

<b>REPORT AUDIT TRAIL</b>				
<b>CONSULTATION – PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>				
<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Comments in para:</b>
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy	26/06/25	27/06/25	
Simon Moss	Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport	30/06/25	Click here to enter a date.	
Chloe Parker, Finance	Finance and Customer Services	24/06/25	27/06/25	6.2
Stuart Fletcher, Legal Services	Legal Services	24/06/25	27/06/25	7.1
Helen Rowe, Human Resources	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	24/06/25	01/07/25	8.1
Karen Middlebrook, Procurement	Finance and Customer Services	24/06/25	26/06/25	6.1
Chloe Harrop, Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	24/06/25	24/06/25	11.1
Lorna Vertigan, Regeneration	Regeneration & Environment	24/06/25	30/06/25	

<b>REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING</b>			
<b>Equalities</b> Your report will not be authorised for submission to Cabinet by your Strategic Director if you have not undertaken and included an initial equalities screening. All equalities analysis documents should be included as appendices	<b>Initial Screening completed and included with report</b>	YES	30/05/25
	<b>Full Assessment completed and included with report</b>	NO	Full EQIA Part B to be completed when the consultation closes
<b>Carbon Impact Assessments</b> Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to <a href="mailto:climate@rotherham.gov.uk">climate@rotherham.gov.uk</a> for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.	<b>Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.</b>	YES	30/05/25
<b>Background information</b>	<a href="#">Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK</a> <a href="#">Sub-Scheme of Delegation</a>		
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 - Plan for Neighbourhoods Boundary Map Appendix 2 – Voluntary Action Rotherham Consultation Proposal Appendix 3 - Equalities Impact Assessment Appendix 4 - Carbon Impact Assessment		
<b>Cabinet Member Approval</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
<b>Report Authorised by Strategic Director</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
<b>Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 07 July 2025

**Report Title**

Plan for Neighbourhoods Consultation

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

**Report Author(s)**

Catherine Davis, Consultation & Engagement Manager

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Boston Castle

Sitwell, Rotherham East, Rotherham West, Brinsworth, Keppel, Greasbrough,  
Rawmarsh East

**Report Summary**

This report seeks to undertake community consultation in relation to the development of a Plan for Neighbourhoods for Rotherham.

**Recommendations**

In conjunction with the Government Departments or other bodies, the implementation of any decision in respect of the promotion of Economic Development and Regeneration. Sub-scheme of delegation Assistant Director Planning Regeneration & Transport, page 22.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Plan for Neighbourhoods Boundary Map

Appendix 2 – Voluntary Action Rotherham Consultation Proposal

Appendix 3 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 - Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)  
[Sub-Scheme of Delegation](#)

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Plan for Neighbourhoods Consultation**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In March 2025, the Government announced that Rotherham had been selected to receive up to £20 million in funding over a 10-year period as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods (which replaces the previous 'Long Term Plan for Towns'). This £1.5 billion initiative aims to revitalise designated intervention areas in 75 towns across the UK.
- 1.2 An additional £200,000 capacity funding has also been made available to facilitate community engagement and to develop a Regeneration Plan for the Plan for Neighbourhoods. This will be submitted to MHCLG by 28 November 2025, following which the first tranche of funding will be released in April 2026, broken down to approximately £2m per year with a 75%/25% split between Capital and Revenue.
- 1.3 In accordance with Government Guidance a Neighbourhood Board made up of local residents, community leaders, and organisations will be established to lead the creation of a Plan for Neighbourhoods which will sit under the Town Board. The Board will, in partnership with the local authority, develop a Regeneration Plan, setting out its vision for the next decade alongside a more detailed Investment Plan for the first 4 years of the programme, which will be submitted to MHCLG for assessment and approval.
- 1.4 The Council remains the governing body and as such will have formal decision-making and overriding responsibility.
- 1.5 The overarching objective of the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative is to undertake meaningful consultation with stakeholders and the local community within the identified boundary area as shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Board will empower local residents by partnering with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR), to facilitate consultation with a diverse range of voices and perspectives that can play a practical role in helping to shape the three strategic objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods and deliver change.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Public consultation is planned for July/August 2025 in order to meet the overall requirement to submit Rotherham's Regeneration Plan by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- 2.2 Utilising part of the capacity funding to support the Community and Voluntary Sector, Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) will be commissioned to undertake the consultation on the Council's behalf. The Council will sign off the scope and format of the consultation.

