitting its regeneration plan for the Rotherham Central scheme to government. Councillor Williams confirmed that the regeneration plan had been endorsed and that the approach which the council had taken in carrying out significant engagement and consultation work with the voluntary and community sector had been held up as an example of best practice.

The next step for the Rotherham Central scheme would be to progress on defining exactly how the funding would be spent within the first investment period, working alongside the local MP, Sarah Champion. It was hoped that a Chair would shortly be appointed to the Neighbourhood Board, which would oversee the progress of that funding.

The second Pride in Place scheme in Maltby had been awarded by government in Autumn 2025. This scheme covered a much smaller geographical area but would receive the same level of funding of £20 million over 10 years. As one of Rotherham's principal towns, the Cabinet Member welcomed this extra investment and opportunity for the Maltby

area.

The Cabinet Member explained that the government guidance on the Pride in Place programme had changed over the last few months and that this had prompted internal review within the council with regard to the council's role as the “accountable body”. As a result, it had been decided that it would be more appropriate for the leading service within the council to be the Neighbourhoods Team rather than the Regeneration & Environment Team.

Megan Hinchliff, the Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager, took Members through the update presentation, highlighting the following points:-

There would be a strong partnership approach and it was imperative that all elements worked together as one to successfully deliver the schemes under the programme:-

- The **Neighbourhood Board** would be responsible for co-producing the Pride in Place plan and delivering it in the interests of local people, to improve the physical and social infrastructure of their communities.
- The **local communities** would shape the priorities under the programme and hold the Neighbourhood Board and local authority to account.
- The **local MP** now held a larger role in supporting the Chair and the Neighbourhood Board to inform the work and engage the community it represented.
- The **local authority** would support the Neighbourhood Board to develop and deliver the plan and would act as the “**accountable body**” and ensure compliant, legal and effective use of the public funds granted under the scheme. The “accountable body” would act as the legal employer for staff and would contract with third parties, whilst supporting community-led delivery by the Neighbourhood Boards.

The Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager reminded Members that there was a capital and revenue split within the £20 million funding allocated to each area. This split was welcome given that there would be revenue attached to this long-term funding programme. A grassroots approach would be taken to the decision-making process, and would be led by the Neighbourhood Board, who would consider how to best to spend the money to meet the priorities of local people.

Rotherham Central Scheme

Initial consultation on the Rotherham Central scheme had been completed in summer 2025. That consultation process had lasted for

around two years, having started under the former Long-Term Plan for Towns initiative. Consultation data had been fed into the final submission of the plan for Rotherham Central to government in November 2025. The submitted plan set out the overarching and strategic approach and also provided high-level thematic information. The plan did not set out individual projects as this would be decided over the coming months by the Neighbourhood Board.

The plan had been approved by government, without any conditions, in March 2026. This reflected the quality of the work carried out in preparing the plan. The ongoing support for the council as the “accountable body” would now sit with Neighbourhoods team, led by Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods.

The Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager explained that the Neighbourhood Board would be a brand-new board, rather than an evolution of the previous Town Board. It would bring together those with a deep connection to the local area and appointments to the board were being made in partnership with Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham. The MP would have a place on the board and every board member would have an equal vote in deciding how the funding under the programme would be allocated.

The Neighbourhood Board positions had been advertised widely in March 2026, via the Rotherham Advertiser, social media, posters and community and voluntary organisations. It was reported that there had been a good response and a further information event for interested parties had been held on 9th April 2026 at the Town Hall. All of those who were considered for board positions were people who lived within the central Rotherham area, to ensure that the process would be fully resident-led. It was hoped that appointments to the board would be finalised shortly and details would then be published on the dedicated Pride in Place webpage on the council website.

[Pride in Place – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

It was explained that once the Neighbourhood Board had been established and a Chair was in place, the next step would be to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, and the Board would then be able to begin developing the project pipeline for the first four years of the programme. This process would involve a number of key meetings over the next few months, and the council would commence the recruitment of a number of permanent officers within the Neighbourhoods Team, to support delivery of projects.

Maltby Scheme

The Maltby scheme had been announced in Autumn 2025, and it was reported that a lot of good work had already commenced, although this scheme was not as advanced. The capital and revenue split of the £20 million funding was different to the Rotherham central scheme, in that the proportion of revenue was slightly higher at 37%.

Establishment of the Neighbourhood Board for Maltby was progressing at pace, and interviews for board members had recently taken place with the local MP for Rother Valley, Jake Richards. Extensive consultation with the local community in Maltby would be carried out over the summer months. The feedback from this consultation would be fed into the design of the plan, led by the Maltby Neighbourhood Board. It was hoped that the draft plan for Maltby would be presented to Cabinet towards the end of 2026 and submitted to government for approval over the winter.

The Chair invited Members of IPSC to raise questions and queries on the Update on Rotherham Pride in Place Programme and in the ensuing question and answer session the following points were raised:-

The Chair asked why the council had decided to move oversight of the Pride in Place programme to the Neighbourhoods Team. In response, Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, explained that the new government guidance which had been issued in December 2025, had put the Pride in Place programme in the realm of community and neighbourhood development. There was a clear aspiration from government to see the Neighbourhood Boards evolve into community interest companies or similar self-governing, self-managing entities. As the type of interventions that were likely to come forward under the programme would be around community capacity building and community development, rather than straightforward regeneration projects, it was felt that the existing expertise that sat within the Neighbourhoods Team would be best equipped to oversee these projects.

The Head of Neighbourhoods further commented that the Neighbourhoods Team had experience in working across services and with partners to deliver projects. Given that the shift in government guidance, it made sense to move oversight to the Neighbourhoods Team and the Chief Executive of the council and the relevant Cabinet Members had agreed this approach.

The Head of Neighbourhoods confirmed that an HR recruitment process was underway to appoint a Programme Manager and two Project Co-ordinators, and it was hoped that these positions would be filled by the summer. In the interim transition period, support would continue to be provided by the Regeneration & Environment team. The main point of contact with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government remained within the Regeneration & Environment team but any new interactions would be led by the Neighbourhood Team. Whilst the Neighbourhood Team would “host” staff, the whole council would be the “accountable body” and a range of services would potentially help to deliver the projects under the direction of the Neighbourhood Board.

Councillor Thorp asked whether the make-up of the Neighbourhood Boards had altered since the last update to IPSC, given the change in government guidance. Previously, parties such as the local police had

been due to have a presence on the board. The Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager confirmed that the approach was no longer to seek representatives from certain organisations and was more resident-led, with applications welcomed from anyone within the community with an interest.

Councillor Stables enquired whether the work on Pride in Place projects would take Neighbourhood Officers away from their existing roles and whether the new posts would be funded from the £20 million available under the schemes. The Head of Neighbourhoods explained that in the interim period until the new posts were filled, existing Neighbourhood Co-ordinators in the relevant areas were providing support to keep work progressing. However, once the new posts were filled, there would be separate Pride in Place Co-ordinators for the Rotherham Central and Maltby areas and these posts would be funded entirely from central government grants associated with the Pride in Place Programme.

Councillor Tinsley referred to the fact that projects were being planned for the first four years of the ten-year programme and asked whether funding for these first four years was “locked in” or could be subject to change by government? The Executive Director confirmed that the funding for the full ten years was committed by government. It had been decided to focus on an initial four-year plan of delivery as it would be difficult to foresee what projects would be appropriate in eight or nine years’ time. This would provide more flexibility over years 5-10 of the programme given that circumstances and community needs could change over this length of time.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Tinsley enquired whether the two separate schemes could work together and pool revenue to fund a similar need? The Executive Director commented that the monies provided under the programme had to be demonstrated to have been spent within the defined area. However, there could hypothetically be situations where an “economies of scale” approach would be sensible – for example if there was a similar project underway in both areas at the same time. The Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager added that the Programme Manager post would be funded 50/50 from the two schemes.

