

Working together for Rotherham

ROTHERHAM
TOGETHER
PARTNERSHIP



I'm pleased to be able to present this year's annual report to residents from the Rotherham Together Partnership. The Partnership brings together key public sector bodies; the Council, the local NHS, Rotherham College and the police, alongside representatives of the private and voluntary sectors, to work together to improve life in our borough for you.

Six years ago we set out our first Partnership plan. During that time we've opened the University Centre Rotherham in the town centre and new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre at the hospital, brought together council and police neighbourhood teams and secured over £100m to deliver regeneration schemes.

Last summer we consulted residents about your priorities for the years ahead, and we recently launched our second Partnership plan based on what you told us. In this year's report you can read more about the work that's underway, and the **five key themes** we've set out to help us build a better borough for all of Rotherham's residents.

-  A place to be proud of
-  Inclusive economy
-  Climate and environment
-  Health and wellbeing
-  Building stronger communities

Cllr Chris Read, Chair of the Rotherham Together Partnership



View the refreshed Rotherham Plan:

www.rotherhamtogetherpartnership.org.uk



A place to be proud of

Investing in Rotherham's hidden gems

Two of the borough's country parks are set to undergo a series of improvements as part of a wider package of measures to develop Rotherham's leisure offer and visitor economy.

The announcement comes after the council was successful in securing £20m from the government's Levelling Up Fund to create new jobs and celebrate the "hidden gems" and green spaces that are unique to Rotherham's heritage, transforming Rotherham into a major leisure destination.

Countryside and Ecology Manager, Kevin Burke said:

“Thanks to this funding we're able to make a start on improvements at two of our much-loved country parks at Thrybergh and Rother Valley. At the heart of both redevelopments will be brand

new eateries opening out onto the water where people can while away the hours whilst taking in the spectacular views.”

Parks are so important, not only to people's physical health, but mental health and wellbeing, and the plans to revitalise these well-used attractions here in Rotherham will ensure visitors can enjoy the space for many years to come.

As well as the developments at Thrybergh and Rother Valley, the funding will be used to transform the stable block at Wentworth Woodhouse, and to upgrade exhibition spaces at Magna. All of this investment will be underpinned by a skills package, which will see the creation of 'Skills Street' at Gulliver's Valley as well as a new incubator space at the former Maltby Grammar School.



An artist's impression showing what the improvements at Thrybergh Country Park could look like

Forging ahead within the heart of the town centre

If you've been into the town centre recently, you may have seen work taking place on the flagship Forge Island development.

Rotherham Council has been working with place developer, Muse, on the project which will deliver a landmark leisure destination in the heart of the town centre. Forge Island will include an 8-screen state-of-the-art boutique cinema, delivered by **The Arc Cinema**, alongside a 69-room **Travelodge** hotel and six restaurants, set within attractive public spaces overlooking the river.

All commercial space has now been let with six exciting restaurants confirmed, bringing a range of flavours from around the globe. These include:

Caffe Noor, Casa Peri Peri, Cow & Cream, Estabulo, Sakkusamba and The Rustic Pizza Co.

Ground works on the site have been ongoing since December 2022, and in we are looking ahead at the next stage of the development. Find out more about what's coming to Forge Island and keep up to date with the latest news at:

www.newforgeisland.co.uk

Investing in our local towns and villages

As works to revitalise and improve Rotherham town centre progress, it is important that we also invest in our local centres.

The towns and villages fund is a multi-million pound commitment from Rotherham Council to deliver improvements to local towns and villages across the borough. Local people have been working on the project. *Here is what **James, site supervisor on the Swinton Rockingham scheme**, had to say:*

“I'm a local lad who has lived around the area for a few years. We've got a couple of other lads on-site who are also local. It's nice to see a bit of investment going into our local area and bringing what was an outdated landscape, more modernised and more accessible.”



The Swinton Rockingham scheme has improved the Broadway shopping area. This forms part of a range of improvement projects that will be taking place across every ward in Rotherham from now until 2024. You can find out more about the Council's Towns and Villages Fund at:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/villages

Inclusive economy

A Kickstart to success!

Rotherham Council took part in the Kickstart scheme, which provides six-month paid job opportunities to 16–24-year-olds claiming Universal Credit. Working in partnership with RNN College Group, who provided

three days of training and support to the Kickstart employees.

Most of the young people have since secured longer-term paid jobs, moved into self-employment, or gone back to education. This includes 25 people who have secured jobs at the council.

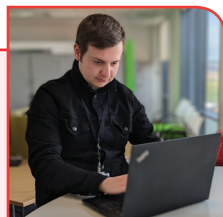
Brandon Marshall, a Kickstarter who began his placement with Rotherham Council in 2021, said:

“ I was a Kickstarter for six months based within the council’s Organisational and Development team.

