Cabinet

Wednesday 18 September 2013 at 2.00 pm

To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillor Julie Dore
Councillor Isobel Bowler
Councillor Leigh Bramall
Councillor Jackie Drayton
Councillor Harry Harpham
Councillor Mazher Iqbal
Councillor Mary Lea
Councillor Bryan Lodge
Councillor Jack Scott

Chair/Leader of the Council
Culture, Sport & Leisure
Business, SKills & Development
Children, Young People & Families
Deputy Leader/Homes & Neighbourhoods
Communities & Inclusion
Health, Care & Independent Living

Finance & Resources

Environment, Recycling & Streetscene



PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Cabinet discusses and takes decisions on the most significant issues facing the City Council. These include issues about the direction of the Council, its policies and strategies, as well as city-wide decisions and those which affect more than one Council service. Meetings are chaired by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday, or you can ring on telephone no. 2734552. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Cabinet meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Cabinet meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Cabinet may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

Cabinet decisions are effective six working days after the meeting has taken place, unless called-in for scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or referred to the City Council meeting, in which case the matter is normally resolved within the monthly cycle of meetings.

If you require any further information please contact Simon Hughes on 0114 273 4014 or email simon.hughes@sheffield.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

CABINET AGENDA 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

Order of Business

1.	Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Exclusion of Public and Press

To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public

4. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 1 - 4)

Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Pages 5 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 August 2013

6. Public Questions and Petitions

To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public

7. Items Called-In For Scrutiny

The Director of Legal and Governance will inform the Cabinet of any items called in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet

8. Retirement of Staff

(Pages 13 - 14)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance

9. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2018/19

(Pages 15 - 42)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources

10. Capital Programme Approvals 2013/14 (Month 3) as at 30/6/13

(Pages 43 - 58)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources

11. School Places in Sheffield

(Pages 59 - 66)

Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

12. Proposed Disposal of the former Firth Park Library, (Pages 67 - 80) Firth Park Road

Report of the Executive Director, Resources

13. Sheffield Waterways Strategy - Endorsement

(Pages 81 - 192)

Report of the Executive Director, Place

14. Authority to Negotiate The Terms of a New Lease to Allow for the Redevelopment of the Fox Hill Site

(Pages 193 - 202)

Report of the Executive Director, Place

NOTE: The next meeting of Cabinet will be held on Wednesday 16 October 2013 at 2.00 pm

ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

New standards arrangements were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. The new regime made changes to the way that members' interests are registered and declared.

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** (DPI) relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must <u>not</u>:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You must:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

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- *The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.
- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - o which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) -
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

 a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or

• it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously, and has been published on the Council's website as a downloadable document at -http://councillors.sheffield.gov.uk/councillors/register-of-councillors-interests

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Lynne Bird, Director of Legal Services on 0114 2734018 or email lynne.bird@sheffield.gov.uk

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Agenda Item 5

Cabinet

Meeting held 21 August 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Isobel Bowler, Leigh Bramall,

Jackie Drayton, Harry Harpham (Deputy Chair), Mazher Iqbal,

Mary Lea, Bryan Lodge and Jack Scott

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jackie Drayton.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where it was proposed to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Question in respect of the former Jessop Hospital Edwardian Wing

Nigel Slack asked two questions in respect of the Jessop Hospital Edwardian Wing and the proposed demolition. His first question referred to a recent letter in the Sheffield Star newspaper from the Vice Chairman of the Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society concerning the reclamation of valuable and important architectural features of the building. Mr Slack asked whether the Council had any information about whether the University had salvaged any of the heritage material and whether such salvage was part of the planning permission? And if such salvage was not part of the permission, why not?

Mr Slack's second question referred to the demolition site itself and he commented how, on passing the site last week, he had noted that the demolition company was from Rotherham and the fences around the site were erected by a Preston company. He therefore requested if the Council could comment on how companies from Rotherham and Preston were contributing to the £23.9m boost to the Sheffield economy as quoted by the University?

In response, Councillor Leigh Bramall, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development, commented that there was no requirement in the planning permission to salvage any historical materials as they were felt to not be of

sufficient historical value. The significance of the scheme outweighed the need for historical protection. It was the Universities own land and could do with it as they wish.

In respect of the second question, Councillor Bramall commented that the company from Rotherham referred to were based at an S postcode so they were closely linked to the local economy. Many contracts had not yet been let and many would be awarded to local companies. 70% of business works in the City were awarded to local businesses and this was recognised by the recent Government award which acknowledged that Sheffield was one of the best Council's in the country to do business with. Councillor Bramall further commented that he had no doubt that Sheffield University were developing one of the most elite engineering faculties in the country which would provide a significant boost to the economy.

5.2 Public Question in respect of the Amey final business case.

Nigel Slack referred to a question he had asked at the last Cabinet meeting, held on 17th July, where he had asked for a timescale for the release of the uncensored version of the Amey final business case. Mr Slack commented that the response he received suggested that despite the fact that the Council had been working on this since last November there was still no timescale as to when it might be completed. He therefore asked if the Council could indicate what the hold up was, who was causing the hold up and what steps they were taking to speed matters up, or whether they were hoping Mr Slack would simply lose interest?

Councillor Bryan Lodge, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, commented that there had been no further progress since the last meeting. Given the current budgetary situation this was not seen as a priority at the present time. Once this had been completed it would be available to view on the Council's website.

5.3 Public Question in respect of the Streets Ahead Project

Nigel Slack informed Members that the Streets Ahead project had been to his street. He reported that they had replaced some, but not all of the gully grates, they had installed some, but not all of the street lamp standards and they had simply not turned up for two days of road resurfacing work that were scheduled. He therefore requested that the Council comment on how far the project was behind target?

Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, responded that he was pleased that the project had visited Mr Slack's area and the project as a whole was good for the City. He reported that there had been a slight delay to works in the Highfield area and these would be restarted as soon as possible. The project was not behind the end date schedule and was on budget. It had improved the environment and created 700 jobs for people. He would provide Mr Slack with a full written response clarifying when the works would be completed on his road.

5.4 Public Question in respect of Zero Hours Contracts

Nigel Slack referred to a question he had asked at the last Cabinet meeting regarding 'zero hours' contracts. The response had stated that the Council was not aware of anyone being employed by the Council on such contracts. However, since then Mr Slack reported that he had been in conversation with one direct employee of the library service who was certainly employed on a 'zero hours' contract. He therefore asked if the Council wished to revise their comments or at the very least undertake to improve their awareness?

