

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Venue: Training Room, 3rd Floor, **Date:** Monday, 27th July, 2009
Bailey House,
Rawmarsh Road,
ROTHERHAM.

Time: *10.15 a.m.

*Please note the start time for this meeting

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended March 2006) to the Local Government Act 1972.
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 meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation.
See Minutes to be presented to Council – 22nd July, 2009 – White Book.
- for signature by the Cabinet Member
4. Minutes of a meeting of the Tourism Forum held on 6th July, 2009 (Pages 1 - 5)
5. Minutes of a meeting of the Tourism Panel held on 13th July, 2009 (Pages 6 - 10)
6. Minutes of a meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel held on 10th July, 2009 (Pages 11 - 14)
7. A57 Worksop Road – Sheffield Road Improvement (Pages 15 - 19)
Ian Ashmore, Principal Traffic Officer, to report.
- to seek approval for CPO/SRO.
- 7(a). Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme - Shop Fronts Improvement Grants.
(report attached)
Julie Roberts, Town Centre and Markets Manager, to report.
8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)):-

9. Town Centre Business Grants (Pages 30 - 34)
Julie Roberts, Town Centre Manager, to report.
- to seek approval to award Rental Contribution and Capital Grant, under the Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme, to support two projects in Imperial Buildings.
10. Town Centre Street Cafe Grants. (report attached) (Pages 35 - 46)
Julie Roberts, Town Centre and Markets Manager, to report.

1F

TOURISM FORUM
Monday, 6th July, 2009

Present:-

Joanne Edley	Tourism and Marketing Manager, R.M.B.C.
Dawn Campbell	Events and Promotions Officer, R.M.B.C.
Janet Fletcher	Assistant Events and Promotions Service Manager, R.M.B.C.
Joanna Royle	Welcome to Yorkshire
Caroline Wilson	Yorkshire South Tourism
Vicky Martin	Aston Hotel
Tom Waldron-Lynch	Hellaby Hall Hotel
Kevin Saville	Carlton Park Hotel
Matthew Beck	Magna
Brett Ainsworth	Delinquent Dogz
Ted Kelsey	Bramley Parish Council
Hazel Ellin	South Yorkshire Transport Museum
Terry Ellin	South Yorkshire Transport Museum
Kim Bellis	Tropical Butterfly House
Brian King	Rotherham and District Civic Society
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Christine Majer	International Links Officer, R.M.B.C.
Faustitine Lasseron	International Links Student
Lynne Wilde	Best Western Elton Hotel
Michael Cilent	Boston Castle Self Catering
Julie Williamson	Dearne Valley College
Grace Rogerson	Dearne Valley College

Apologies for absence:-

Anthony Barber Lomax	Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estates
Councillor I. St. John	
Christine Thomas	R.C.A.T.
George Trow	R.C.A.T.
Jane Powell	John Powell Travel
Stuart Reaney	Chesterfield Canal Partnership
Julie Roberts	Town Centre Manager, R.M.B.C.
Malcolm Godfrey	Wath Golf Club
A. D. Airey	Wentworth Garden Centre
Tina Wood	Elsecar Heritage Centre
John Savage	Stonecroft Hotel
Ian Dixon	Rother Valley Country Park
Elaine Humphries	Friends of Clifton Park

1. ARRIVAL

Forum members were welcomed by Tropical Butterfly House staff and shown to the Café Area where light refreshments were being served.

2. TOUR OF THE TROPICAL BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Forum members were invited on a tour of the Tropical Butterfly House led by the staff.

Staff from the Tropical Butterfly House were on hand to answer any questions.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kim Bellis from the Tropical Butterfly House welcomed members to the meeting.

4. ROTHERHAM RESTRUCTURE AND PLANS FOR 2009/10

Joanne Edley, Tourism and Marketing Manager, gave a short presentation on the restructure that had taken place in the Events and Promotions Service and reported that the whole team would be co-located in one building shortly.

Further information was provided on Communications Group and the decisions taken to pool together the promotional budgets for the Council. This now meant that a bid for funding had to be submitted for any promotional projects taking place. Successful bids to date included:-

- Local Residents Promotion.
- Heritage Open days.
- Group Travel.
- Publication.
- Walking Festival.
- Access Guide.

The draft Visitor Plan was currently on hold, but was subject to further discussion. It was requested that visitor attractions in Rotherham should contact the Industry Representatives (up-to-date list circulated) regarding any information for inclusion or suggestions as this would contribute to the research material required as part of the bidding process. The Visitor Plan would then be considered by the Tourism Panel at its meeting on the 13th July, 2009.

Joanne Edley gave an update on the work to date by the Events and Promotions Service and requested that copies of the "How's The Service" survey be submitted as soon as possible before the 24th July, 2009 deadline.

Joanne Edley, along with Dawn Campbell, gave an update on events currently taking place in Rotherham, which included:-

- The Walking Festival.
- Accommodation Rates for Special Events.
- Big Screen Events broadcasting the ballet and opera, which had proved to be very popular. Further information was also circulated.
- Garden Lovers Event.
- Farmers' Market.
- Rotherham By The Sea.
- Rotherham Show, Rosehill Park.
- Rotherham Open Arts Festival.
- Christmas Light Switch On – 19th November, 2009.
- Rother Valley Country Park Party in the Park.
- Celebration of Play – Clifton Park.

Event/attraction organisers were encouraged to contact the Events and Promotions Service if they were in a position to offer publicity or wished to be involved in any way in the arrangements.

