

Improving Places Select Commission

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report (2024/25)

27th January 2026



www.rotherham.gov.uk

Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

The Strategy was approved in 2018, refreshed in 2022, and scheduled to be updated in 2026.

Our vision - Every neighbourhood in Rotherham to be a thriving neighbourhood, where people are able to work together to achieve a good quality of life.’; ‘Ensuring communities are at the heart of everything we do to make people feel happy, safe and proud.’



Council Plan

Strategy contributes to all of the Strategic Outcomes in the Council Plan. In particular -

Places are Thriving, Safe & Clean

- Creating vibrant communities
- Better public places
- Revitalising the town centre
- Helping people to feel safe in their community.



LGA Corporate Peer Challenge - 2023



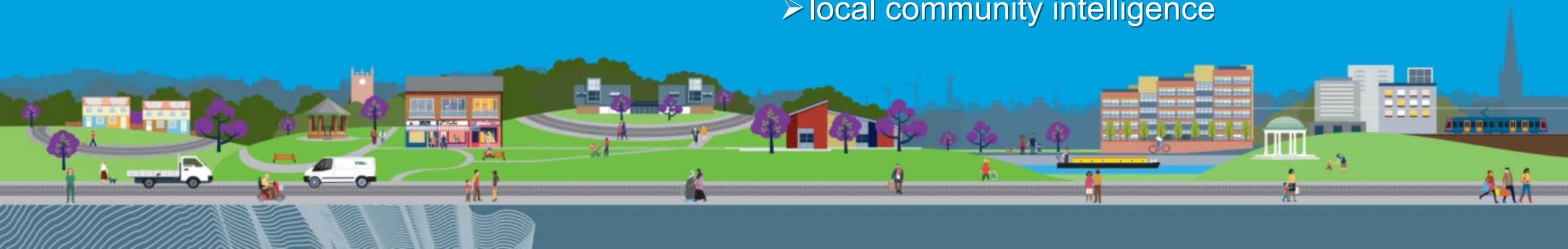
*'The Council's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aspires to strengthen the role of ward members as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and those delivering service in communities to bring about the changes that communities want to see. The peer team was impressed by the **exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level**, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead.'*



Councillors as Community Leaders



- Member Development & Support –
 - ward induction
 - 247 ward briefings
 - 1-2-1s and check-ins
- Ward Priorities & Plans – published October 2024
 - ward data
 - input and advice from council services and partners
 - local community intelligence



Councillors as Community Leaders – Devolved Ward Budgets

- £1,038,290 available
- £275,116 spent on activities, projects and services, including £62,371 allocated to 160 community groups
- Remainder carried over into 2025/26



Community Engagement



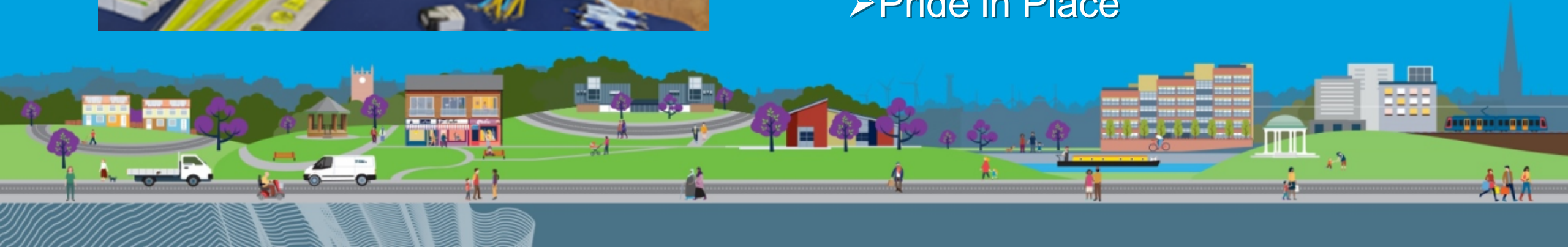
- Website - 4,826 unique views
- E-bulletins – 11,829 subscribers (March 2025); 241 editions issued; 76% engagement rate
- Community groups – supported on 462 occasions
- Community events – 316 arranged or supported
- Communities with protected characteristics – 232 activities supported



Partnership Working



- Tackling ward priorities - 618 neighbourhood / ward partnership and network meetings
- Parish Councils – 25 out of 31 directly supported
- Town Centre -
 - Community Co-ordinator
 - Strategic Action Plan
 - Pride in Place



Impact?!



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Continued Improvement

Corporate Peer Challenge Recommendation –

Building on the Neighbourhood working model, develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working across the public sector

- Locality Working Board
- North, Central and South Locality Managers Groups
- Neighbourhood Development & Improvement Plans (Selective Licensing)
- National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme
- Strengths-Based Working
- Consultation & Engagement
- Community Cohesion



Thank you & Questions