Mr Slack further stated that, in addition, he was told he would receive information about the numbers of those employed by contractors on 'zero hours' contracts. He stated that this was 25 working days ago, when he understood that such information should be supplied within 10 days according to Council protocol. He asked, therefore, when he would receive the promised information?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore, confirmed that at the last meeting she was not aware of any employee being employed on a zero hours contract. Since the last meeting the issue of zero hours contracts had become a topical issue along with issues around private and public sector employment. Councillor Dore commented that she had investigated the use of such contracts around the Council. She stated that such contracts could be beneficial for the employee in terms of flexibility, such as carers who could not commit to a full contract. The Council wanted to ensure that they had contracts which worked for both the employer and the employee but which didn't exploit the employee. All those employed on zero hour contracts at the Council had employee rights such as sick pay and were jointly agreed between the employer and the employee. Nevertheless, the contracts were being reviewed across the Council to ensure that they were fair to all.

Councillor Bryan Lodge added that those on Zero hour contracts were supported by the Trade Unions and had rights such as holiday and sick pay. Those on zero hour contracts employed by the Council were not those in the private sector recently highlighted in the media and the Trade Unions recognised their value and the flexibility they could provide to some employees.

Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, commented that those employed on zero hours contracts within her portfolio were not substantive posts and were used to fill in for employees on holiday or sick leave. Those employed on zero hours contracts had the required training and supervision. She would investigate exact numbers of those employed and report back to Mr Slack.

5.5 Public Question in respect of Local Area Working

Vicky Seddon asked whether the Council was going to inform people who have been active in Community Assemblies and other community forums about the next steps, following the demise of Community Assemblies and the proposed establishment of local area partnerships, and how they can be involved as she believed the webpage did not make this clear.

In response, Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, reported that it may be useful for Ms. Seddon and others to look at the recent Cabinet report which outlined proposals for future local area working. Along with officers, he was working with the Communications team at the Council to establish the most appropriate method of communicating future plans with stakeholders and it was hoped that this would start in September 2013.

The extensive mailing list from the previous model of working had been examined for communication purposes and local ward members would be requested to organise community meetings to discuss future plans. There would also be communication through blogs and the Council website. The would be face to face meetings with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCF). Councillor Iqbal believed that it was important to work with local people and this would be done through Elected Members and the message would be simple and plain.

A City Partnership approach would be developed and officers would be working through Sharon Squires and the Sheffield Executive Board.

Councillor Julie Dore added that the difference with the new proposals and way of working would be that they would be built around partnerships which was key to address issues in and around communities. The Local Area Partnership Chairs had been appointed and it was key to involve partners in what the Local Area Partnerships looked like and how they operated.

6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY

6.1 There were no items called-in for Scrutiny.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

The Director of Legal and Governance submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

RESOLVED: That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

Name Post Years' Service

Children, Young People and Families

Karen Archer Teacher, Birley Federation 29

Teacher, Stocksbridge High

Nicholas Archer School 28

Supervisory Assistant,

Maria Atkinson Stocksbridge High School 27

Peter Bavelja	Teacher, King Edward VII School	27			
Mary Callaghan	Teacher, Newfield School				
Mark Crossley	Teacher, Newfield School	32			
Alison Dallman	Teacher, Stocksbridge High School	27			
Hazel Deakin	Curriculum Specialist, Woodthorpe Primary School	28			
Kathryn Drew	Teacher, Forge Valley Community School	23			
Colin Fleetwood	Headteacher, Grenoside Primary School	32			
Denise Harrison	Deputy Headteacher, Broomhall Nursery and Children's Centre	38			
Shirley Hetherington	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Beck Primary School	24			
June Marie Holman	Teacher, Dobcroft Junior School	29			
Susan Kitson	Primary School Assistant, Greenlands Junior School	27			
Mary Lynes	Headteacher, Nether Edge Primary School	35			
Helen Tempest	Teacher, King Edward VII School	23			
Fran Wells	Headteacher, King Edward VII School	33			
Christine Whittaker	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Mossbrook Primary School	23			
Resources					
David Fox	Workshop/Depot Operative	34			

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement;

and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to them.

8. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14 (MONTH 3) AS AT 30/6/13

8.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing the month 3 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue Budget for 2013/14.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by the report on the 2013/14 budget position;
- (b) approves the recommendation in paragraph 5 of the report which stated that any additional grants received which were not in the approved 2013/14 budget, are to be held corporately until such point that EMT agrees otherwise; and
- (c) delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources approval of the slippage in order to expedite the re-profiling of the Capital Programme.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with the latest information.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action were considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions were recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represented what Officers believed to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

9. 3 ST. PAUL'S PLACE

- 9.1 The Executive Director, Place submitted a report seeking authority to enter into an agreement with the developers CTP Limited whereby the Council would agree to purchase new offices to be built at 3 St. Paul's Place, one year after practical completion unless CTP elected to retain the property or to sell it to another party at a higher price.
- 9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the proposals to enter into the agreement to acquire 3 St. Paul's Place on the terms set out in the report and the report in Part 2 of the Cabinet agenda;
- (b) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Place in consultation with the Executive Director, Resources; the Director of Capital and Major Projects and the Director of Legal and Governance to agree the terms of the transaction including the terms of any other documentation;
- (c) authorises the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to complete such legal documentation as she considers necessary or appropriate in connection with this transaction on such terms as she may agree to give effect to the proposals set out in the report and generally to protect the Council's interests;
- (d) approves the funding of any abortive costs that the Council incurs should the agreement not be entered into, from the Place Portfolio Revenue Budget; and
- (e) agrees that the potential for CTP to exercise the put option for the Council to purchase the property be included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, funded by the use of the retained Business Rates generated by the building. The costs and income were factored into the MTFS report due at Cabinet on 18th September 2013.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

- 8.3.1 Officers considered that bringing forward the development of 3 St. Paul's Place in order to address the shortage of Grade A office space in the Central Business District was a priority action both in terms of the Council's Economic Strategy and the regeneration of the City Centre.
- 8.3.2 Because the property is within the boundary of the New Development Deal, then 100% of any Business Rates generated from this property can be retained by the Council. In the event that the Council does purchase the property then any Business Rates generated can be used to mitigate the cost of financing and servicing the building.
- 8.3.3 The proposed terms of the agreement with CTP seek to reduce risk and protect the Council and have the potential to deliver significant financial benefits to the Council from retained Business Rates.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 The provision of new Grade A office space in the City Centre was a key action identified in several current studies and strategies in order to drive an improvement of the economy of the City and wider City region. The Council could simply do nothing and wait to see whether market forces will

deliver this in isolation. It was considered that in the current economic climate this may not happen for several years. If the development did not take place for some time then the financial benefits referred to in section 5 of the report will not arise.