5. **YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM UPDATE**

Caroline Wilson from Yorkshire South Tourism gave a presentation with an update on recent activities and provided further information on:-

- Yorkshire Tourism Network Partnership Scheme.
- Benefits of the Yorkshire Tourism Network Partnership.
- Website – Yorkshiresouth.com.
- Regional Visitor Survey 2008/09.
- Website – Visitrotherham.org.
- Guestlink – what it was, what changes could be made, how Guestlink could help business and how benefits could be enjoyed.
- Yorkshire South Tourism Promotions.
- Partnership Agreement and Online Booking Agreement forms.
- Guestlink Training.

Caroline Wilson was happy to answer any queries from Forum Members and provided her contact details should anyone wish to get in touch.

6. **YORKSHIRE ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Joanne Royle from Welcome to Yorkshire gave a short presentation and updated the forum on Yorkshire activity recently.

Her presentation drew particular attention to:-

- Rebranding of the Yorkshire Tourist Board to Welcome to Yorkshire.
- UK Marketing Campaign – Strapline “Long Weekend in Yorkshire is not Long Enough” and the eight themes.
- Booking Activity.
- Media Strategy through the use of TV and Satellite.

- Sponsorship.
- Cinema Advertising.
- Outdoor Training Station Advertising.
- National Press Coverage.
- Public Relations Activity.
- Website – Yorkshire.com.
- Awards.

Discussion ensued on the close proximity to the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire borders and the promotion of activities by close neighbours.

7. DEVELOPMENTS IN ROTHERHAM

Joanne Edley reported on developments that had taken place in Rotherham including the new 130 bed Park Inn Hotel in Wath.

In addition, there had been three self catering establishment enquiries to start up, with two existing serviced accommodation providers' properties giving advice on being assessed.

8. NEWS/INFORMATION ITEMS FROM FORUM MEMBERS

The following information was provided by Forum members:-

Aston Group – Business was continuing.

Carlton Park – The hotel re-opened on the 1st March following £2.5 million investment as a result of fire damage.

Magna – The website had been relaunched, which had seen an increase of online bookings. In addition, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition was still open with a Local Wildlife Photographer Competition being held in October.

Delinquent Dogs – A flyball competition was held with over 300 competitors taking part from all over the country, many of whom were committed to entering the competition in 2010.

South Yorkshire Transport Museum – The floor area to the museum had been increased with the taking over of an adjoining unit. This would be formally opened in September and see the opening of a café, educational classroom and shop area. Further tenants with vehicles were also being sought. The heritage bus service was also very successful.

Tropical Butterfly House – The new baby animal enclosure had been refurbished and opened on the 1st June, 2009. In addition, the BBC were filming CBeebies at the Tropical Butterfly House for three days at the end of this week. Any leaflets from other organisations were welcome for

display in the shop and café area.

Dearne Valley College – Information on the new foundation degree was circulated, which was affiliated to Leeds Met which would be available from September. Work placements were also being sought for students.

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was to be held during October, 2009 at the Park Inn Hotel, Wath. Date and time to be confirmed.

**TOURISM PANEL
MONDAY, 13TH JULY, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Littleboy and St. John.

together with:-

Marie Hayes	Events & Promotions Service Manager
Joanne Edley	Tourism and Marketing Manager
Chris Majer	Policy Officer (International Links)
Anne Grayson	Conference Co-ordinator
Bernard Jones	South Yorkshire Transport Museum
Matthew Beck	Chief Executive, MAGNA
Julie Williamson	Dearne Valley College
Tom Waldron-Lynch	Hellaby Hall Hotel

12. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Smith, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor J. Austen	
Councillor G. Boyes	
Councillor S. Walker	
Richard Jones	Yorkshire South Tourism
Julie Roberts	Town Centre Manager
Stuart Reaney	Chesterfield Canal Partnership

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1ST JUNE, 2009

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Tourism Panel held on 1st June, 2009.

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

14. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

15. UPDATE ON CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE INSPECTION JUNE 2009

Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Service Manager, Culture and Leisure Services, reported on the recent Customer Service Excellence

inspection.

The Service was still awaiting the formal letter which had recommended a pass for Customer Service Excellence.

Reference was made to some partial non-compliances and it was reported that the Service would be drawing up an Action Plan to address these, in readiness for the re-inspection in 12 months time.

Agreed:- That all staff in Culture and Leisure Services be thanked for their hard work towards the inspection and for providing the evidence.

16. UPDATE ON ROTHERHAM WALKING FESTIVAL 29TH JUNE TO 5TH JULY, 2009

Joanne Edley, Tourism and Marketing Manager for Culture and Leisure Services, reported on the Walking Festival which had taken place over one week from 29th June to 5th July, which had attracted 700 participants.

Consultation questionnaires had been distributed and the replies were still being collated for analysis. Further questionnaires needed to be collected from Creswell Crags Heritage Centre and RSPB Old Moor both of which had hosted a walk.

It was anticipated that a collection to raise money for the Mayor's charity would be in the region of £100.

The Festival programme had comprised 37 walks, together with a walk organised by the Friends of Ulley Country Park.

The Visitor Centre had sold tickets for the Boots and Boats events organised by the Chesterfield Canal Partnership. Unfortunately 2 walks had to be cancelled due to lack of take up.

Also only one person expressed an interest in the Photographic walk from MAGNA and this event was cancelled. The interested person was offered free entrance into MAGNA. Matthew Beck, Chief Executive, MAGNA added that the event would be run again over the summer linked to the Blackburn Meadows Wildlife area and to the Photographic Exhibition at MAGNA.

