

CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Venue: Training Room,
3rd Floor, Bailey House,
Rawmarsh Road,
Rotherham. S60 1TD

Date: Monday, 24th November, 2008

Time: 10.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006).
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of a meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group held on 17th October, 2008 (Pages 1 - 3)
4. Minutes of a meeting of Clifton Park Restoration Project Board held on 27th October, 2008 (Pages 4 - 7)
5. Minutes of a meeting of the Tourism Panel held on 5th November, 2008 (Pages 8 - 14)
 - to receive the minutes.
6. Report re: receipt of a petition:- controlled access to Schoolfield Drive from Rosehill Park (Page 15)
7. Opening of Tenders (Page 16)
 - to note the opening of the tenders.
8. Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system (Pages 17 - 26)
Carolyn Barber, Ecology Development Officer
 - to summarise the development of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system and recommend the adoption and implementation of the system.
9. Town Centre Spaces - Applications for Mobile Catering Units (Pages 27 - 34)
Bernadette Rushton, Assistant Town Centre Manager, to report.
 - to identify recommended traders to whom licences would be issued for the purpose of siting a mobile catering unit in the town centre for the period 1st January, to 31st March, 2009.

10. Flood Alleviation Scheme - Don Bridge/Old Grafton Bridge (Pages 35 - 43)
Greg Lindley, Partnership Implementation Manager, and Stephen Smith, Assistant Development Co-ordinator, to report.
 - to seek approval to undertake work for the removal of this bridge.
11. Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF) - Don Bridge Removal (Pages 44 - 47)
Chris Majer, Economic Strategy Officer, to report.
 - to seek RERF funding allocation.
12. Rotherham Town Centre - Draft Public Realm Strategy (Pages 48 - 75)
Charles Hammersley, Project Officer, to report.
 - to consider amendment to the draft strategy, and approve the statutory public consultation.

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP
Friday, 17th October, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Boyes, Dodson, Jack, Littleboy, R. S. Russell, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wyatt.

together with:-

Alan Bamforth	Planner
David Edwards	Area & Environmental Planning Team Leader
Ken Macdonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
Andrew McGarrigle	Chief Executive's office
Bronwen Peace	Planning Manager
Helen Sleigh	Senior Planner
Phil Turnidge	Local Development Framework Manager
Nick Ward	Planner
Joshua Wright	Student on placement

Apologies were received from:-

Councillor McNeeley	
Councillor Pickering	
Councillor Rushforth	
Councillor Walker	
Neil Finney	Business Support Technician
Adrian Gabriel	Waste Manager
Gordon Smith	Quality & Design Co-ordinator

24. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

Ken Macdonald, Solicitor, introduced Joshua Wright, son of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, who was on work placement.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th September, 2008.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

26. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(i) LDF process/validity of documentation

Ken Macdonald, Solicitor, explained to the Steering Group the status, in planning decision making terms, of the documentation with reference to the Unitary Development Plan, policies saved from the UDP, and current allocations work. He emphasised that an allocation was not a grant of planning permission. The work in progress would lead to an Allocations Development Plan Document which would guide Development Control decisions. Planning permission still needed to be sought and applications would be assessed against the current policies and other planning considerations. He also pointed out that there would be further stages of consultation and the proposals would be subject to examination in public.

(ii) Minute No. 20 – Growth Point

Phil Turnidge, Local Development Framework Manager, reported that material from Rotherham, along with the other three South Yorkshire districts, had been forwarded to Transform South Yorkshire who were putting the bid together. The preliminary bid was submitted to Government Office on 30th September, 2008. The information would be refined in subsequent phases because the housing numbers put forward were based on the allocations work which was currently preliminary and theoretical.

It was pointed out that the Regional Spatial Plan, Growth Point and LDF should all align.

Further updates would be reported in due course.

27. ROTHERHAM LDF ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT SETTLEMENT SURVEYS

Preliminary settlement surveys were undertaken in consultation with the Ward Members regarding the following settlement groupings:-

- Catcliffe, Orgreave and Treeton
- Aston, Aughton and Swallownest
- Wales and Kiveton Park

Consideration was also given to reports re:-

- Outlying Villages
- Greenbelt Villages

Resolved:- That the position, and continuing development work, be noted.

28. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LDF Forward Programme

Phil Turnidge, Local Development Framework Manager, reported that a

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17/10/08**

meeting at Government Office in Leeds had been arranged for 19th November, 2008 to discuss progress.

In addition the Planning Inspector had been in contact about the national picture regarding the LDF process which was slipping with only 17 to 20% coverage.

The Planning Inspector was therefore now looking at Local Authorities and their LDF work to identify areas of good practice, and correct processes where necessary.

It was stressed, however, that Government Office, was quite happy with Rotherham's approach, except that the work needed to be done much faster. Therefore the timeline had been reviewed and a draft copy was distributed at the meeting. This reviewed timeline would lead to an update of the Local Development Scheme which would then be published. Adoption was scheduled for December 2010. In terms of the Core Strategy it was planned that by 2009 the Council would have recommended options to go out to consultation during February/March, 2009. Work would continue to refine the site/settlements work, including consultation with individual communities. This would be followed by an analysis of responses, and inter-working of the Core Strategy and Allocations work.

29. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the LDF Members' Steering Group be held on FRIDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

CLIFTON PARK RESTORATION PROJECT BOARD
Monday, 27th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Dodson, Falvey, McNeely and Wootton.

Also in attendance:-

Elaine Humphries	Chair of the Friends Group
Joyce Miller	Secretary to the Friends of Clifton Park Group
David Burton	Consultant Project Manager
Phill Gill	Green Spaces Manager
Andrew Cottage	LDA Design
Michelle Quinn	LDA Design

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Dawn Sanders and Phil Rogers.

96. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd October, 2008, be agreed as a correct record.

97. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, reported that, following the contract start on 29th September 2008, initial work had focused on removal and pruning of trees, as agreed at the previous meeting held on 2nd October, starting with the area to the rear of the Museum, and moving on to the site of the new Activity Buildings and Water Play. This work is still underway and a positive reaction to the work from park users had been received.

UCS Civils have established their site compound close to the Doncaster Road entrance. The Rangers office and temporary toilets have been moved to a temporary location next to UCS's compound. UCS have amended their original proposal which would have resulted in the diversion of the footpath from the Doncaster Road car park to the play area, so that this footpath can now remain open to public use. It is hoped to open the toilets more during the Winter period due to the Contractors being present.

Work has started on breaking out the old paddling pool and skate rink to allow construction of the Activity Buildings and Water Play area to begin. Much activity in connection with this area is currently happening off-site, with the fabrication of specially designed building components in factories.

Signboards, which it is proposed to site at each of the 3 park entrances, are currently being manufactured, and are due to be delivered to site

within the next two weeks. These will contain a plan, images and explanatory text about the project, as well as clip frames to allow information to be updated at regular intervals.

A formal project launch had taken place on 11th October 2008, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services, and members of the Friends of Clifton Park. There were also demonstrations to show members of the public how timber from felled trees is being used to provide building materials, park furniture and sculptures.

A discussion took place with regard to Contractor arrangements around the forthcoming Remembrance Ceremony and possible presence by the Contractors during this event in order to publicise future works and programming to members of the public.

Resolved:- That the verbal report be received and noted.

98. PLAY PARK DESIGN PROPOSALS

Following a previous discussion by the Project Board on the contents of the Master Plan, the meeting welcomed Andrew Cottage and Michelle Quinn from LDA Design who gave a presentation on progress to date in the development of more detailed designs for the new play park.

Members present were asked to approve the current draft designs to allow the design team to move on to the detailed design stage.

Green Spaces officers are working in parallel with the design team to ensure that the emerging designs can be managed and maintained effectively. It is proposed that the site Management and Maintenance Plan will be updated to include details for the play park. The main issues being considered are:-

- Maintenance
- Security and safety
- Developing use of the play park, particularly amongst target groups

Information was given with regard to the following:-

- Zone 2 – Day at the Dunes (Themed Area)
- Zone 3 – Adventure Avenue (incorporating Tower)
- Zone 4 – Forest Fun (Higher Energy Equipment)
- Zone 5 – Wild Wood
- Zone 6 – Chill Out Lounge
- Zone 7 – Skate Plaza
- Zones 8-9 – Relaxation

Key features of the designs were outlined. These included:-

- Pedestrian spinal path
- Types/textures of play equipment
- Public consultation involving local school children/user groups
- Gateway features/landmarks
- Sustainable design – i.e. stone and timber
- DDA compliance

The meeting raised questions with regard to:-

- drainage
- shades/canopies/overhangs
- sandy areas/wind and water
- public seating
- safety near main road
- fencing/dog-free areas/enforcement/Bye-laws
- design of the tower and need to maintain privacy of Park Lea
- security/surveillance/cameras backed up by response
- vandalism/anti-social behaviour/hotspots
- lighting
- traffic calming measures
- alcohol exclusion zones
- visiting events – i.e. donkey rides
- park furniture/litter bins/recycling opportunities
- possible town centre train

Other ideas being explored were:-

- use of existing equipment
- Pets Corner
- Use of existing features - train

Resolved:- (1) That the presentation by LDA Design be noted.

(2) That, whilst taking into account comments made by Members present at today's meeting, approval be given to the next stage of the LDA design work.

99. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, reported that following a tour of the site at the close of formal business at the previous meeting of the Project Board held on 2nd October, an agreement had been reached to fell certain trees around the Museum area, with a suggestion that one lime tree should remain.

However, as this tree had looked out of place in isolation, and in order to open up views to and from the rear of the Museum, it had since been agreed by the Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Development

Services, under delegated powers, to remove the tree. The Contractor had been instructed accordingly.

100. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Monday, 17th November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

**TOURISM PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Boyes and Walker.

together with:-

together with:-

Matthew Beck	Managing Director, MAGNA
Dawn Campbell	Events & Promotions Officer
Joanne Edley	Tourism Manager
Natalie Haynes	Holiday Inn
Bernard Jones	South Yorkshire Transport Museum
Jayne Oates	Tourism Assistant
Tom Waldron-Lynch	General Manager, Hellaby Hall Hotel
Caroline Wilson	Yorkshire South Tourism

35. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present and introductions were made.

The Chairman welcomed Jayne Oates, Tourism Assistant, to her first meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Austen	
Councillor Littleboy	
Lizzy Alageswaran	Principal Officer, Community Arts
Keigh Ayling	Chesterfield Canal Partnership
Marie Hayes	Events & Promotions Service Manager
Julie Roberts	Town Centre Manager
Julie Williamson	Dearne Valley College

36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September, 2008.

Reference was made to Minute No. 30 - Heritage Open Days and the following amendments were reported:-

3rd paragraph – The event had included:- should read:- Chesterfield and not Sheffield

4th paragraph – It was reported that over 500 people had taken part – at the Chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge

Agreed:- That the minutes, with the above amendments, be agreed.

37. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 29(3) - Rotherham Walking Festival – evaluation of the value of publicity

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, submitted details of the calculated value of publicity that the Walking Festival had attracted. The evaluation had considered:-

- Editorial Coverage:- Rotherham Advertiser; Staffordshire Journal; Midlands Review; Maltby News
- Radio Coverage:- Rother FM
- 5 news pieces, website banner and What's on? Guide

It was reported that the estimated total value equated to £4,534.

In response to Panel Members' questions Joanne explained that 2008 was the 9th year of the Festival, and the event was still receiving good coverage from the walking magazines. Press releases had been issued and articles had been published before, during and after the festival. However, there was no guarantee that the information would be taken up by the press. Information had also been placed in local post offices. Quite a lot of people from the Midlands attended events during the festival, although mostly attendees were from the local area. Unfortunately there was no budget to place specific information in national magazines.

38. ITEMS RAISED BY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Matthew Beck reported on the following successful events that had been held at MAGNA:-

- Business Tourism Awards
- Sports Presentations

He added that in the current economic climate the business tourism sector was collapsing.

39. ROTHERHAM TOURISM FORUM UPDATE

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, reported on the following items which had arisen and been discussed at the Tourism Forum meeting held at the Aston Sheffield Rotherham Hotel on 18th September, 2008:-

- (i) Training Information:-

Attendees had reported that they were not receiving training information, or were unable to access training.

Matthew Beck and Caroline Wilson reported that they were in discussion with Talent Services to put together a total training package under the Yorkshire South banner. It was hoped that this would be accessible for local smaller companies. It was thought that as this was being developed in respect of the sub-region it was more likely to attract funding.

Joanne Edley added that Business link had also sent out information about their seminars and workshops programme.

Reference was made to the value of on-line training e.g. for health and safety; food hygiene.

Funding sources, including from Business Link, were being explored.

Members of the Panel commented that it was often difficult for smaller companies to release their staff to undertake training.

(ii) Local Products and contacts:-

Joanne reported that Forum Members had carried out an exercise to compile a list of local products and services which would be useful to the industry.

Their list included:-

- Local artists and crafts people – to work with the hotels to produce items either for decoration or for sale
- Local books – hotel copies in room which were then available for purchase
- Swinton Lock Activity Centre – a group of artists worked at this Centre and proposed to invite industry representative to their Open Day on 4th December
- Local plumbers and electricians – a list was to be provided by the Chamber

Familiarisation visits:- these were for hotel staff, reception staff, Tourist Information Centre staff to visit various attractions first hand between November 2008 and April 2009. To date Magna, Winthrop Park and RSPB Old Moor had offered guided tours. This information had been sent to hotels and accommodation providers and a good response was being received.

A leaflet setting out details of dates and venues involved in the Accommodation, Attraction and Tourist Information staff free familiarisation visits to local attractions, which included a booking form, was distributed for information at the meeting.

40. MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE TOURIST BOARD TOURISM AUTHORITY FORUM

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, reported on issues arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Tourist Board Tourism Authority Forum held on 3rd October, 2008 which she and Councillor Walker attended.

Joanne pointed out to the Panel that after the Yorkshire Tourist Board AGM in November 2008 there may not be any further meetings of the Tourism Authority Forum and the Tourism Operators' Group and a new way of communicating information would be established through the review of Tourism in Yorkshire.

It was also pointed out that the outcome of the review was not yet known.

In addition Caroline Wilson reported that from her understanding there would be a Strategic Board for the Yorkshire Tourist Network, and that board would consist of the 6 area tourism partnerships, including Yorkshire South Tourism and the Yorkshire Tourist Board. There would be one Business Plan which all the partnerships would work to, and this business plan was being submitted to Yorkshire Forward by the end of November. It was pointed out that the review was being driven by Yorkshire Forward.

It was further explained that the Executive Team would consist of the Chief Executives of the 6 area tourism partnerships and the new Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Tourist Board. There would only be one (or two) Local Authority Members who would sit on the strategic board of the Yorkshire Tourist Network. It was proposed that the LGA Yorkshire and Humber meeting would ask for a nominated representative.

Panel Members commented on:-

- the importance of local authorities being represented
- the tourism agenda being driven by Yorkshire Forward
- the current budget process and budget implications for tourism particularly in respect of the level of subscription
- the importance of tourism as an aspect of regeneration

Agreed:- (1) That the information, and minutes, and Panel Members' comments be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services consider nominating a Councillor to attend the Yorkshire Tourist Board AGM on 26th November, 2008 in York, in place of Councillor Walker.

41. UPDATE OF THE REVIEW OF YORKSHIRE TOURISM

As detailed in Minute No. 40 above, Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, explained that the final outcome of the review was not yet known.

Matthew Beck added that the Tourism Operators' Group was due to meet on 10th November, 2008, where further information made be made available.

42. UPDATE OF THE WORK OF YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, reported on the following aspects of work:-

- (i) Partnership information
- (ii) Leisure
- (iii) Gardens of South Yorkshire
- (iv) Business tourism, including conferences, exhibitions, press features and on-going campaigns

Agreed:- That the on-going work be noted.

43. WEBSITE UPDATE AND DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ICT SYSTEM STITCH IN

Caroline Wilson from Yorkshire South Tourism, and Jayne Oates, Tourism Assistant, reported on on-going work to update the Council's website in respect of tourism and to "stitch in" to the Destination Management ICT system.

The Panel considered three alternative designs, printed copies of which were provided at the meeting.

Panel Members commented on:-

- the need to minimise the amount of script and maximise visuals
- simplicity so that people completed their bookings/search using the least number of clicks
- ability to check availability
- links to information about events
- links to attractions (websites within a website)
- quality control through Yorkshire South Tourism
- the need for consistency

Agreed:- That the Panel supports the design illustrated at option 1.

44. ON YOUR DOOR STEP LOCAL RESIDENTS' CAMPAIGN NOVEMBER 2008

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, reported on the above campaign, and distributed leaflets which included vouchers/special offers, and a flyer detailing accommodation officers during November, 2008.

Details were given of where and how these leaflets had been distributed.

Natalie Haynes, from the Holiday Inn, reported that they had already received two bookings for November as a result of this campaign.

45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were reported:-

(i) Christmas Events 2008

Dawn Campbell, Events and Promotions Officer, reported on events and activities planned for the town centre in the lead up to Christmas including:-

Christmas Lights Switch-on – Thursday, 20th November – event commencing at 4.30 p.m.

Real Reindeer – Saturday, 13th December

Lantern Making and Procession – this was a joint activity involved the Minster and Community arts and local schools in lantern making with a procession Thursday, 18th December and songs in the Square followed by a service and nativity play in the Minster

Victorian Craft market – in the Minster at the end of November

Markets events – donkey rides; Santa's Grotto; Punch and Judy

Dawn provided details of where the events had been advertised and where people could find out more information. The Panel's attention was drawn to the new town centre website www.rotherhamtowncentre.co.uk.

Dawn informed the Panel about the "Clickbacks scheme" which town centre management had developed to assist business and this included offers from 1st December. The Chamber had also developed two pages of vouchers to compliment this and to showcase the town centre and events.

(ii) Information Posts

Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, reported that a new information board was being installed at Parkgate Retail centre, on attractions and accommodation in the area. New information was also being placed in the reception at Hellaby Hall Hotel.

46. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Tourism Panel be held on

Monday, 1st December, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1. MEETING:- CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – DELEGATED POWERS

2. MEETING DATE:- 24th NOVEMBER, 2008

3. PETITIONS

I wish to report receipt of the following petition which was submitted to the meeting of the Wentworth South Area Assembly at its meeting held on 13th October, 2008:-

- Petition regarding controlled access to Schoolfield Drive from Rosehill Park

A copy of the petition is attached.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) That the receipt of the petition be noted.
- (ii) That the Director of Planning and Transportation investigate the issue raised and submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1. MEETING:- CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – DELEGATED POWERS

2. MEETING DATE:- 24TH NOVEMBER, 2008

3. OPENING OF OFFERS/TENDERS

I wish to report the opening of Tenders by the Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Development Services, as follows:-

on 12th November, 2008 re:-

- Transport of Children & Young People and Vulnerable Adults

4. RECOMMENDATION

That the action of the Cabinet Member be recorded.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Development Services
2.	Date:	24 November 2008
3.	Title:	Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report summarises the development of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system and recommends the adoption and implementation of the system.