8.4.2 Officers have considered other initiatives to seek to facilitate the development such as the Council taking a lease of parts of the building or providing development finance instead of the private sector funding proposed but having considered those options it was believed that the proposed agreement was the most appropriate in terms of seeking to reduce potential risk and total cost for the Council and deferring the time when it may be necessary to borrow in order to complete the purchase. It was also hoped that there was a reasonable prospect that through the route proposed the Council may not actually need to purchase the property in which case the costs will not be incurred.



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL **Cabinet Report**

Report of:	Chief Executive
Date:	18 th September 2013
Subject:	Staff Retirements
Author of Report:	Simon Hughes, Democratic Services
Summary:	To report the retirement of staff across the Council's various Portfolios
Recommendations:	

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- (a) place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by members of staff in the various Council Portfolios and referred to in the attached list;
- extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy (b) retirement; and
- direct that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made under the (c) Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.

Background Papers: None **Category of Report: OPEN**

RETIREMENT OF STAFF

1. To report the retirement of the following staff from the Council's Service and to convey the Council's thanks for their work:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years'</u> <u>Service</u>
Children, Young Peopl	e and Families	
Pauline Bower	Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Birley Community Nursery School	35
Doreen Ellis	Finance Officer	37
Linda Hanford	Teacher, High Green Primary School	20
Paul Hopkinson	Associate Headteacher, Pye Bank CE Primary School	38
Margaret Williams	Director of Education	38
<u>Place</u>		
David MacPherson	Head of Partnerships and Special Projects	40
Les Sturch	Director of Development Services	34
Resources		
Lynne Whiteley	Process Improvement Co-ordinator	24

2. To recommend that Cabinet:-

- (a) place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the above mentioned members of staff in the Portfolios stated :-
- (b) extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and
- (c) direct that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

Report of:	Executive Director, Resources

Date: 18 September 2013

Subject: Medium Term Financial Strategy - 2014/15 to 2018/19

Author of Report: Allan Rainford; 35108

Summary:

Government have announced further cuts to core funding of 15% into 2015/16

This means a two year cut to the Council's settlement funding of 23%.

Since the austerity budget measures were introduced in 2010/11, the Council's funding (excluding Council Tax) will have reduced by more than 50% by 2015/16.

The purpose of the Report is to:

- Provide Members with details of the forecast financial position of the Council for the next 5 years; and
- Recommend the approach to budgeting and business planning that will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

Reasons for Recommendations:

To provide a strategic framework for the development of budget proposals and the business planning process for 2012/13 and beyond.

Recommendations:

That Members:

- Note the forecast position for the next 5 years
- Agree the approach to business planning targets

- Give consideration to reviewing the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2014/15 with decisions based on an assessment of the impact of the reductions made in 2013/14 and the other welfare reforms that have/are being introduced.
- Agree that as part of the business planning process, any increases in specific grant are to be held corporately to assist in balancing the overall budget.

Category of Report: OPEN/CLOSED

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial implications
YES/ NO Cleared by: Eugene Walker
Legal implications
YES/NO Cleared by:
Equality of Opportunity implications
YES /NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities implications
YES /NO
Human rights implications
YES /NO :
Environmental and Sustainability implications
¥ES/NO
Economic impact
YES/NO
Community safety implications
YES /NO
Human resources implications
YES/NO
Property implications
YES/NO
Area(s) affected
Relevant Scrutiny Board if decision called in
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council? NO
Press release
YES/NO

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY: 2014/15 TO 2018/19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding

Government have announced further cuts to core funding of 15% into 2015/16

This means a two year cut to the Council's settlement funding of 23%.

Since the austerity budget measures were introduced in 2010/11, the Council's funding (excluding Council Tax) will have reduced by more than 50% by 2015/16.

- Based on documents recently issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), there will be further reductions in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for Sheffield in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The total reductions will amount to £36m and £45m in 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.
- The Council Tax referendum trigger point is to be set at 2%. Council Tax Freeze Grant will be offered at 1%. The forecast assumes an increase in Council Tax revenue of 1% per year.
- Business Rate income continues to be difficult to accurately assess given the potential for volatility due to economic conditions. The City Council is already £3m below the baseline set by Government. It is expected that the business rate multiplier will increase for inflation. The current rate of inflation is around 2.8%. It is assumed that the business rates multiplier will increase by this % in 2014/15 and by 2% per annum thereafter. Some adjustments in the level of appeals provisions have been allowed for in the Forecast: a reduction in the provision of about £3m per annum for the next 3 years has been assumed.
- The 2013 Spending Review announced an additional £2 billion nationally that is
 to be pooled jointly with the NHS to support adult social care. This is to support
 greater integration. The funding will not come directly to the Council but will go
 to the CCG. The forecast does not include any funding via this route.
- With on-going reductions in the education element of RSG, reductions in Education Services Grant and with most funding going to Academies, there is very little funding for Local Education Authority activities.
- Funds are to be directed to Local Enterprise Partnerships from the amounts currently available to fund RSG. Up to £400m has been taken nationally from RSG to fund the Heseltine Report growth initiatives. An issue for the Council will be how this can be accessed and used to support Council objectives.

Expenditure variations

- There is currently an actuarial review being conducted of the South Yorkshire Local Government Pension Fund. Whilst this has not been completed, the indications are that the Council faces significant additional costs. For the time being the Forecast includes an additional £5m in 2014/15 rising to £7m by 2016/17.
- At the present time the Forecast assumes that staff increments will be reintroduced from April 2014 at a cost of £5m. This decision will be reviewed
 alongside the Pay and Grading Strategy.
- Annual increases in the costs of PFI contract and the loss of the goodwill on the existing repairs and maintenance contract together add over £3m in 2014/15 rising to £10m by 2018/19.
- The Forecast does not include any additional costs that may face the Council as a result of the 2013/14 forecast overspend and the underlying reasons behind this. Clearly any difficulty in managing the position in adult social care may add to the medium term financial position.

