

**Councillor Robert Taylor – Cabinet Member for
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy**

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16th August 2024

Cllr Paul Thorp
Elected Member

Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp

Question raised at Cabinet – 29th July 2024

Thank you for your question and supplementary question raised at Cabinet on 29th July 2024. I have set out your questions and my response below.

In the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, it says the Council are spending around £850,000 per school for near enough all schools to build extensions. How much in pupil numbers was this expected to deliver?

You stated the Council was spending £850,000 on schools but there was a planned £30 million to replace a railway bridge that was surely owned by Network Rail. Why was Rotherham Borough Council spending money on structures that they did not own?

I can confirm that the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) does not provide expansion funding of £850,000 for all Rotherham Primary Schools. It does not confirm that the funding will be spent but has identified where the funding could be spent if it was available as part of the infrastructure list. The costing of £850,000 relates to Primary extensions of 3 classrooms.

At the time the IDS report was compiled it was expected to deliver 1874 additional pupil numbers.

Regarding the bridge at Bawtry Road, Canklow, it is indeed a Network Rail structure with an adopted highway running underneath. The bridge's design imposes a height restriction, limiting access for certain vehicles. To navigate under the bridge, vehicles must use the central area of the road, which causes brief operational delays and poses a road safety risk.

Bawtry Road forms part of the A-road (A631) and has been considered as an important arterial road within the borough and predicted to see increased traffic as a result of the future housing and employment growth across the region. Therefore, it has been identified as a piece of infrastructure for further investigation.

The identified intervention would be for the bridge to be replaced. This replacement would be justified for highway purposes, necessitating the local highway authority's support for the project, rather than that of Network Rail. The proposal would likely also involve modifications to the Canklow Roundabout and the junction with Whitehill Lane.

However, this proposal is just one among many potential interventions. It will be evaluated against other schemes based on their relative benefits, and alternative solutions will be considered during the design process. It is not an allocation of Council funds.

I hope you find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Robert Taylor
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy /Ward Councillor for Aughton & Swallownest