6. Recommendations

- **That the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system is adopted and implemented by RMBC and the initial 96 identified sites be accepted as Local Wildlife Sites.**
 - **That approval is given to proceed with the integration of the Local Wildlife Site system into the planning framework and into relevant performance monitoring systems.**
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7. Proposals and Details

Further to Minute No. 273 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services held on 27th April, 2007, in which progress achieved towards the development of a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) System for Rotherham was noted by Cabinet, this report provides an introduction to the completed Rotherham LWS system and recommends the adoption of the system by RMBC.

A non-technical summary of the developed Rotherham LWS system is attached as Appendix One; details of the identified candidate Local Wildlife Sites are attached as Appendix Two.

Rotherham has 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or SSSIs, these sites are representative examples of nationally important habitats and are protected through statutory designations. However, there are many more sites in Rotherham that are of high quality and importance for wildlife, which make up the attractive character of the area, that need protection and promotion.

Based upon current Defra guidance the Rotherham LWS system will provide a comprehensive method to maintain a register of sites of wildlife importance and to protect them through the local planning system. In accordance with this guidance, local diversity and conditions have been considered in order to produce a system that reflects the extent, variation and quality of the nature conservation resource in Rotherham. This has identified an initial suite of 96 Local Wildlife Sites; however, the system that has been developed allows for continual site assessment as and when new site data is received meaning that the system is evolving and evidence-based in line with current Government planning guidance.

The LWS system involves an ongoing monitoring programme to maintain the necessary evidence base. As the system includes a range of habitats and species a variety of ecological monitoring techniques will be needed and a programme of survey and monitoring work will be developed each year. The LWS system also involves ensuring positive management activities on identified sites to maintain, and if possible enhance, the noted interest(s). An element of the survey and monitoring work can be achieved via volunteers; however, it should be acknowledged that there will be a resource requirement to maintain an operational system.

Initial investigation has begun into how other local authority areas manage their systems; options include commitment of resources to local Wildlife Trusts to undertake survey work, employment of a dedicated officer to maintain Local Wildlife Site systems or ongoing use of consultants to provide up to date data. As resource implications vary for these options a detailed analysis of LWS system management requirements and resource options is being undertaken.

The development of Rotherham's LWS system has proved timely in that the management of Local Sites is now to be monitored as a national indicator within the new performance framework for local government via Local Area Agreement. The indicator, NI197 – Improved Local Biodiversity, will assess the performance of Local Authorities with regards to Local Sites and consequently their wider performance for biodiversity (in turn contributing to wider environmental quality). Performance will be calculated annually as a percentage of all Local Sites in the local authority area that can demonstrate positive conservation management; the CLG guidance for this indicator is attached as Appendix Three. As not all Local Wildlife Sites are in local authority ownership performance monitoring against this indicator will require liaison with other land owners and managers as well as direct management activity on RMBC sites. The responsibility for the administration of this indicator is with RMBC Culture & Leisure, Green Spaces (Steve Hallsworth and Carolyn Barber).

The LWS System will be integrated into Rotherham's planning regime via preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) within the Local Development Framework delivery process. The system and associated evidence base will contribute towards requirements under part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as well as paragraphs 2.2 and 4.37 of PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning, and Key Principle I of PPS9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

Adoption of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will enable its appropriate integration within the range of planning and performance frameworks now requiring biodiversity evidence.

8. Finance

The development of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system was resourced through Planning Delivery Grant. The actual spend has totalled £58,637.99 over 3 years.

There will be resource implications for the operation of the LWS system in order to maintain the robust timely evidence base required; ongoing operational requirements will include ecological survey and monitoring, system administration and promotion, provision of management advice, site management and performance data management.

The implementation of positive management on Local Authority owned sites, to meet the requirements of LAA NI197, may result in an increased annual cost requirement. However, there is the potential to offset this with external funding as sites registered as Local Wildlife Sites are likely to be targeted for environmental stewardship and other biodiversity related funding streams.

The adoption of the system will enable further development of the system's operational requirements and identification of resource options.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system has been developed in accordance with national best practice standards. The adoption of the system, and its integration to the local planning system, will ensure that RMBC is able to demonstrate compliance with current legislation and planning policy as well as Local Area Agreement requirements.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- The adoption of the Local Wildlife Site system will support the Local Authority in demonstrating compliance with the biodiversity duty placed upon all public authorities by Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- Local Wildlife Site identification contributes towards requirements under part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and section 6 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2004.
- The adopted system and identified sites, as well as the associated evidence base, contribute towards recommendations within paragraphs 2.2 and 4.37 of PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning, and Key Principle I of PPS9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.
- The maintenance of a Local Wildlife Site system and positive site management are essential elements of Local Area Agreement Indicator NI197 – 'Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites'.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Baker Shepherd Gillespie - Ecological Consultants (April 2007)
Rotherham Local Wildlife Site System:
 - Part 1: The Framework for Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site System,
 - Part 2: Site Selection Guidelines for Rotherham.
- Defra Local Sites – Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management (February 2006)
- ODPM Planning Policy Statement 12 – Local Spatial Planning (2008)
- ODPM Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (August 2005)
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- CLG National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships (March 2008)

Contact Name : *Carolyn Barber, Ecology Development Officer (82)2462.*

Appendix One - Rotherham Local Wildlife Site System

Non-Technical Summary

The Local Wildlife Resource

Rotherham has 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or SSSIs, these sites are representative examples of nationally important habitats and are protected through statutory designations. However, there are many more sites in Rotherham that are of high quality and importance for wildlife, which make up the attractive character of the area, that need protection and promotion.

The Local Wildlife Site System

The Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system provides a comprehensive method to identify sites of wildlife importance and protect them through the local planning system. The Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system has been based upon guidance provided by Defra that aims to establish a consistent national approach. However, in accordance with this guidance, local diversity and conditions have been considered in order to produce a system that reflects the extent, variation and quality of the nature conservation resource in Rotherham.

The Local Wildlife Site system consists of a range of criteria, based on the habitats and species of principal importance in Rotherham, which can be applied to the collective data held about any site. Rotherham's Biological Record Centre holds 1.15 million records associated with nearly 30,000 sites; this information has been used to produce the initial list of candidate Local Wildlife Sites.

The Local Wildlife Site System will be integrated into Rotherham's planning regime via preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This will be achieved within the Local Development Framework delivery process.

The Purpose of Local Wildlife Sites

Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site system will fulfil a number of different roles:

- Providing wildlife refuges for fauna and flora
Through their connecting and buffering qualities these sites provide wildlife networks and corridors and have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and achieving the objectives of local and countywide conservation strategies, Biodiversity Action Plans and environmental sustainability.
- Contributing to and representing local character and distinctiveness
The biodiversity of the landscape has been shaped over thousands of years by a complex set of social, historical and economic factors, all operating against the physical backdrop of the landscape itself. The types and abundance of wildlife can play a significant role in shaping the character – and in some cases the function – of each particular landscape.
- Contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the community
These sites will provide a diverse and attractive environment in which active engagement can take place resulting in improved physical health and well-being, opportunities for learning and increased social cohesion.
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of the natural environment
Local Wildlife Site notification provides landowners/managers with information on the wildlife value of their land to assist them in making choices on management. The maintenance of a Local Wildlife Site system and the provision of management advice are essential elements of Local Area Agreement Indicator NI197 – 'Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites'.
- Contributing to Local Planning Authority requirements
Local Wildlife Site identification will contribute towards requirements under part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The adopted system and identified sites, as well as the associated evidence base, contribute towards recommendations within paragraphs 2.2 and 4.37 of PPS12 – Local Spatial Planning, and Key Principle I of PPS9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- Contributing to compliance with legislation
The adoption of the Local Wildlife Site system will support the Local Authority in demonstrating compliance with the biodiversity duty placed upon all public authorities by Section 40(1) of the NERC Act 2006.

System Development

Over the past two years RMBC has been working with Baker Shepherd Gillespie – Ecological Consultants to develop selection criteria based on Rotherham's priority habitats and species. RMBC's Biological Records Officer, supported by the Ecology Development Officer, has used these criteria to identify an initial suite of 96 Local Wildlife Sites. However, the system that has been developed allows for continual site assessment as and when new site data are received meaning that the system is evolving and evidence-based.

System Management

RMBC will manage the implementation of the system and will maintain the Rotherham Biological Records Centre as the necessary evidence base. In accordance with Defra guidelines a 'Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites Panel', administered by RMBC officers, has been established as a consultation panel for the development of Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site system; the role of the Panel is to:

- Endorse the basis for Local Wildlife Site selection. The Local Wildlife Sites Panel is the key scientific authority of the Local Wildlife Sites process.
- Evaluate candidate Wildlife Sites against the selection guidelines and to recommend the adoption of new Local Wildlife Sites for inclusion in the Local Development Framework.
- Review, as part of an ongoing process, the habitat and species selection guidelines and revise them as necessary.
- Assist in the provision of guidance on the management of Local Wildlife Sites.
- Where appropriate, contribute to the Local Wildlife Site survey / monitoring programme.

System Operation

Local Wildlife Sites require regular review to monitor site presence, boundary and vegetative status; this can be achieved using a combination of site visits and aerial images. Habitat presence and quality should be monitored via a programme of survey and monitoring to be agreed each year. Species presence will need to be subjected to regular monitoring work to identify changes in population size or range and to maintain the necessary standard of baseline data. An element of the survey and monitoring work can be achieved via volunteers; however, it should be acknowledged that there will be a resource requirement to maintain an operational system.

The results of the monitoring will enable development and delivery of positive site management via one or more of the following avenues:

- Application to external management schemes - agri-environment or conservation management programmes;
- Provision of management guidance and advice to landowners;
- Development and delivery of site management plan;
- Involvement in targeted Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) specific project

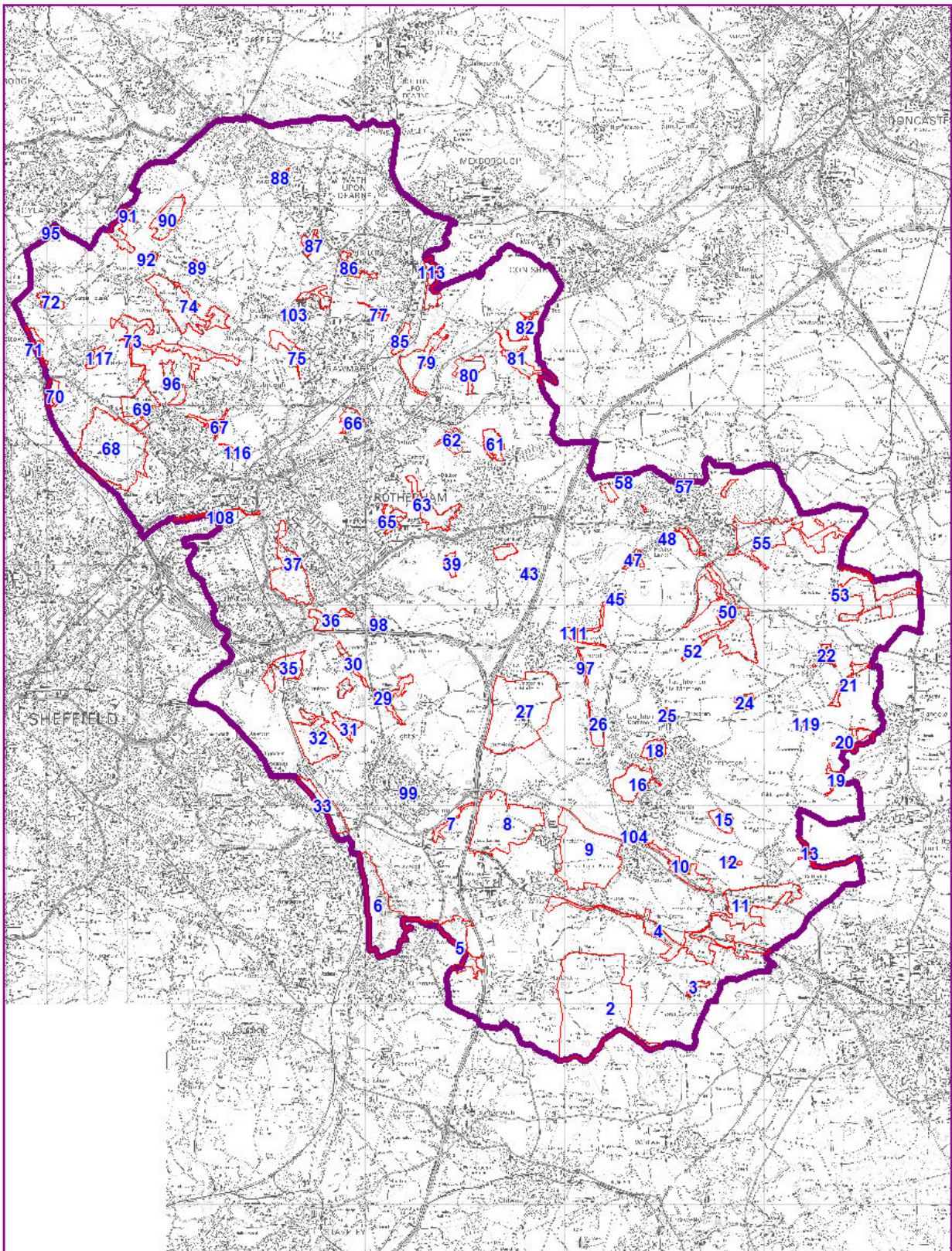
The Panel will meet annually to agree on site nomination decisions and monitoring results. If necessary to reflect any change(s), an endorsed Local Wildlife Site list will be submitted by the Panel to the Local Planning Authority, via the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services, for inclusion within the Local Development Framework.

This document has been prepared by Carolyn Barber, RMBC Ecology Development Officer, to provide a non-technical overview of the proposed Rotherham Local Wildlife Site System. The information provided is based upon the text of the following documents¹:

Rotherham Local Wildlife Site System
Part 1: The Framework for Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site System, and
Part 2: Site Selection Guidelines for Rotherham.

¹ Baker Shepherd Gillespie - Ecological Consultants April 2007

Appendix Two – candidate Local Wildlife Sites



Rotherham candidate Local Wildlife Sites - May 2008

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ID SiteRMBC Owned Sites (25 sites)

4	Chesterfield Canal & Pennyholme & Hawkes & Old Meadow
5	Norwood & Chesterfield Canal & Locks & Woodall & K
6	Rother Valley Country Park
18	Dinnington Open Public Space
29	Ulley Country Park
31	Treeton Wood
32	Treeton Dyke (Inc. Hail Mary & Falconer Woods)
34	Catcliffe Flash LNR
35	The Canyon & Flatts Farm Marsh & Tip
37	Canklow Wood & Boston Park & Reneville Bank
45	Carr Quarry
57	The Muddies
61	Silver Wood & Gulling Wood
64	Gibbing Greave Wood
65	Herringthorpe Wood & Great Bank
67	Bassingthorpe Spring & Hudson's Rough
68	Grange Park
69	Keppel's Field, Scholes Coppice & Bray Plantation
76	Warren Vale LNR & Roman Ridge
85	Kilnhurst Agricultural Letting & Hall Wood
87	Wath Wood & Boyd Royd Wood
88	Flatts Valley
101	Hazel Road Wood
116	Clough Streamside
117	Thorne Mine

Non RMBC Owned Sites (81 sites)

2	Loscar Common
3	Lob Wells Wood & Moor Mill Farm
4	Chesterfield Canal & Pennyholme & Hawkes & Old Mea
7	Nickerwoods & Ponds
8	Todwick Common (inc. Low Laithes & J31 verges)
9	Axle Lane
10	Anston Stones Wood
11	Lindrick Golf Course
12	Dewidales Wood
13	Woodsetts Woodlands
15	Swinston Hill & Bradshaw Woods
16	Dinnington Colliery Tip
19	Langold Holt
20	Langold Farm Wood
21	Ivy Lodge Plantation & Rough Wood
22	Firbeck Hall
24	Little & Long Thwaite Woods
25	Little Moor
26	Laughton Common
27	Brampton Common
29	Ulley Country Park
30	Ulley Brook & Marsh & Packman's Bridge Marsh & Bur
32	Treeton Dyke (Inc. Hail Mary & Falconer Woods)
33	Woodhouse Washlands
35	The Canyon & Flatts Farm Marsh & Tip
36	Whiston Meadows & Blue Man's Bower
39	Wickersley Gorse
42	Wickersley Wood
43	Stack's Farm & Kings Pond

44	Thurcroft Hall & surrounds
46	Carr Hill Quarry
47	Carr Wood
48	Hooton Levitt Wood
49	Maltby Dyke & Wood Lee Common
50	Roche Abbey Woodlands SSSI
52	Slade Hills
53	Sandbeck Park
55	Maltby Commons & Woodlands
58	Lilly Hall
59	Hellaby Bridge Brickworks
61	Silver Wood & Gulling Wood
62	Silverwood Tip & Odd Hill
63	Listerdale Wood
66	Aldwarke Sewage Works
70	Smithy Wood & Lady Clough
71	Hesley Wood
72	Barley Hole Springs
73	Wentworth Park Lakes
74	Wentworth Park
75	New Stubin Colliery Site & Incline
76	Warren Vale LNR & Roman Ridge
77	Collier Brook & Marsh
79	Thryberg Tip (Inc. Woodlands & Fatty Boyn's Ponds)
80	Thrybergh Country Park
81	Hooton Brook & Valley
82	Hooton Cliff Plantation
83	Back Lane, Hooton Roberts
84	Kilnhurst Ings
85	Kilnhurst Agricultural Letting & Hall Wood
86	Creighton & Piccadilly Woods
88	Flatts Valley
89	Hoover Stand
90	Rainborough Park
91	Simon Wood
92	Lee Wood
93	King's wood
95	Skiers Spring Wood
96	Rockingham Wood & Shepherd's plantation
97	Steadfolds Lane - Disused railway lines at Thurcroft
98	Revel Wood
99	Austen Park
102	Bullatree Farm
103	Monk Wood
104	Anston Brook Walk
105	St Martin's Church, Firbeck
108	Holmes Goit
111	Thurcroft Colliery
113	Kilnhurst Riverside
116	Clough Streamside
117	Thorne Mine
119	St Peters Church Letwell

Sites occurring in both lists are part RMBC owned and part other ownership.

Appendix Three – LAA Indicator Guidance

NI 197 - Improved Local Biodiversity Indicator

Introduction

The Improved Local Biodiversity indicator will measure the performance of Local Authorities (LAs) for biodiversity by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of Local Sites. The indicator relates to the influence LAs have on Local Sites systems and the measures and procedures involved in ensuring effective conservation management is introduced to, and acted upon, by Local Site owners and managers.