Overall position

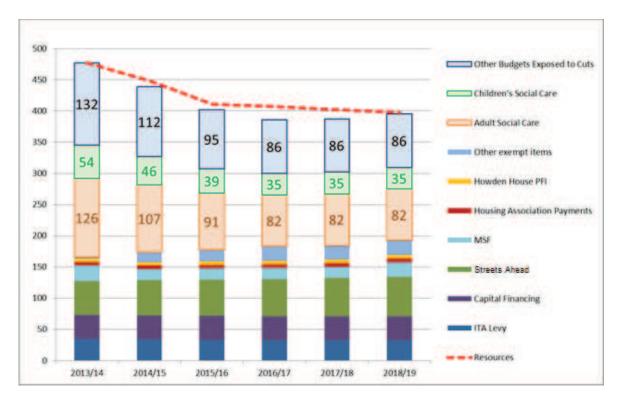
- The forecast position for Sheffield is a revenue resource gap of £37m in 2014/15 rising to £108m by 2018/19. The forecast gap would reduce depending on policy decisions relating to Staff increments, the Council Tax Support Scheme and the potential for using any increases in specific grant.
- The figures below do not include those pressures which are expected to be absorbed by portfolios. Such pressures include rising energy costs, inflation, drop out of specific grants and also the rising demand for services. Over the last three years these pressures are estimated to have been in the region of £60m which has clearly added to the challenge of balancing budgets and will continue to do so.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Base position b/forward	0.0	36.6	77.1	86.4	93.8
Reductions in Government funding	35.8	44.5	12.1	9.5	8.5
Reduction in business rate appeals provision	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	0.0	0.0
Increase in business rate income	-3.0	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6
Increase in council tax income	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
Expenditure increases	15.9	3.8	5.5	2.1	2.0
Expenditure reductions	-7.5	-0.6	-1.1	0.0	5.5
Total forecast Gap	36.6	77.1	86.4	93.8	105.6

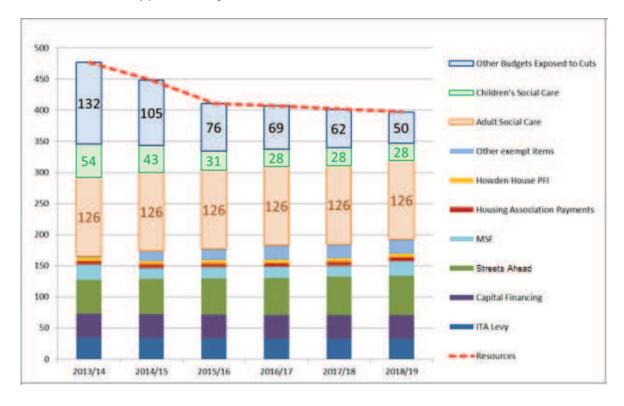
Business Planning

- To balance the budget over a 3 year period will involve savings equivalent to 15%, 15% and 10% over the period. This will involve all Portfolio/Service budgets through the outcome approach, including social care.
- The current forecast overspend in adult social care means that delivering savings in 2014/15 in this service will be a challenge. If the adult social care service is unable to deliver any savings in 2014/15 this will put significant pressure on other services to find additional savings, potentially putting the required level up to 25%. A phased approach to 15% savings will be needed in ASC to manage this risk.

If all service budgets including adult social care deliver savings of 15%, 15% and 10% in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively, expenditure forecasts will stay below anticipated available resources:



However, if adult social care is assumed to make no savings over those three years, the impact on the other service budgets is severe: by 2018/19 the resources for "other services" will be approximately one third of the level in 2013/14.



MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY: 2014/15 TO 2018/19

Purpose of the Report

- 1. The purpose of the Report is to:
 - provide Members with details of the forecast financial position of the Council for the next 5 years; and
 - to recommend the approach to budgeting and business planning that will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

Recommendations

- 2. It is recommended that
 - The forecast position for the next 5 years is noted
 - The approach to business planning targets is agreed
 - Consideration be given to reviewing the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2014/15 with decisions based on an assessment of the impact of the reductions made in 2013/14 and the other welfare reforms that have/are being introduced.
 - As part of the business planning process, any increases in specific grant are to be held corporately to assist in balancing the overall budget.

Background

- 3. The last report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was considered by Cabinet on 17 October 2012. The MTFS has been updated to reflect the budget decisions of March 2013 Council and the impact of recent Government funding announcements. The latter include the Chancellors March 2013 Budget Statement, the June Spending Review and a DCLG Consultation paper issued in July 2013.
- 4. This updated MTFS sets out the broad issues that will impact on the Council's financial position for 2014/15, outlines some of the decisions facing the Council over the medium term and sets out the planning parameters for the next 5 years. In the future the Council's financial position will be significantly determined by the level of business rate income and council tax income: each of these may be subject to considerable volatility and will require close monitoring in the future. Based on the latest Government announcement, the funding position is especially difficult from April 2015 and will require a focus on accessing funding from NHS and other public sector bodies.

Reductions in local government funding

- 5. The October 2010 Spending Review (SR10) set out Government Departmental spending totals to 2014/15. This included planned reductions in local government spending of 28% over the four year period covered by SR10. The 2012 Autumn Statement extended the period of austerity to 2017/18 and introduced further reductions in local government spending of 2% for 2014/15.
- 6. The Chancellors March 2013 Budget Statement introduced additional reductions in Government Department spending of 1% in both 2013/14 and 2014/15. The budget Statement also updated the fiscal assumptions to 2017/18 and set targets for spending reductions "at the same rate as over the Spending Review 2010 period".
- 7. The 2013 Spending Review (SR13) was announced on 26 June and sets out Government Department budget totals for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years with comparisons between the two. This was followed by a Consultation Paper on 25 July which set out the changes to the 204/15 Settlement as a result of the March 2013 Budget and the control total for Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for 2015/16 including the methodology for calculating RSG.
- 8. The proposals set out in the July 2013 Paper are out for consultation until October 2013. Although the detailed position for individual local authorities for 2014/15 and 2015/16 will not be known until December 2013, the DCLG have provided exemplifications which show what the allocations to authorities will look like if the Consultation Paper proposals are implemented. In the absence of the actual Finance Settlement these exemplifications provided the best indication of the likely funding for each authority.

Changes to the 2014/15 Local Government Finance Settlement

- 9. The 1% reductions in local government spending, as set out in the March 2013 budget, are to be applied entirely to RSG resulting in an overall reduction of 1.78%. In previous years, the method of funding local government would have included both RSG and Redistributed Business Rates. With the introduction of the locally retained share, the Government is making the full £219m reduction from RSG.
- 10. The further changes to 2014/15, as outlined in the Consultation paper, relate to the Government holding back resources to finance the business rates safety net. The safety net was introduced to protect any authority which sees its business rates income drop by more than 7.5% below the baseline funding level. The Government believes that the £25m held back in 2013/14 will not be sufficient and proposes holding back a total of £118m in 2014/15. This will represent a further 1% of RSG.

