

## Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Chair's Briefing: for OSMB meeting on 7 October 2026

### Items covered since the last update meeting:

The last meeting of IPSC took place on Tuesday 1 September 2026. The following items were covered at this meeting:

- **Review of Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO) Business Centres**  
Members were provided with a review of the set up and performance of the five RiDO Business Centres across the borough.

Members acknowledged that the Business Centres were a successful economic development initiative that provided key support to local entrepreneurship, small business growth and job creation. The Business Centres were reported to be financially viable, generating a surplus while delivering wider social and economic benefits to the borough.

A key area of improvement that discussions focussed on was the lack of dedicated marketing resource and that additional promotional activity could be undertaken to attract tenants and raise awareness of the Business Centres. Members also questioned the lower occupancy rates at the Moorgate Crofts centre, which was largely due to restricted parking at that site.

Members expressed concern over the potentially high costs of infrastructure improvements required at some of the older centres and sought greater detail on operating costs and profitability of the centres on an individual basis.

- **Introducing Housing Involvement and Governance**  
Members were provided with a comprehensive introduction to the work of the newly established Housing Involvement and Governance team (HIG), which had been set up in response to the strengthened regulatory framework introduced by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023. The council's Housing service is also due an inspection by the Social Housing Regulator imminently, and the framework established by HIG will support preparation for this inspection and ongoing compliance with the Consumer Standards.

Members explored the different ways in which the tenant voice influenced service delivery and were keen to ensure that tenant engagement reflects the diversity of tenants across the borough. Members also questioned whether the new structure could create duplication of work but were reassured that HIG provided a focussed governance and regulatory function which would enable frontline staff to focus on operational delivery.

- **Improving Places Select Commission Scrutiny Review – School Road Safety**  
The recommendations set out within the Report of the School Road Safety Review Group, were presented to IPSC and approved at the September meeting. They are next due to be considered by OSMB at this meeting.

## Work Programme Updates

- **RiDO Business Centres** – following the September meeting, a visit is being arranged for IPSC Members to attend the Century Business Centre 2 in Manvers in November 2026.

## Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the next meeting of IPSC on 20 October 2026 Members are due to scrutinise the following items:

- Update on Playing Pitch Strategy Phase 2
- Lessons learned from the Local Neighbourhood Road Safety (LNRS) programme