Councillor Stables asked when the Neighbourhood Board members for Maltby would be confirmed? The Regeneration Programme & Strategy Manager confirmed that it was hoped the Neighbourhood Board for Maltby would be launched by the Chair in May 2026.

The Chair thanked officers for their input and members for the questions asked.

Resolved:-

1. That the contents of the presentation providing an update on progress and developments on the Pride in Place programme for

both the Rotherham Central and Maltby areas be noted.

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

The Chair introduced the Work Programme item and updated Members on the recent site visit to the new Waterfront café development at Rother Valley Country Park, which the Chair and Councillors Thorp and Taylor had attended. The Chair commented that Members had been very impressed by the development and were excited by what it offered to residents of the borough.

The Chair confirmed that discussions with officers on-site had led to some scrutiny questions being asked and Members had explored with officers, challenges that had been experienced with procurement and HR processes in the run up to the centre opening. The Chair had raised some of these issues at the April Overview & Scrutiny Management Board meeting and was looking into the procurement issue further.

Councillor Thorp echoed that the Waterfront Centre was an impressive addition to Rother Valley Country Park. Councillor Thorp mentioned a particular procurement difficulty shared by staff regarding the sourcing of supplies of fresh chicken. Councillor Thorp also stressed the importance of ensuring adequate staffing levels at the Waterfront café, as a recent experience at Thrybergh Country Park café had demonstrated that there were not enough staff at that location, to manage demand.

Councillor McKiernan mentioned that the Waterfront Café would have a Head Chef on-site and that Members had been told that if this worked out well, it was hoped that the Head Chef could work across other catering sites across the borough, such as Thrybergh.

The Governance Advisor drew Members' attention to the following other Work Programme updates:-

- **Neighbourhood Leadership Workshop 27 April 2026**
The Governance Advisor reminded Members that a workshop on the draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy was due to take place on Monday 27 April 2026 and asked Members to confirm attendance.
- **End of the Municipal Year 2025-26**
The Governance Advisor thanked Members for their support and input for the 2025-26 municipal year.
- **Next IPSC Meeting Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 1.30pm**
The next IPSC meeting in June would be the first meeting of the new municipal year and the Governance Advisor confirmed that Members would receive the Work Programme for 2026-27 at that point for discussion and consideration.

The Governance Advisor further advised Members that for the upcoming municipal year, pre-meetings would be introduced to enable IPSC Members to discuss potential questions and key lines of enquiry prior to the formal meetings. This had been requested by Councillor Steele (as overarching Scrutiny lead) and the Monitoring Officer to ensure consistency of practice across the different Scrutiny commissions. These meetings would take place via Teams and were likely to occur around 5pm on the Thursday evening before each Tuesday meeting. Invites would be sent out for these pre-meetings in due course.

The Governance Advisor explained to Members that the calendar invites for IPSC meetings would also be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours. It was hoped that the majority of meetings would be completed within 2 hours, but where there was a busy agenda, it was important to ensure that this amount of time was set aside by Members. This would hopefully avoid too many Members having to leave before the end of the meeting, which would risk the quoracy of the meeting.

Resolved:-

1. That the update on the Work Programme be received and noted; and
2. That the Governance Advisor be authorised to make any required changes to the work programme in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair and reporting any such changes back at the next meeting for endorsement.

65. URGENT BUSINESS

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

The Improving Places Select Commission Terms of Reference - Revised 2025**All Scrutiny Commissions Functions-**

1. To carry out the annual overview and scrutiny work programme as agreed for each select commission with OSMB.
2. To submit reports to OSMB with recommendations on matters that affect the borough or the inhabitants of the borough.
3. Within their terms of reference, each scrutiny commission may
 - a. scrutinise and review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - b. question Cabinet Members and Chief Officers about their decisions and performance, in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
 - c. make recommendations to the Cabinet and appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
 - d. review and scrutinise the performance of other partners and public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Committee and local people about their activities;
 - e. conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - f. question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent); and in liaison with OSMB, appoint non-voting co-optees to the Scrutiny Commissions and/or Task and Finish Groups.

Improving Places Scrutiny Commission Specific Functions-

1. The Improving Places Scrutiny Commission is tasked with carrying out in-depth overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB, including scrutinising-
 - a. Economic development and regeneration (Towns & Villages & major town centre projects and development);
 - b. Libraries, arts, culture, leisure services and green spaces;;
 - c. Borough wide housing management and strategy;
 - d. Neighbourhood working and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy.;
 - e. Flood management;
 - f. Cemeteries, crematorium and mortuary services, including the Dignity contract;

- g. All matters relating to Waste Management, Street Scene, Street Cleansing, Litter & Fly Tipping;
- h. Emergency Planning issues;
- i. Highways schemes, safety and active travel;
- j. Enforcement policy and performance (including Community Protection, Environmental Health and food hygiene); and
- k. Partnership strategies for Lifelong Learning, Skills and Employment

BRIEFING	TO:	Improving Places Select Commission
	DATE:	23 June 2026
	TITLE:	Health, Safety and Welfare Panel Representation
1. Role of the Health, Safety & Welfare Panel		
	The Health, Welfare and Safety Panel provides a regular forum for the Council and its employees to consider matters relating to health, welfare and safety and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to appropriate Committees or other Council bodies. Objectives of the Panel include:- • To promote a healthy and safe working environment for all members of staff employed by the Council and to protect the public from any risk of danger that may arise as a result of the Council's activities. • To monitor the welfare arrangements (facilities for eating, drinking, first aid and toilets, etc) provided for employees. • To provide a forum for consultation on proposals put forward by management and by the trade unions. • To recommend changes to the way in which work is performed by the introduction of safe systems of work, procedures and arrangements, including those for the training of staff. • To monitor statistics on accidents, incidents and illness and to recommend action to address key issues which may arise from that information. • To promote greater awareness of health, welfare and safety policies to assist in facilitating improvement in Council performance.	
2. Membership and Request for Member Representation from the Improving Places Select Commission		
	The Panel comprises six Elected Members of the Council to be appointed annually, including Member(s) from: • Cabinet - Member with responsibility for Health, Welfare and Safety. • A member from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. • One member from each of the Select Commissions (Scrutiny). • A member from the Members' Training and Development Panel.	
3. Membership and Request for Employee Representation from the Trade Unions		
	The Panel also has representation from the Employees' Side and includes:	

	• At least three teacher representatives (NASUWT and NEU Trades Unions). • A maximum of seven representatives from all other areas of Council work e.g. UNISON, UNITE the Union, GMB.
4. Frequency of Meetings / Visits	
	The Panel normally meets four times per year. Additional meetings may be held if the business to be transacted is sufficiently urgent. The meetings scheduled for 2026/27 are:- 9 July 2026 at 2:00pm 15 October 2026 at 2:00pm 4 February 2027 at 2:00pm 22 April 2027 at 2:00pm Inspection visits by the Panel shall be made on a quarterly basis to various locations throughout the borough. Visits of inspection are scheduled to take place on:- 17 June 2026 at 8:45am (from the Town Hall) Other dates to be confirmed Refreshments are available from 8:30am, prior to departure.

Public Report
Improving Places Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 23 June 2026

Report Title

Housing Strategy 2025-30 Progress Report Year 1 (2025-26)

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

No

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Garry Newton, Housing Development Intelligence Coordinator

garry.newton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Housing Strategy 2025-30 was approved by Cabinet in September 2025 and published in December 2025.