Expenditure totals for Local Government for 2015/16

- 11. In SR13 the DCLG Local Government budget is shown as falling from £25.6 billion in 2014/15 to £23.5 billion in 2015/16: this is an 8.2% reduction in cash terms but is presented as a real term reduction of 10%. A memorandum item shows Local Government spending falling by 2.3% in real terms, from £54.8 billion in 2014/15 to £54.5 billion in 2015/16. This latter measure of "resources available for council services" includes central government grants to local authorities (including Revenue Support Grant) plus forecasts of Council Tax income and local share of business rates income.
- 12. There is not sufficient detail available to validate this reduction but it seems likely that the Government have assumed a 2% growth in Council Tax income and also assumed that local authorities will achieve their business rates baseline targets which include an element of growth. There may also be other items included such as new homes bonus funding and joint social care funding.
- 13. The latter relates to the creation of a £3.8 billion pooled budget for health and social services to work more closely together. There is £200m for local authorities from the NHS in 2014/15 to ensure change can start immediately through investment in new systems and ways of working. There is also £200m for the Troubled Families programme involving changes in the way that local authorities, health, education and criminal justice services work.
- 14. The July Consultation Paper shows that the 10% DCLG reduction will need to be applied to the national RSG total rather than to the totality of local government funding, because of the retained 50% of business rates, the local share. The total reduction of £3.2 billion represents a 24.2% reduction in RSG compared to the previous year. In addition, the Government will be holding back resources for New Homes Bonus and for the Safety Net arrangements. Once these amounts totalling over £1 billion are removed, the overall reduction in RSG is 27.6% with reductions varying according to type of local authority, with some authorities facing a reduction of up to 34%.
- 15. Whilst the proposals set out in the Consultation Paper are subject to consultation and therefore may change, the majority of the RSG reduction is attributable to the £3 billion reduction in RSG which is not being consulted on. Any changes following the consultation will therefore have an effect at the margins.

Council Tax Freeze Grant and referendum limits

16. Council Tax Freeze Grant (CTFG) will be available in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The value of the grant will be equivalent to a 1% increase but calculated on the Council Tax Base before the deduction for Council Tax Support. This means it will be a

- slightly higher figure: for Sheffield it would mean a potential grant of £2m rather than £1.6m as at present.
- 17. SR13 contains the statement that funding will be provided in the 2015/16 settlement for those authorities "who have kept council tax down since 2011/12". However following the introduction of business rates retention from April 2013, those grants that were rolled up into Revenue Support Grant (RSG) including the CTFG for 2011/12 were split between RSG and Business Rates Baseline for both 2013/14 and 2014/15. This means that to generate the level of funding equivalent to the CTFG for 2011/12, the Council would need to achieve the level of the Business Rates Baseline target set by the Government.
- 18. SR13 indicated that the CTFG for 2013/14 will be rolled into RSG from April 2014 and be incorporated within the Council Tax Freeze element of RSG for both 2014/15 and 2015/16. It is not clear whether the CTFG for 2014/15 and 2015/16 will be paid as a specific grant rather than being "rolled up" into the formula funding methodology.
- 19. The Council Tax referendum limits are to be set at 2% for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This is a higher level that the 1% "trigger point" for 2013/14 and therefore provides an incentive for authorities to go for a 2% tax increase. It appears likely that the Government's estimate of local authority resources has assumed a 2% increase in Council Tax. As yet there is no confirmation that the referendum regulations will be changed to exclude levies from the calculation, but the promised new regulations are still expected before budget setting in February 2014.

Education Services Grant (ESF)

- 20. The headline reduction in ESF is £200m out of a total grant of £1 billion: i.e. a 20% reduction. With about 80% currently going to local government the concern is that the reduction could be much greater, perhaps about 25% for individual local authorities. A Department for Education consultation is planned for the autumn.
- 21. There will also be consultation on the introduction of a fair national funding formula for schools from April 2015. This is meant to fix the differences in funding between schools in different local authorities with some assessment made of pupil needs including deprivation.

Single Local Growth Fund and New Homes Bonus

22. SR13 includes the creation of a £2 billion per annum Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) to be in operation from April 2015 in response to the recommendations outlined within the Heseltine Review for encouraging growth. Access to this funding is to be devolved to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) through a "single pot" and will require LEP's and local authorities to work together on economic development priorities, including housing, across the LEP area.

23. The single pot has been funded in part from New Homes Bonus (NHB) with £400m each year being top-sliced. The Government has said that it will consult on the mechanism for requiring that a proportion of the NHB funding is pooled by local authorities as part of the SLGF. The July Consultation Paper does not contain any further information other than "a consultation will be published shortly".

Forecast funding position for Sheffield

24. The actual levels of funding from Government to local authorities for 2014/15 and 2015/16 will not be known until the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in December 2013. However the July 2013 exemplifications from the DCLG provide the best indication of the likely funding settlements and the impact of the changes in distribution methodology.

Settlement Funding Assessment

- 25. As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14, the Government issued a Provisional Finance Settlement for 2014/15. For Sheffield, the Settlement Funding Assessment (previously known as the Start Up Funding Assessment) was reported as reducing by approximately £29m (or 10%) compared to 2013/14: from £316.6m to £287.5m.
- 26. The 2014/15 SUFA reduction includes a £33m (17%) reduction in RSG. The funding for the Council Tax Support Scheme (of £36million in 2013/14) has been subsumed within other elements of the RSG formula and is no longer separately identifiable. The arrangements for transitional funding that existed in 2013/14 have also ended. It will ultimately be a policy decision for the Council as to whether these reductions should be managed through a revised Council Tax Support Scheme or through further service reductions in 2014/15.
- 27. The reduction in SUFA assumes an increase in the City Council's share of business rate income of £3m (or 3%) which may not be attainable and the rationale for this increase is not clear. It appears to be a combination of inflation (which would be achievable) and growth (which would probably not be achievable). The City Council would have to develop its own estimate of likely business rate income as part of the 2014/15 budget process.
- 28. The exemplifications issued by DCLG in July 2013, indicate that RSG will fall by £36m (or 20%) in 2014/15 to £153.7m. This is the combined effect of the Chancellors March 2013 reductions and the July 2013 Consultation Paper reductions. The business rates baseline figure is broadly unchanged from the Provisional Settlement.

	Settlement 2013/14 £000	Provisional 2014/15 £000	Exemplification for 2014/15	Reduction in 2014/15 compared £000
Baseline Business Rates				
- Local Share	98,672	101,698		
- Top Up Grant	27,800	28,653		
Total Business Rates Baseline	126,472	130,351	130,596	4,124
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	190,105	157,143	153,784	-36,321
Settlement Funding Assessment	316,577	287,494	284,380	-32,197

29. For 2015/16, the DCLG exemplifications indicate that RSG will fall by a further £45m compared to the previous year. The reduction in Settlement Funding Assessment is about £41m, net of growth in retained business rates and an assumed increase in Top Up Grant.

