

Councillor Denise Lelliott – Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy

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Cllr Denise Lelliott

6th December 2022

Councillor Ian Jones

Elected Member

Via email: cllrian.jones@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Jones

Question at Council – Wednesday 30th November 2022

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 30th November. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

In the last month we have seen yet more businesses leave the town centre because of the lack of footfall causing financial difficulties for traders, can you please explain what support the council is supplying to town centre traders to offset these difficulties?

As we have discussed the Council investing significant amounts into the Town centre, repurposing and reusing buildings, developing a new leisure and cultural quarter on Forge Island, building new homes in the town centre for people to live in, re-invigorating the well-loved but aging market and creating new high-quality public spaces linking the developments together.

Redevelopment on this scale takes time but progress is clearly visible on site and there is more to come. The level of investment into Rotherham Town Centre is unprecedented, with over £100m of direct Council investment alongside over £65m of

external grant money secured, and this does not include private-led schemes that are also continuing to emerge.

In addition to this the Council have staff the RiDO team (that's the Rotherham Investment and Development Office) who are available to local businesses and who provides bespoke support free of charge to support the needs of all Rotherham's businesses. The specialist team of business advisors offer impartial expert business advice, to help businesses navigate through the current economic climate.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Denise Lelliott
Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy