Improving Places Select Commission

Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report (2025/26)

1st December 2026



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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-25)

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

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





Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (2026-32)

Vision and Ambition

…. gives Ward Councillors an enhanced role as conveners and conduits for resident aspirations, helping the Council to 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'





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.'*

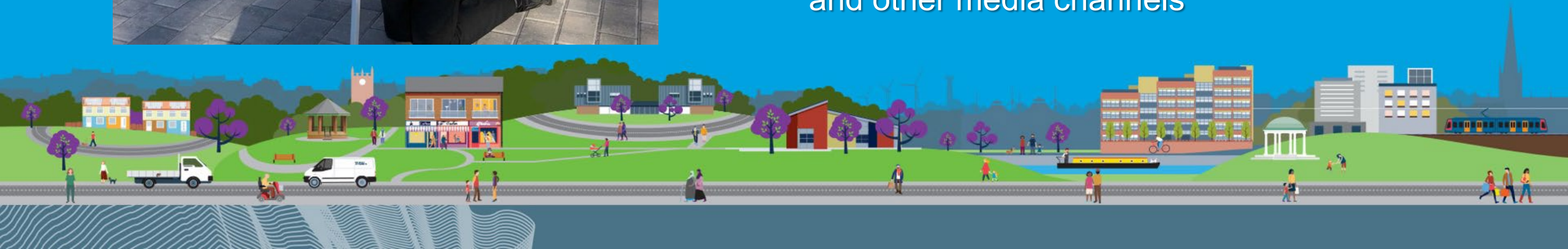


Councillors as Neighbourhood Leaders



- Member Development & Support –
  - ward induction
  - 255 ward briefings
  - 1-2-1s and check-ins

- Ward Priorities & Plans –
  - Published in October 2024 – refresh published in August 2026
  - Reports to council – July 2025 – November 2027
  - Impact – stories, case studies in ward e-bulletins and other media channels



Councillors as Community Leaders – Devolved Ward Budgets

- £1,374,699 available
- £516,867 spent on activities, projects and services, including £110,603 allocated to 221 community groups
- Remainder carried over into 2026/27





Community Engagement



- Website – 3,964 unique views
- E-bulletins –
  - 12,041 subscribers (March 2026)
  - Review / data cleanse – 7,087 subscribers (August 2026)
  - 74% engagement rate
- Community groups – 341 supported
- Community events – 322 arranged or supported
- Communities with protected characteristics – 204 activities supported



Partnership Working



- Tackling ward priorities - 700 neighbourhood / ward partnership and network meetings
- Parish Councils – 25 out of 31 directly supported
- Town Centre -
  - Community Co-ordinator
  - Year Ahead Plan (2026-27)
  - Masterplan - 2027



Impact!















Thank you
&
Questions