The Strategy recognises the key issues affecting housing in Rotherham, and the impact these have on residents. It sets out priorities for how the Council will work in partnership to address the issues identified and maximise opportunities to meet the housing needs of our borough.

This report is presented for information and provides an update on progress in delivering the Housing Strategy during year one (from April 2025 to March 2026).

Recommendations

That the Improving Places Select Commission:

1. Note the progress made in delivering the priorities and actions set out in Rotherham's Housing Strategy.
2. Agree to continue to receive annual 'Housing Strategy Progress Reports'.
3. Agree that future 'Housing Strategy Progress Reports' will be reported to the Improving Places Select Commission in September each year, to ensure that all data is available (for the reasons set out in Section 1.5).

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Housing Strategy Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Key Performance Indicators Scorecard

Background Papers

[Rotherham Housing Strategy 2025-30](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Housing Strategy 2025-30 Progress Report Year 1

1. Background

1.1 Rotherham's 30-year vision for housing was established in 2013, and the Housing Strategy is refreshed periodically to ensure priorities reflect current views.

1.2 The aim of the 30-year strategy is to see;

- People living in high quality homes, whether in the social rented, private rented or home ownership sector
- Rotherham Council playing its part by being the best housing provider in the country, delivering high quality services and support, and peaceful and well-managed neighbourhoods
- A smaller gap between the most and least disadvantaged neighbourhoods, so that all of Rotherham's people can live in safe, healthy and vibrant communities
- No households living in homes that are poor in terms of energy efficiency

And the fifth aim was introduced in 2015 following consultation;

- to create a revitalised town centre with a new urban community.

1.3 The Housing Strategy 2025-30 is the fifth chapter of the 30-year strategy. It was approved by Cabinet in September 2025 and published in December 2025.

1.4 The current Strategy recognises the key issues affecting housing in Rotherham and the impact these have on residents, setting out how the Council will work in partnership to address the issues identified and best maximise opportunities to address the housing needs of the borough.

The four priorities for 2025-30 are:

- Building high quality, sustainable and affordable new homes
- Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes
- Supporting our residents to live independently, including through prevention of homelessness
- Ensuring that our neighbourhoods are safe, happy, and thriving

1.5 To date, Housing Strategy Progress Reports have been presented to the Improving Places Select Commission annually in June. However, due to the introduction of Tenant Satisfaction Measures in 2023, which form a key part of the monitoring of the Housing Strategy, it is recommended that the annual monitoring cycle be moved to September to ensure a full picture can be provided in advance of each meeting.

2. Progress 2025/26:

The Housing Strategy Action Plan (Appendix 1) lists the aims for the next five years, and the sixteen key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be used to measure success. The progress against the KPIs is monitored in

Appendix 2 – Key Performance Indicators Scorecard and the following report adds detail to this, describing how the Council and its partners have made progress in Year One of the Action Plan against all sixteen KPIs. This will be broken down into each of the four priorities below.

2.1 **Priority 1: Building high quality, sustainable and affordable new homes**

The three aims linked to this priority are:

- We will work with partners to enable the delivery of new homes to meet local need.
- We will lead by example by building and acquiring hundreds of new council homes.
- We will ensure new homes are high quality and sustainable.

2.1.1 **KPI: Increase the number of new homes built in the Borough (See Appendix 2)**

How will we achieve this:

- Provide a high quality, efficient planning service to help accelerate delivery, including pre-application advice for housing developments
- Achieve the government's National Planning Policy Framework target of 1,080 new homes in Rotherham every year
- Work with housing developers and builders to enable key strategic housing sites identified in the Local Plan to meet housing targets

Progress:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) target for Rotherham has now been revised to 1,111 new homes every year. 778 homes were completed during 2025/26. This is 12 less than in 24/25 (790).
- A total of 656 new homes were granted planning permission. This included permission for 269 homes in Wath-upon-Deane, 185 homes in Maltby and 32 homes in Thrybergh by private developers.
- Planning permission has also been granted for 28 new-build council homes in Wath-upon-Deane and 20 council homes in Thornhill, as part of the Council Homes Delivery Programme.
- 34 homes were enabled with the support of Council officers. This includes homes delivered at the site of the Former Oaks Day Centre Oak Road, Wath-upon-Deane, at the site of the Former Sports and Social Club Rockcliffe Road, Rawmarsh, and the

conversion of a former care home on Goodwin Crescent into residential units.

- £240k was secured from the Government's Council Housebuilding Support Fund (CHSF), with an additional HRA contribution of £80k for feasibility work across potential sites for affordable housing. This was alongside support from the Council Housebuilding Support Service (CHoSS), which offers Local Authorities free, tailored support with housebuilding. Combined, this has created a strong evidence base and clear foundations for the next stage of the Housing Development Programme are in place.
- Alongside this work, the Council is developing a Housing Growth Framework to set out how it works collaboratively (internally and externally) to pro-actively support a strategic delivery approach across the Rotherham borough. The framework will aim to ensure housing growth meets the needs of residents across all tenures and is key to the Council achieving the overall Government target of 1,111 new homes a year.

2.1.2 KPI: Ensure a minimum 25% of new homes are affordable housing (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Continue to diversify the housing offer in the Borough, including affordable home ownership options such as Shared Ownership, more joint working with SMEs and housing associations, supported by partnership working with SYMCA and Homes England to maximise funding opportunities for housing schemes.
- Adopt the Bassingthorpe Farm Supplementary Planning Document and work with partners to shape delivery of this and other key strategic housing sites.

Progress:

- The Council has sold its final remaining Shared Ownership home in Broom Valley, bringing the total number to 138. Shared Ownership provides an important role in affordable housing delivery, many Registered Providers continue to develop this affordable housing product, and the Council will continue to work with them to understand supply and demand.
- A Supplementary Planning Document for Bassingthorpe was approved by Cabinet in 2025. This sets out the masterplan framework for the development of this important strategic site. A project team is in place to progress discussions with landowners.

- Funding has also been secured to progress the potential for a new mainline station in Rotherham, a project which is strategically important to the development of the Bassingthorpe Farm site. Work has continued alongside the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to bring forward sites in the Town Centre for housing.

2.1.3 KPI: Increase the number of council homes available, including through new build and acquisitions (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Deliver more council and affordable homes through our Council build, acquisitions and small sites homebuilding initiative programmes on sites across the Borough
- We will achieve our 1,000 Council homes target by Summer 2027 and build a pipeline of future affordable housing projects
- Use our Place and Quality Panel to ensure schemes are delivered with input from cross-council services and that we learn from outcomes of recent delivery

Progress:

- The Council continues to work with small and medium sized developers (SME's). There are 15 homes currently in contract to be delivered in 26/27 (strategy year 2).
- The Council delivered a further 114 homes (111 for council rent and three for Shared Ownership) in 2025/26 to take the total since 2018 to 788. 29 of these homes were delivered through the Council build programme and acquired 44 new build homes through Section 106 planning agreements with developers. These homes were delivered across the Borough, in Canklow, Dinnington, Maltby, Ravenfield, Swinton, Waverley and West Melton. 41 homes were acquired under the Housing Acquisitions Policy.
- The Council is on track to deliver a further 212 homes by the summer of 2027, to take the total to 1,000.
- Over £12m secured in external grant funding to support the Housing Delivery Programme. This represents a 100% success rate and exceeds the Business Plan Assumption for non-HRA funding by more than £2m.

2.1.4 **KPI: Ensure all council new build and acquisitions are a minimum EPC C when let (See Appendix 2)**

How will we achieve this:

- Meet and where possible, exceed minimum nationally described space standards when building new council homes, and build new homes with renewable energy systems to ensure that they are zero carbon ready to meet the Future Homes Standard.
- We will also ensure all Council acquisitions are a minimum of EPC rating C.