Reference was also made to the ABLE project, associated activities organised by Children and Young People's Services, and to future continuing funding.

Reference was made to future funding for the Walking Festival and it was pointed out that once its future had been decided a bid would have to be made to the Council's Communications Central Pot for October.

Agreed: (1) That the good participation level at this year's Walking

Festival be noted

(2) That the results of the analysis of the consultation responses about the Walking Festival be reported to the next meeting of this Panel.

(3) That an options paper be presented to a future meeting of this Panel in respect of the future of the Walking Festival.

17. SUGGESTION OF A VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY AND MARKETING GROUP FOR ROTHERHAM

Joanne Edley, Tourism and Marketing Manager for Culture and Leisure Services, referred to changes in the national, regional and sub-regional tourism structures which influenced the decision last year regarding the holding of the development of a Visitor Economy Strategy.

It was pointed out that this meant that there was no official Tourism Plan agreed either by the Council or the industry.

It was explained that this document was now needed for October in order to bid into the central pot.

It was suggested that a special meeting of selected members of the Tourism Forum be called in September to provide input into this document.

Agreed: That a special meeting of the Tourism Panel be arranged in September to assist in the production of a Visitor Economy Strategy.

18. UPDATE FROM THE TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY, 2009 AT THE TROPICAL BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Joanne Edley, Tourism and Marketing Manager for Culture and Leisure Services, reported on the meeting of the Tourism Forum which was held on 6th July at the Tropical Butterfly House, North Anston, which was attended by 25 representatives.

The Forum members were given a tour to showcase the developments at the centre over the past 12-18 months.

Forum Members had been asked to complete a questionnaire about the format of meetings etc. The results indicated that Forum Members considered meeting 3 times a year was sufficient.

It was suggested that a link with the Tropical Butterfly House and St. Quentin be investigated.

The Panel was also informed that CBeebies was also filming at the Butterfly House during week commencing 5th July.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were reported:-

- (i) South Yorkshire Transport Museum had moved into the adjoining unit and had therefore doubled its space. This meant that more space was available now for display. The exhibits were being re-organised and it was hoped to have an opening ceremony in October.

The Council's support, and that of the people of Rotherham, for the Museum was acknowledged.

- (ii) Invitation from Riesa

Joanne Edley, reported that an invitation had been received from Riesa to go to an event 24th to 28th September. Options to staff and fund a tourism and leisure related exhibition stand were being put forward and discussion was taking place with the International Links Officer. In put from staff at Yorkshire South Tourism was also being invited.

Reference was made to forthcoming events in association with the Rotherham Schools Music Service at Rotherham Minster, at Wombwell and at Hellaby.

- (iii) Events at MAGNA

Matthew Beck added that Rat Race was being filmed by Channel 4 at MAGNA. This was an event which involved extreme running. The event would also link to Rother Valley Country Park (where it was noted that the train tracks were being laid).

- (iv) Dearne Valley College

Julie Williamson reported that in response to the industry and sector skills council requirements the College had now developed a Foundation Degree in Travel and Tourism, which can be accessed on a part time or on a single modular basis by industry employees.

- (v) Big Screen Events

Reference was made to: La Traviata – which had attracted an audience of 300 people

15th July – Barber of Saville

20. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed: That the next meeting of the Tourism Panel be held on Monday,

14th September, 2009 ay 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Rotherham.

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL
FRIDAY, 10TH JULY, 2009**

Present:- Councillors Dodson, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell, Whelbourn and Wootton; Mrs. S. D. Brook (NASUWT), Mr. J. W. Clay (ATL) and Mr. K. Moore (AMICUS)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Adams and Mrs. C. Maleham (UNISON).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2009/2010

Agreed:- That Councillor R. S. Russell be re-appointed Chairman of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel for the 2009-2010 Municipal Year.

(Councillor R. S. Russell in the Chair)

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2009/2010

Agreed:- That Mr. K. Moore be re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel for the 2009-2010 Municipal Year.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel, held on 24th April, 2009, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman, with the addition of Councillor P. A. Russell to the list of persons who had given their apologies for that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Panel discussed the following minutes of the previous meeting:-

(1) Wath Victoria Junior and Infant School (Minute No. 22(3))

The access doors and doors for each of the toilet cubicles had not yet been installed.

(2) Risk Assessment – Teachers' e learning package (Minute No. 24(i)(2))

The e learning package was being developed and would be highlighted in future monthly newsletters for schools.

(3) Clifton Park Museum (Minute No. 26(b))

A fire evacuation drill had now been undertaken.

(4) Street Cleansing Depot (Minute No. 26(c))

The street cleansing depot would be relocated from its current site adjacent to Crinoline House, to a new location within the Hellaby Industrial Estate, after planning permission had been obtained.

(5) Leisure Facilities (swimming pools) (Minute No. 27(i))

It was confirmed that the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel would continue to be able to undertake visits of inspection to the new leisure facilities and swimming pools managed by DC Leisure.

(6) Criminal Records bureau Checks (Minute No. 27(iv))

It was confirmed that CRB checks were not required for Members of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel.

