

Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Chair's Briefing: for the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) meeting on 8 September 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:

The next meeting of IPSC is due to take place on 1 September 2026 and a verbal update on the items discussed will be provided by the Chair at the meeting (see below).

Updates since last IPSC meeting on 23 June 2026

- **Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy**

At the June meeting of IPSC, Members made the following recommendation, which was endorsed by OSMB to be put to Cabinet at its July meeting:

That Cabinet considers the removal of the following text under "Action Area 4: Ongoing Support and Leadership Development" of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy:-

"Within the strategy period, the 2028 local election will be used to reallocate Neighbourhood Coordinators to new wards to ensure Councillors have access to new skills and perspectives. This will be repeated in future electoral cycles."

IPSC Members felt strongly that the proposed introduction of a cyclical rotation of Neighbourhood Coordinators at local elections could be detrimental to neighbourhood working and the aims of the strategy, as significant local knowledge, connections and stability could be lost at a time of potential political change.

Cabinet declined to support this recommendation and the removal of the above wording as it was felt that to do so, would be to interfere too much in the operational workforce needs of the Service in delivering the aims of the Strategy.

Work Programme Updates

- **School Road Safety Review Group**

Work on this in-depth review has now concluded, following a final meeting with officers from SYMCA and work from the Review Group on agreeing the draft recommendations. A report to accompany these recommendations will be going to IPSC at its 1 September 2026 meeting, with a view to onward progression to OSMB in October and Cabinet in November.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the next meeting of IPSC on 1 September 2026 Members are due to scrutinise the following items:

- Review of the Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO) Business Centres;
- Introducing Housing Improvement and Governance; and
- Improving Places Select Commission Scrutiny Review – School Road Safety.