Progress:

- The Council has met and exceeded minimum nationally described space standards when building new Council homes. The Council has used renewable energy systems, such as air source heat pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery systems, solar panels and electric vehicle charge points in new build schemes in Canklow, Swinton and West Melton.

2.2 **Priority 2: Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes**

The three aims linked to this priority are:

- We will work towards ensuring that no household is living in fuel poverty.
- We will ensure that our residents live in safe, decent, high-quality homes.
- We will work towards ensuring that all landlords, including the Council, operate to the highest standard.

2.2.1 **KPI: Increasing the percentage of satisfied tenants in all of the Regulator of Social Housing's Tenant Satisfaction Measures (See Appendix 2)**

How will we achieve this:

- Ensure all repairs, risk assessments, inspections and safety checks are carried out to target timescales; and improving how we manage our homes and work with our tenants to meet the consumer standards

This data is derived from the Council's Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs), which are currently undergoing validation. The data will be published on 22nd of June as part of the TSM report to Cabinet on 6th July. This information will be included in the presentation to IPSC at the meeting on 23rd June.

2.2.2 KPI: Increasing the proportion of our council homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard and continue to improve our repairs and health and safety compliance performance (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Meet or exceed minimum council housing standards to ensure our tenants are safe in their homes. We will focus on improving our performance against the Decent Homes Standard.
- £37m expansion in our housing improvements capital programme.
- Stock Condition Surveys

Progress:

- The proportion of council homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard data is unavailable at time of reporting – see 2.2.1. To help achieve this KPI, the Council has spent £35.7 million to improve around 584 council homes during 2025/26, including
 - 261 new kitchens and bathrooms
 - 1,638 central heating systems
 - 492 loft insulations
 - 460 empty homes improved before re-letting
- 6,490 stock condition surveys have been completed

2.2.3 KPI: Increasing the number of private sector landlord actions addressing Category 1 and 2 hazards following Council intervention (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Hold landlords in Selective Licensing areas responsible for the condition and management of their properties and, subject to review of recent consultation, continue to review the case to expand Selective Licensing to other areas of the borough.
- Implement new powers granted by the Renters Rights Act.

Progress:

- As part of the requirements of the Renter's Rights Act, which came into force 1st May 2026, the Council will monitor the above KPI from 2026/27. For this year, the following data is available: The Council's Regulation & Enforcement Service carried out Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) inspections, due to

reactive enquiries or Selective Licensing specific inspections, and resolved:

- 249 Category 1 hazards, which is a severe and immediate risk to health or safety.
 - 1,981 Category 2 hazards, which are a housing defect or risk identified under the HHSRS.
 - Formal or informal action was taken to address hazards, standards or defects at 2,366 privately rented properties
- The Council issued 186 Community Protection Notices (CPN) for anti-social behaviour, waste and noise.
 - The Council introduced a communication plan that ensured that all stakeholders were informed of the impending reforms and how to prepare for them.
 - The Council introduced a new Selective Licensing scheme in February 2026 which aims to improve the living conditions of approx. 4,000 private sector tenants, and other residents, of six disadvantaged areas across the borough.

2.2.4 KPI: Reducing the percentage of households living in (Low Income Low Energy Efficiency) fuel poverty in Rotherham (see Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Support qualifying residents with our Energy Crisis Support Scheme.
- Healthy Homes Plan will provide help and advice to residents to increase energy efficiency in their homes.
- ECO4 and ECO5 grants for our most vulnerable residents and/or homes with the lowest energy efficiency.

Progress:

The percentage of households living in fuel poverty in Rotherham is published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero annually, however the data is published two years behind, and is not yet available for 2024. In 2023, it was estimated that the proportion of households living in fuel poverty in Rotherham is 14.5%.

- The Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme provided funding to 1,657 residents between November 2025 and March 2026, totalling £414,250 to help qualifying residents pay for their energy bills.

- The Council's Healthy Homes Plan (HHP), which is a Public Health and Housing Services joint plan, was adopted by the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- The Council were able to take advantage of the Warm Homes Scheme, for council housing improvements, and have received £8.8m in external funding, which will be match funded with Housing Revenue Account capital funding utilising the decarbonisation budget.
- The Council received 213 ECO applications that resulted in over 200 private sector homes receiving measures that will improve thermal efficiency and contribute towards reduced energy costs.

2.2.5 KPI: Increasing energy efficiency in existing homes, including ensuring all council homes achieve an EPC certificate minimum rating C by 2030 (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Develop our council housing decarbonisation plan, aiming to meet legal requirements to achieve EPC C by 2030, and then a roadmap to net zero emissions.
- We will maximise opportunities to invest in the Borough by bidding for funding that becomes available through Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Progress:

- The Council's Housing Property Service (HPS) have commissioned a stock condition survey, of all council properties, to assess the condition of council homes. This includes an EPC survey, where one is required. The survey will inform future maintenance and improvement works to homes. The survey is expected to be complete during 2027 (Strategy Year 2).

2.3 Priority 3: Preventing homelessness and supporting our residents to live independently

The three aims linked to this priority are:

- We will end rough sleeping in Rotherham and work to prevent our residents from becoming homeless.
- 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.

2.3.1 KPI: An increase in the proportion of households approaching us for help who are prevented or relieved from homelessness, rather than requiring longer term support (See Appendix 2).

How will we achieve this:

- Update the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy and the Housing Allocations Policy
- Improve our understanding of the diverse needs of our tenants, including vulnerabilities, so we can get better at early intervention and tailoring our services.
- Ensure financial support is made available to those facing homelessness, including issuing discretionary housing payments
- Work more closely with families and landlords to keep people in their homes for longer.

Progress:

- The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-31 was approved by Cabinet in May 2025.
- A total of 477 applicants were successful in claiming discretionary housing support.
- A Call Before You Serve service has been introduced to provide early support and mediation between private tenants and landlords to help prevent people from the risk of homelessness.

2.3.2 KPI: Further reductions in the use of hotels as emergency accommodation (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Increase the provision of suitable temporary and move-on accommodation
- We will improve the quality and service standards of temporary accommodation and deliver further reductions in the usage of emergency hotel accommodation
- We will work with private landlords and housing associations to improve the range of permanent accommodation available.

Progress:

- The Council increased its RMBC owned temporary accommodation portfolio by an additional 30 units, taking the total to a maximum of 173.
- The Councils Temporary Accommodation Policy was approved in January 2025.
- 3,509 people approached the Homeless Service for advice and assistance and from this 1,933 were owed a homeless duty.
- Hotel placements reduced to 525 during 2025/26; a reduction of 37% on the previous year.
- The Council accommodation officers have been successful in referring 36 cases to housing associations for rehousing, outside of the standard nomination agreement. A further 19 have been assisted into private rent through our work with local landlords.

2.3.3 KPI: An increase in the number of affordable homes built in Rotherham that meet a specialist need (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Continue to build and acquire a range of house types, to meet the needs of older residents, residents with disabilities, vulnerable adults and families, looked after children and care leavers to rent from the council or housing associations.
- Developing our understanding of different housing needs e.g. armed forces, learning disability and autism, physical disability, mental health, and gypsies and travellers.

Progress:

- Four one-bedroomed bungalows have been delivered in Swinton for residents aged 55 or over.
- The Council's Housing and Adult Care services worked together on a development at Canklow, which includes;
 - The Castle View Day Centre for adults with complex need
 - 12 two-bedroomed apartments for older people, designed to support ageing in place.
 - Two, two-bedroomed DPU apartments M43-compliant to meet the needs of residents with accessibility, acute or complex health conditions.