5. STATISTICS OF ACCIDENTS, INJURIES AND INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE TO EMPLOYEES

The Senior Health and Safety Officer presented the graphs and statistics which illustrated the following details:-

(i) Incident totals for Borough Council Employees - January 2008 to June 2009 – including a breakdown for Children and Young Peoples' Services, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, Economic and Development Services, Corporate (including RBT) and Finance;

(ii) Violence to Borough Council staff - January 2008 to June 2009; and

(iii) Incidents involving members of the public, pupils/work placements/schemes and other – January 2008 to June 2009 .

Resolved:- That the statistical information be noted.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Bulletin, containing recent articles and reports of legal cases relating to health and safety.

The following were highlighted:-

- matters of interest from the Health and Safety Executive (health and safety in schools; HSE media campaign (June 2009); Crown censure of HM prison service; health and safety checks of construction sites);
- myth of the Month (wearing flip flops; ice cream toppings; individual responsibility for health and safety);
- recent Court Cases.

Resolved:- That the Principal Health and Safety Officer distribute copies of the bulletin throughout the Authority and also publish the bulletin on the

Council's Intranet web site.

7. HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY - OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES AND PROCEDURES

The Panel considered a report, presented by the Senior Health and Safety Officer, summarising issues dealt with by the Emergency and Safety team since the last Panel meeting :-

- pupils injured in incidents at two Primary Schools;
- Streetpride gully emptier had partially sunk into a collapsed sump;
- tree felling works inspected at Warren Vale, Rawmarsh;
- inspection of the Moorgate Crofts building;
- inspection of vehicles and rounds collecting the 'blue box' recycling materials from domestic premises;
- inspection of large marquees erected for an event at a Rotherham Secondary School.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

8. REPORTS ON VISITS OF INSPECTION HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2009

Consideration was given to matters arising from the visits of inspection made by the Panel on Friday, 19th June, 2009.

The report included the responses provided by Service Areas to the various issues raised at the inspections.

Particular reference was made to:-

(a) Civic Theatre

The Panel would visit the Civic Theatre during the next scheduled visits of inspection on Friday, 25th September, 2009.

(b) Clifton Park

The mud generated by the construction works needed to be cleared from the Park's footpaths.

(c) Maltby Redwood Junior and Infant School

The water supply to the toilets and to one of the class rooms needed to be reconnected.

(d) Electrical switch gear rooms in schools

Schools should be notified of the requirement to ensure that the entrance doors to the electrical switch gear rooms must be kept locked and also that these rooms must not be used for the storage of materials.

(e) Thrybergh Country Park

The propane gas cylinders must be stored in a secure, adequately ventilated compound.

(f) Rawmarsh Comprehensive School – CDT Workshops

The Panel noted that a further visit of inspection had taken place and additional, unannounced visits by Health and Safety Officers would occur regularly in the future.

(g) Use of Cameras

The Panel agreed that a digital camera be provided for future visits of inspection in order to make a pictorial record of items identified during the inspections of premises and sites.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Economic Development, Planning and Transportation Matters
2.	Date:	27th July 2009
3.	Title:	A57 Worksop Road - Sheffield Road Improvement M1 Junction 31 to Todwick Crossroads Ward 18 Wales and Ward 6 Holderness
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To seek Cabinet Member approval to acquire land by agreement, and if necessary, make the relevant Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Roads Order (SRO) for the A57 Worksop Road – Sheffield Road Improvement Scheme as detailed on drawing Nos. 122/A57.51/2009CPO1 & 122/A57.51/2009SRO1 respectively. The drawings will be available in the Members Room prior to the meeting. The report details the reasons for the need to acquire land for construction of the approved highway improvement scheme, which may require Compulsory Purchase and associated Side Roads Orders.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is requested to resolve that:

- i) in exercise of its powers under Sections 239, 240, 246, 250 & 260 Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers and having regard to the “Convention rights” as applied by the Human Rights Act 1998, the Council make a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled the ‘The Rotherham Borough Council (A57 Worksop Road - Sheffield Road Improvement M1 Junction 31 to Todwick Crossroads) Compulsory Purchase Order 2009’, for the acquisition of all the land and interests required for the widening of the A57 Sheffield Road/Worksop Road from a single carriageway to a dual carriageway as shown on the CPO drawing No. 122/A57.51/2009CPO1;
- ii) the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to affix the Common Seal of the Council to the said Compulsory Purchase Order;
- iii) the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services submit the said Order to the Secretary of State;

- iv) the Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services pursue the acquisition of land and interests by agreement wherever possible and deal with all issues of compensation for any land or interest acquired compulsorily or by agreement;**
- v) the Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services and the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services prepare and issue all associated documents and publish and serve all necessary notices and thereafter take all necessary steps including the conduct of a Public Inquiry to obtain the confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order by the Secretary of State;**
- vi) The Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services approve any modification to the Compulsory Purchase Order (including deletion of any land therefrom) as may be found to be appropriate following consultation;**
- vii) In exercise of its powers under Sections 14, 124 & 125 Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, the Council make the Side Roads Orders entitled 'The Rotherham Borough Council (A57 Worksop Road - Sheffield Road Improvement M1 Junction 31 to Todwick Crossroads) (Classified Road) (Side Roads) Order 2009' as shown on the SRO drawing No. 122/A57.51/2009SRO1.**

7. Proposals and Details

The A57 Sheffield Road - Worksop Road Improvement Scheme consists of an improvement of the existing single carriageway to dual carriageway and improvements to the intersections at Todwick Crossroads (A57/B6463) and the priority controlled A57/Gooscarr Lane junction.