The indicator may also be included as one of 35 indicators within each Local Area Agreements (LAAs) that attracts rewards. Negotiations between Government Offices and Local Authorities regarding this set and their target is already underway and is due to be completed by **31st March**. In areas where the local biodiversity indicator has been identified as part of the set baseline data showing current performance will be required to inform target setting.

Producing baseline data

Due to the short timescales involved the assessment of the baseline data held by the Local Sites Partnerships should be undertaken as quickly and efficiently as possible. It is recognised that the data may need to be refined at a later date.

In order for the site to score there should be evidence that positive conservation management has been or is being undertaken in the last five years. To show that positive conservation management is being undertaken on a Local Site, there must be documented evidence of management that contributes to maintaining or enhancing the features of interest for which a site has been selected and designated. The nature of the management activity appropriate to interest features of a site will commonly be defined within one, or more of the following:

- management schemes - agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme;
- management guidance and advice.
- site management plan;
- relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) target specific to the management of individual Local Sites or the features for which they have been selected. This could include Local BAPs, Habitat Action Plans, or Species Action Plans. (Where a site is designated primarily for its geological features, the recommended management activity may be defined within a Geodiversity action plan)

The data held should be assessed in sequential order according to ease of obtaining the information. The above list provides a suggested order e.g. if there is evidence that a site is being managed through a management scheme it scores and move on to the next site in the list. We would not expect a detailed assessment of whether the objectives for conserving the features have been met so where evidence is not easily available it may not be appropriate to spend additional time obtaining it. It is important to maintain an audit trail and if the site has no evidence then it should not score. The baseline data aims to provide a good indication of current performance and may be refined at a later date.

Verifying the data

Due to the short timescales it is unlikely that the baseline data will undergo detailed verification by the Local Sites Partnership which would be required for reporting in March 2009. However, the Partnership would be expected to compile an audit trail of the evidence to justify the sites that score. Natural England will assist the Partnership in the process of developing the baseline data and will be expected to sign off the process to a satisfactory standard.

Calculating current performance

The indicator is a simple percentage calculated using the following equation:

$X/Y \times 100 = \text{___}\%$, where X is the number of sites in the LA area where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented during the last five years and Y is the total number of sites in the LA area at the time of reporting.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Development Services
2.	Date:	24 th November 2008
3.	Title:	Town Centre Spaces- Applications for Mobile Catering Units
4.	Programme Area:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

This report identifies the recommended traders to whom licences would be issued for the purpose of siting a mobile catering unit in the town centre for the period 1st January- 31st March 2009.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member notes the content of the report and supports the following recommendations:

- i) **That licences be issued to the traders as identified in this report and on the terms as detailed.**

7. Proposals and Details

As part of the Town Centre Spaces Policy, administered by the Town Centre Management Team, licences are issued on a three monthly basis for the purpose of siting a mobile catering unit on designated food pitches in the town centre. As per the meeting of this group on 17th March 2008, a criterion was drawn up against which all applications are assessed. Each quarter, recommendations regarding the licenses to be issued are made for approval or otherwise by the Cabinet Member. This report is concerned with licences for period 1st January- 31st March 2009.

A guidance note which clearly details the considerations that are made when assessing applications was issued to all applicants and is attached for reference in Appendix 1 but in summary assessment includes consideration of:

- The competition with existing town centre businesses
- The suitability of the mobile catering vehicle
- The level of compliance with food safety standards
- The need to support local businesses
- Cleanliness & Litter
- Record of trading history in the town centre

The guidance note and application form was circulated to:

- All existing traders currently occupying pitches
- All traders who have previously registered an interest in trading in the town centre

The deadline for applications was 6th November. 5 applications were received, 4 of which were from existing traders. The applications were assessed by the 3 members of the Town Centre Management Team. A summary of the applications recommended for approval and refusal can be found below.

Applications recommended for approval

1. Mr Mason- Jacket Potatoes (Mon- Fri)

Mr Mason has traded in the town centre for approx. 9 years and appears to have a strong customer base. Feedback from town centre businesses identified his unit as being popular with those working in the town centre. Whilst it is considered that jacket potatoes can be purchased in other outlets in the town centre, these are generally available as 'eat in' items (e.g. in the local cafes & pubs) or else they are for sale as supplementary items and are not the main refreshments on offer (e.g. in the local bakeries). Mr Mason purchased a new trailer in 2007 which is in good condition and has since updated his signage to a similar standard. Mr Mason has the necessary insurances and Food Hygiene training; his vehicle is registered with the Local Authority and his inspections are up to date.

Mr Mason's application for period October- December 2008 was approved subject to a number of conditions. The majority of conditions were adhered to and Mr Mason did obtain a Gas Safety Certificate (for his LPG supply) as requested. There is however an outstanding issue linked to the safe matting of electrical cables which has been ongoing since July. At time of writing this report Mr Mason has been contacted and reminded of his obligation to follow the advice & guidance issued by RMBC's Health & Safety Officer.

Mr Mason has indicated on his application that he will be taking pre- planned holidays in early January, equating to 6 trading days. It is recommended that charges are not applicable for those identified dates.

It is recommended that Mr Mason's application for the sale of Jacket Potatoes is approved and that pitch 2 is allocated for his catering unit subject to the following conditions:

- That the applicant has complied with all Health & Safety regulations, including those issued in relation to the safe use of electrical cables and sockets (where there are any outstanding actions- it is recommended that a licence is not issued to Mr. Mason and his application be effectively refused).
- That all commercial waste is disposed of in the appropriate manner and that any licence be revoked if waste is not correctly disposed of.
- That the applicant complies with the current TRO in the town centre (with regards to vehicle access to pedestrian areas before 10am and after 4pm)

2. Mr Choudhry- Halal Food including Burgers, Doner Kebabs, Hot & Cold Drinks, Chips (Mon- Sat)

Mr Choudhry is Rotherham based and has traded in the town centre for approx. 9 years; he has a well established customer base. Whilst it is considered that a number of other outlets in the town centre offer similar types of fast food, Mr Choudhry specifically offers halal food which is not readily available in the town centre, particularly not in the locality where he is situated. The sale of drinks and chips is considered acceptable in this case since these items are supplementary (and a natural accompaniment) to the main refreshments on offer. Mr Choudhry's vehicle is registered with the Local Authority and his inspections are up to date; relevant Food Hygiene training has also been undertaken by all members of staff. Mr Choudhry has in place the necessary insurances.

Mr Choudhry's application for period July- September was approved subject to a number of conditions. Mr Choudhry was originally asked to replace (or improve) his mobile catering unit prior to the issue of his licence in September. In consideration of the difficulties Mr Choudhry was facing with his contractor, an additional month was given for the works to be carried out to the new unit. Following approval from the Cabinet Member, a final extension of 7 days was given. At time of writing this report, Mr Choudhry has reported that his new vehicle will be ready within the agreed deadline (10th November), although suitability of the unit has cannot be commented upon

since it has not yet been viewed in situ. It was previously agreed that Mr Choudhry would not be issued any further licences if the necessary improvements have not been made and as such the issue of any licence beyond 10th November will be subject the replacement unit being suitable. A verbal report will be provided at the meeting.

With regards to the other conditions, Mr Choudhry has now obtained the necessary Gas Safety Certificate for both mobile catering units and recommended actions with regard to the safe use of the generator have been implemented. A separate commercial waste bin has been installed at the rear of the unit, although there have still been occasions where the area has not been kept tidy with cardboard and food being stored at the rear of the vehicle. Mr Choudhry's outstanding arrears have also been paid.

Should the replacement vehicle be suitable, it is recommended that Mr Choudhry's application is approved subject to the following condition:

- That commercial waste is stored correctly in a separate bin at the rear of the unit and that the area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
- 3. Kathleen Cawthorne, Jacket Potatoes, Panini's, Porridge, Hot & Cold Drinks (any days available).

Mrs Cawthorne has no previous trading record in Rotherham town centre and has not yet purchased a catering unit, as such the suitability or otherwise cannot be determined (similarly the unit is therefore not registered or inspected). Mrs Cawthorne does have the relevant insurances in place and has adequate Food Hygiene training.

It is considered that paninis are readily available in a large number of outlets in the town centre and that the sale of such items would directly compete with established bakeries & eateries. It is also considered that the items for sale (Jacket Potatoes) duplicate those sold from Mr Mason's unit (Mr Mason's application for pitch 2 has been recommended for approval Mon- Fri) - any licence would therefore need to be restricted to Saturdays only.

There is limited information on which to base a decision, other than products to be sold, and since the sale of Jacket Potatoes in the town centre is supported **it is recommended that the application is approved in principle for the sale of Jacket Potatoes and Porridge on Saturdays only** (plus the 6 trading days that Mr Mason has indicated he will be taking pre-planned holidays), and that pitch 2 is made available subject to the following conditions:

- That the proposed unit is suitable in terms of size & quality.
- That the unit is registered with the appropriate Local Authority.
- That the unit is fully inspected (by the relevant Environmental Health Officer) prior to trading and that the necessary standards are achieved.
- That the necessary gas safety certificates are obtained prior to trading and that all other Health & Safety Guidance is adhered to.

It is unlikely that the applicant will accept the conditional offer given that a new vehicle will need to be purchased for a limited number of trading days (and with a reduced product line).

Applications recommended for refusal

4. Mrs Hunt- Continental Fudges, Candy Floss, Popcorn, Nougat, Old – fashioned Sweets (6 days a week or Thurs- Sat).

Mrs Hunt has previously attended town centre events including the Continental Market and has a high quality catering vehicle. Mrs Hunt was successful in obtaining a town centre spaces licence for period October-December (limited to Fridays and Saturdays only on pitch 3). Mrs Hunt has in place the necessary insurances and all members of staff have undertaken adequate training in food hygiene. Mrs Hunt's vehicle is registered with the Local Authority and her inspections are up to date.

A decision was made to support Mrs Hunt's application for the sale of continental fudges, old fashioned sweets, candy floss, nougat, brandy snap etc. for period October- December in recognition of the contribution that the unit could bring to the town centre offer in the festive period (particularly the Christmas hampers). It was also reported that whilst there are currently 5 sweet stalls in the indoor market and Woolworths and Thorntons operating at the other end of Effingham Street, the majority of items for sale would not duplicate those for sale in other establishments. Consideration was given to the size of the vehicle, which could potentially block the site line to the markets entrance. A licence was subsequently offered to Mrs Hunt for Fridays and Saturdays only (so as to minimise the impact on existing businesses).

An application has now been submitted for period October- December. Mrs Hunt has reported good sales with many return customers and anecdotal feedback highlights that the unit is busy throughout the day. It is considered that the unit positively contributes to the town centre given that quality confectionary is identified as a gap in the retail offer in the town centre.

However, the five indoor market sweet stalls are all run by a single operator who has highlighted his concern at the siting of the mobile unit and notes that he pays a higher rent (plus rates) for the units indoors, equating to £5,900 per month for 5 stalls, and as such the siting of the mobile unit is providing unfair competition. He also notes that the current economic climate is making trading conditions difficult and that if business continues to decline he may be forced to close one or more of his stalls.

It is considered that whilst the majority of items for sale do not directly compete with those available in other establishments and are largely different in offer and in price to those available in the markets complex, there is inevitably some duplication. It is noted that trading is restricted to Fridays and Saturdays, meaning that any competition is further limited. However, it is also recognised that the contribution to the town centre offer from Mrs Hunt's unit was strongest at Christmas when gifts and hampers could be purchased.

Of particular concern is the size of the unit that, whilst attractive, currently blocks the site line to the markets entrance (from Rotherham Interchange) and whilst discussions have been had with regards to a smaller unit being available, Mrs Hunt feels that this would limit the products that she could offer and would make the unit unfeasible. It is felt that allowing a unit of such a size on a more permanent basis could set a precedent for the size of unit that is acceptable on town centre pitches.

In considering all the above issues, it is recommended that the application is refused but that Mrs Hunt continues to be invited to attend specialist events and markets and that an application be considered for the festive trading period in Oct- Dec 2009.

- 5 Mrs Hunt- Halal Burgers/ Cheeseburgers, Corn on the Cob, Specialist German & American Style Hot Dogs, Bacon Sandwiches (Tuesday, Friday & Saturday)

Mrs Hunt has submitted a second application for a small attractive unit selling halal items as well as hot dogs, bacon sandwiches & supplementary items. As reported above Mrs Hunt has in place the necessary insurances and all members of staff have undertaken adequate training in food hygiene. The unit itself is very attractive and of a high quality.

It is considered that some of the fast food items suggested would provide direct competition with Mr Choudhry's businesses (Mr Choudhry's application to occupy pitch 3 has been recommended for approval). Some of the other items (American style hot dogs) are not readily available in other town centre outlets although there is a large number of takeaways and eateries offering non-specialist fast food in the town centre. Some items (e.g. bacon sandwiches) would provide direct competition with existing town centre businesses, particularly surrounding bakeries for whom this is the main item for sale in the morning period.

It is therefore recommended that this application be refused. However it is suggested that should all conditions of licence not be met (with regards to the unit on pitch 3), that this application be re- assessed with a view to determining the suitability of this unit and products for sale (which could be restricted as appropriate).

Future Applications

The suggested timetable for the next period (1st April- 31st July 2009) for pitches 1-3 (& 11 on Tuesdays) would allow notification to successful traders by no later than 1st March (meaning that applications would need to be submitted, considered and supported by members during January/ February). It is therefore recommended that no application for the siting of a mobile catering unit should be considered in the interim.

Public Realm Works- Fountain at Market Square

It was noted in the report to the Cabinet Member on 13th October that public realm works were due to take place during the January- March trading period and as such any licences issued would preclude these dates. These works have now been delayed and will not interrupt the forthcoming licence period

8. Finance

The income generated from pitches is collected in order to cover the staffing and administration costs associated with the town centre spaces policy. It is noted that the income will be lower where all 3 pitches are not occupied for the maximum number of days and that the potential costs associated with monitoring & enforcement are likely to be disproportionately decreased.

Whilst it is considered that the full income potential is not being realised based on the recommendations as set out in this report, the licensing of all applicants would be at the detriment of the vitality & viability of the town centre.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a risk that the recommended outcome will prove unpopular with those unsuccessful applicants, however the clear guidance notes setting out the considerations that would be made when assessing applications and the communication of the reasons for refusal as set out in this report should reassure applicants that a equitable and transparent policy is in place.

There is a risk that the reinforcement of conditions of licence will prove unpopular with existing traders, however the compliance with these conditions is necessary to ensure that the vitality and viability of the town centre is not compromised. This will be clearly communicated to all traders and advice and support offered where appropriate to ensure that the required standards are met.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The management of Town Centre Spaces forms part of the overall function of Town Centre Management. The original aim of the Town Centre Spaces Policy was to ensure that activities complimented permanent town centre businesses and to improve the town centre environment and shopper experience in general; this is vital if the town centre is to be developed as a shopper destination (as identified under the theme of the priority theme of Rotherham Achieving).

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Report to Economic and Development Services Matters Meeting (June 2004)
Town Centre Spaces Policy & Procedure (March 2004)

Report to Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development Services
(November 2007)

Reports x 5 to Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development Services
(March 2008)

Reports to Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development Services (June/
September & October 2008).

Contact Name:

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services
2.	Date:	24 November 2008
3.	Title:	Flood Alleviation Scheme - Don Bridge/Old Grafton Bridge
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report seeks approval to undertake the work for the removal of this bridge that acts as a major obstruction to river flow.

6. Recommendations

- (1) That work is undertaken in respect of the removal of the Don Bridge/Old Grafton Bridge including:**
 - (i) Process for Listed Building consent for demolition**
 - (ii) Highways procedures**
 - (iii) Planning application**
 - (iv) Design and Construction contract**
 - (v) Continued consultation**
- (2) That Members note the application to the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF) for match funding.**
- (3) Pursue option 1A in Section 7 of the report to assist pedestrians**
- (4) Further report back to Cabinet Member on final budget costs and proposal details**

7. Proposals and Details

The previous report to delegated Powers meeting in June 2008 authorised the development work on this proposal and requested a report back in respect of

- i. proposal details
- ii. re-use of the bridge components
- iii. a budget cost.

As noted previously in that report the Don Bridge forms a significant obstruction barrier to flood water flows and its removal is recommended with the benefit of lowering the required flood defence levels upstream of the bridge by up to 670mm.

This report sets out the detailed proposals for the bridge removal and seeks member's approval to go proceed.

The Don/Old Grafton Bridge structure causes an obstruction to flow because of:-

- the low level of the bridge soffit (i.e. underside of the iron girders that span the river) relative to flood levels
- the presence of a central pier within the channel
- the protrusion of the stone abutments into the watercourse.

These features cause a 'backwater' effect, whereby water levels upstream of the bridge are increased to a higher level than if the bridge was not present.

The detailed hydraulic modelling has demonstrated that the removal of the bridge would reduce the flood defence levels required up to a distance of 3.5km upstream of the bridge. The range of the reduction is between 670mm immediately upstream, 440mm at Chantry Bridge and 250mm at Main Street bridge falling to 40mm at the upstream extent of Phase 1 of the scheme.

In addition the decision to remove this structural obstruction to water flow is integral to fixing the flood defence levels for Phase 2 of the Renaissance Flood Scheme. Without this decision there are two alternatives design levels for the future Phase 2 defences.

The bridge itself is in poor condition and was closed to vehicular traffic in 1998 but remains open to pedestrians and cyclists. The Transportation Unit is currently re-examining the proposed A633 Rotherham Road Improvement Scheme, which is included in the UDP, with a view to developing a replacement to include in the LDF.

The bridge is included as a Grade 2 listed building on the List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. It was built in 1876. It has suffered significant repair with modern materials to the superstructure as a result of corrosion with little of the current appearance being original - the central panels for instance with the coat of arms are modern copy replacements in GRP(Glass Reinforced Plastic).

Old Bridge Removal

Since the previous report the Council's Structural Engineers, following initial review, have produced an outline design proposal and costings – **see attached drawing.**

This outline design includes the incorporation of the existing bridge components as part of the reconstruction of the riverside wall at the points where the bridge will be taken out. This design takes on board Members views from the 2nd June discussion and the recommendations of the Council's Conservation Officer for retaining as much of the bridge elements on site as possible and building the replacement walls so that the position of the former bridge is recognised on site. This retains the metalwork panels from the old bridge in the new river walls and approximately 80% of the stonework, including the pilasters, on site.

The outline cost of the bridge removal needs to be confirmed with our Engineers and external strategic partner, Ringways, during the next stage detailed design but is estimated at £240,000. To confirm the statutory undertakers commitment to the necessary diversion work an agreement to this element is proposed now with a cost commitment of £10,000 to ensure that the 3 months time delay for this can be managed.