2.3.4 KPI: More residents able to benefit from adaptations to their homes, within smaller waiting times (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Fully implement our new approach to aids and adaptations
- Use of discretionary grants, with an aim to reduce the average length of time waiting for major adaptations.

Progress:

- 72 Discretionary Grants have been authorised to assist with people who would not have otherwise qualified to received grant assistance. Out of these discretionary grants:
 - 9 were Top Up Grants which assist people with a disability in cases where the Disabled Facilities Grant limit of £30,000 is exceeded.
 - 63 were Rapid Home Adaptations Grants.

2.4 **Priority 4: Ensuring that our neighbourhoods are safe, happy, and thriving**

The three aims linked to this priority are:

- We will bring empty homes back into use.
- We will invest in our communities to ensure they are inclusive and safe.
- We will ensure that new and improved homes support regeneration.

2.4.1 **KPI: Reduce the number of long-term empty homes (See Appendix 2)**

How will we achieve this:

- Deliver our Empty Homes Plan
- We will provide advice to owners and landlords of empty homes to help bring homes back into use, use enforcement powers to tackle empty homes where necessary
- Ensure that empty council homes (voids) are brought back into use as soon as possible.

Progress:

- 121 empty property reports were received across the year
- 135 existing cases closed, with 15 properties identified as being acquired by new owners.

- The average year end relet time for council homes was 30.81 days.

2.4.2 KPI: Increase the percentage of council tenants satisfied we make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Continue to invest in and improve our tenant and resident engagement, including through creating a new Tenant Engagement Framework with our council tenants
- Work to retain our TPAS exemplar status for demonstrating long-term commitment to community engagement
- Work with Rother Fed and our tenants to strengthen tenant voice and influence.
- Deliver improvements to our council estate communal and shared areas, through introducing new estate caretaking teams and increasing our investment in environmental schemes around our housing blocks.
- Make £216,000 in funding available annually to be allocated to projects and environmental improvements that directly benefit council tenants via our Ward Housing Budget.

Progress:

Satisfaction data is unavailable at time of reporting – see 2.2.1.

- £126,000 of additional funding was invested in estate caretaking services to increase delivery capacity.

2.4.3 KPI: Increase the percentage of tenants satisfied with our approach to handling anti-social behaviour (See Appendix 2)

How will we achieve this:

- Improve our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities, including by making more use of enforcement powers such as civil penalty notices
- Strengthening the approach our housing officers take when dealing with incidents.
- Find new purposes for areas of land currently attracting anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.
- Implement the Council's Banning Order Policy to tackle landlords who are in breach of one or more of the sections of the Housing Act 2004.

Progress:

Satisfaction data is unavailable at time of reporting – see 2.2.1.

- There were 186 community protection notices issued for anti-social behaviour, waste and noise.
- An externally commissioned training and development programme for Housing Officers commenced in February 2026. The training focuses upon good practice in case management, and the full range of tools and powers that can be employed to deal with ASB.
- The service is currently implementing the NEC housing management system ASB case management module. This will enable casework to be more effectively tracked and monitored, including enhanced performance management reporting. The new system is due to go live in July 2026.
- As part of the Housing Service Transformation Programme, the service will review the current operating model for ASB case management.

3. The targets for Year 2 (2026/27)

Targets for the second year of the Housing Strategy are listed below.

Priority 1: Building high quality, sustainable and affordable new homes

- Deliver 150 new Council homes via the Housing Delivery Programme
- Homes completed or contracts secured for the delivery of 1,000 Council homes by Summer 2027, as part of the Housing Delivery Programme.

- Develop and approve the Housing Growth Framework for Rotherham, including the identification of a pipeline of sites/ projects which will contribute to the delivery of a further c500 Council Homes by 2037/38.

Priority 2: Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes

- Undertake a Private Sector Stock Condition Survey for Rotherham (alongside SYMCA partners)
- Complete full stock condition surveys of 6,000 more council homes
- Undertake an options appraisal for the future delivery of the Repairs and Maintenance service.

Priority 3: Preventing homelessness and supporting our residents to live independently

- Implement a new accommodation pathway for temporary accommodation
- Complete the Housing Needs Assessment and receive Cabinet approval for the Supported Housing Strategy, ensuring that investment in new homes meets the needs of a wide range of residents
- Launch the Crisis Resilience Fund

Priority 4: Ensuring that our neighbourhoods are safe, happy and thriving

- Develop a new operating model for tenancy management and ASB case management.
- Develop and approve the Town Centre Residential Statement/ Strategy
- Secure TPAS (Formerly the Tenant Participation Advisory Service) exemplar status

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The report is presented for information.

5. Consultation on proposal

- 5.1 The report is presented for information.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 The report is presented for information

7. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from the recommendations detailed in the report. The planned actions as part of the Housing Strategy are funded via existing budgets. These are included within the HRA Business Plan, which provides a financial assessment of the proposals within the Strategy over 30 years, and its impact on the management and financing of the Council's housing stock.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no substantive legal issues arising from the content of this report.

9. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications specific to this report.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The Children and Young Peoples Service, and Adult Care and Public Health have been consulted and have had an input into the Housing Strategy. By ensuring a range of affordable homes are delivered to meet a wide range of different needs, the Housing Strategy will help to provide safe, high-quality homes for children and young people, and vulnerable adults, allowing them to live safely and independently.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 11.1 Having access to good quality and affordable homes is important for all the borough's diverse communities, and the Housing Strategy seeks to remove barriers people can face in accessing a home to meet their needs. Data and consultation are used to understand Rotherham's communities, and through all the priorities within the Housing Strategy will deliver homes that meet the needs of older people, people with disabilities, larger families, single people and couples. The Council will continue to engage with communities and make sure the homes provided and enabled, meet their changing needs.

12. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 12.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on local, national, and international scales. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040.
- 12.2 Through its own delivery programme, the Council has the ability to ensure that the new homes are high quality and energy efficient, which will contribute to reducing domestic carbon emissions.

13. Implications for Partners

- 13.1 The aims set out in this Strategy will only be achieved by working in partnership with a range of local and regional stakeholders. The Council works strategically with partners through the Rotherham Strategic Housing Forum and with preferred Housing Association partners to help meet the wide range of housing need across the borough. Working with Homes England and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to

access funding opportunities is vital to make housing delivery schemes viable.

- 13.2 The Housing Strategy has been developed in collaboration with and will be regularly reviewed by Rotherham's Strategic Housing Forum, which includes representation at a senior level from voluntary sector organisations, social housing providers, landlords and developers.

14. Risks and Mitigation

- 14.1 The risk of failing to deliver the commitments set out in the Housing Strategy and action plan will be mitigated by ensuring the correct staff resources and processes are in place, and through regular and robust progress monitoring including an annual report to the Improving Places Select Commission.
- 14.2 The risk of the Housing Strategy becoming out of date due to policy and context changes at the national and local level, is mitigated by ongoing monitoring and refreshing the Housing Strategy every five years.