	Exemplification 2014/15 £000	Exemplification 2015/16 £000	Variation £000	
Baseline Funding Level	130,596	134,260	3,664	
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	153,784	108,784	-45,000	
Settlement Funding Assessment	284,380	243,050	-41,336	

30. In the years beyond March 2016, it has been assumed that reductions in RSG will be about 10% per annum. This has been based on recent Government announcements which suggest that reductions along the line of recent years will continue for the foreseeable future.

Council Tax Freeze Grant and Specific Grants

31. Council Tax Freeze Grant (CTFG) for 2011/12 amounting to £5m was meant to continue for 3 years and "fall out" in 2014/15. It was "rolled up" into the Formula Grant allocation for 2012/13 and no longer paid as a specific grant. However, with the introduction of the business rates retention scheme, the CTFG for 2011/12 is included in the Provisional SUFA for 2014/15 but is split between RSG and Business Rates Baseline. SR13 has confirmed that it will continue to 2015/16 but local authorities will only receive that proportion included in Baseline by achieving their target business rates figure.

32. The December 2013 figure for SUFA of £287.4m for 2014/15 includes £37m of funding that was previously provided as specific grants but which is now split between RSG and Business Rates Baseline as follows:

	RSG	Baseline	TOTAL
	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2011/12	2,894	2,025	4,919
Early Intervention Funding	9,324	7,319	16,643
Homeless Prevention Funding	304	213	517
Lead Local Flood Authority Funding	79	55	134
Learning Disability & Health Reform Funding	8,899	5,976	14,875
TOTAL	21,500	15,588	37,088

- 33. SR13 has confirmed that the CTFG for 2013/14 will continue to March 2016 and will be rolled into RSG. The July Consultation Paper indicates that this will be protected in cash terms and therefore suggests that it will not be added into Baseline Funding. For the purposes of this forecast it is assumed that it will fall out in 2016/17. This means a reduction in funding of £1.6m from April 2016.
- 34. With the rolling up of former specific grants into the SUFA, the remaining number of specific grants is much reduced. The level of specific grants amounted to approximately £57m in 2013/14. The position regarding the level of specific grants that the Council can expect to receive in future years is unclear. Some grants for 2013/14 were announced late in the budget process and may provide some potential mitigation against the issues facing the Council in 2014/15.

	2013/14	2014/15	Variation
	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2013/14	1,642	1,642	0
Education Services Grant (ESG)	6,820	??	??
NHS funding for Social Care	9,683	10,145	462
CTB Admin Support Grant	4,143	??	??
Public Health Grant	29,665	30,748	1,083
Business Rates Relief Grant	2,300	2,300	0
Adoption Reform Grant	1,535	??	??
Free Entitlement for 2 Year Olds (from DSG)	5,400	??	??
Successful Families	2,358	925	-1,433
Local reform & Community Voices Grant	474	488	14
Community Right to Bid	8	8	0
Community Right to Challenge	9	9	0
	64,037	46,265	126

- 35. For the purposes of this forecast, reductions in specific grant have not been included. The precise levels of some of the grant will not be known until nearer the start of the relevant financial year: e.g. the level of Education Services Grant (ESG) will depend on the number of pupils although with a number of schools expected to become academies, there will be a reduction in the level of ESG for the City Council. If reductions do occur these would need to be reflected in the spending plans of the Portfolios affected: i.e. as part of the strategy for the management of "pressures".
- 36. Where there are expected increases in specific grant, an issue will be how these play into the business planning process. It is proposed that where we expect there to be additional funding, this is kept corporately to help manage the overall position rather than offset the target reductions in the relevant Portfolio. In terms of Public Health a decision will be required as to whether the increase is funding new activities or being used in substitution for areas of activity that would otherwise be cut through the business planning process.

Overall funding for City Council from Government

37. The overall level of funding reductions are forecast to amount to £36m in 2014/15 rising to £110m by 2018/19. These are set out in the table below:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Reductions in RSG - 2014/15	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8
Reductions in RSG - 2015/16		44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5
Reductions in RSG - 2016/17 (10%)			10.5	10.5	10.5
Reductions in RSG - 2017/18 (10%)				9.5	9.5
Reductions in RSG - 2018/19 (10%)					8.5
Fall out of Freeze Grant -2013/14			1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL	35.8	80.3	92.4	101.9	110.4

Business Rate Income

- 38. With the introduction of the new funding arrangements from April 2013 a significant proportion of the Council's income will come from the 49% of retained business rate income. The financial position of the Council will now be substantially dependent on its ability to raise and collect the expected level of business rates.
- 39. The figure for SUFA includes £98.6m for business rates income in 2013/14 and £101.7m for 2014/15, based on the Government's estimates. For 2013/14 the

- Governments figure was £3.4m above the Council's own estimate and has required a budgeted contribution of £2.2m from the Business Rate Income Reserve to make up some of the difference.
- 40. In arriving at a reasonable estimate of retained business rate income in 2014/15 and beyond, a range of issues will need to be considered and precise figures determined in the light of experience gained about the working of the business rates scheme in 2013/14 and knowledge about the economic climate and regeneration proposals.
 - Growth in the business rate base. As at September 2012 it was estimated that the number of business premises in Sheffield that are liable for business rates is 17,356 with an aggregate rateable value of £531.455m. Based on the current rating multiplier of 46.2p this produces a gross business rate estimated income (the "Gross Rate Yield") of £245.5m for 2013/14. This was the starting point for establishing an estimate and constitutes the potential level of income before any further adjustments. The impact of regeneration initiatives and fluctuations in the local economy will need to be factored in for 2014/15 and future years.
 - Business Rate Reliefs: there are a number of reliefs against business rates liability including small business rates relief, charitable relief, deductions for empty properties and partly occupied premises. For 2013/14 these are estimated at approximately £33m but the figure for 2014/15 will need to be estimated as part of the budget process.
 - Losses and costs of collection: this includes an estimate of the bad and doubtful debts in 2013/14, the potential legal and other recovery costs. Using the assumptions set out in Government guidance about this, the estimated figure for 2013/14 is £3.3m.
 - Losses due to appeals. Business Ratepayers can seek an alteration to the
 rateable value of a property by appealing to the Valuation Office Agency
 (VOA). However because of the large volume of appeals decisions by the
 VOA can take several years. Based on data provided by VOA in September
 2012 the number of Sheffield outstanding appeals include 317 in respect of
 the 2005 rating list and 1,510 in respect of the 2010 rating list.