The scheme improves the A57 to a dual two lane carriageway between the termination of the existing dual carriageway of Worksop Road; 400m east of the M1 Junction 31 to a point approximately 350m east of the existing Todwick Crossroads. Junction improvements include the replacement of the existing signalised junction at Todwick Crossroads with a roundabout with a 70m diameter, and a left in / left out arrangement at the junction of the A57 with Goosecarr Lane.

Pedestrian crossing facilities will be incorporated into the scheme by means of a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Worksop Road adjacent to the western arm of the new roundabout, and facilities for pedestrians to cross the A57 in the vicinity of Goosecarr Lane by means of a new underpass. New and improved footways will be provided in the vicinity of the new roundabout junction and to the south side of the A57. Improved bus stops and linkages are to be incorporated on the A57 to the west of the Goosecarr Lane junction.

To facilitate the construction of the improvement and the widening of the existing carriageway it will be necessary to acquire areas of land to both the north and south of the existing alignment of Worksop Road, in addition to areas of land adjacent to the B6463 Todwick Road in the vicinity of the Todwick Crossroads junction.

To allow the scheme to be progressed, and to meet the appropriate timescales, the relevant Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders will require confirmation by the Secretary of State should it not be possible to acquire the land by agreement.

As a consequence of the widening and localised realignment of Worksop Road the new carriageway encroaches onto the existing alignments of both Todwick Road and Kiveton Lane together with a number of private accesses. Localised improvements to Todwick Road, Kiveton Lane and the private accesses will be undertaken. To comply with the requirement of the Highways Act, 1980 it is necessary to close the relevant parts of the highway and reclassify others. To undertake this reclassification it is necessary to make a Side Roads Order in accordance with the aforementioned Act.

Purpose

The Scheme has been developed in order to mitigate deficiencies caused by present and future conditions and in particular to meet the following objectives:

- i) To promote and improve safety for all road users, through the reduction in the number of killed and seriously injured accidents within this section of the A57;
- ii) To address existing highway capacity issues and improve transport economic efficiency by reducing levels of delay and improving journey time reliability for all road users;

- iii) To provide wider economic and regeneration benefits, including supporting the continued regeneration of the Dinnington area and other local areas;
- iv) To improve access to employment in the area, an improved road link will play a significant role in achieving economic regeneration and associated employment growth;
- v) To provide environmental improvements in terms of reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced vehicle queues, enhanced accessibility, and improved facilities for vulnerable road users.

The scheme has been approved by the DfT subject to the satisfactory completion of statutory procedures.

The Council has acquired some land by agreement and is in continued negotiations with land owners regarding purchase of land by agreement.

The intention is to make the Compulsory Purchase Order. There is a compelling case in the public interest for acquisition of the land.

The drawings numbered 122/A57.51/2009CPO1 and 122/A57.51/2009SRO1 will be available in the Members room prior to the meeting, and at the meeting.

8. Finance

The proposals are to be funded primarily by the Department for Transport together with a local contribution up to an agreed level.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Should there be objections to the proposed Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Orders then the Secretary of State may direct that a Local Public Inquiry be held to consider issues raised, prior to making a decision on confirmation of the Orders.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed scheme is a named major highway improvement scheme in LTP2 and accords with the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan in assisting the improved management of traffic, offering road safety benefits and supporting regeneration initiatives. The improvement supports the aims and objectives of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in reducing congestion.

Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights is engaged whenever the Council proposes to acquire property compulsorily. The Council may not interfere with these Convention rights unless it is acting in the public interest and in accordance with the law. In essence this means the compulsory purchase of property must be for a legitimate purpose, necessary and proportionate to the attainment of the purpose and non-discriminatory.

In this case the proposed highway improvements are required to address safety and capacity issues. Adjacent land and properties required to implement the Scheme would be acquired in the absence of agreement using statutory compulsory purchase powers and statutory compensation would be payable. As a consequence the Council should not breach the human rights of affected property owners.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The proposal was granted conditional planning consent on 4 June 2009.

Contact Name : **Ian Ashmore, Principal Traffic Officer, Planning and
Regeneration Service, extension 2825,
ian.ashmore@rotherham.gov.uk**

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning & Transportation.
2.	Date:	27 th July 2009
3.	Title:	Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme - Shop front Improvement Grants
4.	Programme Area:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

In January 2009, funding was secured from Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF) & the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) for the introduction of a range of financial support packages, providing a package of grants to both new and existing businesses. This report provides an update on the development & roll out of the Shop front Improvement Grant Scheme.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the content of this report & attached Guidance Notes (Appendix 1) and supports the following recommendations:

- (i) **That the scheme is phased and grants are offered to those businesses within the identified priority areas as part of phase 1 (before further roll out is considered)**
- (ii) **That a smaller grant is made available to independent retailers outside the phase 1 priority area (as described in this report)**

7. Proposals and Details

One of the key aims of the Town Centre Business Vitality Grant Scheme is to provide assistance to both existing businesses and to enhance the quality of the shop frontages and the street scene- as such a Shop front Improvement Grant Scheme has been developed.

This scheme provides a one-off discretionary contribution to eligible businesses to cover 75% (up to a maximum value of £7,500) towards the total cost of major Shop front Improvements for independent retailers and up to 50% (up to a maximum value of £5,000) for National/Regional operators.