The next steps to enable the bridge removal are: a listed building consent for demolition; a planning decision for the riverside reinstatement structures; and a highway approval to remove the adopted section. It is expected that these can be initiated in 2008 to allow bridge removal in early 2009. The Environment Agency is fully supportive of this approach to flood risk management and reduction at this point of the River Don catchment.

It is proposed that the preparatory work for the bridge removal (the necessary planning and other consents) be undertaken now, whilst the final costs are confirmed by engineers.

Highways Considerations

Old Grafton Bridge currently serves as the footway on the western side of the A633; the new bridge only has a footway on the eastern side. When it was built it was envisaged that Old Grafton Bridge would be replaced, as part of a proposal to dual the A633, with a new bridge with a footway on the western side. Old Grafton Bridge also acts as a pedestrian/cyclist link from the A633 St Ann's Road/Effingham Street to Rawmarsh Road/A633 Rawmarsh Road and facilitates access between the Eastwood and Northfield areas of Rotherham. Access to this area is also provided by Effingham Street and the footway along the Centenary Way.

A 12-hour, pedestrian and cyclist survey was undertaken on 11 September 2008 and this showed that the two-way combined flow on Old Grafton Bridge was 166. A further survey undertaken on 16 Oct 2008 showed fewer people

using the bridge. Of these 24% used Old Grafton Bridge to access Rawmarsh Road and go towards Northfield and 76% used it to access A633 Rawmarsh Road and go towards Parkgate. These surveys show that the Old Grafton Bridge provides an important link for pedestrians and cyclists.

Should a replacement link not be provided in place of Old Grafton Bridge pedestrians and cyclists would have to find alternative routes, such as the Effingham Street and Centenary Way route. Alternatively it may entail crossing the busy A633 Rawmarsh Road twice in inappropriate locations, with the subsequent increased risk of serious injury, in order for them to get to their destination.

In the medium to long term an improvement line exists for the A633 route. There is also the emerging One Destination Project that is being developed with SYPTE to better link the town centre with Parkgate Retail World.

Three options have been identified to provide for pedestrians displaced from Old Grafton Bridge. The only alternative for cyclists will be to remain on the carriageway and use the new Grafton bridge. This means that cyclists will have no simple way of avoiding the prohibition that prevents vehicles from turning right out of Rawmarsh Road onto the A633

Option 1

Provide a new controlled pedestrian crossing link across the A633 St Ann's Road, close to the roundabout junction to the south of Old Grafton Bridge and close a private access (for which an alternative access exists) to the north of Old Grafton Bridge to permit the construction of a pedestrian island to create a link onto Rawmarsh Road. This could cost in the region of £250,000.

Option 1a

As option 1 but without the new controlled pedestrian crossing link across the A633 St Ann's Road, pedestrians and cyclists using Effingham Street would be directed through the car park of the Rotherham Leisure Complex, to the existing controlled pedestrian crossing. This could cost in the region of £50,000.

The provision of both Option 1 and Option 1a rely on the closure of an existing private access to enable a pedestrian refuge to be installed in A633 Rotherham Road. It is not clear at present whether this would be achievable in view of it being an existing private access. If the access is not closed both of these options become unfeasible. Option 1a also relies on confirming the route across the new Rotherham Leisure complex for such public use. As such the delivery of either of these options cannot be guaranteed. In addition both of these options will add to pedestrian journey times by a few minutes.

Option 2

A new footbridge would be provided adjacent to the new bridge. The cost of which would potentially be in excess of £300,000. This option will be neutral in terms of pedestrian journey time and user risk.

Option 3

Do nothing. Because of timing issues this is the situation that would prevail initially and if options 1 or 2 are not delivered. Pedestrians and cyclists would make their own way around the closure. Those walking from further afield may be able to make use of the footway on the eastern side of the A633 by using the pedestrian crossing near to Parkgate Shopping and the pedestrian crossing near to Rotherham Leisure Complex. Those walking between Rawmarsh Road and Effingham St could divert to the footway alongside Centenary Way. This option will lead to an increase in journey times for pedestrians by a few minutes. Temporary signs could be erected to warn pedestrians that the bridge has been removed and direct them to convenient crossing points where these are available.

8. Finance

The EA Regional Flood Defence Committee has recognised the importance of this restriction to flow and have allocated Rotherham £150,000 in the current financial year to enable its removal. This is on the proviso that it is done this year and that RMBC cover the necessary match funding for expenditure beyond this cost.

With the addition of Option 1A and total costs then of £290,000 it is clear that a match budget of around £140,000 will be required either from RMBC or from external sources such as YF's Urban Renaissance budget and these will be investigated. A bid to the Council's RERF budget (Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund) is being submitted in parallel with this report.

The alternative cost of a replacement footbridge link of over £300,000 has not been provided for.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Technically there are no great risks in the work to remove the bridge or the reinstatement of banks and walls needed to be put in at either end of the bridge position.

The main issues are around the processes needed to gain the necessary Listed Building consent, planning approval and Highways permissions and the time that these will take.

The bridge is a Council liability and any future maintenance will be funded from the highway structures maintenance budget.

Both highway options 1 and 3 will lead to pedestrians making more road crossings, which incurs additional risk even when using a pedestrian crossing.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Flood Alleviation Scheme project and the Flood Risk research support the aims of:

- Rotherham Community Strategy

- the vision for Rotherham Town Centre (as contained in the Charter and the Strategic Development Framework)
- the objectives of PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk
- the delivery of the objectives of the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Jacobs Viability report Don Bridge removal July 2007 (available)
Members reports on the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Consultation with the community undertaken September 2007, shows positive support for the integrated scheme solution. Increasing awareness of the solution and concern over the timing of implementation is being discussed with partners. Consultation with existing businesses affected and with outside partners including Rotherham Chamber will progress to develop support for the scheme, including further contact with John Healey MP.

This supports wider project work on the Urban Renaissance Flood scheme that continues to be developed through direct consultation with scheme partners and wider consultation with stakeholders, statutory bodies and those landowners who are directly affected.

Reports to members will continue as the delivery of the various elements of the work progress.

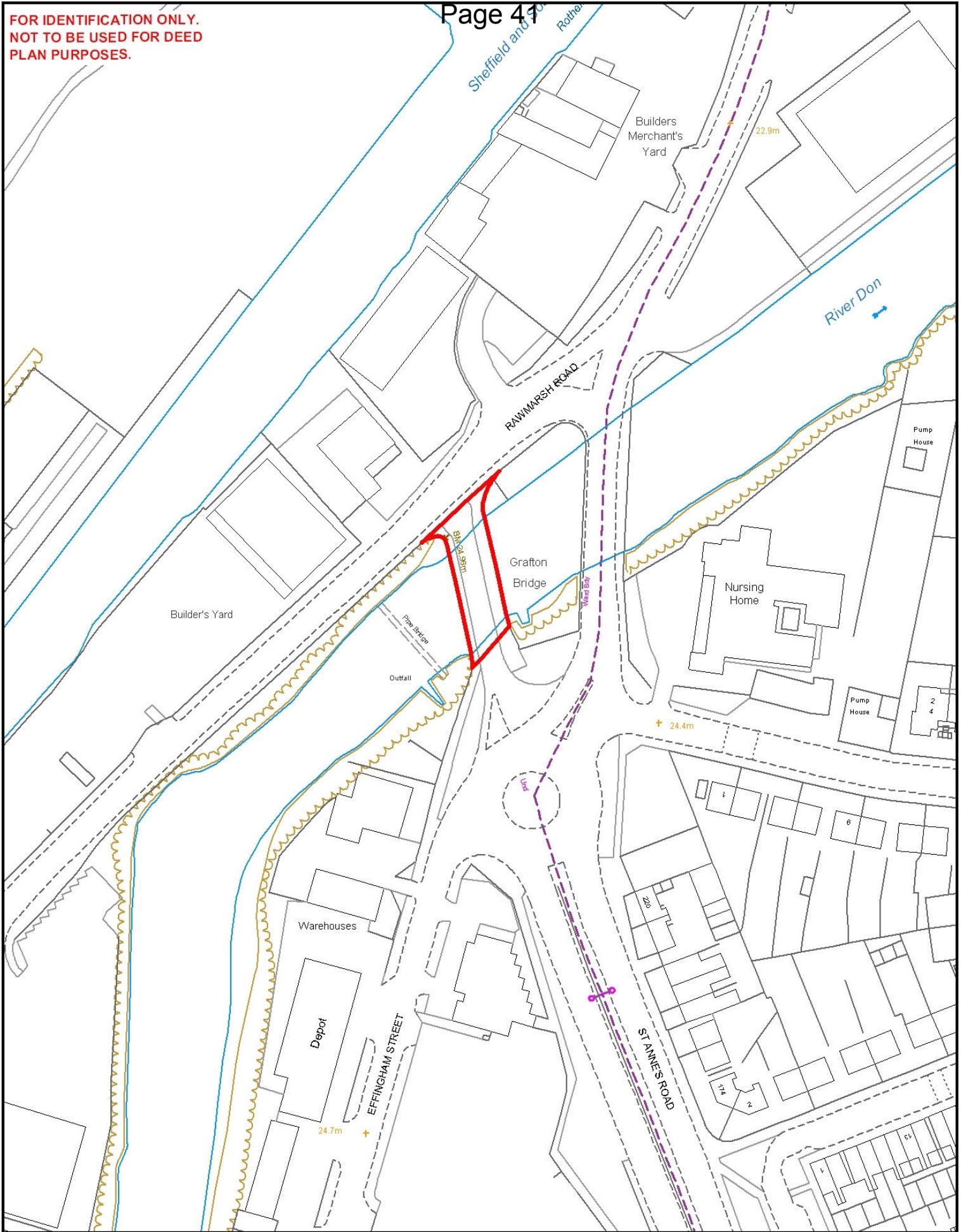
Initial contact has already been made with:

- Conservation Officer
- Disability Coordinator
- Rotherham Access Audit Group
- SY Police
- Civic Trust
- English Heritage
- RMBC Engineers
- Transportation Unit.

So far there have no overriding objections but the formal processes for removal may elicit more significant response.

Contact Name: Greg Lindley, Partnership Implementation Officer, RIDO: Ext 3871, greg.lindley@rotherham.gov.uk Steve Smith, Assistant Development Co-ordinator, RIDO: Ext 3807, Stephen.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

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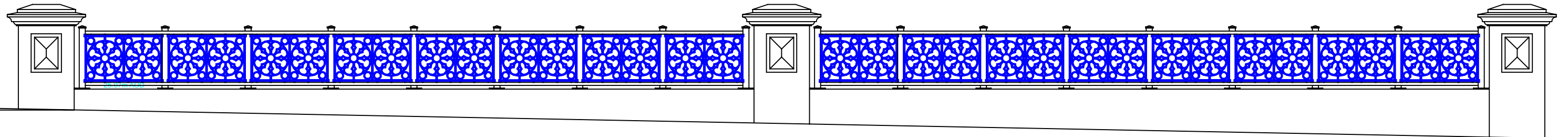
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Don Bridge / Old Grafton Bridge Proposed Removal

Strategic Director: Karl Battersby
Environment & Development Services
RMBC
Bailey House
Rawmarsh Road
Rotherham, S60 1TD

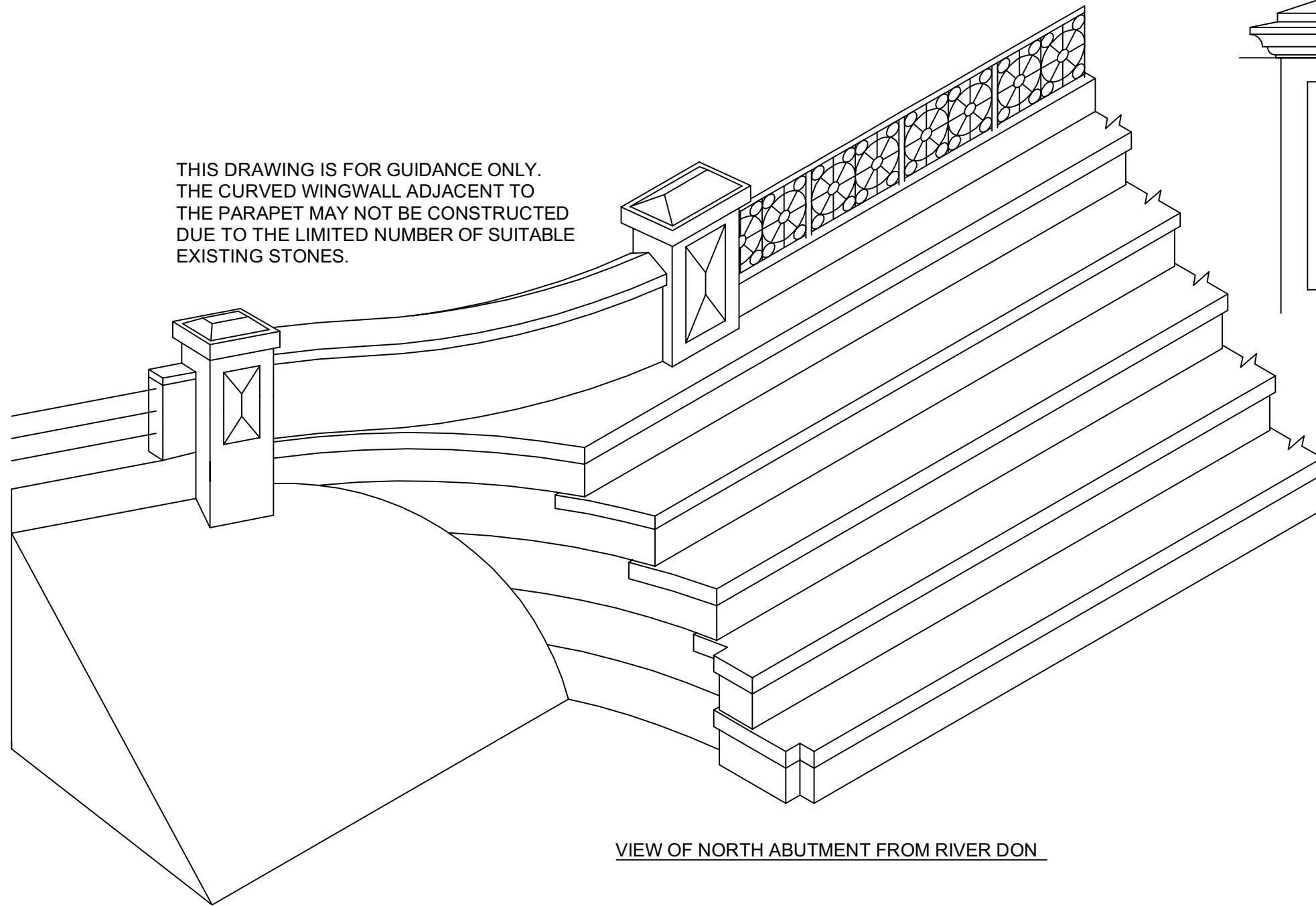


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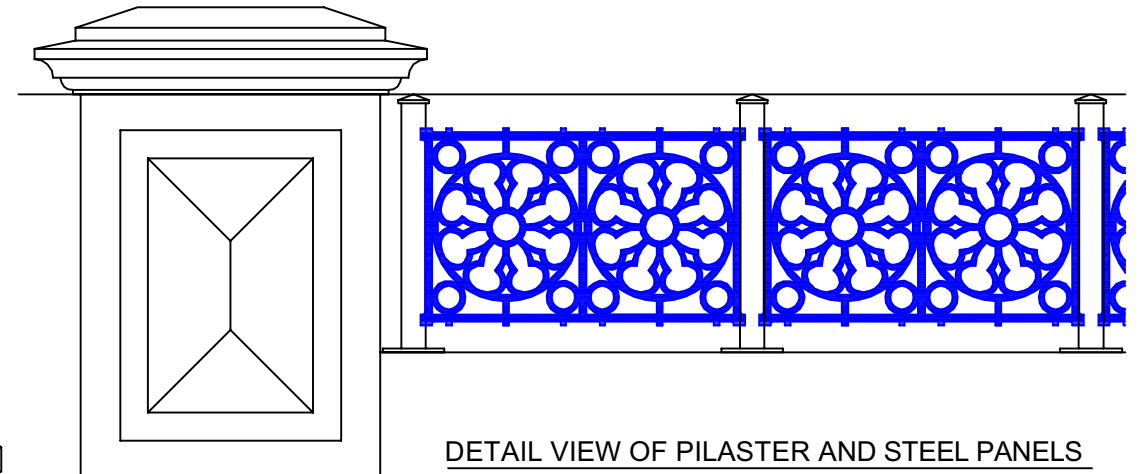


VIEW OF NORTH PARAPET FROM RAWMARSH ROAD

THIS DRAWING IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY.
THE CURVED WINGWALL ADJACENT TO
THE PARAPET MAY NOT BE CONSTRUCTED
DUE TO THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITABLE
EXISTING STONES.



VIEW OF NORTH ABUTMENT FROM RIVER DON



DETAIL VIEW OF PILASTER AND STEEL PANELS

ERECTED
ANNO DOMINI 1876
ALD BEC CHAMBERS
MAYOR

FOUNDATION STONE TO RELAID
SOMEWHERE IN THE WORKS

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Environment & Development Services
Strategic Director:
Karl Battersby Bsc (Hons) MTP L MRTPI

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Environment & Development Services
Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road,
Rotherham S60 1TD

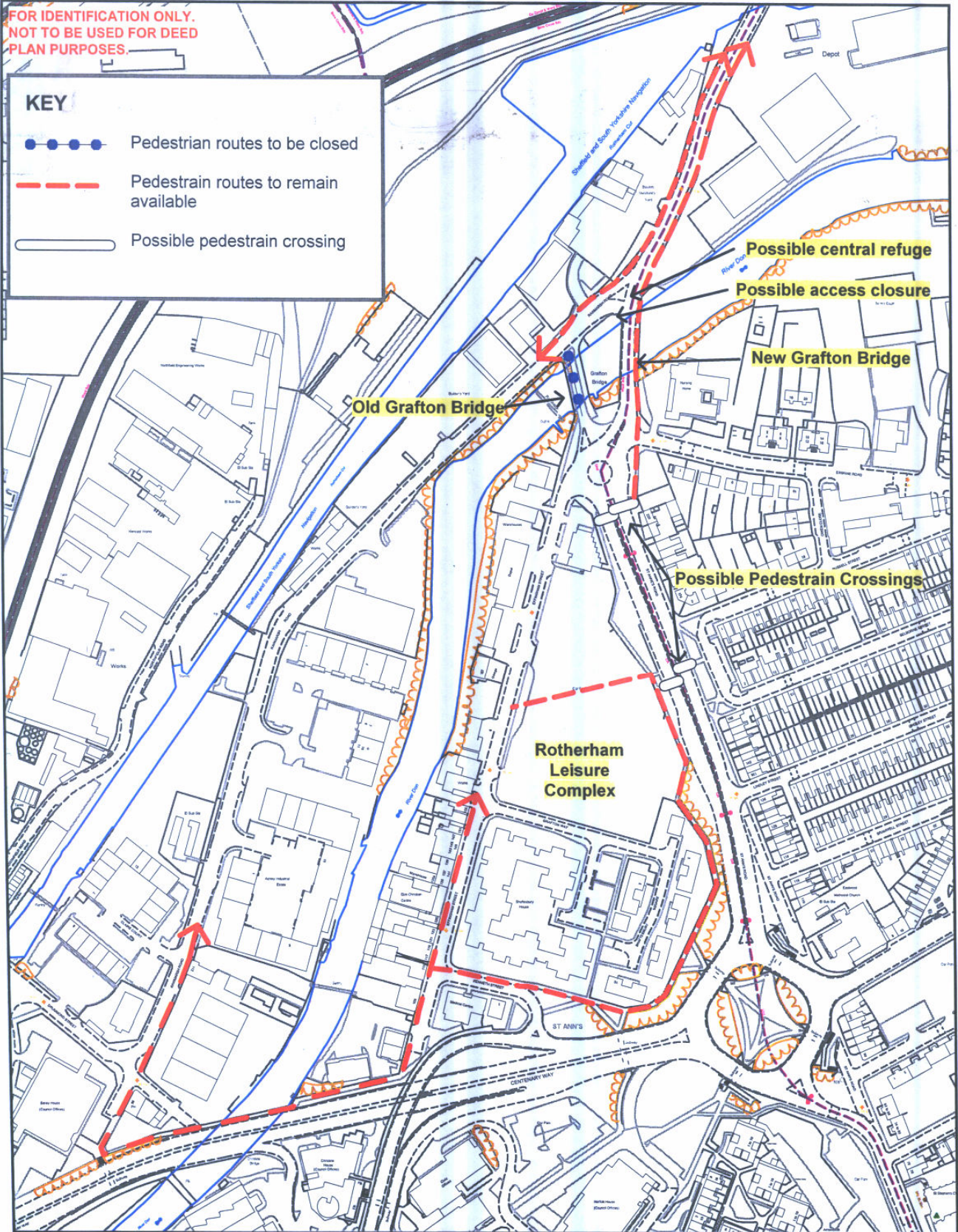
Client:
Rotherham Investment and
Development Office

Project	Templeborough to Rotherham Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase II Removal of Don (Grafton Old) Bridge				
Title	Proposed Abutment and Parapet Finishing Works Utilising Existing Components				
Dwg. No.	182/3/198/ST5	Rev			
Scales (if A2)	Not to Scale				
Rev.	Description	Date	Initial	Chd.	Drawn CRW / FM Date Sept 2008 Chd. by

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PLAN PURPOSES.

KEY

-  Pedestrian routes to be closed
-  Pedestrian routes to remain available
-  Possible pedestrian crossing



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**Grafton Bridge and
Pedestrian Routes**

Strategic Director: Karl Battersby
Environment & Development Services
RMBC
Bailey House
Rawmarsh Road
Rotherham, S60 1TD



ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration Development Services
2.	Date:	24th November 2008
3.	Title:	RERF Don Bridge removal (Flood Alleviation Scheme)
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report seeks approval to the allocation of £140,000 of RERF Capital to the Flood Alleviation Scheme to support the match funding from the Environment Agency Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee funding for the removal of Don Bridge.

6. Recommendations

That £140,000 of RERF Capital be approved to match fund EA – Regional Flood Defence Committee funds for the removal of Don Bridge.

7. Proposals and Details

Background

Previous Cabinet Member approval was given in June 2008 to the investigation work to the proposed removal of Don Bridge.

The outcome of this feasibility/investigation work is the subject of a parallel report to members and advises the technical requirements of the work and the estimated cost at around £290,000.

Environment Agency – Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee have allocated £150,000 to the proposed removal on the basis that it is carried out this financial year and that the council contribute the necessary gap funding.

The Don Bridge forms a significant obstruction barrier to flood water flows and its removal is recommended with the benefit of lowering the required flood defence levels upstream of the bridge by up to 670mm.

The Don/Old Grafton Bridge structure causes an obstruction to flow because of:-

- the low level of the bridge soffit (ie underside of the iron girders that span the river) relative to flood levels
- the presence of a central pier within the channel
- the protrusion of the stone abutments into the watercourse.

These features cause a 'backwater' effect, whereby water levels upstream of the bridge are increased to a higher level than if the bridge was not present.

The detailed hydraulic modelling has demonstrated that the removal of the bridge would reduce the flood defence levels required up to a distance of 3.5km upstream of the bridge. The range of the reduction is between 670mm immediately upstream, 440mm at Chantry Bridge and 250mm at Main Street bridge falling to 40mm at the upstream extent of Phase 1 of the scheme.

The decision to remove this structural obstruction to water flow is an essential part of the process for certainty to the Phase 2 Renaissance Flood Scheme. Without this decision there are two alternative design levels for the future Phase 2 defences.

The bridge itself is in poor condition and was closed to vehicular traffic in 1998 but remains open to pedestrians and cyclists. The Transportation Unit is currently re-examining the proposed A633 Rotherham Road Improvement Scheme, which is included in the UDP, with a view to developing a replacement to include in the LDF.

The bridge is included as a Grade 2 listed building on the List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. It was built in 1876. It has suffered significant repair with modern materials to the superstructure as a result of corrosion with little of the current appearance being original - the central panels for instance with the coat of arms are modern copy replacements in GRP- Glass Reinforced Plastic.

The processes to enable the bridge removal are: a listed building consent for the demolition; a planning decision for the riverside reinstatement structures; and a

highway approval to remove the adopted section. These works need to be completed in 2008 to allow bridge removal in early 2009. The Environment Agency are fully supportive of this approach to flood risk management and reduction at this catchment point of the River Don.

The RERF funding will secure the grant contribution of £150,000 from the Environment Agency – Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee that is committed on condition that this work goes ahead in the current financial year. Without match funding the project cannot go ahead, the funds would have to be returned and the Renaissance Flood Defence designs be recalculated at a higher flood defence level and with a higher cost.

The request has been scored against and meets the funding criteria.

8. Finance

Funding for removal and associated works of Don Bridge

Funding	Scheme Total
RERF	140,000
EA RFDC	150,000
TOTAL Funding	290,000

The amount of revenue and capital allocation available in RERF is sufficient to fund this request.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The removal is dependent on achieving approval from Planning and Listed Building Consent for removal. Initial enquiries /consultation has already been engaged as part of the feasibility stage and no overriding objections have arisen so far.

The Don Bridge removal is essential to set the upstream design levels for the Phase 2 of the Renaissance Flood Defence Scheme.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Flood Alleviation Scheme project and supports the aims of:

- Rotherham Community Strategy
- the vision for Rotherham Town Centre (as contained in the Charter and the Strategic Development Framework)
- the objectives of PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk
- the delivery of the objectives of the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Initial contact has already been made with:

- Conservation Officer
- Disability Coordinator
- Rotherham Access Audit Group

- SY Police
- Civic Trust
- English Heritage
- RMBC Engineers
- Transportation Unit.

So far there have no overriding objections but the formal processes for removal may elicit more significant response.

Background papers include:-

- Urban Renaissance Flood Scheme brochure
- Objective 1 and YF funding business Plan
- A series of Members reports
- Extensive consultation in Phase 1 undertaken with outside agencies and local businesses affected.
- Report to DP June 2008

This supports wider project work on the Urban Renaissance Flood scheme that continues to be developed through direct consultation with scheme partners and wider consultation with stakeholders, statutory bodies and those landowners' who are directly affected. For instance a consultation day was held in the town centre in September 2007 and October 2008.

Reports to members will continue as the delivery of the various elements of the work progress.

RERF Application Form – November 2008.

Contact Name :

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Ext 3871. Email greg.lindley@rotherham.gov.uk

RERF Contact Christine Majer, Economic Strategy Officer, Economic Strategy Team
Ext 3817 Email christine.majer@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development
2.	Date:	24th November 2008
3.	Title:	Rotherham Town Centre - Draft Public Realm Strategy
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Urban designers Gillespies were appointed in March 2007, to prepare a Public Realm Strategy to bring about transformational change in the image and identity of public spaces in Rotherham Town Centre.

Following a public consultation exercise in April / May this year on the Draft Public Realm Strategy, over 200 comments were received and these have been addressed in the attached Consultation Report.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member approves:

- I. that the Draft Public Realm Strategy be amended to incorporate the ‘Recommended Changes’ stated in the schedule Appendix A.**
- II. the statutory public consultation required as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process**
- III. that following the Sustainability Appraisal a further report be presented to this meeting for consideration.**
- IV. that following (I.) above, the matter be presented to Planning Board for information only.**

7. Proposals and Details

Urban designers, Gillespies have been working on the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy (PRS) since March 2007. From 11th April to 23rd May 2008, the draft document was the subject of a formal six week public consultation period. Over 200 comments were received, and these have been addressed in the Consultation Report attached as Appendix A, with 'Recommended Changes' produced by the Council and Gillespies.

Initially, it was the intention to adopt the document as an Interim Planning Statement (IPS), which would be taken into consideration when determining planning applications. However, following comments from the Government Office during the consultation stage about the limited planning weight of IPSs, it is now intended to adopt the Public Realm Strategy as a Supplementary Planning Document. The SPD would be linked to saved UDP policy (ENV3.1) and appropriate policies in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

To achieve this, the Strategy needs to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is of sufficient complexity to warrant the appointment of external expertise. The Council has undertaken a tendering exercise, which has resulted in the selection of WSP Environmental Ltd to prepare SAs on all Local Development Framework documents. Prior to the SA being carried out, it is proposed (subject to Recommendation 6.1), that the 'Recommended Changes' be incorporated into the Draft Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal process will take about six months as it involves two rounds of public consultation.

It is anticipated that the final document will be available for adoption during mid-2009.

8. Finance

Funding of £46,000 was approved from the Council's RERF budget and £55,000 has been secured from Yorkshire Forward, which covers the fee of £80,000 for the engagement of Gillespies to produce the Strategy. The remaining allocation has supported the main costs incurred by the consultation process, consultation materials, and newspaper notices.

A funding application for £21,800 has been submitted to Yorkshire Forward to cover the costs associated with carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A failure to incorporate the 'Recommended Changes' and undertake a sustainability appraisal on the Public Realm Strategy will result in a policy document with limited planning weight.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Public Realm Strategy will provide a flexible briefing and negotiation tool for Development Control and Highways Officers for securing developer contributions, in particular Section 106 Agreements.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Consultation Report is attached as Appendix A.

A copy of the Draft Public Realm Strategy is available to view in the Members' Room.

The draft Public Realm Strategy was the subject of a formal six week public consultation period from 11th April to 23rd May 2008. In addition internal consultation was undertaken with other Council Directorates, and also with:

- Council Members Seminar
- Local Strategic Partnership Board
- Town Team Planning Group
- Youth Cabinet
- Rotherham South Area Assembly
- Rotherham North Area Assembly
- Rother Valley West Area Assembly
- Wentworth South Area Assembly
- Chamber of Commerce – Business Forum
- Rotherham Access Audit Group

Contact Name: Charles Hammersley, Project Officer, RIDO, Ext.3802,
charles.hammersley@rotherham.gov.uk

Consultation Report on the Draft Public Realm Strategy – November 2008

APPENDIX A

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
Various	Sandra Gabriel, Investors in Education Co-ordinator RMBC	Concerns regarding language in document: Public Realm Historic Urban Grain Maps difficult to read Public Realm Palette Street furniture Bespoke elements Fledgling green structure ...none of the above are plain English	This issue has been debated by the Project Steering Group. We have tried to strike a careful balance to get the message across to a variety of audiences, whilst achieving a technical robust document to guide RMBC, developers and design professionals.	
10-11 49 56 61 75 95 97 112 114 115 122 125 143	Ken MacDonald, ED Service Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-11 - the numbers of the sites don't appear to marry up? e.g. no. 18 - Guest & Chrimes on page 10, but on page 11 site 18 = Westgate? no. 19? para 7 "Grey granite kerb to provide a strong ...? that unifies the scheme??" see Analysis plan "Existing pedestrian bridge <u>crossi</u>" see Crossing the River - Light Show - "<u>lazors</u> that <u>crisis</u> cross the river?" see Build on Current Success - bullet point one - penultimate sentence - "attracting a wide <u>audiences</u>." 1. High quality link along Percy Street - line 2 "as <u>an</u> high quality route." bullet point 4 "HMR<u>eneawable</u>? Area" Renewal! Kerb Use principles - final bullet point - "clearly and <u>safety</u>?" safely? page 114 - second para line 6 - "converge, its is essential?" "Variation and innovation" line 7 "or a distinct <u>areas</u> such as." para 5 "light column's" - remove apostrophe? planting principles - bullet point 2 "infeasible" should read "unfeasible?" column 2 bullet point 7 "set out <u>a</u> inspection regime...." 	Accepted	These grammatical errors will be corrected in the final document.
Various	Gordon Smith, Neighbourhood Investment Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement frameworks designed on the basis of where local authority would like people to visit and not where people would like to go. Little attention given to medieval street patterns – what about the future of Vicarage Lane and College Walk, could be developed as attractive routes and not left to be havens for anti-social behaviour. Sheffield Road not mentioned in document despite its potential to be developed as an inner urban residential community, which will require vibrancy and variety of the public realm. Good that strategy advocates attention to greenspace this needs addressing with regards to Effingham Square and Sheffield Road. Lighting should be Lux values and not cause light pollution. Has climate change and sustainability been addressed as part of the new public realm proposals e.g. sustainable drainage? 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Support noted</p> <p>Noted Each new scheme will be addressed individually at the design stages and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems will be considered.</p>	The medieval links such as; 'Vicarage Lane', 'College Walk', 'Snail Hill' and The Red Lion Yard (see later comment) need to be included in the PRS under a separate heading with details for the specific PR treatment they will need. Sheffield Road also needs mention in the strategy.
Various	Abdul Rehman, Rotherham Muslims Pensioners Assoc.	Supportive of the document.	Support noted	
121	Chris Hamby, High Street Property Owner	Very supportive of lighting to the Minster, as this will open up a link between the Minster and High Street, would like the lighting to be traditional 'gas style' lamps as this would be fitting with the 'Heritage Quarter'.	Support noted	
91		Supportive of public realm improvements to High Street but feel that any works should reflect a traditional feel. The present heritage information boards are popular and people enjoy reading about the history of the street.	Support noted These points will be addressed	

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
		At present there are too many sign posts and this creates clutter. Request that the sculpture to be installed at the top of High Street is not too modernist, could the sculpture reflect the fact that the market was held in that quarter of town for over 800 years? Possibly a market cross or something that also reflects the heritage of the church. Like the idea of paving spill out space for cafes as this would give a continental feel to the area although perhaps the shops would need portable awnings to cope with bad weather.	during the consultation process for the specific public realm works for High Street. Support noted	
109		Would it be possible for paving in the Minster Yard to reflect the Rotherham red stonework as seen on the Minster. If the plant tubs are to be replaced could they be square or of a design that does not lend them to catching rubbish and being used as unofficial litter bins as is the case with the present round bins. Would it be possible to replace the BT phone boxes in Minster Yard with traditional red phone boxes to reflect the heritage of the 'Heritage Quarter'.	English Heritage have voiced concerns over the use of the pink stone similar to the Minster, as they are concerned over the potential to detract from the Minster itself. We are anticipating to primarily re-use the existing stone paving slabs as this is sustainable and cost effective, but will look at the use of the 'pink' sandstone within other areas of detailing to reinforce the character of the Minster. Comment noted	These comments will be discussed with Whitelaw Turkington the landscape consultants appointed to redesign Minster Yard.
Various	K Harrision, Member of Public	Supportive of document, would like to see more policing in the town, less litter and better footways along main roads into town such as Centenary Way and Greasbrough Road.	Support noted.	
114 to 117	Charlotte Bailey, Disability Co-ordinator and Access Officer	Supportive of the update to street furniture. Necessary to ensure that all signage, bollards and tree guardsets contrast to the paving around them and their surroundings as a high contrast band around the base is necessary for visually impaired people.	Accepted.	Incorporate into strategy that a form of banding is to be included on the bollards. Also incorporate suggestion that guided walks will be planned to enable those with sensory or physical impairments to orienteer their way around new areas of public realm.
109		Raised paving could cause a serious trip hazard for all people but especially visually impaired people. Also it is difficult and uncomfortable when manoeuvring wheelchairs, cut out style paving is better.	Accepted.	Mention that raised text paving is to be used only in selected areas such as along a building line not in an area of high footfall, in heavily used areas paving should be kept flush to the surface.
119		Very supportive of symbol signage style in place of text as this benefits people with learning difficulties, children, non-English speakers and visitors with too little time to read text. Braille not always useful to visually impaired people on signs. Not all visually impaired people can read Braille. Consider installing RNIB React system as a "Wayfinder" tool for both visitors and visually impaired people.	Support noted Noted. This suggestion has been forwarded to the Town Centre Manager for consideration.	
113		No obvious consideration has been given to deaf people.	Face to Face consultation with the deaf community did not highlight any specific considerations they required	

