

# Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy

IPSC Summary Presentation  
June 2026

# Co-Design Process

- Engagement with the Strategic Leadership Team on the overall preferred approach of designing two strategies.
  - Thriving Neighbourhoods
  - **Neighbourhood Leadership**
- Consultation and co-production workshop with Councillors (including IPSC and OSMB),
- Consultation and co-production workshop with Council services and partners, considering the potential for improved local working.
- Questionnaire shared with all Councillors
- Dialogue and approval with Cabinet Member and Leader

# Member Feedback

- Councillors are almost unanimous in support of the Neighbourhoods Team
- They support more partnership working and welcome the opportunity to engage internally and externally with services
- Communication (between departments and with Councillors) was seen as the most important area for action – there is an aspiration for more joint working and a team mentality
- Councillors want to put residents at the heart of feeding back on the success of the strategy
- Councillors support a clearer expectation for residents, in the strategy

## Vision and Ambition

*“Rotherham’s neighbourhood model is already recognised nationally for its strength in supporting Ward Councillors to act as leaders.*

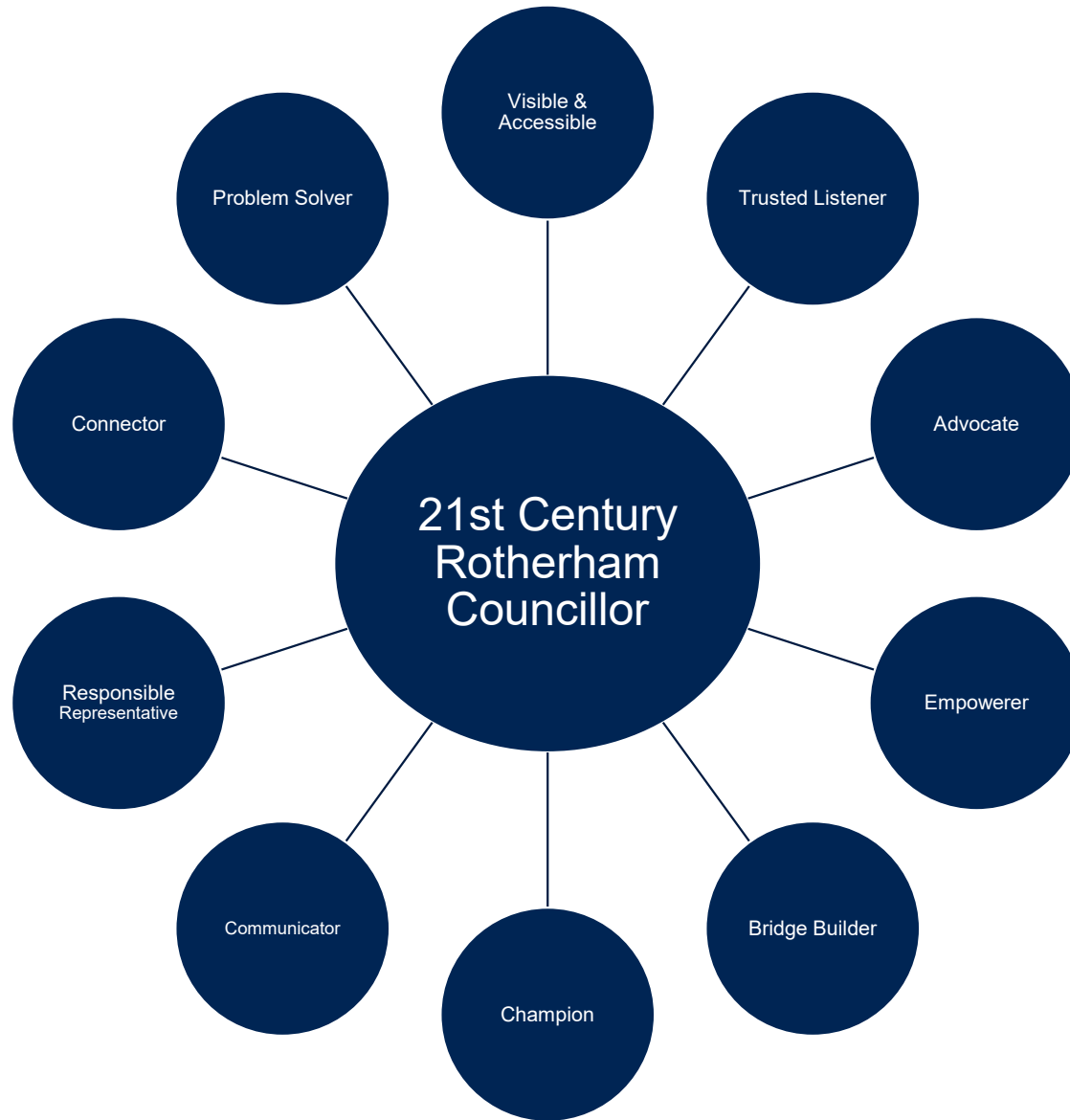
*This strategy seeks to build on this strong foundation to define and embed the model further. It gives Ward Councillors an enhanced role as conveners and conduits for resident aspirations, helping The Council to be more readily listen, learn and respond to local needs. We define this as ‘The 21st Century Rotherham Councillor’.*

*The outcome of this will mean that local people feel more connected to The Council, building trust and agency in all our neighbourhoods”*

## Key Changes in Strategy

- More distinct focus on the role of Ward Councillors in a local and regional system
- A stronger connection between neighbourhoods (wards) and services
- More support for Ward Councillors to develop leadership skills
- Revisiting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Councillor
- Stronger arrangements for monitoring and tracking success

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rotherham Councillor



## Action Area 1: Ward Priorities and Plans

- Ongoing commitment to produce priorities and plans every two years
- Work towards enhanced data and evidence
- Development of new protocols to link neighbourhood evidence to service delivery

## Action Are 2: Devolved Ward Budgets

- Continuation of devolved budgets (Community Leadership Fund, Ward Capital Budget, Ward Housing Budget, Community Infrastructure Levy)
- Continued support to enhance budgets through seed and match funding
- Opportunities to pilot new approaches to engaging residents in funding decisions

## Action Area 3: Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services

- Create stronger links between neighbourhoods and services via councillors
- Connect councillors to other partners (police, health, Voluntary & Community Sector, education settings)
- Empower Neighbourhoods team with stronger role in influencing services
- Clear routes of escalation where issues and request are not met

## Action Area 4: Ongoing Support and Leadership Development

- Develop new ways of working and member support to help develop attributes of leaders
- Embedding a stronger 'team mentality' between ward, coordinators and councillors

## Action Area 5: The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership

- Stronger communications to help residents understand the aspiration of the strategy and the evolving role of Councillors
- Support for residents to work with Councillors to develop new community-led project and events

## Action Area 6: Monitoring Impact and Feeding Back

- Supportively reflect on performance against the attributes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rotherham Councillor
- Support Councillors to distil and feedback local sentiment to support ongoing Council improvement