The added complication regarding appeals concerns the change in the way that these are accounted for. The DCLG have always accounted for losses on appeals on a cash basis (within the year in which the payments have been made) whereas the new arrangements require local authorities to account for them on an accruals basis. As 2013/14 is the first year of the new schemes operation, there is a significant "hit" as the accrual basis figure

- is higher than the cash basis figure. For Sheffield this amounted to approximately £15m for 2013/14 but will reduce in 2014/15 as adjustments are made to the provision based on our most up to date assessment of the accumulated potential loss and the likelihood of new appeals each year.
- 41. The current year's budget includes a budget for business rates income of £95.3m: this is £3.4m less than the Government have assumed in SUFA. The business rate multiplier is uplifted each year by the retail price index. With inflation forecasts of around 2% for 2014 and 2015 (based on the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts) this would mean that the retained proportion of business rates business rate income would increase by about £2.6m per annum before any variations in the business rate base due to economic growth/retraction. However the net position would depend on the deductions referred to above.
- 42. For the purpose of the Forecast, an additional £3m of business rates income per annum has been assumed in 2014/15 and £2.6m per annum thereafter, although the precise position will depend on the overall net appropriations. The table below shows what the gross position is for the next two years and the issues that would need to be considered when constructing the actual budget for each year.

Collect	tion Fund - Business Rates Estin	nates		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		£000	£000	£000
Gross Business Rates income yield		245,533	250,444	255,453
LESS	Estimated Reliefs	-32,984	??	??
	Losses and Cost of Collection	-3,331	??	??
	Losses on Appeals	-14,800	??	??
Net Estimated Business rates		194,418	250,444	255,453
Approp	riation of net business rates			
	Sheffield City Council (49%)	95,265	??	??
	SY Fire Authority (1%)	1,944	??	??
	Government (50%)	97,209	??	??
Total A	ppropriations	194,418	0	0

43. The provision for appeals is likely to reduce in 2014/15 and perhaps in later years also. Following an assessment at the end of the 2012/13 financial year, updated for the position in the current year, it seems likely that the provision required for losses can be reduced by approximately £3m per annum from April 2014 for the next 3 years: i.e. an overall reduction of £9m. These reductions have been included in the forecast.

- 44. Leaving aside the position on adjustments on reliefs, appeals and cost of collection, if the Council were to be successful in terms of economic regeneration and bring new commercial or retail developments to the City, the Council would benefit from 49% of the additional business rate income. The Council is working with Creative Sheffield to assess the impact on business rates of economic initiatives in the City.
- 45. To provide a broad indication of the composition of the City's business rate base, the number of properties registered on the business rate system, as at May 2013, have been analysed according to their category. Retail premises currently represent about 36% of the business rate base with manufacturing only 11%. Any modelling of the growth in the base would need information about floor area and the relative size of premises that are being developed or proposed. As a broad indication, a 1% growth in the retail sector would, based on current values, result in an additional £0.4m to the City Council, being its 49% share of the additional revenue.

	No of	Rateable	
	Properties	Value	
		£000	%
Retail	5051	190154	36
Offices	2916	92613	18
Manufacturing	2434	60248	11
Public Sector	624	55647	11
Other	6331	128439	24
TOTAL	17356	527101	100

46. Adjustments to the provision on business rates appeals (of £3m in first 3 years) have been included in the forecasts together with an estimate of the annual uplift in the multiplier (of £3m per annum). Given the uncertainties around how business rate income will be affected by movements in the local economy, no further adjustments have been made to the forecasts.

Council Tax income

- 47. The overall level of budgeted Council Tax income for 2013/14 was largely determined by the size of the council tax base, which was set at 128,050.05 Band D equivalent properties. This had reduced significantly from the level for 2012/13 mostly as a result of the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS). The operation of this scheme will need to be monitored during the year and an assessment made of the impact it is having on the overall level of Council Tax collected and on the Council's ability to raise additional amounts in the future.
- 48. The other issues that will need to be assessed for 2014/15 and beyond include:

- What variations in "benefit" caseload will occur in 2013/14 and what assumptions will need to be made about the estimated caseload for future years. The introduction of CTSS has transferred the risk to local authorities of increases in caseload with no adjustment to the level of funding from Government. A 1% caseload increase was included in the assumptions for 2013/14 and this will need to be re-assessed each year.
- To what extent the Council Tax base will grow as a result of additional properties being constructed or brought into use, particularly as a result of the new homes bonus.
- Any changes in behaviour that may occur following the removal of some of the discounts and exemptions: for example, if households switch from empty properties to student properties to avoid paying council tax.
- The impact of CTSS on the collection tax collection rate. The budgeted level of income for 2013/14 assumes a collection rate of 96.5% (down from 97.5% the previous year).
- 49. Reductions in the council tax base have an impact on the ability of the Council to generate additional income from increases in council tax. Based on the tax base for 2013/14, each 1% increase in the council tax generates approximately £1.6m of additional income.
- 50. A review of the Council Tax base the total number of properties from which Council Tax can be collected will be conducted as part of the budget process. An aspect of this will be determining to what extent the measures that have been taken by the Council to increase the number of homes in the City have impacted on the tax base.
- 51. Following the SR13 announcement that the trigger point for local referendums will be a 2% rise in Council Tax, there is a financial incentive for local authorities to not freeze Council Tax but to budget for a rise of up to 2%. It will be for Council to decide the policy regarding future Council Tax increases but for the purposes of this report, it is assumed that the Council will approve an annual council tax increase of 1% from April 2014, generating an additional £1.6m per annum based on the current tax base.

Forecast revenue expenditure

52. The Council set a net revenue budget for 2013/14 of £477.426m. There will be a number of items of additional expenditure that are likely to be incurred in future financial years and there will be other issues, about which there will currently be uncertainty, but which may also subsequently involve expenditure for the Council. A key issue for the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be the approach to including additional budget provision during a period in which resources are

constrained. Compared to the amounts budgeted for in 2013/14, there are a number of potential additions to annual expenditure from April 2014:

- Pensions Deficit: An actuarial review of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund is current underway and will determine the employers contribution rates from April 2014. There is an on-going issue regarding the contributions to the Pensions Fund to meet an annual deficit, being the difference between the funds estimated assets and its estimated liabilities. Before a full actuarial review is completed, the indications are that the deficit contribution made by the City Council will need to increase by £4m per annum in 2014/15 together with an annual increase in employers pension contributions of about £1m per annum. The Director of Finance will be seeking to explore alternative options, to increasing the contribution rate, with the actuary before any final decisions are made later this year. Nevertheless there is a risk that further additional costs will be incurred from April 2014.
- Employers' national insurance contributions: the introduction of the new state pension from April 2016 will mean the abolition of the "contracted out" rate of employer's contribution. On the basis of the existing payroll size, the Council faces additional costs of approximately £2.4m from April 2016.
- Use of Reserves: the Council approved contributions from reserves of £1.8m in 2013/14 to support the business rates shortfall when compared to the SUFA. This reserve will not exist in 2014/15 and beyond and therefore an adjustment is required to the budget.
- Infrastructure Investment (New Retail Quarter): proposals relating to the
 development of the new retail quarter are to be presented to Members in the
 future. There is likely to be some capital expenditure in respect of NRQ
 infrastructure e.g. public realm. These charges to the revenue account are
 assumed to rise from £0.4m in 2014/15 to about £1m thereafter.
- Streets Ahead: the Council investment in Streets Ahead will result in the required amount increasing by approximately £1.8m per annum from April 2014, as planned. This includes the full debt charges associated with borrowing £100m to finance the acquisition of assets.
- Improved sundry debt collection: as performance in respect of sundry debt collection improves, the practice of taking income to a corporate budget is being phased out. The improvement in debt collection is now reflected in Portfolio budgets. It is proposed to reduce the corporate budgeted income by £0.2m in both 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- Howden House PFI costs: the annual increase in costs will amount to approximately £0.2m.

