Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Chair's Briefing: for OSMB meeting on 10 November 2026

Items covered since the last update meeting:

The last meeting of IPSC took place on Tuesday 20 October 2026. The following items were covered at this meeting:

- **Pre-Decision – Playing Pitch Strategy Part 2**

  IPSC Members considered a presentation on Part 2 of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which takes the approved PPS through to delivery stage. Members challenged officers on the deliverability of the Action Plan, performance measures, increased community access to school facilities, the potential for community asset transfers and the equitable distribution of investment across the borough.

  Through questioning, Members obtained assurance that the PPS provides a robust evidence base to influence future planning decisions, attract increased external funding, support participation growth, (particularly amongst women and girls) and guide long-term investment towards areas of greatest need.

  Members made recommendations around future progress reporting to IPSC at a midway point in the Strategy and requested that Members are kept informed of developments being undertaken within their wards, in order that they can support the PPS via raising awareness in their local communities of enhanced facilities.

- **Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety Scheme (LNRS) Programme - Lessons Learned Review**

  Further to a recommendation from OSMB when it considered the Transport Capital Programme 2026-27 in March 2026, IPSC Members were presented with a report from the Transportation team which provided a reflective "Lessons Learned" analysis of the key challenges and successes identified during the delivery of Tranche 1 of the LNRS Programme.

  Members challenged officers on a number of concerns relating to scheme delivery under Tranche 1, including; inconsistent communication; poor project scoping; insufficient consultation, inaccurate cost estimations, prioritisation processes and the operation of the Minor Works Programme. In their questioning, Members drew on examples from their own wards where schemes had been significantly delayed or altered, scrapped entirely or failed to meet local expectations.

  Assurance was sought that the lessons learned set out within the Report were being actively embedded into future practice. Members welcomed evidence of strengthened governance arrangements, greater use of specialist expertise, more robust project development processes and the introduction of the Minor Works Board. The need for

clearer and earlier communication with Members on schemes being delivered within their communities was highlighted.

Members made the following additional recommendations:

1) establishing enhanced methods of communication with Members regarding schemes within their wards, including attendance by officers at CAP meetings;
2) a further update report to IPSC on the delivery of Tranche 2 schemes; and
3) that post-implementation evaluations would be routinely undertaken on completed schemes to assess whether the intended road safety outcomes have been achieved.

Work Programme Updates

- **Improving Places Select Commission Scrutiny Review – School Road Safety** Following OSMB's approval of IPSC's recommendations at its October meeting, Cabinet is due to the consider the report at its meeting on Monday 16 November 2026.

- **RiDO Business Centres** – IPSC Members are due to attend a visit to the Century Business Centre 2 in Manvers on Wednesday 25 November 2026.

- **Cultural Strategy Workshop** – a pre-decision workshop session has been arranged for IPSC Members on Tuesday 15 December 2026 to consider development of the draft Cultural Strategy, which is due to go to Cabinet next year.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

At the next meeting of IPSC on 1 December 2026, Members are due to scrutinise the following items:

- Neighbourhood Leadership Annual Report 2025-26; and
- Pride in Place Update.