Accountable Officer(s)

Sarah Clyde, Service Director

Michael Hellewell, Head of Strategic Housing and Development

Sarah Watts, Strategic Housing Manager

Report Author:

Garry Newton, Housing Development Intelligence Coordinator

garry.newton@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Priority 1: Building high quality, sustainable and affordable new homes.	
Our aims: - We will work with partners to enable the delivery of new homes to meet local need. - We will lead by example by building and acquiring hundreds of new council homes. - We will ensure new homes are high quality and sustainable.	Key performance indicators: - Increase the number of new homes built in the Borough. - Ensure a minimum 25% of new homes are affordable housing. - Increase the number of council homes available, including through new build and acquisitions. - Ensure all council new build and acquisitions are a minimum EPC C when let.
Over the next five years, we will: - Provide a high quality, efficient planning service to help accelerate delivery, including pre-application advice for housing developments and working with housing developers and builders to enable key strategic housing sites identified in the Local Plan to meet housing targets. - Continue to diversify the housing offer in the Borough, including affordable home ownership options such as shared ownership, more joint working with SMEs and housing associations, supported by partnership working with SYMCA and Homes England to maximise funding opportunities for housing schemes. - Adopt the Bassingthorpe Farm Supplementary Planning Document and work with partners to shape delivery of this and other key strategic housing sites. - Deliver more council and affordable homes through our Council build, acquisitions and small sites homebuilding initiative programmes on sites across the Borough, and through our work to enable affordable housing with partners. We will achieve our 1,000 Council homes target by Summer 2027 and build a pipeline of future affordable housing projects. - Meet and where possible, exceed minimum nationally described space standards when building new council homes, and build new homes with renewable energy systems to ensure that they are zero carbon ready to meet the Future Homes Standard. We will also ensure all Council acquisitions are a minimum of EPC rating C. - Use our Place and Quality Panel to ensure schemes are delivered with input from cross-council services and that we learn from outcomes of recent delivery.	
Indicators - No. of new homes built, including council and partner delivery - Planning applications % of housing target achieved - Customer feedback - No. of developments meeting the Affordable Housing policy - Adoption of the Bassingthorpe SPD - New build EPC ratings - Case studies	

Priority 2: Improving the safety, quality and energy efficiency of our homes									
Our aims: - We will work towards ensuring that no household is living in fuel poverty. - We will ensure that our residents live in safe, decent, high-quality homes. - We will work towards ensuring that all landlords, including the Council, operate to the highest standard.	Key performance indicators: - Increasing the percentage of satisfied tenants in all of the Regulator of Social Housing's Tenant Satisfaction Measures - Increasing the proportion of our council homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard and continue to improve our repairs and health and safety compliance performance - Increasing the number of private sector landlord actions addressing Category 1 and 2 hazards following Council intervention. - Reducing the percentage of households living in (Low Income Low Energy Efficiency) fuel poverty in Rotherham - Increasing energy efficiency in existing homes, including ensuring all council homes achieve an EPC certificate minimum rating C by 2030.								
Over the next five years, we will: - Meet or exceed minimum council housing standards to ensure our tenants are safe in their homes. We will focus on improving our performance against the Decent Homes Standard; ensuring all repairs, risk assessments, inspections and safety checks are carried out to target timescales; and improving how we manage our homes and work with our tenants to meet the consumer standards. This will be underpinned by our stock condition survey and a £37m expansion in our housing improvements capital programme. - Continue to provide a range of support to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency. Our energy crisis support scheme will support qualifying residents in fuel poverty, and our Healthy Homes Plan will provide help and advice to residents to increase energy efficiency in their homes, supported by ECO4 and ECO5 grants for our most vulnerable residents and/or homes with the lowest energy efficiency. - Develop our council housing decarbonisation plan, aiming to meet legal requirements to achieve EPC C by 2030, and then a roadmap to net zero emissions. We will maximise opportunities to invest in the Borough by bidding for funding that becomes available through Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. - Hold landlords in Selective Licensing areas responsible for the condition and management of their properties and, subject to review of recent consultation, continue to review the case to expand Selective Licensing to other areas of the borough. We will also implement new powers granted by the Renters Rights Act.									
Indicators <table border="0"> <tr> <td>- Tenant satisfaction measures (various)</td><td>- % households in fuel poverty</td></tr> <tr> <td>- No. of homes meeting decent homes standards (or other)</td><td>- Homes with EPC rating C or above</td></tr> <tr> <td>- £ of capital investment</td><td>- No. of ECO grants accessed</td></tr> <tr> <td>- No. of Cat1 and Cat2 hazards</td><td>- Case studies</td></tr> </table>		- Tenant satisfaction measures (various)	- % households in fuel poverty	- No. of homes meeting decent homes standards (or other)	- Homes with EPC rating C or above	- £ of capital investment	- No. of ECO grants accessed	- No. of Cat1 and Cat2 hazards	- Case studies
- Tenant satisfaction measures (various)	- % households in fuel poverty								
- No. of homes meeting decent homes standards (or other)	- Homes with EPC rating C or above								
- £ of capital investment	- No. of ECO grants accessed								
- No. of Cat1 and Cat2 hazards	- Case studies								

Priority 3: Preventing homelessness and supporting our residents to live independently	
Our aims: - We will end rough sleeping in Rotherham and work to prevent our residents from becoming homeless. - 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.	Key performance indicators: - An increase in the proportion of households approaching us for help who are prevented or relieved from homelessness, rather than requiring longer term support. - Further reductions in the use of hotels as emergency accommodation. - An increase in the number of affordable homes built in Rotherham that meet a specialist need. - More residents able to benefit from adaptations to their homes, within smaller waiting times.
Over the next five years, we will: - Further strengthen our focus on homelessness prevention through an updated Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy. We will step up support for those facing homelessness; we will ensure financial support is made available including issuing discretionary housing payments; and we will work more closely with families and landlords to keep people in their homes for longer. - Increase the provision of suitable temporary and move-on accommodation. We will improve the quality and service standards of temporary accommodation and deliver further reductions in the usage of emergency hotel accommodation. And we will work with private landlords and housing associations to improve the range of permanent accommodation available. - Improve our understanding of the diverse needs of our tenants, including vulnerabilities, so we can get better at early intervention and tailoring our services. - Continue to build and acquire a range of house types, to meet the needs of older residents, residents with disabilities, vulnerable adults and families, looked after children and care leavers to rent from the council or housing associations. This will be informed by developing our understanding of different housing needs e.g. armed forces, learning disability and autism, physical disability, mental health, and gypsies and travellers. - Fully implement our new approach to aids and adaptations, including stepping up the use of discretionary grants, with an aim to reduce the average length of time waiting for major adaptations. - Change how our social housing allocations policy works, so we are making better use of our limited council housing stock, meeting housing need, and supporting successful and balanced communities.	
Indicators - Updated Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy - No. of homelessness cases received, prevented or relieved - Discretionary housing payments issued - No. of hotels / temporary accommodation properties accessed - No. of homes built or acquired which meet specific needs - No. of adaptations / types of adaptations - Customer feedback - Case studies	

Priority 4 – Ensuring that our neighbourhoods are safe, happy, and thriving.	
Our Aims: • We will bring empty homes back into use. • We will invest in our communities to ensure they are inclusive and safe. • We will ensure that new and improved homes support regeneration.	Key performance indicators: • Reduce the number of long-term empty homes. • Increase the percentage of council tenants satisfied we make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods. • Increase the percentage of tenants satisfied with our approach to handling anti-social behaviour.
Over the next five years, we will: - Deliver our Empty Homes Plan. We will provide advice to owners and landlords of empty homes to help bring homes back into use, use enforcement powers to tackle empty homes where necessary, and ensure that empty council homes (voids) are brought back into use as soon as possible. - Continue to invest in and improve our tenant and resident engagement, including through creating a new Tenant Engagement Framework with our council tenants; working to retain our TPAS exemplar status for demonstrating long-term commitment to community engagement; and working with Rother Fed and our tenants to strengthen tenant voice and influence. - Deliver improvements to our council estate communal and shared areas, through introducing new estate caretaking teams and increasing our investment in environmental schemes around our housing blocks. - Improve our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities, including by making more use of enforcement powers such as civil penalty notices, finding new purposes for areas of land currently attracting anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, and strengthening the approach our housing officers take when dealing with incidents. - Make £216,000 in funding available annually to be allocated to projects and environmental improvements that directly benefit council tenants via our Ward Housing Budget. - Implement the Council's Banning Order Policy to tackle landlords who are in breach of one or more of the sections of the Housing Act 2004.	
Indicators - No. of long-term empty properties - No. of empty properties brought back into use - Average relet time for council homes - £ invested in communities via ward budgets - Community protection notices issued - Banning orders issued - Customer feedback - Case studies	