During that time, I learnt how to work as part of an extended team, which helped me to improve my speaking and social skills.

My previous role was as an Apprentice Site Engineer, so joining the council was a unique experience for me. The council is wholeheartedly a great place to work, and through the Kickstart scheme, I realised I wanted to work in this environment. The workforce they have is some of the best I have worked with in my short career thus far. ”

Since completing his placement, Brandon has gone on to secure a full-time position as an Organisational Development Assistant.



News from your Neighbourhood

Did you know that Rotherham Council produces monthly neighbourhood e-newsletters?

Find out about the latest news and events in your local area by signing up to receive the Council’s neighbourhood newsletters straight to your inbox.

It’s simple and easy to sign-up, simply **scan the QR code.**



Full steam ahead for Magna

The planning and design for a new Tram Train stop and Park & Ride at Magna Science Adventure Centre is continuing.

Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals Network Rail are proposing to be on site to start works in January 2024 with an overall completion forecast for September 2024.

The new tram train stop is being developed with support from a £6.65m fund utilising the existing network.



Magna's Chief Executive, Kevin Tomlinson on the latest developments:



“This is an exciting time for Magna. Not only are we looking forward to welcoming even more visitors to Magna with the new Tram Train Stop and Park & Ride, making the site and surrounding area more accessible, but we are also undertaking a refurbishment project which is set to upgrade our four Pavilions - Earth, Air, Fire & Water as well as the Café and Aqua-Tek.



Works are currently being carried out on the first stage of improvements to the infrastructure, three new lifts, as part of a continuing programme to create a more accessible and user-friendly attraction to future proof Magna for future generations.”





Health and wellbeing

RotherHive

RotherHive provides a range of practical mental health and wellbeing information, support and advice for adults in Rotherham.

There is a new cost of living section on the RotherHive site which provides links to financial support as well as tips on looking after your mental health and wellbeing. You can find out more about RotherHive at:

www.rotherhive.co.uk

Qwell

In addition, a new digital mental health service, Qwell, is available to all adults registered with a Rotherham GP.

Qwell is a unique service, open 24 hours a day, all year round, with no waiting lists. It is confidential and can be accessed instantly through an internet-connected smartphone, tablet or computer.

The text-based support includes emotional

wellbeing resources, an online community, message facility and online counselling with accredited counsellors.

The counselling team is available from 12 noon to 10pm between Monday and Friday and 6pm to 10pm on weekends. The service provided a much needed out-of-hours service for emotional support in an accessible and convenient way.

You can find out more about Qwell at:

www.qwell.io

Talking Therapies

Are you, a patient, friend or family member struggling with low mood or worrying frequently? Do you feel stressed or struggle with low self-esteem?

Talking Therapies can help. We offer talking therapies to support people with their mental wellbeing.

Our services can be accessed face to face, online or over the phone. To self-refer, call us on **03000 215 108**.





Building stronger communities

Volunteering

Patricia is a volunteer who shares more about her experience.

I was in my late fifties when I saw a leaflet asking for people to volunteer at the library. I had taken early retirement but was wanting to do something outside the home and I have always loved reading. I filled in the form and was then invited for an interview.

It was very informal, more like a chat, and I was asked what I was interested in doing. As a result, I started volunteering at a weekly IT drop-in session where people could come in for assistance with accessing the internet, setting up emails, searching for jobs online etc. There was always a member of library staff I could ask if I had questions and I felt well-supported as a volunteer.

A few months later, the library volunteers were all asked if we would

like to take part in a new initiative called **Shared Reading**. It sounded interesting so I undertook the training and then helped run a Shared Reading group at a library with another volunteer. It had to stop at lockdown but has since started up again at another library.

Volunteering at the IT group and at the Shared Reading group gave me the confidence to apply when the library advertised for relief library assistants, a paid role. I started 9 months ago and I love it. It all started from reading that leaflet several years ago. Volunteering has helped change my life. I was new to Rotherham and it has helped me feel more part of the community and that I am giving something back. I think the key is to find something that you are interested in and you never know where it may lead.

You can find out more on the Voluntary Action Rotherham website at:

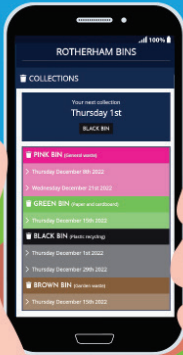
www.varotherham.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer





Climate and Environment

Never miss a bin collection again with Rotherham's bins app!



Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE NEW ROTHERHAM BINS APP

Keep up to date with your waste collections by downloading the new Rotherham Bins App!

The app will let you:

- Check your next collection date
- See what bin needs to go out
- Set a reminder



Download for FREE today on the Android or Apple App Store.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/bins

