

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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23rd July 2026

Cllr Paul Thorp
Via email: paul.thorp@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Thorp

Council Meeting – Wednesday 15th July 2026

Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 15th July 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Can Councillor Read as leader of the council confirm his commitment to me at Cabinet to have meaningful discussions over the ransom strip money obtained within the Sitwell Ward to be kept within the Sitwell Ward as per the president set in Swinton. RMBC has no assets within the Sitwell Ward has the highest Council tax contributor?

I was a little surprised by your question, as I'd asked senior officers to meet with you to scope out what sort of ideas you may have for relevant capital spending in the Sitwell ward, and I'd understood that this meeting had now taken place.

As I said at Cabinet, I do not accept that the situation in your ward is analogous with the housing in Swinton, in which the council used its own assets to secure capital investment in public facilities from a private developer. However, I am conscious that the capital receipt for the land at Worrygoose Lane had not been anticipated, and I can well understand that local residents would want to see some benefit accruing in the area from this.

Your ideas will need considering in light of the council's processes and developing into potential investment bids that we can consider in the round. You'll appreciate that I do not cost such ideas or develop the business cases myself, so I cannot commit to individual schemes in isolation – hence I'd asked the appropriate officers to meet with you. If there has been some misunderstanding about this, or you wish to discuss further, then of course I am happy to pick this up with you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council