Full details of the scheme & eligibility can be found in Appendix 1 including details of:

- The Financial assistance available
- Eligible businesses (including both independent & national retailers)
- Eligible works
- The application process & additional permissions that may be required (e.g. Advertising Consent)
- The considerations that will be made when assessing applications
- The conditions that are attached to any grant offer

Given the large number of businesses within the town centre boundary, the limited opportunity to influence changes to large frontages on primary streets, and the finite amount of funding, it is suggested that resources should be carefully targeted to priority areas/ buildings which have being identified based on the following considerations:

- The historic importance/ significance of buildings
- Whether funding is already available under the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) for certain buildings in the town centre
- The level of need for improvements/ identification of those shop fronts that are in a state of disrepair
- The potential scope for improvement with regard to each building
- The proximity of buildings to the key shopping streets
- The priority areas of the town centre as identified in the Public Realm Strategy
- The potential to cluster improvements to maximise impact

The guidance note for this scheme (attached as Appendix 1) includes a map detailing the suggested priority areas to be included in the first phase; as such specific properties have been identified that will benefit from assistance and enhance the quality of shop frontages in the following locations:

- Bridgegate
- Doncastergate
- Wellgate
- Old Town Hall (facing onto Effingham Street)
- Vicarage Lane
- Corporation Street

The scheme will be formally launched following support from the Cabinet Member and communication targeted to those eligible businesses. This scheme is funded from within the R.E.R.F allocation of the Business Vitality Programme and it is suggested that £60,000 of the £70,000 identified for Shop front Improvements is allocated to the major works improvement scheme (allowing a minimum of 8/9 businesses to be supported between August 2009 and March 2011).

In addition, feedback from independent retailers has identified a demand from businesses outside the aforementioned priority areas, who would like to make smaller improvements to their shop fronts, and it is therefore proposed that a second scheme is made available to independent retailers operating in the wider town centre, which would support smaller scale works by offering up to £1000 towards the cost of improvements.

It is anticipated that some general principles/ criteria from the first scheme would be applicable here, including the need for improvements to comply with RMBC's Shop front Design Guide and the need for two quotations for any works to be provided. However the process should be made as easy as possible and should encourage overall enhancement of signage/ lighting & paintwork and general tidying up of a number of properties.

Based on funding available, it is suggested that initially £10,000 of the £70,000 identified for Shop front Improvements is allocated to this scheme (allowing a minimum of 10 businesses to be supported between August 2009 and March 2011). The full Guidance Notes & Application Form will be developed following support from the Cabinet Member and communication targeted to those eligible businesses.

8. Finance

The projects will be delivered within existing funding secured and as such there are no further budgetary implications.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

This activity will underpin a number of key issues for the town centre; if we do not provide financial interventions we may continue to see a decline in the town centre environment & competitiveness of our town centre retailers. Equally, it is difficult to predict the potential up take of the grant assistance, given the current economic climate; both existing and potential businesses may not be in a position to fund investment or expansion.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The aim of the scheme is to improve the overall vitality & viability of Rotherham Town Centre & support the wider Rotherham Renaissance investment programme by specifically:

- Improving the street scene by enhancing the quality of shop frontages
- Preserving & enhancing the character of the conservation area and individual buildings
- Improving access to buildings
- Sustaining the local economy by providing support to existing businesses to improve their own competitiveness

The proposed activity will therefore **contribute towards the Economic Plan and in turn the Community Strategy** under Priority 5 – “Achieve Rotherham Town Renaissance”

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Business Vitality Scheme

Report to the meeting of the Corporate Management Team- December 2008

Report to Cabinet- December 2008

RERF Funding Application- Jan 2009

Report to the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic & Regeneration Services- January 2009

In addition consultation with:

Town Centre Strategy Team

Rotherham Business Development Steering Group

RMBC Legal Team

Corporate Finance Team

RMBC Conservation Officer

RMBC Development Team Project Officers

Contact Name :

Bernadette Rushton- Assistant Town Centre Manager

Ext: 6885, bernadette.rushton@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Town Centre Shop front Improvement Grant Scheme

Guidance Notes

What is the aim of the Scheme?

The aim of the scheme is to improve the overall vitality & viability of Rotherham Town Centre & support the wider Rotherham Renaissance investment programme by specifically:

- Improving the street scene by enhancing the quality of shop frontages.
- Preserving & enhancing the character of the conservation area and individual buildings.
- Improving access to buildings.
- Sustaining the local economy by providing support to existing businesses to improve their own competitiveness.

What level of financial assistance is available?

The grants provide a one-off discretionary contribution to eligible businesses to cover:

- Up to 75% (to a maximum value of £7,500) towards the total cost of physical works to the shopfront for **Independent businesses**.*
- Up to 50% (to a maximum value of £5,000) towards the total cost of physical works to the shopfront for **National/Regional operators**.

For the purposes of this scheme an independent business is defined as a business operating solely or as part of a chain, with less than 9 outlets. Franchise operators are also considered as independent businesses where they meet this criteria.

Which properties are eligible?

Properties identified within the priority areas shown on the attached map are eligible to apply for a grant. The priority areas will be subject to regular review based on the level of take-up and changing needs & demands across the town centre.

Please note that the grants are discretionary and subject to the availability of funds; the inclusion of a building within an eligible area does not give any automatic entitlement to a grant.

Both property owners and tenants are eligible to apply. Applications from tenants must be supported by written consent from the appropriate landlord.

What type of works are covered by the grants?

The appropriate works required will be unique to each individual property; however, the table on page 3 identifies examples of eligible & ineligible works.

Please note, the scheme will not support works which have already been undertaken, or any works which are started prior to a formal offer of grant funding being made.

Grants cannot include contributions towards recoverable VAT.

Unless otherwise agreed, grant funding can only support ground floor works.