Cross Cutting Objectives

In delivering the four priorities outlined above, we will also pursue three cross-cutting objectives:

Keeping our residents healthy and warm	Playing our part to reduce carbon emissions	Reduce inequalities in and between our communities
There is a clear and direct link between our health and our homes. Implementing energy efficiencies including insulation to our homes will mean we are warmer and less likely to develop respiratory problems, as well as reducing the mental stress of high energy bills. Reducing hazards in the home will reduce the risk of ill health. Building homes that are zero-carbon ready, with high energy performance means that new homes will be warmer and cheaper to run. Adapting properties for residents who are growing older or have disabilities will enable them to live in their homes independently. By building homes that are accessible, a greater range of homes will be available to meet the diverse needs of our residents. Well-designed neighbourhoods support active travel, which has a range of health benefits.	It is estimated that around 20% of all carbon emissions are from our homes. New homes have higher energy performance, and a new Future Homes Standard will see renewable or electric energy sources replace non-renewable energy in new build homes. Building homes has a significant carbon footprint, but this must be considered alongside the urgent need to house residents. Modern methods of construction can reduce the carbon footprint of housing development. Decarbonising existing homes by improving insulation and retrofitting low-carbon heating technologies will also reduce carbon emissions. Designing new estates and neighbourhoods that are well connected to services can help to promote active travel and therefore reduce dependence on cars.	The housing crisis does not impact everyone equally. For example, some areas have higher numbers of privately rented homes that are smaller, older and more likely to be in disrepair. This can lead to overcrowding and health issues, and make areas feel less safe. It can also disproportionately impact certain groups who are more likely to live in these areas, for example those on lower incomes. Increasing the range, quality and energy efficiency of homes can address inequalities faced by older and disabled residents. The cost-of-living crisis disproportionately affects residents on lower incomes, who spend more of their disposable income on housing. By reducing energy bills and housing costs, we can reduce financial pressure on residents.

Delivery of the priorities and aims of the Housing Strategy will contribute towards addressing each of the cross-cutting objectives.

KPI no.	KPI	Metric	2025/26	Target	Previous year
1	Increase the number of new homes built in the Borough.	National Planning Policy Framework target	778	1111	790
2	Ensure a minimum 25% of new homes are affordable housing.	Calculation of affordable housing as a percentage of KPI 1	34%	25%	38%
3	Increase the number of council homes available, including through new build and acquisitions.	Housing Scorecard: 13.1: Number of new homes delivered from January 2018	114	100	156
4	Ensure all council new build and acquisitions are a minimum EPC C when let.	Percentage of KPI 3 that are EPC C or above	99%	100%	N/A
5	Increasing the percentage of satisfied tenants in all of the Regulator of Social Housing's Tenant Satisfaction Measures	Tenant Satisfaction Measures:			
5.1		TP01 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied with the overall service from their landlord	N/A		78.20%
5.2		TP02 - Proportion of respondents who have received a repair in the last 12 months who report that they are satisfied with the overall repairs service	N/A		78.60%
5.3		TP03 - Proportion of respondents who have received a repair in the last 12 months who report that they are satisfied with the time taken to complete their most recent repair	N/A		77.60%

5.4		TP04 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is well maintained	N/A		77.70%
5.5		TP05 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is safe	N/A		81%
5.6		TP06 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord listens to tenant views and acts upon them	N/A		71.50%
5.7		TP07 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord keeps them informed about things that matter to them	N/A		76.80%
5.8		TP08 - Proportion of respondents who report that they agree their landlord treats them fairly and with respect	N/A		83%
5.9		TP09 - Proportion of respondents who report making a complaint in the last 12 months who are satisfied with their landlords approach's to complaints handling	N/A		34.50%
5.1		TP10 - Proportion of respondents with communal areas who report that they are satisfied that their landlord keeps communal areas clean and well maintained	N/A		68.10%
6	Increasing the proportion of our council homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard and continue to	TSM	N/A		95.15%

	improve our repairs and health and safety compliance performance				
7	Increasing the number of private sector landlord actions addressing Category 1 and 2 hazards following Council intervention.	Data collection will commence as part of requirements for the Renters Reform Act in 2026/27.	N/A	No target	N/A
8	Reducing the percentage of households living in (Low Income Low Energy Efficiency) fuel poverty in Rotherham	National Fuel Poverty Statistics (data is two years behind)	N/A	To reduce the percentage of households living in fuel poverty	Latest data available is 2023: 14.5% of households in Rotherham live in Fuel Poverty
9	Increasing energy efficiency in existing homes, including ensuring all council homes achieve an EPC certificate minimum rating C by 2030.	Housing Scorecard 3.17: % of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate rated C and above	61.10%	55%	58.20%
10	An increase in the proportion of households approaching us for help who are prevented or relieved from homelessness, rather than requiring longer term support.	Housing Scorecard 7.4: % of households prevented or relieved from homelessness	88.60%	85%	
11	Further reductions in the use of hotels as emergency accommodation.	Distinct number of households in B&B	525		835
12	An increase in the number of affordable homes built in Rotherham that meet a specialist need.	Calculation of the delivery of bungalows, flats & DPUs for specific needs by the Council and RP partners	17	N/A	10

13	More residents able to benefit from adaptations to their homes, within smaller waiting times.	Housing Scorecard Section 6 summary: The average amount of weeks from the customer first contact to Social Services to the contactor completion of works	32.43 weeks	52 weeks	
14	Reduce the number of long-term empty homes.	Housing Scorecard 13.7: Number of empty homes brought back into use by EHO	36	30	34
15	Increase the percentage of council tenants satisfied we make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods.	TP11 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord makes a positive contribution to the neighbourhood	N/A		71.20%
16	Increase the percentage of tenants satisfied with our approach to handling anti-social behaviour.	TP12 - Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied with their landlords approach to handling anti-social behaviour	N/A		63.30%

Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy

IPSC Summary Presentation
June 2026

Co-Design Process

- Engagement with the Strategic Leadership Team on the overall preferred approach of designing two strategies.
 - Thriving Neighbourhoods
 - **Neighbourhood Leadership**
- Consultation and co-production workshop with Councillors (including IPSC and OSMB),
- Consultation and co-production workshop with Council services and partners, considering the potential for improved local working.
- Questionnaire shared with all Councillors
- Dialogue and approval with Cabinet Member and Leader

Member Feedback

- Councillors are almost unanimous in support of the Neighbourhoods Team
- They support more partnership working and welcome the opportunity to engage internally and externally with services
- Communication (between departments and with Councillors) was seen as the most important area for action – there is an aspiration for more joint working and a team mentality
- Councillors want to put residents at the heart of feeding back on the success of the strategy
- Councillors support a clearer expectation for residents, in the strategy

Vision and Ambition

“Rotherham’s neighbourhood model is already recognised nationally for its strength in supporting Ward Councillors to act as leaders.

