

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 28 May 2026

**Report Title**

Our Places Fund Consultation – Swallownest, Rawmarsh & Parkgate

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Service Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Simon Moss, Service Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

**Report Author(s)**

Catherine Davis, Consultation & Engagement Manager

[Catherine.davis@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.davis@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

Aughton & Swallownest

Rawmarsh East

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 Service Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport '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, as approved at Cabinet on 16 December 2024.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Initial Equality Screening 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**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Our Places Fund 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 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 an underused green space on Mason Avenue in Swallownest and public spaces along Rawmarsh High Street and Broad Street in Parkgate.
- 1.3 **Mason Avenue, Swallownest**  
During January and February 2026, consultation was undertaken with local residents and stakeholders in Swallownest to gather views on how the currently underused green space on Mason Avenue could be better utilised and improved for the community.
- 1.4 The feedback received highlighted a clear desire to enhance accessibility and visual appeal within the space.
- 1.5 **Rawmarsh High Street and Broad Street, Parkgate**  
As part of the consultation undertaken in January and February 2026, residents and stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on how the public spaces along High Street in Rawmarsh and Broad Street in Parkgate could be improved.
- 1.6 Responses to the consultation indicated a preference for increased planting, additional seating and enhancements to local parking facilities.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Insights from the January/February 2026 consultations have helped to inform the development of the plans. Further consultation will now be undertaken in June 2026 focusing on these key priorities, to gather additional feedback and ensure that the proposed plans remain responsive and aligned with local needs and expectations.
- 2.2 In Swallownest, the proposed plans for consultation include the following:
  - Removing overgrown shrubbery
  - Creating new pathways
  - Repairing and repainting railings
- 2.3 In Rawmarsh and Parkgate, the draft plans and designs developed for consultation include:
  - Resurfacing and upgrading the public car park on Hollybush Street (off Broad Street, Parkgate)

- The introduction of new greenery and seating along High Street in Rawmarsh and Broad Street, Parkgate

### **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 gathered through the consultation will be compiled into a summary report and published online and used to inform the development of the Our Places Fund plans.

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

- 5.1 The consultation is scheduled to take place over a 3-week period in June 2026.
- 5.2 An officer decision on this consultation proposal will enable the consultation to commence in June 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 The Council has the power to undertake consultation and engagement in relation to regeneration proposals such as the one set out in the report, and the recommendations in this report fall within the delegated authority approved by Cabinet on 16 December 2024.
- 7.2 There is no statutory duty to consult at this stage of the project, however if consultation is undertaken it must be carried out lawfully, which requires that

it is carried out at a formative stage, provides sufficient information to enable informed responses, allows adequate time for consideration, and that feedback is conscientiously taken into account. The proposed consultation set out within the report meets these criteria.

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

8.1 There are no direct HR implications.

## **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 support wide-reaching consultation, including representation from groups with protected characteristics, to help ensure inclusive participation and equal opportunities for involvement.

## **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 A minor increase of vehicle emissions during consultation is mitigated by officers using public transport and car sharing to distribute leaflets and attend events, where possible. Moreover, consultation will take place in local communities, such that walking, wheeling and cycling will be feasible alternatives to travelling by car. Waste may be avoided by using fewer paper-based and disposable materials to support consultation, whether printed resources for information or disposable cups and plates for refreshments.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1. This consultation exercise will be driven by the Council's Regeneration Service, utilising their networks and expertise. Partners will be invited to participate in the consultation with no additional responsibilities, resource requirements or financial implications placed upon them. As such, no direct implications for partners are anticipated.

## **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, Service Director; Planning, Regeneration & Transport

*Report Author: Catherine Davis, Consultation & Engagement Manager*

*Catherine.davis@rotherham.gov.uk*

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