- 2.3 A procurement exercise has been carried out in order to determine the most appropriate avenue of commissioning the work and as the quote from VAR is under £10,000, a direct award will be made.
- 2.4 VAR will upskill volunteers to facilitate local consultation exercises. Below is a summary of the proposed consultation VAR will undertake which is also identified in Appendix 2:
- 1 x Facilitator training session
  - 4 x Community Workshops - bringing together facilitators of focus groups to deep-dive into feedback
  - 1 x Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprises (VCSE) Sector - Town Centre Forum (ongoing)
  - 1 x Dedicated Youth Voice Session
  - 16 x Focus groups (Led by VCSE group, facilitated through trusted relationships)
  - 8 x Participatory Mapping (1 per ward)
  - 10 x Pop-up stalls
  - 1 x Online Questionnaire
  - 1 x Final Report
- 2.5 The data collected will build on information gathered under the previous Long Term Plan for Towns initiative. Over a 6-week period in summer 2024, 29 hours of stakeholder engagement was undertaken for the Long Term Plan for Towns with the Town Board and key stakeholders including businesses and members of the public. Over 1,500 people were reached through a digital survey.
- 2.6 Due consideration has been given to the promotion of the consultation in light of the upcoming by-election in Keppel Ward, which takes place on 10 July. Advice has been sought from the Council's Legal Team who have confirmed there are no anticipated issues.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 **Recommended:** Public consultation and engagement is essential to enable residents and stakeholders to contribute to the development of any regeneration scheme. Therefore, the undertaking of in person and online formats working in partnership with VAR are recommended.
- 3.2 **Not recommended:** The Council may choose to develop and implement the proposals without consultation. This option does not allow residents to shape the plans and goes against the Plan for Neighbourhoods guidance on consultation. It is therefore not recommended.
- 3.3 **Not recommended:** The Council may choose to appoint consultants or undertake the consultation themselves. The guidance however specifies the importance of working with community groups rather than consultants who have existing relationships and expertise in community development to design engagement and ensure sufficient reach. It is therefore not recommended.

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 This report seeks approval to undertake consultation. Feedback from the consultation will be compiled into a summary report that will inform development of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The deadline for the Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan to be submitted is 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Consultation is scheduled to take place over a 4-week period commencing in July 2025, to accord with the wider timeline for preparation and approval of the submission.
- 5.2 An officer decision on this consultation proposal will enable the consultation to commence in July.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. The key procurement consideration is the appointment of VAR to undertake the consultation, which has been addressed in Section 2 and is compliant with the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 Rotherham has been selected to be one of 75 neighbourhoods to receive up to £20million of funding over the next 10 years under the Government's "Plan for Neighbourhoods". This is a reframe of the previously announced "Long Term Plan for Towns".
- 6.3 As part of the funding, the Council has already submitted and finalised membership of their "Neighbourhood Board". The next step is to submit a regeneration plan, which requires consultation. The cost of this consultation will be covered by the £200k capacity revenue funding provided by Government in this financial year. Further funding details can be found at 1.2.

#### **7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)**

- 7.1 The recommendation to consult on the Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan is consistent with Government Guidance in respect of the Plan for Neighbourhoods national initiative. Further considering previous practice, the expectation of the public and in order to ensure that the Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan properly addresses the wishes and priorities of the residents of the Borough, it is appropriate for consultation to take place as proposed.
- 7.2 As such, in order for the consultation process to be considered legitimate i.e. fair and meaningful, it should be done at a formative stage, provide

sufficient information to allow “intelligent consideration”, provide adequate time for a response, and “conscientious consideration” should be given to the consultation response before any decision is made (as set out in the High Court case of R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning) These criteria are met in respect of the proposed consultation.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 Specific consultation with Children and Young people will be carried out as part of this consultation exercise through a dedicated Youth Voice Session.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 3.
- 10.2 An in-depth stakeholder database has been prepared to ensure the consultation reaches a wide audience.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4.
- 11.2 Minor increase of vehicle emissions during distribution of consultation leaflets around the ward areas and travel to and from consultation venues. Mitigated by officers to consider using public transport to distribute leaflets and attend consultation events where possible. Furthermore, consultation to take place at a local level with local community groups within their wards, encouraging walking for smaller journeys rather than travelling by car.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1. This consultation exercise will be driven by the Community and Voluntary Sector, utilising their networks and expertise. This approach ultimately aims to strengthen the Council’s relationship with partner organisations.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 To mitigate the risk of the consultation failing to engage with members of the public within the identified boundary area, a range of methods for engagement have been considered. Both online and public consultation methods aim to ensure a wide range of individuals will have an opportunity to contribute their views. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken to identify how those with protected characteristics are not excluded from the process.

**14. Accountable Officers**

Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration

Simon Moss, Assistant Director; Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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