Example Eligible Activities	Example Ineligible Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-instatement of historical or traditional features to the shop front 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general repair work and maintenance (where this is not coupled with other improvements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repairs to rendering/stonework/brickwork where considered beneficial to shop front works (and excluding general property repair element) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of external solid roller shutters (except where appropriate perforated shutters are proposed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of traditional retractable shop blinds/canopies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements undertaken solely to allow compliance with legislation (e.g. DDA requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal of inappropriate signage, installation of new appropriate signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any works which have already been undertaken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restoration/repair/repainting of current acceptable shop front 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works to upper floors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of internal security shutters 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pedestrian access improvements- where they comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (as part of a larger scheme of works) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate lighting 	

* Please note for all proposed works, 2 comparable quotations are required to supplement any application.

The cost of fees associated with planning or other permissions can also be claimed as part of the total project cost.

Do I need to appoint a professional agent?

In all circumstances the proposed works and design **must** comply with the principles as detailed in the Shopfront Design Guide (July 2006); in addition the quality of design will be taken into consideration when assessing the application and considering the level of financial assistance to be awarded.

Applicants are therefore urged to use the services of an appropriately experienced and qualified professional to plan and oversee the works to completion. For applications relating to Listed Buildings or buildings of particular historic importance, it is highly recommended that applicants look to appoint professionals who are affiliated with the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Where professionals are appointed, fees incurred can form part of the eligible project costs (the total contribution towards any fees will not exceed 10% of the total project cost). In other circumstances the Council may recommend a specific agent or may directly appoint an agent to work on behalf of an individual or group of businesses and the level of contribution may therefore be increased or costs wholly met by the Council. This can be discussed with the Grants Officer at the pre-application meeting.

Will I need to obtain any permissions prior to carrying out works?

It is likely that where alterations are proposed to the external appearance of the property, one or more of the following will be required:

- **Planning Permission** – will be required for new shop fronts or any other alterations which will materially affect the external appearance of a building.
- **Advertisement Consent** – to display a fascia, canopy or other sign on the exterior of a building
- **Building Regulation Approval** – where material alterations are to be carried out.
- **Listed Building Consent** – for any alterations that affect the character of a listed building.
- **Conservation Area Consent** – for alterations which affect the character or appearance of a building within a Conservation Area.

* Please note that planning applications can take up to 8 weeks to be determined and this should be taken into consideration when planning works.

Planning application forms and guidance notes can be downloaded from the Council's website on www.rotherham.gov.uk or obtained from the grants officer.

How do I apply?

In all cases applicants are required to meet with the grants officer, telephone **01709 336854** for a pre-application meeting. The grant will be able to explain more detail about the scheme and application process. The grants officer can detail the options relating to professional assistance for the project and the most appropriate approach can be agreed.

How do I submit an application for grant assistance?

In order for an application to be considered, the following must be submitted:

- A completed application form.
- A detailed specification of the works to be carried out or goods to be purchased including scale drawings and photographs (including product specification/ brochures where appropriate).
- A detailed breakdown of project costs- with copies of 2 comparable quotations for all proposed works-clearly identifying the VAT element on all items (grants cannot contribute towards recoverable VAT).

How are applications considered?

In determining applications for financial assistance, there is no standard against which each proposal can be judged as what is appropriate or beneficial to one building or location may be totally inappropriate or unnecessary for another.

However, any planning application for new signage and alterations to shop fronts will be assessed against the Council's Planning Policies. Of particular relevance is the Shop Front Design Guide which sets out the standards in relation to what is and is not acceptable. All applications will be considered in light of their compliance with this document.

The Grants Officer will ensure all appropriate information has been submitted and where necessary will consult with relevant RMBC Officers (including Town Centre Management, Conservation Officer, and Planning Officer etc.).

Where the proposed works are deemed appropriate to the scheme, the Grant Officer will make a recommendation relating to the level of financial assistance that should be made (up to the maximum contribution of 75%) available based on a consideration of:

- The extent of the proposed works & the overall impact on the individual building.
- The potential overall impact on the wider street scene (particularly where a number of consecutive businesses are proposing to undertake improvements).
- The extent to which the application will enhance the historical character of a building- where appropriate (e.g. the restoration of original architectural features/ reinstatement of a more traditional shopfront).
- The extent to which the application will improve accessibility for customers.
- The extent to which the application will improve security for the premises.

This recommendation will then be considered by the Grants Panel (including representatives from RMBC, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, Federation of Small Businesses, Business Link Yorkshire and other bodies as appropriate). A recommendation from this group is then made to the RMBC Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development Services for final approval.

A decision will then be communicated to the applicant, followed by a formal grant offer where appropriate.

Conditions of grant

Contributions towards the cost of shop front improvements are subject to:

- Any necessary permissions being obtained (including permission from the property owner and any planning permissions etc.).
- The works being completed as described in any application form/schedule of works; any amendments to the scheme of works or project costs must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council prior to those amendments being implemented.
- The works being completed within an agreed timescale

The Council reserves the right to impose additional terms and conditions as appropriate. Failure to comply with any of the conditions may prejudice payment of the contribution/grant or may result in the withdrawal of the offer of financial assistance or withholdment of payment (either in part or in whole).

In addition the Council may take steps to recover grant money from the applicant up to 2 years after the grant is claimed where:

- Any of the works funded by the Shop front Improvement Grant are not properly maintained or are altered in any way.
- The applicant removes any part of the features that have been funded through the Shop front Improvement Grant.