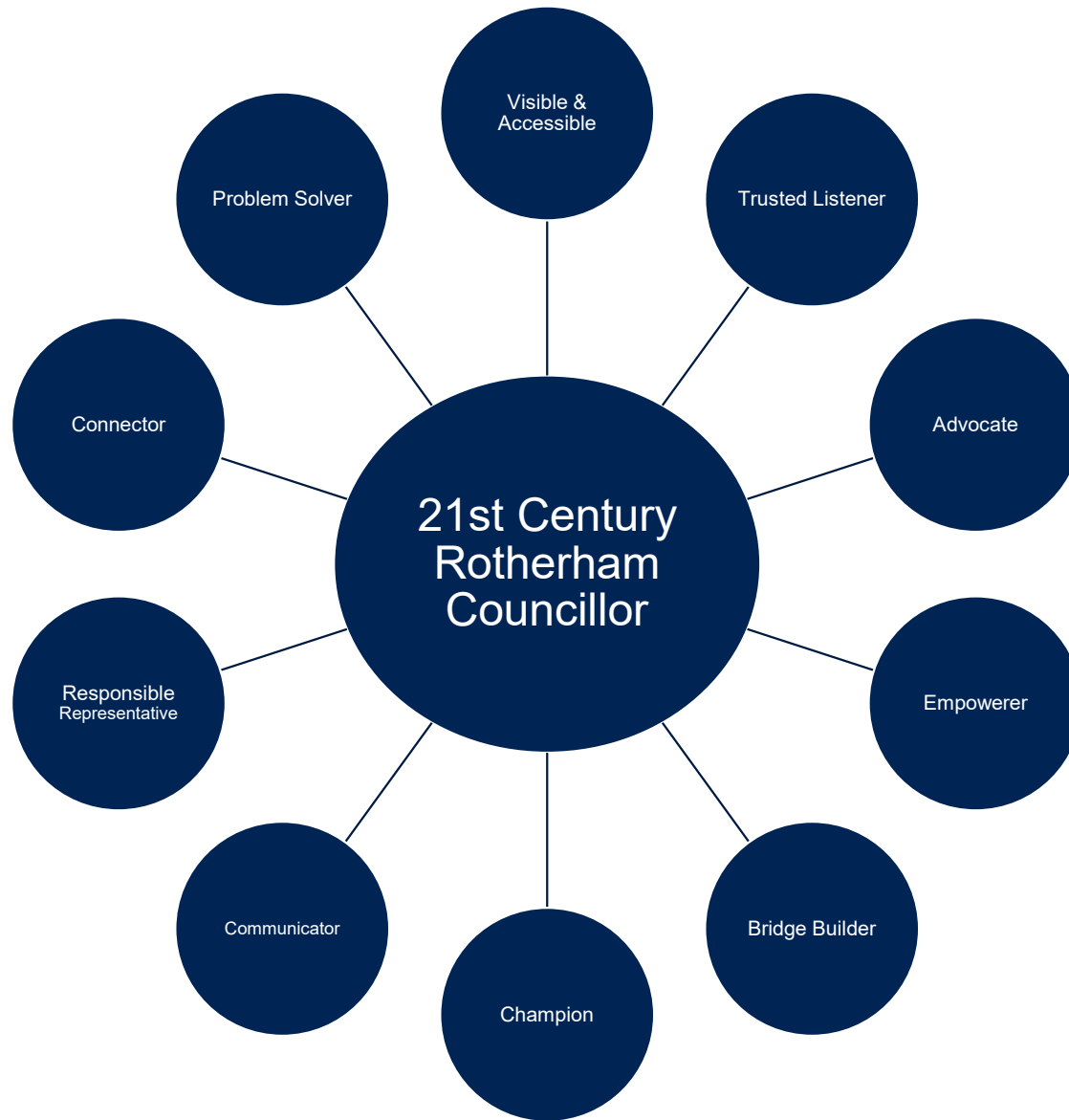
This strategy seeks to build on this strong foundation to define and embed the model further. It gives Ward Councillors an enhanced role as conveners and conduits for resident aspirations, helping The Council to be more readily listen, learn and respond to local needs. We define this as ‘The 21st Century Rotherham Councillor’.

The outcome of this will mean that local people feel more connected to The Council, building trust and agency in all our neighbourhoods”

Key Changes in Strategy

- More distinct focus on the role of Ward Councillors in a local and regional system
- A stronger connection between neighbourhoods (wards) and services
- More support for Ward Councillors to develop leadership skills
- Revisiting the 21st Century Councillor
- Stronger arrangements for monitoring and tracking success

The 21st Century Rotherham Councillor



Action Area 1: Ward Priorities and Plans

- Ongoing commitment to produce priorities and plans every two years
- Work towards enhanced data and evidence
- Development of new protocols to link neighbourhood evidence to service delivery

Action Are 2: Devolved Ward Budgets

- Continuation of devolved budgets (Community Leadership Fund, Ward Capital Budget, Ward Housing Budget, Community Infrastructure Levy)
- Continued support to enhance budgets through seed and match funding
- Opportunities to pilot new approaches to engaging residents in funding decisions

Action Area 3: Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services

- Create stronger links between neighbourhoods and services via councillors
- Connect councillors to other partners (police, health, Voluntary & Community Sector, education settings)
- Empower Neighbourhoods team with stronger role in influencing services
- Clear routes of escalation where issues and request are not met

Action Area 4: Ongoing Support and Leadership Development

- Develop new ways of working and member support to help develop attributes of leaders
- Embedding a stronger 'team mentality' between ward, coordinators and councillors

Action Area 5: The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership

- Stronger communications to help residents understand the aspiration of the strategy and the evolving role of Councillors
- Support for residents to work with Councillors to develop new community-led project and events

Action Area 6: Monitoring Impact and Feeding Back

- Supportively reflect on performance against the attributes of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor
- Support Councillors to distil and feedback local sentiment to support ongoing Council improvement

Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2026-27		
Chair: Cllr Cameron McKiernan	Vice-Chair: Cllr Adam Tinsley BEM	
Governance Manager: Kristianne Thorogood	Link Officer: Andrew Bramidge	
The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:		
Establish as a starting point:		
· What are the key issues?		
· What is the desired outcome?		
Agree principles for longlisting:		
· Can scrutiny add value or influence?		
· Is this being looked at elsewhere?		
· Is this a priority for the council or community?		
Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria, e.g.		
T: Time: is it the tight time, enough resources?		
O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?		
P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference		
I: Interest: what is the interest to the public?		
C: Contribution to the corporate plan		
Meeting Date	Responsible Officer	Agenda Item
	Sarah Clyde / Garry Newton	Housing Strategy 2025-30 Progress Report Year 1 (2025-26)
Tuesday	Chris Paddock / Martin Hughes	Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy
23 June 2026	Governance Advisor	Nominate representative to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel
	Work Programme 2026-2027	IPSC Terms of Reference
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027
	Louise Robson / James Smith	Update on Housing Involvement and Governance
	Simon Moss / Martin Beasley	Review of Business Centres - RIDO
Tuesday		
1 September 2026		
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027
	Director of PSE / Martin Hughes	Draft Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy
Tuesday	Chris Siddall / Rachel Stothard	Update on Playing Pitch Strategy Phase 2
20 October 2026		
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027
	Bal Nahal / Ashleigh Wilford	Bereavement Services Annual Update
Tuesday	Sarah Clyde / Lynsey Stephenson	Housing Stock Condition Survey Update
1 December 2026		
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027
	Richard Jackson	Flooding Alleviation Update
	James Smith / Caroline Hubbard	Tenant Scrutiny Update
Tuesday		
26 January 2027		
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027
Tuesday		
2 March 2027		
	Governance Advisor	Work Programme 2026-2027

[illegible]

Cross Commission scrutiny opportunities		
TBC	Ian Spicer / Sarah Clyde	Energy Efficiency: An off-agenda briefing to be provided to members of OSMB and IPSC to provide information on the energy efficiency retrofits in social housing. This should cover aspects such as the feasibility and prioritisation of upgrades to heating systems and insulation across the borough. It would include details on how these retrofits align with the Council's net-zero goals, what potential funding was available to support this and timescales for implementation.