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
		<p>Ensure text is changed to 'sensory impairments' and not just 'visually impaired'.</p> <p>Visual aid disc/nosings on steps should be incorporated on all steps not just where deemed necessary. They are imperative for way finding of visually impaired people. They also need to be hard wearing and a strong contrast to the step itself. Often these are painted on, which wears away.</p> <p>Tactile paving will still need to contrast in colour to the rest of the surrounding paving. The colours mean as much as the raised tactile's. Department for Transport offer some good information on tactile paving.</p> <p>Access ramps should not be an integral part of the scheme with steps as this can cause trip hazards for visually impaired people and this could also be confusing to other disabled people. Ramps should be available wherever there are steps but there should be an obvious difference between the two.</p>	<p>with regard to the new PR works.</p> <p>Accepted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Tactile paving will be in a contrasting colour, but tonally matched to the agreed public realm palette.</p> <p>When spatially and functionally feasible access ramps shall be detailed as distinct from steps. Due to the tight spatial and legislative constraints of many public realm projects, the integrated ramp and steps provides the only solution.</p>	<p>Text to be changed to include 'sensory impairments'.</p> <p>Painted steps shall be avoided in all instances, but the contrast in tonal difference will be guided by a minimum of 20% as agreed for kerb/roadway differentiation.</p> <p>Red contrasts with Yorkstone at controlled crossings, but buff tactile is similar to Yorkstone Flags until the natural flags darken with time. Ensure that the group can comment on each scheme to achieve an effective compromise between new design and the incorporation of relevant facilities for users with disabilities and/or sensory impairments.</p>
123		Lighting the Minster would be wonderful, up-lights from the floor make an area look better and improve safety.	Support noted	
Various	Rotherham Access Audit Group	It would be nice to have a food quarter in the town, perhaps a street like High Street or cafes around All Saints Square offering a variety of food from all cultures. These need to be classy sit down restaurants.	Outside the scope of the PRS, but public realm treatments will assist with the creation of pleasant spill-out space for cafes to utilise if they so wish.	
115		Incorporating public art in the gateways schemes is a very good idea. We would like to see this art involving representing Rotherham's history and heritage. Such as the screw top tap and the cannon. A very good idea is a tap with running water in the sky. Such as the one shown at http://www.funny-potato.com/images/tap/jpg	Support noted	
Various		General comment regarding street furniture and public art – we don't want the boring, plain and simple designs that Rotherham has already but safety needs to be paramount, things can still look good and be safe for all.	Safety is considered an important factor, and should be considered alongside other legislative issues, organisational requirements and aesthetic principles when making a balanced decision.	There will be individual consultation processes with RAAG on all new designs for street furniture.
114		Reference to the three images at the bottom of the page: the bench looks great but without a rail or support someone may slide off it. The bollards coming out of the floor look amazing but could form a trip hazard or be dangerous if someone fell on them. A solution could be to incorporate a high visibility strip around the base of the bollard contrasting with it, more rounded edges on the points and perhaps some tactile warnings on the floor. Final image with rocks with large gaps between them is awful and incredibly dangerous for all, please do not use this, it also has no meaning.	Again safety is considered an important factor, and should be considered alongside other legislative issues, organisational requirements and aesthetic principles when making a balanced decision. Design has a duty to surprise, delight and inspire, and while it should aspire to balance this with addressing all possible risks to	

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
			everybody, this is not always possible.	
113		Image with caption regarding ramps being an integral part of the scheme, we do not agree with this, it can bring a whole host of hazards such as falling, lack of handrails, confusion with tactile warnings. If the appropriate handrails are in place it can work but we would rather see a ramp and steps instead of the tapering effect as shown on the image.	As above	
Various		Drainage grates need to be positioned beyond the boundaries of the access route or if within the access route they need to be flush with the surrounding surfaces. Slots in the grating should be no more than 133mm wide and set at right angles to the dominate line of travel. Diameter of circular holes in gratings should be no more than 18mm. This information has been taken from BS8300. Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people.	Comments accepted	Pedestrianised gulley grates will be used within pedestrianised areas.
109		Raised text creates a tactile effect and may be confusing for visually impaired people. Also it can become a trip hazard and uncomfortable for wheelchair users. The image next to it with small recessed tiles would be ok. Raised text would be ok to use along a building line or in an area with low footfall, as it does look good and different.	Comments accepted.	Gillespies, please comment
116		Seating is essential in the town centre and we don't want basic boring seating like there is now. Like the look of wood but understand that it is prone to vandalism and hard to maintain, however, it would be nice to see metal seating which is wood effect in colour. Also concrete style seating that incorporates public art and the option of children climbing has been used in other towns/cities and is very different but also functional and comfortable. Step design seating is again functional and different. Metal seating is very cold to the touch or very hot during the summer, wooden or some kind of material that is warmer/cooler would be ideal.	Noted.	RAAG will be given the opportunity to comment on designs proposals prepared by landscape consultants for schemes such as Minster Yard and High Street, to ensure that seating meets the needs of disabled people.
111		General comment – current paving setts in Rotherham have not been grouted correctly or possible not at all. This causes a trip hazard and mobility sticks can get stuck down the gaps. Many pieces have raised or are damaged also causing problems. People often feel they have to look down at the ground where they are walking constantly to ensure they don't fall. We still like the look of the setts and would like to keep them but the gaps must be filled with something that will not corrode away and looks pretty. 3 rd picture down, with the shiny coloured stones. Larger paving slabs such as the York stone style are better and safer but again need to be laid very close together or grouted to avoid the above risks.	Comment noted, however, pointing of joints is now done by use of specialist grouting materials.	
Various	Peter Hawkrige, Civic Society	Society believes that works should be prioritised on the basis of those that make the maximum impact on the enhancement of the public realm.	Implementation of public realm works will be prioritised mainly around the Westgate Demonstrator Project and the Townscape Heritage Initiative Areas of Minster Yard and High Street.	
28		Supports the recommendation that the number of public art installations should be expanded.	Support noted	
43 - 49		Concerned at any intention to undertake major changes to the existing pedestrianised streets due to the questionable added value and potential disruption caused. Selective enhancement is favoured.	Works will be implemented in phases to minimise disruption.	
43 - 49		Supports the adoption of the new quality levels to those streets affected by major redevelopment works.	Support noted	

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
82		Supports the provision of canopies in appropriate locations and considers that as a first priority the council should revisit the proposal it approved in 1988 to erect a glazed canopy along the Effingham Street shops frontage.	Temporary canopies could be detailed as an option for sheltered shopping provision within the town centre. The potential moving of the market onto Effingham Street would benefit from this. Temporary canopies as opposed to permanent ones would be beneficial with regard to night time security issues and would be more compatible with CCTV equipment than permanent glass canopies.	
85		The Society is not convinced by the proposals for a large canopy covering the market square and suggests instead that a public art installation be considered.	The PRS suggestion covers the entrance area only to the market and not the whole of the square outside the market.	
105		Believe the proposals for the flagship pedestrian link to be ill considered relative to both the servicing and traffic circulation needs of the area and to the appearance and functionality of the Main Street bridge.	There are no current proposals to 'pedestrianise' this link so traffic flow will not be affected.	
99		Proposals for this junction to be unworkable in the context of the major servicing needs of the bus station and the Cascades Centre / Bridge Street shops. The Society remain to be convinced that the creation of a viewing deck is compatible with creating an understated sensitive setting for the chapel.	This is an aspiration only which will be subject to consultation.	
58		Concerned at the linkage drawn between the redevelopment of RMBC office sites and the furniture of the Nellie Denes/ Trades Club site. The Society would oppose the demolition of Nellie Denes in connection with the provision of a riverside walk.	Noted	
102		Supports the concept of a 'river icon' at Forge island but believes references to a water wheel and cannon making to be historically inaccurate.	Noted	
104		Believes that the 'deck of cards' public space would be a historically appropriate location for a public art installation based upon Edward Chrime's invention of the 'screw down tap'.	Noted	
103		Concerned that the consultants have avoided any reference to the Guest and Chrimes listed building which with appropriate public realm improvements and redevelopment of adjoining land would be comparable to many of their 'inspirational images'.	SDF issue - not Public Realm Strategy.	
60		Supports the general concept of the river wall becoming a high impact public art installation through Rotherham town centre.	Support noted	
89		Supports the emphasis on an understated public realm in the Minster Yard with selected additional seating and planting displays.	Support noted	
85		Considers the proposals for Effingham Square to be unworkable given the service access required to the old Town Hall and College Walk shops. Rather than 'greening, a major public art installation similar to Meadowhall 'steelmen' sculpture should be considered in this vicinity (possibly based on 'fettling' the open hearth furnaces at Templeborough in the 1950's).	Effingham Square servicing has not been ruled out.	Relocation of the 'clock' back to Effingham Square to be considered as part of the Public Realm Strategy.
82		Concerned at the glaring omission of the Red Lion yard from the strategy. This is one of the poorest areas of floorscape in the town centre but has significant potential for transformation into a unique urban environment.	Noted	Include 'The Red Lion Yard' as part of the PR strategy under 'Medieval Links' section. (Mention that it is a privately owned by Red Lion Yard Association).

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
69		Not convinced by the 'green connections' theme of red, blue and green planting boxes which in time may be seen as just as 'fussy and dated' as the existing furniture so roundly condemned by the consultants.	Noted	
73		Supports the proposed Rotherham lighting experience and the priority given to the Minster. The southern gateway to the town centre should be enhanced by including the RHM Town Mill in the lighting experience. Welcomes the emphasis on an environmentally sensitive approach in the Rotherham lighting experience and assumes that designers will embrace the issue of light pollution.	Support noted	Reconsider including the RHM Town Mill in the lighting experience.
28		Consultants comment that the video screen is 'poorly integrated and dominates space' is an understatement. The Society considers that the 'Big Screen' should be removed from All Saint's Square.	Consideration may be given by the Council's Town Centre manager to a new type of screen in a less sensitive location.	Mention this in the strategy.
Various	Neil Brayshaw	Supportive of proposals contained in document but document needs to be in plain English as much of the document is jargon and consists of meaningless sentences: In 'Objectives' every item needs explanation. In holistic approach to design – visual, physical? Sensory symbolic? Emotional? Cultural? – Don't forget this is Rotherham town centre. What is disability assessment? What is an active frontage? A 'quality' environment used both day and night? High Crime rates prevent people venturing out at night. What is a vibrant route? What is a 'robust public realm'? In context why does it state 9k north east of Sheffield. In the U.K. distances are measured in miles. In 'Current Town Centre Policy and Development' what is the difference between Regional Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy? What is a 'tool kit' resource? In 'Local Development Framework' like many people I view any change with scepticism. There are many things being 'fixed' by the government that don't need fixing. In 'Movement, Links and Public Space', there is no obstruction to pedestrian movement in Bridgegate (I am a regular visitor) and how is it confused? In 'Heritage Quarter' phrases like 'legible first impression to the retail core' are meaningless. Is there any reference to funding? Where is the money coming from and what is the timescale for the works?	This issue has been debated by the Project Steering Group. We have tried to strike a careful balance to get the message across to a variety of audiences, whilst achieving a technical robust document to guide RMBC, developers and design professionals. Noted. The changes outlined reflect wishes and views of local people who were canvassed in the initial stages of the consultation process. Noted. Funding packages are still being arranged and sourced for different elements of the work. Certain	These phrases will be simplified. Change to miles. These phrases will be simplified. These phrases will be simplified.

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
			schemes have already started such as; 'Main Street, Westgate junction works', this includes new Yorkstone paving, new street lighting, potential for increased spill-out space for bars and cafes. This is the first scheme to be completed which reflects the aspirations outlined in the Draft Public Realm Strategy. The design phases for 'Minster Yard' are also being formulated, again in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Strategy.	
6 9 17 40 51, 52 63 64 - 69 73 78 82 97 – 98 98 105	Natalie Pugh, Rotherham PCT	<p>Section 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include 'health promoting' in the objectives • Short paragraph on links with planning and development and health, particularly obesity. <p>Section 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include cycling • Discussion on promoting modal shift. Giving priority to pedestrians and cyclists • Green assets- need to be explicit re health and well being <p>Section 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the key objectives include 'promote health and wellbeing' • Include fear of crime prevents active travel and use of public transport, therefore contributing to increasing use of motorised vehicles. • Vision- Green Framework. general reference to all health issues: obesity, physical activity, mental health... and the aspiration to deliver health promoting environments with relevant explicit references on pages 64-69 • Lighting Experience - reference to safety and fear of crime. <p>Section 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport should feature higher up the hierarchy to encourage active transport • Sun awareness • Western Edge Transport- encourage active transport (including cycling) and modal shift pg 97 and 98 • Highlight the presence of cycle racks by public transport e.g. by making them a form of art... pg 98 • Cycling provision, pg 105 <p>Section 6</p>	<p>Accepted Accepted</p> <p>Accepted Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>It is considered that these statements are adequately covered by the additional bullet points in Section 1, repetition of points within each section adds wordage but not substance to the document.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Noted Accepted Noted Accepted Accepted</p>	<p>Additional bullet points to add:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Promote active travel and create attractive and user-friendly links to all forms of public transport in order to address increasing levels of obesity" 2. "Create green and shady areas to encourage people to use outdoor space for health and well-being" <p>Include cycle routes on page 17.</p> <p>Insert on page 73: "enhanced lighting levels will have the further effect of improving town centre safety and security".</p> <p>Include 'cycling provision'</p>

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117		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter bins- 'cigarette proof' materials pg117 (interest in this has been shown through recent discussion with pub/club owners) • Pedestrian Guardrails- include that presence undermines the prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists pg117 • Cycle racks- should have higher profile to promote use pg 117 • Signage- street markings (both pavement and wall) have been discussed in relation to the town centre alcohol exclusion zone at the Night Time Economy Group (sub group of SRP) & this may contradict the vision of the PR strategy. • Lighting- instilling confidence in people, safety, prevention of crime and fear of crime to encourage active travel • Shade- explicit reference to sun and UV protection through natural shade or engineered solutions • Public art - Need to be mindful of sustainability issues, energy, recycled water etc... <p>Secondly: The Primary Care Centre</p> <p>Public Realm Strategy should link the new Primary Care Centre in all respects, including providing 'high quality' streets and gateways that encourage the public to walk and use public transport to access the site. To encourage people to use public or sustainable transport it is essential that RMBC provide an environment that supports this.</p> <p>PCT staff may be targeted when wearing uniform as this is perceived that they may be carrying medication or expensive equipment, which is a motivator for people to use their car, it is essential that this issue is taken seriously and design supports the feeling of safety.</p> <p>Underpass from the Bus Station to Bailey House flooded to the top in the recent disastrous floods. Essential that this is taken into account regarding access to the Care Centre, which will be used in emergency responses.</p>	<p>Comment accepted, a new metal high quality litter bin has been selected for Rotherham Town Centre.</p> <p>In certain locations they can create visual intrusion and clutter problems. Therefore their siting needs to be carefully considered.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>The site was acquired and development proposals produced by the PCT in the full knowledge of its pedestrian links.</p> <p>Accepted, the Council recognises the potential of this problem, and will aim to make approach routes well-lit, wide and well observed to create a safer feel for users.</p> <p>This will be addressed as part of the phase 2 flood alleviation scheme.</p>	<p>Include the Wybone 'City Bin' in Section 6: Design Guidelines.</p> <p>The provision of shade to be considered during individual schemes. Each element of public art will be assessed with regard to maintenance and sustainability both within its production, running and maintenance as standard practise.</p>
Various	Pat Jarvis, Head of Division, Community Education	<p>Supportive of works planned for the town and particularly looking forward to increased access to the riverside.</p> <p>Language: document is very much consultant speak, to engage people they must know what you are talking about.</p>	<p>Support noted</p> <p>This issue has been debated by the Project Steering Group. We have tried to strike a careful balance to get the message across to a variety of audiences, whilst achieving a technical robust document to guide RMBC, developers and design professionals.</p>	

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		Ideas from other towns should not be translated whole to Rotherham.	The document recognises that 'Rotherhamness' is important to local people, and this will be given increased emphasis.	
Various	Joyce Thacker RMBC Children and Young People's Service – on behalf of the Joint Leadership Team	Supportive of the document however, concerns have been expressed about the state of the River Don as the public 'front' of the strategy. The river and its immediate surrounding area is generally a mess and will need significant investment to upgrade and make it attractive to be worthy enough to be a 'flagship' attraction for the area. We would also want this area to be family friendly i.e. picnic areas, cycle paths, environmental trails / reserves, play areas etc.	Cleanliness of river is the responsibility of the Environment Agency.	
Various	Mr Sam Kipling Planning Liaison Officer, Environment Agency	<p>Flood Risk Significant areas of Rotherham Town Centre lie within Flood Zone 3, an area identified as having a high probability of flooding. Your Core Strategy will endeavor, through the undertaking of the Sequential Test, to avoid development in the worst areas. However, some development will probably have to occur. There are instances of historical flooding in Rotherham and guidance suggests that Climate Change will worsen it. Therefore important that we plan now for flooding, to minimise its likely environmental, economic and social impacts in the future.</p>	Accepted	<p>Delete last paragraph on Page 22: Replace with: "Flood Alleviation improvements through a community-wide scheme need to be provided in Rotherham town centre in a coordinated way alongside riverside redevelopment sites to both reduce flood risk and ensure a coherent approach to riverside realm and public accessibility. These together offer a major opportunity to improve links to and access along this untapped asset."</p> <p>Insert additional paragraph on page 23 below existing text</p> <p>There are instances of historical flooding in Rotherham , most recently in June 2007, and significant areas of Rotherham town centre lie within Flood Zone 3 and guidance suggests that Climate Change will worsen flood risk. It is therefore important that we plan now for flooding, to minimise its likely environmental, economic and social impacts in the future. It is important in flood risk areas, that buildings are designed to be initially resistant, and then resilient to flooding. It is important to recognise that some of these techniques may impact on the external appearance of buildings, including their overall height.</p> <p>The provision of areas of public open space such as parks, play areas or public squares, in the areas most likely to flood will help to minimise the numbers of homes and businesses affected during flooding, both by storing flood waters safely and reducing the amount of new development taking place in the highest risk areas. Sympathetically designed streets, parks and other urban infrastructure, can have a significant</p>