How do I make a claim?

A Shop front Improvement Grant will be paid upon completion of the project, and when the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed schedule of works, the conditions attached to the grant offer, and any conditions attached to other permissions or consents (determined by an inspection by the Grants Officer & other Officers where appropriate).

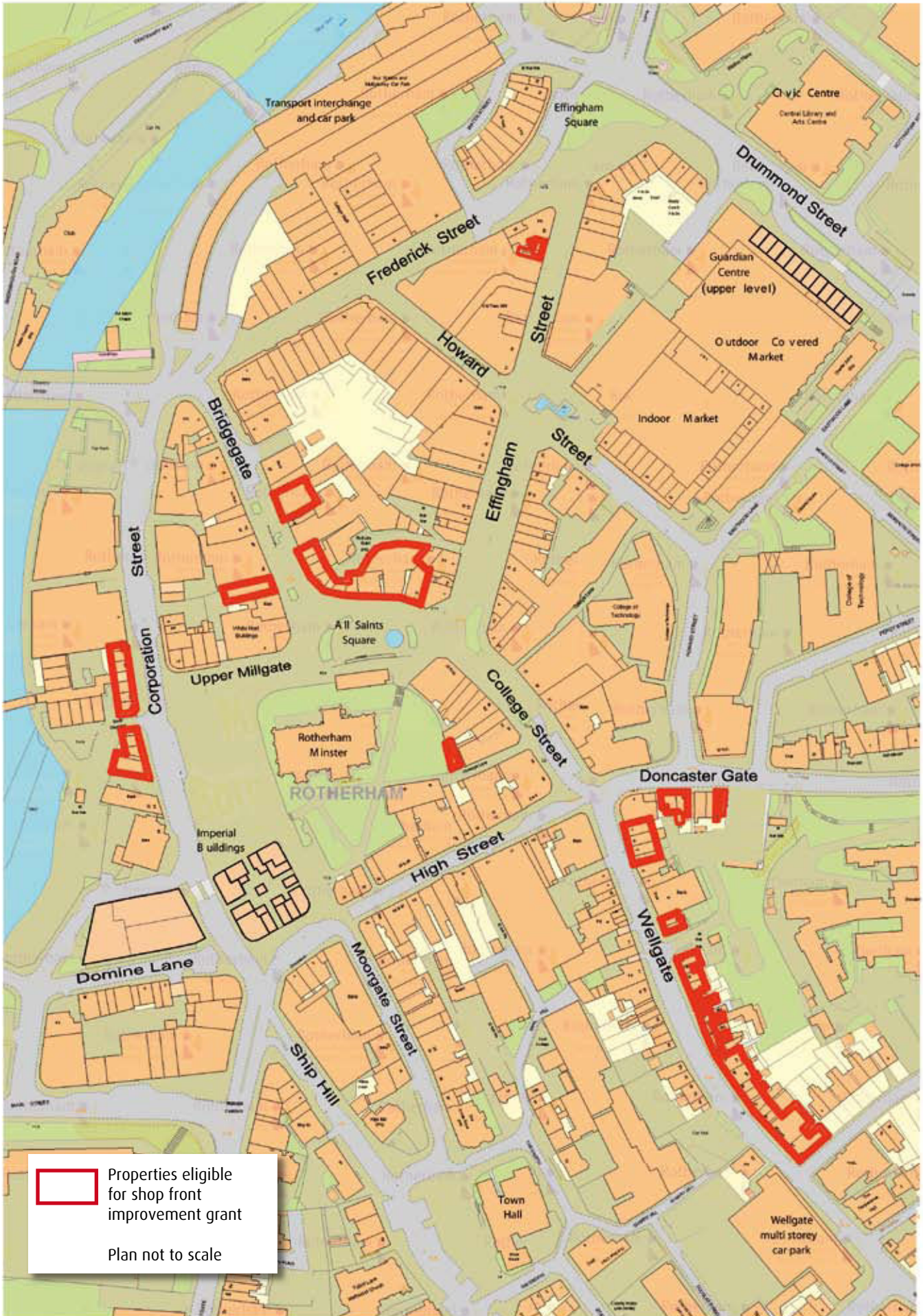
The Applicant will be required to submit:

- A Shop front Improvement Grant Claim Form.
- Original invoices submitted by contractors and suppliers clearly stating the nature of works carried out or goods/services supplied, and an itemised breakdown of invoiced costs. The breakdown must clearly identify VAT element on all items.
- Proof that contractors and suppliers have been paid.
- Confirmation of bank account into which grant can be paid.

Publicity

Rotherham Council may wish to carry out publicity based upon this grant scheme. Publicity relating to specific case studies will only be used with prior discussion with the business, but businesses participating in this scheme must be willing to participate in this publicity.

Appendix 1 – Shop front Grant Scheme Eligible Properties



This document can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio-tape versions.

Contact us at:

minicom 01709 823 536

www.rotherham.gov.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز کسی دوسری زبان اور / یا کسی متبادل صورت (فارمیٹ) میں درکار ہو تو ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

如需索取這份文件的其他語文譯本和/或各種形式版本，請聯絡我們。

در صورتیکہ این مطلب را به زبان و یا شکل دیگری می خواهید لطفاً با ما تماس بگیرید

أتصل بنا إذا تريد هذه الوثيقة بلغة أخرى أو بصيغة بديلة

Veillez nous contacter si vous désirez ce document dans une autre langue et/ou dans d'autres formats.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted