

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 11 May 2026

Report Title

The Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)

Katya Anfilogoff-Clark, Partnership Manager
katya.anfilogoff-clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report summarises the Rotherham Together Partnership's (RTP) new Rotherham Plan, which replaces the expired Rotherham Plan 2025.

The new Plan sets out the RTP's vision for partnership working over the next decade, focused on the successful delivery of the four identified gamechangers for the borough, to improve quality of life for residents across Rotherham and address inequalities.

Recommendations

That Cabinet endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the four identified gamechangers.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Plan 2026-2036
- Appendix 2 Consultation Report
- Appendix 3 Equality Screening
- Appendix 4 Equality Analysis
- Appendix 5 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Rotherham Plan 2025](#)

[Rotherham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Rotherham](#)

[Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy](#)

[Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy](#)

[Rotherham Cultural Strategy](#)

[Thriving Places Index- Centre for Thriving Places](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Rotherham Together Partnership – Rotherham Plan

1. Background

- 1.1 The Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) is a partnership which brings together 8 key local organisations across the Borough (RMBC, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire ICB, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust, Voluntary Action Rotherham, and RNN Group), facilitating strategic collaboration on key issues with the aim of improving quality of life for residents.
- 1.2 The work of the partnership happens across a range of partnership boards and operational groups. The thematic boards include: the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board, Business Growth Board (of which the Employment and Skills Board is a subgroup), Cultural Partnership, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board. The work of each of these boards is guided by their own strategies and monitoring mechanisms.
- 1.3 Since forming in the early 2000s, initially as Rotherham’s statutory Local Strategic Partnership, this collective of partners has delivered significant developments for the Borough. The first partnership strategy committed to delivering the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP) at Waverley as a breakthrough project.
- 1.4 Although economic growth remains a priority, the national and local context presents a very different set of challenges in 2026, which affects how residents experience day to day life across the borough - including continuing deep-seated inequalities which will require a new deliberate and coordinated partnership approach to overcome.
- 1.5 Since 2017, the partnership’s work has been guided by the strategic priorities set out within the Rotherham Plan 2025, resulting in wide-ranging achievements including: the development of the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, opening of University Centre Rotherham, delivery of the world-leading Children’s Capital of Culture festival year, development of immersive careers education site at Skills Street and opening of the town centre’s first cinema in 30 years at Forge Island.
- 1.6 With the current Rotherham Plan expiring at the end of 2025/26, the partnership, in consultation with stakeholders and the public, has developed a new Plan to set the strategic direction for the RTP over the next 10 years. Underpinning this document is a focus on four ‘gamechangers’ for the borough over the next decade. These will form the foundation for how partners work together for maximum impact.
- 1.7 The Plan sets out how The Rotherham Together Partnership will add value to the delivery of the gamechangers by ensuring that partners in areas such as health, business, community safety and inclusion are all in the room together, facilitating the ability to identify shared priorities and barriers, problem solve and innovate.

1.8 While partner organisations have their own strategies and workplans, by coming together the partnership ensures that residents feel more benefit. The Plan, therefore, focuses on the value added from closer collaboration, which helps partners work beyond 'business as usual'.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The vision set out within the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036 is that "*Rotherham will be an even more innovative, future-facing borough where all residents can thrive, with fair access to the opportunities and services they need to be happy and well*".

2.2 To better define success, the partnership adopts an established definition of what encompasses a thriving place.

2.3 "*We all deserve to live in a place where we can thrive. That means access to things that are fundamental to our wellbeing, like good health, secure livelihoods, decent housing, social connections and support, opportunities for learning, green spaces and clean air.*"

- Centre for Thriving Places

2.4 The vision also includes a commitment to prioritising Rotherham's next generation by embedding the voice and needs of children and young people into the policy, decision making and delivery. It recognises both the duty to the next generation and the resource which children and young people present to the Borough.

2.5 In pursuit of this Plan's vision, the partnership has identified four gamechangers for Rotherham, which will define the Borough over the next decade and catalyse improvements for residents. The gamechangers comprise key investments and developments which will require a collaborative approach from the RTP to ensure successful delivery. Further to that, the partnership will seek to address inequalities which present barriers to residents benefitting from the gamechangers.

2.6 The gamechangers are:

- **Growing a fair and thriving economy:** Growing an economy provides the foundation for residents to live better lives. This will include embedding strengths in advanced manufacturing while pivoting toward clean energy, life sciences, and digital industries, and prioritising a "healthy, mobile workforce" connected by better public transport and increased retention of wealth in Rotherham.
- **Enabling strong and thriving communities:** Fostering pride and cohesion in Rotherham communities, by shifting power to residents to shape their own spaces and better using analytical insight across the partnership to understand "hyper-local" needs and coordinate services more deliberately.
- **Unlocking the full potential of Rotherham Gateway:** Bringing mainline rail services back to the borough via the Rotherham Gateway. This hub will generate the connectivity to unlock

opportunities for residents and address inequalities through increased investment, economic growth and the creation of new neighbourhoods, as well as linking the town centre more easily to the rest of the borough.

- **Creating vibrant town centres:** Improving footfall and perceptions of the borough's principal town centres. This includes using public services and culture to diversify the function of the town centre and increasing the residential population.

2.7 The Plan is informed by a series of partnership stakeholder workshops held between January and March 2026, in which the proposed gamechangers were explored with participants and overwhelmingly supported as the focus for the partnership's new Rotherham Plan. In addition, public consultation was carried out via resident interviews, conducted by an external provider to explore public perceptions in relation to each of the gamechangers.

2.8 Details can be found in the consultation report at Appendix 2, but some of the issues raised included:

- Lack of employment and skills development opportunities or barriers to accessing these, including due to limited public transport connectivity (which is felt to be holding the borough back in relation to all of the gamechangers).
- Need to address deep-seated economic and health inequalities, informed by strengthened data insight and sharing to better target services.
- Pride in the borough and need to improve perceptions of Rotherham as a place, both among residents and external audiences.
- Perceptions of community safety, particularly in the town centre.
- Community cohesion, including need to build trust between public sector and neighbourhoods, provide greater support for community infrastructure and generate a broader range of activities, especially for young people.
- Environmental sustainability and importance of ensuring that new developments will support a resilient, low-carbon future and healthier, more sustainable communities.

2.9 For each gamechanger within the Plan the context is set out, including public voice captured through consultation. Each gamechanger has a ten-year vision, commitment to how the partnership will work differently in pursuit of this vision, and outcomes residents can expect for two and five years. All partners should be able to see a cross-cutting role as contributors to the gamechangers.

2.10 Following feedback from partners, the Plan also seeks to promote new working arrangements for the partnership, identifying more deliberate functions and specific roles for partners in pursuit of the vision:

1. Bringing people together
We'll connect organisations and communities to shape ideas, share learning and keep momentum going.
2. Securing funding and investment
While funding is limited, we'll help attract public funding and support partners to bring investment into the borough.
3. Listening and amplifying voices
We'll help make sure that voices which aren't always heard – especially young people and under-represented communities – shape decisions about Rotherham's future.
4. Championing Rotherham
We'll proudly promote the borough, its people and organisations, showing what makes Rotherham a great place and why our way of working matters.
5. Trying new things
We'll create space for partners to test new ideas and work differently, learning what works and sharing that learning.
6. Using what we already have
Together, partners own land and buildings across the borough. We'll use these assets more effectively to support our shared ambitions.
7. Tracking progress and learning
We'll focus on understanding what success really looks like for residents, measuring progress fairly and learning as we go.

2.11 The partnership will also explore options to determine delivery infrastructure, including a new structure and governance arrangements to better reflect the ten-year ambition of the strategy. This will form a key component of the two-year delivery plan, hardwiring the gamechangers into the partnership as the core policy focus.

2.12 As both a lead and member of the RTP, the Council will need to adapt and evolve its role and contribution. This will mean ensuring that clearer links are developed between the daily function of the council and the ambition set out within the Plan.

2.13 A two-year delivery plan will be developed in the first instance, to map outcomes and partner commitments to reach the first milestone within the plan. Following that a three-year delivery plan will be developed to reach the five-year milestone, offering a natural review point for the strategy.

2.14 The partnership boards, which are attended and some chaired by Cabinet Members, will be responsible for progressing activities as set out within the initial two-year delivery plan. The Leader will continue to chair the Strategic Partnership Group, which is also attended by other Cabinet Members. Other Cabinet Members may also be called upon for advice and expertise in advancing the wider plan as required.

2.15 The new Rotherham Plan will be embedded into the partnership's website when published online to enhance engagement and ease of navigating the document. A shorter, accessible version will be developed and distributed to

all households in the borough as one of the partnership's biannual newsletters, to further support resident engagement.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The recommendation is that Cabinet:

1. Endorse the Rotherham Together Partnership's new strategic direction as set out in the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036: A decade of opportunity, focused around the four identified gamechangers.

3.2 This recommendation reflects the priorities that have been highlighted during engagement and consultation.

3.3 An alternative option is to not agree the Rotherham Plan 2026-2036. This however could risk the effectiveness of local partnership working as there would not be any collectively agreed strategic priorities for the RTP to coalesce behind.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation activity was carried out through eight partnership stakeholder workshops, as well as resident facing consultation undertaken with twenty-eight people via one-to-one 'hall-test' interviews. The workshops engaged 131 participants from across the core partnership organisations, as well as wider partnership organisations including the local voluntary and community sector, local businesses, education and skills providers and wider public sector. Detailed information is included in Appendix 2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Alongside endorsement from Cabinet, endorsement will be sought from the seven other core partner organisations before this Plan is confirmed.

5.2 Once new governance arrangements for the partnership have been finalised, the Chief Executive Officer Group will present a proposal for delivery and decision making to the Strategic Partnership Group, Chaired by the Leader of the Council, for approval.

5.3 As the Plan sets out the differences that the public will see in two and five years in relation to each gamechanger, an initial two-year delivery plan, followed by a three-year delivery plan will be developed and implemented.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The current Rotherham Together Partnership is funded from partner contributions as follows:

Partner	Annual Contribution (£)
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber	2,500.00
RDASH	10,000.00
RNN Group	7,000.00
Voluntary Action Rotherham	2,081.00
Rotherham NHS Foundation	7,500.00
NHS Rotherham CCG	20,090.00
SYPCC	14,693.00
RMBC General Fund	72,534.00
TOTAL	136,398.00

6.2 Any unused contributions at the end of each financial year are placed in a ringfenced reserve for use in future years. The reserve balance as at 31st March 2026 is £113,701 and is held by the council.

6.3 Contributions have been maintained unchanged at the current level for a number of years. The new strategic direction, with new working arrangements and more deliberate functions and specific roles for partners as referenced in paragraph 2.10 above should include a review of contributions to ensure that they are proportionate and sufficient to meet the costs of the partnership going forward.

6.4 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. Any procurement activity undertaken by the Council on behalf of the partnership to deliver against the priorities detailed in the Plan must be procured in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependent on the route to market) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedures Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 While there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council and partners to adopt a Plan of this nature, being clear about the priorities and principles the partnership will pursue, will give staff, residents and businesses within the Borough a clear understanding of what the Council and its partners seek to achieve and how they will prioritise their spending decisions.

7.2 Endorsing the Rotherham Plan provides a shared strategic framework to guide partnership working and inform future decision-making. Any activity or delivery arising from the Plan will remain subject to separate lawful decisions and compliance with the Council's constitutional framework.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The proposed Rotherham Plan does not hold any immediate staffing, structural or contractual implications for RMBC; potential impacts relate to officer capacity to support future changes to governance arrangements.

- 8.2 To address this, and in response to partner feedback on the existing volume of meetings, the proposed model will incorporate greater flexibility. Rather than requiring regular, formalised meetings for all four gamechangers, the new approach will recognise that each gamechanger will require different levels of intervention and activity at different stages, allowing the partnership to respond in a more proportionate and agile way.
- 8.3 The initial two-year delivery plan will incorporate an inwards focus, to acknowledge the work required to embed new ways of working and lay the foundations for the success of future activity.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Once the Plan is published, reviewing governance arrangements to deliver under this new strategic direction will be part of the early activity the partnership undertakes.
- 9.2 The partnership will consider how future governance can ensure that the voices of children and young people are more formally embedded through the structure, and the impact of policies and decisions on children and young people is given proper consideration.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The partnership aims, as set out in this Plan, to not only deliver the gamechanger activities but to ensure that they benefit residents across the borough and different protected characteristic groups, with a particular focus on leveraging these investments to address economic and health inequalities.
- 10.2 The Plan aims to ensure that investment, services and opportunities are better aligned, more inclusive and more accessible, with a clear emphasis on fairness, coordinated action and measurable improvement in quality of life for all residents.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 This report itself has no significant implications for CO2 emissions and climate change. However, the Plan brings together several capital developments which will require their own cabinet reports and carbon impact assessments in due course. In seeking to reduce deprivation and inequalities across the borough, this Plan will ultimately make communities less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 As a partnership plan, the seven other core partners will also be required to endorse this Plan before it can be formalised. Successful delivery of the Plan will also require engagement and close working with a much wider range of stakeholders, including public sector partners, local businesses, the voluntary

and community sector, education and skills providers, developers and visitors.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Any significant risks identified in the delivery of the new Plan will be assessed, mitigated and monitored through the partnership governance structure, with significant operational risks overseen by the Chief Executive Officer group and reported into the Strategic Partnership Group.

14. Accountable Officers

Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Strategy, Policy and Engagement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/04/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	23/04/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	22/04/26

Report Author: *Katya Anfilogoff-Clark*
katya.anfilogoff-clark@rotherham.gov.uk

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