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		<p>Important in flood risk areas, that buildings are designed to be initially resistant, and then resilient to flooding. Flood Resistance is the water-proofing of buildings; stopping the water from getting in. This could be through the raising of floor levels, the fitting of water-tight doors or stop-logs, and the water-proofing of walls and air-bricks. Flood Resilience techniques ensure that when a property floods, it can quickly return to full-use, negating the need for long periods of drying. Such techniques include the use of solid concrete floors with water resilient coverings such as tiles (carpets and laminate floorings should be avoided), the use of water-resilient plaster, and with plasterboards mounted horizontally, not vertically. Public Realm Strategy should recognise that some of these techniques may impact on the external appearance of buildings, including their overall height. Strategy should attempt to deliver areas of public open space such as parks, play areas or public squares, in the areas most likely to flood. This should minimise the numbers of homes and businesses affected during flooding, both by storing flood waters safely and reducing the amount of new development taking place in the highest risk areas.</p> <p>Drainage One of the predicted symptoms of Climate Change is a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of rainfall events. The likely result is an increase in surface water and sewer flooding – known collectively as pluvial flooding. Many instances of this were experienced across Yorkshire during the June 2007 and January 2008 flood events. Sympathetically designed streets, parks and other urban infrastructure, can have a significant cumulative impact on reducing instances of flooding. By incorporating green areas, water can be safely stored, evapo-transpiration can be increased and rainwater can soakaway slowly into the ground. These techniques slow the movement of water into watercourses and sewers, where flooding can more readily occur.</p> <p>Public Realm Strategy should promote the use of permeable pavements on parking and hard-standing areas, the provision of permeable and planted areas throughout the town, and the designation of areas of open space in the highest flood risk areas. In addition, allowances should be made for sustainable design ideas such as green roofs, rainwater and grey water harvesting and other low water-use techniques.</p>	<p>Comment is not relevant to this document.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p>	<p>cumulative impact on reducing instances of flooding. By incorporating green areas, water can be safely stored, evapo-transpiration can be increased and rainwater can soakaway slowly into the ground. These techniques slow the movement of water into watercourses and sewers, where flooding can more readily occur.</p> <p>It is recommended that the use of permeable pavements on parking and hard-standing areas, the provision of permeable and planted areas throughout the town centre, and the designation of areas of open space in the highest flood risk areas should be considered.</p>
Various	Peter O'Brien Planning and Design Advisor Transform South Yorkshire	Welcome the strategy. It will complement TSY's strategy and investment programme, which aims provide a range of high quality and sustainable housing in the town centre. Comments are:		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presumably the strategy is to form part of the statutory planning framework. It would therefore help if it spelt out how it is to be delivered, including the contributions expected through S106 agreements (or their successor) The concepts used to illustrate the various standards use a very “rectilinear” or “angular” form. Often a “softer” approach is appropriate, particularly where the street pattern itself is formed from a series of curves and spaces rather than a grid-iron Street furniture, and seating in particular, can often be used to create spaces-within-spaces. A rigid approach to alignment, parallel with the street, militates against this The street hierarchy isn’t clear to me, though I may well have missed this. This is important since the strategy makes clear distinction between heavily trafficked streets, but does not offer a definition So long as subways and footbridges remain a feature of the public realm, it seems inappropriate to propose a continuation of the low standard that most of them currently exhibit I would query the distinction made between gateways and public spaces. The downgrading of Centenary Way in particular offers the opportunity to create a series of new public spaces, rather than gateways per se, which will help knit the urban fabric back together. The strategy could helpfully recognise this, and ensure that it is incorporated in subsequent detailed design concepts The illustrative design concept for Effingham Square reflects the existing “civic” architecture (which is dated and uninspiring), and in my opinion is likely to be inappropriate for an important piece of public realm which will form the centrepiece of a new quarter. 	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>The designs within the PRS are indicative designs only and not actual design proposals. Accepted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Accepted, the Council’s aspiration is to knit the urban fabric back together.</p> <p>Agree, the illustration presented is not indicative of the preferred design approach. We would advocate that a brief is developed for any defined public space, in conjunction with all stakeholders, to ensure the aspirations for the space are defined and agreed prior to the development of any scheme.</p>	<p>Amend document to explain/clarify street definitions on Movement Hierarchy Plan. Page 50 – 53 proposes a clear strategy to transform the variety of gateways including underpasses and bridges</p>
114	David John Warburton, Member of the public	Supportive of the document. My comments relate to street furniture of all types. I believe that this should be of high quality, co-ordinated in style and not so numerous as to overpower the general street scene.	Support noted	
2 6	Emma Bridge, RMBC Policy Officer Chief Executive’s Directorate	<p>Purpose of document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to reference other partners, suggest: <i>Establishing council policy for council led projects, private developer schemes and other public sector projects</i> <p>Strategy approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives: 6th bullet – add separate sub bullet for health promoting <p>Policy context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to refer to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan and the links to Visions, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Achieving strategies, such as the emerging Economic Plan (lead officer, Simeon Leach, RiDO) Under the Achieving theme in the Community Strategy, reference is made to developing the Borough’s identity, strengthening local pride and improving external perceptions of Rotherham 	<p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p>	<p>Amend document accordingly</p> <p>Amend document accordingly</p> <p>Amend document as follows: Insert the following paragraph from the Community Strategy in the Policy Context section of the Public Realm Strategy: Sustainable Community Strategy 2005-2011 (Updated 2008) <i>This key overarching borough-wide</i></p>

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9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the Proud theme, reference is made to developing the Borough's identity, strengthening local pride and improving the external perceptions of Rotherham - Safe vision also relevant; <i>neighbourhoods which are safe, clean, green and well maintained, with attractive buildings and public spaces and communities that are free from crime and the fear of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour</i> - Sustainable Development vision also particularly relevant, with the Public Realm Strategy trying to achieve the difficult job of balancing economic, social and environmental goals <p>This will all add weight to what the Public Realm Strategy is trying to achieve</p>		<p><i>strategy describes the vision for Rotherham and key priorities and actions for Rotherham Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership). The priorities are framed around five strategic themes; Achieving, Alive, Learning, Proud and Safe, and are underpinned by two cross-cutting themes; Fairness and Sustainable Development.</i></p> <p><i>The Public Realm Strategy has strong links to all seven themes. For instance, the Achieving theme aspires to develop the Borough's identity, develop high quality spaces and buildings and improve external perceptions of Rotherham, all of which the Public Realm Strategy will have a clear impact upon. Similarly, the Safe theme expresses the need for safe, clean, green and well maintained neighbourhoods, with the Proud theme looking to strengthen local pride and improve external perceptions of Rotherham.</i></p> <p>This should also ensure greater corporate and LSP-wide buy-in. The paragraph will need to be inserted between the Regional Spatial Strategy and LDF.</p> <p>To incorporate this, the second paragraph will also need to be slightly changed as follows:</p> <p><i>This section of the report sets out how the Public Realm Strategy sits at the time of publishing, within the planning and wider strategic framework and the various studies that have been undertaken or are currently ongoing.</i></p>
19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under "How does the public realm strategy fit in?", add Rotherham NHS organisations as a key consultee <p>Pedestrian Riverside / Canal Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supportive of the establishment of a continuous riverside walk which will help to promote walking within the town centre. This is essential for public health in terms of increasing physical activity and mental health. It should also hopefully entice people away from using the car for short journeys, thereby helping to improve air quality 	Accepted	Amend document accordingly
21		<p>Green Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The provision of quality green spaces is known to be beneficial to feelings of health and well-being and therefore again supportive of the development of further green spaces and connectivity between 	Support noted	This is addressed within the vision-green framework Section which details how the 'Green Connections'

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23		<p>green spaces and the town centre – probably also worth noting the successful bid for funding for the development of an adventure playground within Clifton Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased green space and it's urban cooling/shading effect will also help to enable Rotherham to adapt to the changing climate ➤ One of the key challenges around green spaces is to link them into the town centre. It would be preferable if access to the green spaces could be promoted through the town centre (bringing increased footfall and trading opportunities), as opposed to being direct destinations for car drivers. <p>Flood Alleviation Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the 1 in 100 year protection take into account the increased risk of flooding due to climate change? Appreciate that it is not necessarily the remit of this Strategy to look directly at this in terms of the flood alleviation scheme, but all development needs to take the changing climate into account 	<p>between the retail core and Clifton Park should be strengthened.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted.</p> <p>The design of the foundations for the Flood Alleviation Scheme does allow for its height to be increased if this becomes necessary in future years due to climate change.</p>	<p>Unique signage to be designed to create a walking trail to both Clifton park and Boston Castle from the town centre. Include in document under relevant section.</p>
24/5		<p>Surface materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Need to consider the use of reclaimed/recycled material ➤ Need to ensure Disability Discrimination Act requirements/guidance 	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Accepted</p>	
27		<p>Street Furniture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seating arrangements should encourage interaction and for people to stay longer in the town centre ➤ Consideration should be given as benches are replaced to using recycled material or at least wood from sustainable sources. They could provide a good opportunity for the Council to promote how it is contributing to tackling climate change/improving the local environment ➤ More recycling bins are need in order to encourage greater recycling and raise awareness ➤ Bike racks should be sufficient to promote cycling and should be appropriately placed near cycle paths and with sufficient safeguards to prevent the fear of bicycle theft 	<p>Accepted. This will be reflected in new seating designs.</p> <p>Accepted, again these points will be addressed with regard to commissioning of all new street furniture.</p> <p>Comment accepted, a new metal high quality recycling bin has been selected for Rotherham Town Centre.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Include the Wybone 'City Recycling Bin' in Section 6: Design Guidelines.</p>
28		<p>Public art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good opportunity to also increase the borough's green credentials though "eco art" 	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Reference needs to be made to the emerging Public Art Framework for the town centre.</p>
29		<p>Trees and Planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consideration should be given when choosing plants etc to ensure they will saver in a warmer, drier climate with minimal watering required ➤ Trees are particularly welcome as they provide shade – an important feature when considering skin cancer prevention. – and should be linked to seating ➤ Trees also have a significant effect in cooling urban areas and will help the borough adapt to the changing climate 	<p>Climate change could lead to wetter conditions?</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>Mention that surveillance aspects of trees will be noted with regard to CCTV coverage.</p>

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
30		<p>Issues and opportunities, Issues and weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Saints Square is the main focal point for relaxation and therefore needs more shade ➤ Scale of change: The first stage – the move of the RMBC town centre located staff – may lead to a falling in daytime footfall within the town centre, however it may also bring more footfall into some areas such as the High Street and the revitalised riverside ➤ Parking provision – disagree that the parking provision located at the edge of the retail core is a weakness – improving pedestrian gateways would enable the use of these car parks and would encourage more walking within the town centre. ➤ Current development initiatives – the predominance of the car looms large – whilst the car should be acknowledged it should not dominate. <p>Section 3/wider consultation response</p> <p>Letter to consultees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose of public realm strategy – needs to be in plain language, at present this is not clear, so how can one be involved/get interested? ➤ The second paragraph should identify what is in the document that would be useful to look at, otherwise it is a substantial document which will either be avoided or not looked at correctly. This is especially true if it is large - which for consultation it should not be ➤ Consultation database - this should be identified at the beginning as where the details have come from, any previous consultation etc, and a note that Freedom of Information and data protection is adhered to. <p>Stat form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is not the 'statutory consultation period' ➤ Needs to adopt clear user friendly plain language approach, rather than technical jargon. ➤ Needs a sentence that identifies the overall meaning of the public realm, such as “this consultation will look at the spaces and places that you as a member of the public will use...” 	<p>Under consideration.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>See Page 52</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Under consideration.</p>	<p>Simplification of terminology throughout the document is essential.</p> <p>Include a paragraph to state what the document should be used for and for what purposes it will be useful.</p>
40		<p>Key objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suggest add Create a public realm that actively protects, promotes, embraces and celebrates health and well-being ➤ Suggest another key objective+ around improving the local environment, greenery, etc. 		
51		<p>Gateways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Confined routes: If the strategy is to actively promote physical activity then improving the safety and perceived safety of these gateways is one of the most crucial parts of the strategy. 		
52		<p>Car parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agree that car parks need to be improved and gateways from the car parks to the town centre vastly improved. 		

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
		<p>General comments</p> <p>Several references are made in the document to conveying the distinctiveness or "Rotherhamness" of the town, but have we established what this is? Whilst we can commemorate our heritage via things like the waterwheel on Forge Island or the use of Rotherham red sandstone, how do we convey the message of what we want Rotherham to be in the future?</p> <p>This links with the proposals to develop a Rotherham riverside logo and hold a design/branding competition. This would need to be done in the context of any branding which might be developed corporately for Rotherham via the Communications team or via our place shaping role.</p> <p>There needs to be a link to Rotherham Play Strategy, which considers; where children and young people play, for example in parks, open spaces, streets and the wider built environment, and which states that "in designing and undertaking changes to any open space area, consideration of the play value of these elements will be taken into account."</p> <p>The Public Realm Strategy discusses creating a new focus for the community - this needs to consider the needs of children and young people, to encourage greater use of the town centre as an enjoyable, fun experience. This could include innovative street furniture which incorporates features to encourage play/learning, this also fits with the Public Realm Strategy's intended objective to provide for a quality environment which is vibrant, inspiring and stimulating. Welcome the intended improved links to Clifton Park, but need to encourage the wider play agenda.</p> <p>Other educational benefits could also be incorporated into the public realm through using innovative materials, furniture, sustainable art/fountains/lighting made using alternative technologies in line with our Sustainable Development Strategic Theme, educational information could then be provided about how these work, what the technology is etc.</p> <p>Social benefits of children and young people gathering in the town centre to enjoy the facilities need to be considered - particularly the complex issue of young people's legitimate needs to meet and socialise and the provision of facilities for these kinds of activities, and the concerns that can be caused to others by groups of young people gathering in one place</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Accepted.</p> <p>Accepted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>All of these aspect to be considered as standard when each section of the public realm is designed.</p> <p>Accepted, consultation work with youth groups is on-going.</p>	<p>Include a pictorial page with a bullet point list dedicated solely to defining 'Rotherhamness' and how this will be protected and celebrated within new development covered under the public realm. For example: One of the things highlighted defining 'Rotherhamness' are the views of surrounding countryside from many areas of the town centre. These are created due to the topography of the town, the public realm should include a statement to illustrate how the views will be protected by the prevention of tall development within the public realm which would obscure them. Street furniture could be included to illustrate what the views represent such as the names of the places and churches and landmark buildings that can be seen.</p>

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		<p>Conflicting issues. Rotherham Lighting Experience is a good example of this. It appears to contradict the wider sustainability agenda and climate change targets, however it also provides the opportunity to look at how to address this in an innovative way and build Rotherham's reputation as a leader in sustainable development. Lighting could be powered using combined heat and power, through an Energy Service Company (ESCo) or by using the weir on the River.</p>	<p>Sustainability with regard to design is considered as standard throughout all new public realm works. Low energy lights are always considered by the designers of our lighting schemes</p>	
	<p>Sustainability Partnership</p>	<p>Strategy is based very heavily on modern lighting systems, seems to have overlooked the opportunity for real sustainable lighting rather than just including the few words that include 'the consideration of sustainable lighting'.</p> <p>1. The design relies heavily on additional and diverse lighting systems. The specification for lights only quotes BS EN 13201-2. There is also a very brief mention of 'sustainable lighting'.</p> <p>Opportunity to really look at sustainable lighting and not just put it in as a sentence. <u>Serious</u> consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use street lighting that reduces / prevents light contamination in the sky (should now be standard design features). ➤ Consider recycled products for lighting and future recycling potential. ➤ Use renewable lighting options that are available widely, including floor solar lighting, and especially building mounted systems that can be designed and linked to solar panels that are not visible. ➤ Standard street lights are now fitted with solar panels. ➤ LED systems are now advanced and security lights / spot lights / ground lights can use low energy LED options. <p>2. Although not directly part of the strategy consideration should be given to ensure the buildings within the boundary adhere to a sustainable standard such as BREEAM excellent or similar.</p> <p>3. A sustainable lighting specialist should be involved in the design stage.</p> <p>Trees/green space Consideration needs to be given to the role that this place in ensuring climate change adaptation i.e. through its role in urban cooling and shading.</p> <p>When choosing which trees or plants to use, need to consider which will survive in warmer and drier condition with less need for watering.</p> <p>Physical activity Links to physical activity/public health need to be much stronger (see separate response from PCT)</p> <p>Added value Needs to be clear what the 'added value' of this Strategy is in light of all the other work taking place.</p> <p>Eco opportunities</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Consideration of all these aspects is to be standard practise when selecting lighting for each particular public realm scheme.</p> <p>The design of individual buildings is outside the scope of the Public Realm Strategy.</p> <p>Advice to be sought on individual schemes from RMBC sustainable lighting specialist.</p> <p>Climate change could lead to cooler wetter conditions?</p> <p>Noted. Comments to be included as detailed earlier.</p> <p>The 'added value' is clearly outlined in the four bullet points on page 1</p>	<p>Increase reference to 'sustainable lighting techniques.'</p> <p>Include comment to note this in PRS.</p>

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
		<p>Look at opportunities for green art</p> <p>Try to achieve carbon neutrality through using the weir to power lighting or installing a local energy generation scheme.</p> <p>Wider work currently taking place on the economic benefits of public space ("Creating a Setting for Investment")</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation to climate change as well as mitigation through reducing pollution needs to be addressed</p>	The following four issues will be investigated.	<p>The Green Connections concept (p69/70) offers an exciting green public art opportunity to be explored.</p> <p>Include reference to Rotherham's opportunity to demonstrate its green aspirations through its public spaces. Highlight proposals which can play a part in this. Refer to RMBC sustainability policy?</p>
58	Beverley Smith Evans Regeneration Investments Ltd.	<p>Broadly agree with the aims and objectives of the Public Realm Strategy, but we have the following concerns:</p> <p>Reference to the masterplan being produced for the Guest and Chrimes site is premature. This masterplan has not been finalised and as yet there is no certainty regarding how the site will be developed, particularly given the site's constraints which have still to be fully investigated. Furthermore, we understand that the Council are undertaking a comprehensive masterplanning process covering a wide area, including the Guest and Chrimes site. This work is being undertaken by the Council with the full involvement of a number of landowners in the area and Yorkshire Forward. As such the design / layout of the Guest and Chrimes site is likely to change, which should be reflected in the Public Realm Strategy.</p>	Accepted, there is no finalised masterplan for this site.	River Zone 1 - Amend text to exclude reference to 'comprehensive masterplan' for Guest & Chrimes site.
58, 59		<p>The suggested approach to flood alleviation and riverside treatment in relation to the Guest and Chrimes site is too prescriptive. Former Guest and Chrimes factory building, located close to the waterfront, is a Grade II listed building. It may not be possible to implement the riverside treatments as illustrated on page 59 without causing harm to the listed building. Suggested treatments do not take account of the changes in levels across the site (there is a significant drop in land level from Main Street, moving southwards) and the impact this will have on the proposed riverside treatment, flood defences and pedestrian access to the site.</p>	Accepted.	Amend 'Possible Solutions' text on page 58 to reflect this concern accordingly.
63		<p>The green framework vision, as illustrated, includes a pocket park to the south of the Guest and Chrimes site, on land currently owned by Old House Holdings. The proposed location of this park does not relate to any existing development on the site and as previously stated it is premature to refer to the draft masterplan. Whilst there is potential to provide greenspace on the site, it is premature to allocate the quantity, type or location of this greenspace. We request that this "pocket park" is removed.</p>	Accepted.	Remove site specific references to 'Pocket Park'. Include an area of greenspace within the site.
69		<p>Sets out the proposed approach to green connections, which are designed to link green spaces within the town. The whole of the waterfront along the eastern boundary of the Guest and Chrimes site has been allocated as a green connection linking the site with All Saint's Minster. We support this link as part of the Council's continuing approach to extending the town centre to incorporate the river and canal corridor.</p> <p>The need to provide a high wall to act as a flood defence along the</p>	Support noted.	
			Accepted	Incorporate comments accordingly.

