

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 10 December 2025

**Report Title**

Our Places Fund 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, Regeneration

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Greasbrough

Dinnington, Rother Vale, Hoover, Dalton & Thrybergh, Aughton & Swallownest, and Rawmarsh West.

**Report Summary**

This report seeks to undertake community consultation in relation to the Our Places Fund.

**Recommendations**

This report seeks to exercise the delegation to the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration & Transport and within the Sub Scheme of Delegation - Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment (page 22), 'in conjunction with the Government Departments or other bodies, the implementation of any decision in respect of the promotion of Economic Development and Regeneration', to undertake consultation related to the design and implementation of the Our Places Fund scheme.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 - Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

[Our Places Fund report to Cabinet December 2024](#)

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

Cabinet – 16 December 2024

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 December 2024, as part of the Council's pledge to keep every neighbourhood thriving, Rotherham Council's Cabinet approved the allocation of £2m of Council funding and £2m of South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) funding for the Our Places Fund scheme.
- 1.2 Borough-wide consultation and engagement with residents in October and November 2024 identified several key areas for improvement. This included enhancing the surroundings of cenotaphs and memorials, as well as upgrading public spaces to create a more welcoming and accessible environment for pedestrians. Development of Our Places Fund Phase One is currently underway which includes schemes in Maltby and Swinton.
- 1.3 An extensive scheme of public realm improvements will be undertaken along Maltby High Street which will focus on enhancing the overall street scene with new paving, green spaces and wayfinding.
- 1.4 Works are underway in Swinton which include the addition of an under-fives play area alongside public realm improvements, incorporating upgraded paving, and enhanced pedestrian access to the High Street. This forms part of a wider Regeneration programme for Swinton which has included to date the demolition of the old Library, refurbishment of the old customer service building into a new modern Library, a refurbished Civic Hall and upgraded cafe along with 49 new homes.
- 1.5 Following approval at Cabinet in December 2024 to allocate funding for Phase Two, the following areas will benefit from the package:
  - Swallownest - Public realm improvements around Mason Avenue and Gray Avenue in response to residents' concerns around anti-social behaviour. Work will include removing overgrown shrubbery, creating pathways, repairing and repainting railings with additional lighting, and creating a better public space for the nearby housing estates.
  - Rawmarsh West - Various locations across High Street and Haugh Road will benefit from public realm improvements, including repairs to damaged walls and upgraded seating areas.
  - Honouring Rotherham's history and heritage, areas around cenotaphs, memorials and monuments in Greasbrough, Dinnington, Treeton, Wentworth and Thrybergh will be improved.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Consultation with the public will take place in early 2026 in the following locations:
  - Swallownest
  - Rawmarsh
  - Greasbrough
  - Dinnington
  - Treeton

- Wentworth
- Thrybergh

2.2 Given the significance and sensitivity of the memorial sites, any proposed designs must be carefully considered to preserve the historical and cultural significance of these locations. It is essential that all modifications respect the character of the surroundings and remain sympathetic to the existing context. Therefore, conceptual design proposals for the cenotaphs will be in consultation with the Councils conservation officer and will be presented as part of the public consultation process.

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

3.1 **Recommended:** Public consultation and engagement is essential to enable residents and stakeholders to contribute to the Our Places Fund plans. Therefore, the undertaking of in person and online consultation and engagement formats 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 provide feedback on the plans, risking the development of a scheme that doesn't meet the needs of the community. 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 Our Places Fund plans.

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

5.1 Consultation is scheduled to take place over a 4-week period commencing in January 2026, to accord with the wider timeline for preparation and approval of the March 2026 Cabinet Report. A comms plan will be prepared to ensure the public receive advance notification of the consultation.

5.2 An officer decision on this consultation proposal will enable the consultation to commence in January 2026.

### **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 associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

6.2 The costs of this consultation will be managed within the approved budget funding the Our Places Fund programme.

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

- 7.1 There is no statutory requirement to undertake consultation in respect of a scheme of this nature however it is reasonable and appropriate to do so, in order to obtain the views of residents in respect of the proposals. Further, such consultation is consistent with previous practice in relation to similar schemes.

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

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

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

- 9.1 The consultation venues will be checked for accessibility and engagement methods will be tailored to different age groups and abilities, with plain language used.

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

- 10.1 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 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 at Appendix 2.
- 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 Council's Regeneration Service, utilising their networks and expertise. Consultation will be undertaken with Historic England in order to obtain listed building consent.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 To mitigate the risk of the consultation failing to engage with members of the public, 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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