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74		<p>waterfront may make the safe implementation of this footpath, along the waters edge, impossible. The footpath currently leaves the river at the Guest and Chrimes site to run along Don Street, which will potentially be closed as part of any redevelopment of this site, allowing a solution along these lines to potentially be provided, where a waterfront walkway cannot be achieved. This should be acknowledged in the document. Any alteration to the current footpath would need to have the full cooperation of British Waterways.</p> <p>The 'Rotherham Lighting Experience', includes the potential new bridge, located on the south of the Guest and Chrimes factory. Because the requirement to provide this bridge depends on the quantum development of the site, which has yet to be agreed, it is premature to show this in the public realm strategy. Furthermore, the provision of major bridge infrastructure benefits a much wider area than the development at Guest and Chrimes and should form part of the comprehensive proposals under discussion for the master planning of the larger geographical area. We, therefore, propose that the bridge is removed from the strategy as its inclusion is premature.</p>	<p>Accepted, the requirement a new bridge depends on the quantum development of the site.</p>	<p>Amend plan and all other plans showing this bridge. Refer to it as a 'potential bridging point'.</p>
103		<p>Support the inclusion of the Guest and Chrimes site within the spatial hierarchy, particularly the potential for this site to be incorporated into the existing town centre as stated on page 103. However, the challenges for the redevelopment of this site are numerous and we feel the strategy does not properly reflect this. The site is heavily contaminated and following granting of planning permission, the owners have committed significant expenditure, at risk, to undertake a comprehensive programme of site clearance, demolition and remediation. Site suffers from poor access and significant new infrastructure is required to overcome this constraint. In addition, the site is at risk of flooding and before development can proceed, a comprehensive flood defence system needs to be constructed. The listed building on the site requires significant investment to enable its conversion and re-use. Due to the significant new infrastructure required before development can commence, the costs are considerable and already proving prohibitive to undertaking a viable development. Adding to these costs through the imposition of the public realm improvements proposed will ensure the site remains undeveloped for many years to come.</p>	<p>The site area has now been decontaminated as part of a comprehensive remediation and clearance programme.</p>	<p>Amend page 103 'Guest & Chrimes' overview. Para 1 to read "FORMER" industrial area....." Delete para 2, and replace with "It is proposed to construct new Council Office accommodation on part of the site, and the Council and the land-owner are engaged in promoting the redevelopment of the remainder of the site." This reflects the first comment above from Evans.</p>
78-79		<p>Spatial hierarchy includes a number of potential routes and open spaces which are allocated to be either high quality spaces and streets or premium quality. These spaces and routes have been extracted from an early masterplan for the site, which has yet to be finalised and has never been agreed with the Council. We would, therefore, argue that it is premature to include these routes and spaces within the document.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Amend plan to show G&C site as an 'Area of undefined future change'. Indicative streets and spaces should continue to be shown to help inform expected quality and general principles for future development (e.g. a network of high quality/premium quality streets and spaces which incorporate a riverside promenade) It is understood that the exact layout of streets and spaces are likely to change through the design/planning process and this point should be clarified in the text associated with the plan.</p>
103		<p>The site boundary includes the Old House (Gloystarne) site to the south of the Guest and Chrimes site. Given that our client has no control over this land, and that the development of these sites may not be simultaneous, it is not reasonable to include it in the boundary. Boundary should be amended accordingly (see plan showing our clients ownership).</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Amend boundary accordingly.</p>

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11		Development Matrix states that the key players/owners for Site 19 Guest and Chrimes are the Council and Express parks. This is incorrect and should read the Council and Evans Regeneration Investments Ltd.	Accepted	Development Sites matrix will be changed accordingly.
43-53	Colin Holme Advisor – Government and Planning Natural England Government Buildings Otley Road Lawnswood Leeds	Welcome this public realm strategy, which is generally attentive to our organisational interests, including protection and enhancement of bio-diversity, landscape and townscape character, providing access to green space and using natural resources in a sustainable manner. Support the vision for <i>'the creation of a public realm palette that responds to the town centre's distinctiveness'</i> . There is much to celebrate in the town centre, along with the potential for improvement. Design concepts for streetscape treatments are well considered and flow from an evidence based approach to assessment of the public realm, which is to be welcomed. Pleased to note an emphasis on greening the street scene which is evident from the standard to premium quality design concepts.	Support noted.	
57-61		Welcome the considered approach to the riverside public realm, and the categorization of the riverside into River Zones to enable increased accessibility appropriate to the differing interfaces between land and water that exist along the riverside. We also welcome reference to the creation of pockets and ledges along the riverbank for natural regeneration and wildlife. An informed approach to biodiversity will present significant opportunities for the River Don to act as a wildlife corridor for a range of species (for instance there may be potential for pockets and ledges to enhance habitat connectivity for species such as otter, which are present in the Don). At the implementation stage of this strategy we would be happy to advise further on, for example, when ecological surveys may be necessary or how the best outcomes for biodiversity may be achieved and we would also advise that you seek advice from your Ecology Officer on such matters.	Support noted	
63		Welcome the green framework and its focus on major green spaces, pocket parks and green connections. The 'distinctive visions' for the 'Green Lung' and Clifton park in particular would be useful to benchmark the quality of these major green spaces by entering, or at least assessing sites against, the Green Flag Award scheme. The Green Flag Awards encourage a broad 'sustainability' focussed approach to green space management, ensuring that sites are welcoming, accessible and incorporate sustainable development principles, all of which align with the aims of this strategy. We believe that a stated aspiration to achieve such a nationally recognised benchmark for major green spaces would signal how important green spaces are to the public realm of Rotherham and ensure they are of a high quality. Further information on the Green Flag Awards is available from: http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/	Accepted	Amend accordingly
69		Strongly support the overall green connections approach we believe that cycling has not been integrated into the proposals, and therefore a potential opportunity may be missed to contribute to Policy T1 of the Regional Transport Strategy as it appears in the draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan. We would prefer to see a reference to cycling, the interface between walking and cycling (i.e. appropriate cycle parking where areas are pedestrianised, and next to key green spaces) and the examples of the measures that will support cycling in the street environment (e.g. traffic	Accepted	Amend accordingly

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95		<p>calming, cycle tracks etc.), particularly along green connections. There are many different ways of achieving this and useful resources are available through the Department for Transport's 'Manual for streets' http://manualforstreets.org.uk and Cycling England's website http://www.cyclingengland.co.uk/engineering2.php</p>	Accepted	Amend accordingly
124-5		<p>We welcome the distinctive 'message board' information signs that tie in with the green connections theme. Given the use of vibrant colours in the 'rendition' (recognising that this is unlikely to be the final design) we would further advise that these should take into account the requirements of visually impaired users or other minority groups in the area. The approach to accessible community focussed signage for green space is supported by the Green Flag Awards manual http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/manual/. Natural England are pleased to see the prominent role played by urban trees in this strategy and agree with the tree guidelines. Appreciate the species selection requirements and would suggest that there will be opportunities to include native species in to planting plans, particularly where there are opportunities for a continuous canopy (Guidance on Street Trees is available from http://www.tcpa.org.uk/biodiversitybydesign/3-5rm.htm . The 'pocket parks' in particular will offer such opportunities, which would benefit urban wildlife and help the council demonstrate its commitment to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act –(Section 40 (1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act states "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". We would be happy to advise further on this.</p>	Accepted	Amend accordingly
145		<p>We welcome the focus on funding opportunities and would advise that a successful funding plan will be crucial to the successful implementation of this ambitious and well constructed strategy, either within this document or as a separate exercise.</p> <p>We would also advise that, in addition to using commuted sums to fund public realm work, there may be further opportunities for funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that is proposed in the Planning Bill currently going through Parliament. If the CIL proposals are retained within the final legislation, this will allow the secretary of state to make regulations to provide for the imposition of CIL, and empower planning authorities to apply a standard levy to new developments to help provide the infrastructure needed to support them. Planning departments will need to work out what infrastructure they need to support the development proposed, to cost this and then set out means to support this via CIL, consulting upon and agreeing this through the adoption of their LDF. There may be opportunities for this public realm strategy to push for elements of the public realm, particularly the connected green spaces that it proposes, to be eligible for CIL, as part of its funding strategy.</p>	<p>Accepted, the Council is currently working towards this as a separate exercise.</p> <p>Comments concerning the CIL are noted. The respective merits of raising public realm developer contributions incorporated into the general CIL tariff or via specific S106 obligations have yet to be assessed. It is likely that the CIL may be more appropriate to raise funding for major strategic infrastructure items including those that have sub regional benefits. CIL may be a more appropriate vehicle if town centre public realm works are to be funded from developments throughout the Borough. Precise details of the Government's CIL proposals are yet to be announced and this will prevent the early introduction of public realm funding arrangements. Another solution might be to look to including public realm funding</p>	

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			<p>requirements within an LDF policy and/or Supplementary Planning Document for Section 106 Obligations but this will need to stem from the LDF Core Strategy which again will not be adopted for some time.</p> <p>It is understood that the enactment of the Planning Bill in early 2009 will enable Supplementary Planning Guidance to be linked to appropriate policies in the Regional Spatial Strategy as part of the Development Plan. There are no policies in either the saved UDP or RSS parts of the Development Plan specifically addressing Section 106 obligations. However, RSS Policies YH4B2 and E2b, coupled with additional linkage to saved UDP Policy ENV3.1, would provide a means of introducing a Public Realm SPD which would also need to be subject to sustainability appraisal. This mechanism would have planning weight by being tied to the statutory development plan and may also provide scope to introduce requirements for developer contributions for public realm works in Rotherham Town Centre and possibly the other outlying local centres. These requirements would need to be based on a robust and transparent formula to calculate specific contributions triggered by a specific scale, type and location of development.</p>	
Various	John Pilgrim, Senior Planning Executive, Yorkshire Forward	Strongly support the Public Realm Strategy for Rotherham Town centre. The Agency has had the opportunity to feed detailed design comments into the document, however the Council should also prepare planning guidance on developer contributions to assist in the implementation of the Public Realm Strategy throughout the town centre.	The suggestion for planning guidance for developer contributions to public realm works is noted. Requirements for developer contributions to public realm works should ideally be set out in an LDF policy and/or Supplementary Planning Document for Section 106 Obligations but this will need to stem from the LDF Core Strategy which will not be adopted for some time. A more immediate solution would be to look to the enactment of the Planning Bill in early 2009 which is understood will enable provision for Supplementary Planning Guidance to be linked to appropriate policies in the Regional Spatial Strategy as part of the Development Plan. There are no policies in either the saved UDP or RSS parts of the Development Plan specifically addressing Section 106	Consider the most appropriate means of requiring developer obligations for public realm works together with trigger levels/locations and a robust means of calculating and managing payments.

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		<p>Yorkshire Forward recognise the importance of good design to support the ongoing renaissance activity in Rotherham Town Centre, this is in line with Regional Economic strategy (RES) Objective 6B (i), which seeks to <i>'deliver high quality, integrated renaissance programmes in all our major cities and towns.'</i></p>	<p>obligations. However, RSS Policies YH4B2 and E2b, coupled with additional linkage to saved UDP Policy ENV3.1, would provide a means of introducing a Public Realm SPD which would also need to be subject to sustainability appraisal. This mechanism would have planning weight by being tied to the statutory development plan and may also provide scope to introduce requirements for developer contributions for public realm works in Rotherham Town Centre. These requirements would need to be based on a robust and transparent formula to calculate specific contributions triggered by a specific scale, type and location of development.</p> <p>The Council shares Yorkshire Forward's recognition of the importance of good design in the furtherance of Rotherham Town Centre Renaissance in line with Objective 6B(i) of RES is noted. However, reference to RSS Policies YH4B2 and E2b is also appropriate as the potential means of the Public Realm Strategy being delivered through the development plan process.</p>	
Various	Mrs Betty Johnson, Rotherham Resident	<p>Wonderful document, would love to see better green spaces fully co-ordinated. Pleased to see that someone has highlighted all the hotch-potch ideas that has made Rotherham what it is today, in other words lack of planning. Railings, don't make them too fussy e.g. Moorgate Crofts. Good Railings in All Saints' Square, where we have wonderful architecture and the truly magnificent Minster. We do not need the huge T.V. detracting from this and no-one seems to watch it. Please keep everything co-ordinated and good classic design, it always wins.</p>	<p>Support and other comments welcomed.</p> <p>Consideration may be given by the Council's Town Centre Manager to a new type of 'Big Screen' in a less sensitive location.</p>	
37 9	Alastair McIntyre, Senior Planning Officer, Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber	<p>Refers to the 'statutory' consultation taking place. This may be misleading given the document itself is non-statutory.</p> <p>Diagram shows a number of policy documents, including the emerging Local Development Framework, as feeding into the Public Realm Strategy. I would have expected to see the Strategy feeding into the LDF. More</p>	<p>Comment concerning the present non-statutory status of the document and the need for more clarity about its relationship with the LDF process is accepted. RSS Policies YH4B2 and E2b, coupled with additional linkage to saved UDP Policy ENV3.1, would provide a means of introducing a Public Realm SPD which would also need to be subject to sustainability appraisal. This mechanism would have planning weight by being tied to the statutory development plan</p> <p>Comment accepted</p>	<p>LDF Manager is considering the most appropriate means of taking the Public Realm Strategy forward within the statutory development plan process.</p> <p>Remove diagram on page 9 as it is misleading.</p>

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
		clarity about the precise nature of the relationship between the Strategy and the LDF is required.		
19 64 Section 3	Jo Wright Sheffield Diocesan Board of Finance	Physical Analysis – The Diocese supports the proposal that the River Don and Canal need to be reclaimed rather than hidden away and that the river should be integrated into a joined network of routes. Improving the signage within the town centre will assist in encouraging pedestrians to use the routes along the riverside as an alternative means of accessing the town centre. Green Space – Agreed that Rotherham Town Centre lacks green space and it is crucial that more green spaces are created in the town. The proposals to create a green framework to deliver high quality green spaces and structure which will provide opportunities for informal recreation as well as ‘softening’ the existing hard urban environment are welcomed. The Diocese would welcome the opportunity to become involved with future focus group/consultation exercises relating to the regeneration of Rotherham Town Centre.	Support noted. Support noted. Accepted	The Council is working closely with Reverend David Bliss and Graham Williams of the Diocese regarding the new landscaping designs for All Saints’ Minster Yard, and the proposed lighting scheme for the Minster.
133 & 135	Glyn Symonds Campbell Design & Engineering Ltd.	Good to see several examples of the design elements we have contributed to Rotherham’s landscape over recent years, although we noticed that despite many references to other suppliers, we were not mentioned nor referenced against the images used, in particular, our hand railing and decorative guard rail at the entrance to Moorgate Crofts Business Centre.	Accepted	Reference to Campbell Design Ltd to be acknowledged under the Moorgate Crofts railings on pages 133, 135.
Various	Joanne Edley Tourism Manager	The ideas and concepts around the magical All Saints Yard, new River Icon and River Wall and Canvas are very good, but there is not much detail on how this will be structured / designed. The Riverside Development is essential and needs careful thought on how this will look. An entertainment feature using lighting on the water will be excellent around the cultural centre at night. Lighting on, in and over the river area at Forge Island utilising floating sculptures would be an asset to the town and cultural section of the town for the evening economy. No mention of links through public realm to other attractions around the town centre such as Clifton Park and Museum, The Boston Park and Castle, which is hoped to be open in 2011. Public Realm would need to be identified to highlight and bring the perception that these attractions are closer to the town centre spaces and highlight that they are in walking distance.	Detailed designs will be formulated at a later stage. Support noted. References to Clifton Park and the Museum can be found on Pages 21, 63 and 65.	
	Nick Barnes Principal Project Development Officer, Environmental and Development Services	Supportive of the document. The inclusion of a linked series of commissioned pieces of public art is desirable adding to Rotherham’s unique identity. Document is a very positive step forward in creating an identity for the town centre. It is very heartening to see so many references to culture/arts/heritage.	Support noted	
11	Nick Barnes Principal Project Development Officer Environment and Development Services	Development matrix: Should refer to development of Cinema?	Disagree, the specific site for a cinema is undecided.	

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28		Signage, lighting and public art: Would be interested to see a reference to “interpretational” panels e.g. to include historic reference, a “town walk”?	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
30		A reason to visit: It will be helpful to include a reference to the Cultural Centre, which could be a “landmark” site in its own right.	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
60		River Wall: includes reference to “big bang” art installations at premium locations such as Forge Island. Useful to link to design of Cultural Centre. Could also incorporate some of the “Lighting” work referred to on p75	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
82		Diagram for “retail loop”: Needs to include Forge Island?	Accepted.	Amend document accordingly.
100		“contemporary place focused on culture and the arts”. Very supportive but it needs to include a reference to the heritage context	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
121		Lighting: high quality seasonal displays such as Christmas lighting, highlight the need to replace old catenary wires that are used to suspend Christmas lights?	Accepted, this needs to be taken into consideration as part of any redevelopment of buildings.	
122		Strategic Lighting: Add ons should include sockets/timers to include plug and play facility for festive lighting. Consideration should be given when replacing lighting columns to ensure new columns can house electric timers in base of column for festive lighting.	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
123		Creative Lighting: As well as up-lighters consideration should be made to branch wrap trees with LED lighting that could be used to celebrate different festivals throughout the year including Christmas (Rotherham Lighting Experience).	Accepted	Amend document accordingly.
129		Suggest a final bullet point in the section on safety & security. ‘Public art installations’.	Accepted	Amend bullet point No. 6 to read: “Planting and public art installations should be designed to maintain open views and prevent the creation of hiding places”.
57	Alice Rodgers Representing the: Maltby Environmental Group	Proposals for major development along the riverside offer the opportunity to widen its course to enable it to resist flooding better. A more natural riverside would create a wildlife corridor and create an attractive destination for visitors.	Page 57 refers to the important role of the River Don on the town centre’s urban grain.	
		High-rise ‘fake warehouse’ type apartment blocks already appear old fashioned as a concept and risk becoming ‘instant slum’ as in the many other town centres where they have been developed.	Outside the scope of this document.	
100		Forge Island concept and lighting scheme combines excessive use of energy with flood plain over development. This organisation would suggest that the Cultural Quarter would, more sensibly be developed on higher ground and that it should be designed to minimise energy use.	This issue will be addressed in the revised SDF	

Page	Respondents:	Comments:	Considerations	Recommended Changes
Various	John Wadsworth An original Town Team member	<p>Interesting that Gillespies are saying that the river corridor should include green space.</p> <p>Centenary Way is described as “undefined”. I still believe our plan to downgrade this route and re-instate Crinoline Bridge (as described in the Strategic Development Framework) is <u>essential</u> to our vision for the river corridor.</p> <p>I didn’t find much mention of the river bridges, and I hope we still intend to replace the utilitarian ones with something architecturally striking. I know we’ll never match Florence but we should have a good try!</p> <p>Laser lighting show on the iconic structure on Forge Island would be a good tourist attraction, and the ribbon of lights looks great. Not sure about the Minster – the lighting there should be restrained but stunning.</p> <p>Glad they’ve taken on board Bernie’s idea of linking Clifton Park with the town centre.</p> <p>Didn’t see much about how the market can be improved – I remember LDA’s ideas on this to open it up instead of hiding it away.</p> <p>Agree with the criticism of shutters on High Street and planting more street trees (that obscure the CCTV cameras), but we need to move on reducing town centre crime and hooliganism first. Hopefully more town centre living and street wardens will help.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>This issue will be addressed in the revised SDF</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>A floodlighting scheme for the Minster is currently being designed by Hoare Lee Lighting.</p> <p>Support noted</p> <p>Outside the scope of this document.</p> <p>Support noted</p>	Amend document accordingly