- Goodwill from existing repairs & maintenance contract: With the conclusion
 of the existing contract due to take place in March 2014, there will be a loss
 of goodwill amounting to £1.5m from April 2014. The new contract will relate
 to the Housing Revenue Account and therefore it will be difficult for the
 output of any tendering process to result in payments to the "general fund"
 revenue account.
- Staff increments: the current increment freeze expires in March 2014. Future years costs would vary as staffing levels change but potentially reinstating increments from April 2014 would add a maximum of £5m. At the present time, the forecast includes these costs until the position regarding the development of an alternative pay strategy becomes clearer.
- Impact of 2013/14 overspends: the budget monitoring position for 2013/14 suggests that the Council is finding it difficult to keep expenditure within the agreed level of resource. There are particular problems in Adult Social Care. It is not known at this time whether these difficulties will have an on-going impact on the expenditure requirements of the Council beyond April 2014.
- 53. There are a number of potential budget reductions from April 2014 including the following:
 - The Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) reduced the levy in 2013/14 and, based on their MTFS, are likely to be reducing this again over the next 3 years although this is subject to review. It is assumed that the ITA will have reduced the Sheffield proportion of the levy by up to £2m by 2016/17. If the Secretary of State honours his promise to change the referendum regulations, a reduction is not likely to impact on the referendum trigger but would still involve a reduction in council expenditure. At the present time, the regulations have not been changed and a reduction in the ITA levy would impact on the ability of the Council to increase the Council Tax.
 - Funding for Sheffield City Trust (SCT) Cabinet has recently approved proposals to restructure the funding for SCT. The forecast assumes a reduction of £7m from April 2014, as set out in the report to Cabinet on 19 June 2013.
- 54. There are a number of areas where there may be additional costs to the Council in future years but which are uncertain at the present time. The following have not been added into the 5 year forecast but remain as potential risks to the Council:
 - Provisions for redundancy/severance costs: the Council will require an
 adequate provision for redundancy/severance costs. The current budget
 includes £9m for redundancy costs. Should further provisions be required in
 2014/15 there is the potential to use part of an insurance provision to offset

- some costs but no further adjustments have been made to the budget provision for redundancy/severance costs over the period of the MTFS.
- Contingency for Adult Social Care costs: the 2013/14 budget includes a
 contingency of £3m for adult social care costs. Currently this is supporting
 pressures in adult social care (ASC). The Council will need to ensure that
 ASC takes action to keep expenditure within budget limits to ensure that
 further additions to the Council budget are not required.
- Capital financing costs: additional borrowing will be required to support the
 on-going capital programme and the revenue budget for debt charges must
 be sufficient to meet the full year costs of such borrowing. Movements in
 financing costs have enabled new borrowing to be accommodated within the
 current budget and no further additions to the cost of principal/interest are
 included in the 5 year forecast.
- 55. In terms of Portfolio cost / demand pressures, these amounted to approximately £17m in 2013/14 and were offset by savings of an equivalent figure. It is proposed that the approach to be taken regarding pressures will be the same as that adopted previously: i.e. that Services/Portfolios will be required to manage their pressures from within existing resources and where necessary will be required to identify offsetting savings.
- 56. The level of pressures for 2013/14 included a provision for staff pay awards of 1% amounting to approximately £2m. The Chancellors Budget Statement in March 2013 confirmed that a 1% pay cap for public sector pay will continue to 2015/16.
- 57. The issues set out above are those that will have a direct effect on the financial position of the Council. There are wider social changes particularly in respect of the provision of benefits and financial support to households that may interact with those that impact directly on the Council in ways which are not yet clear and which increase the level of risk. These could lead to an increase in the levels of debt owed to the Council over the medium term due to the combined impact on households of the introduction of the following measures:
 - The bedroom tax, increasing the rental for households for which smaller accommodation is not available in the short or medium term
 - The removal of legal aid for advice on benefits, debt, divorce, employment and housing, with a likely increase in self advocacy in courts and potential delays in the processing of cases
 - The abolition of Council Tax benefit and its replacement by CTSS may result in changes in claimant behaviour particularly where individuals previously paid little or no Council Tax

- Payments of Housing Benefit directly to individuals rather than to landlords will give choice to tenants as to where to apply their benefits, which may lead to increased levels of arrears and evictions
- 58. The policy of the Council has been to differentiate between those individuals who are unable to pay and those who are unwilling to pay, when undertaking debt recovery and this will continue to be the case. However, the impact of changes in areas of public support to households across the city may have unforeseen, indirect, financial implications for the Council.

Overall Position

59. Bringing together the picture relating to forecast resources and forecast expenditure, there is a forecast revenue gap of £37m in 2014/15 rising to £107m by 2018/19. This is the cumulative position and would reduce by the value of savings identified in year one which is 2014/15. Details of the build-up of the forecast are set out in Appendix One and summarised in the table below:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Base position b/forward	0.0	36.6	77.1	86.4	93.8
Reductions in Government funding	35.8	44.5	12.1	9.5	8.5
Reduction in business rate appeals provision	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	0.0	0.0
Increase in business rate income	-3.0	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6	-2.6
Increase in council tax income	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
Expenditure increases	15.9	3.8	5.5	2.1	2.0
Expenditure reductions	-7.5	-0.6	-1.1	0.0	5.5
Total forecast Gap	36.6	77.1	86.4	93.8	105.6

Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS)

- 60. The new CTSS was introduced in April 2013 following the abolition of the Council Tax Benefit scheme and the financial arrangements that involved the Government meeting the costs of benefit payments. The CTSS for 2013/14 was designed to meet the new funding arrangements and reflect a reduction of approximately £5m by capping benefits at 77%.
- 61. In announcing a Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2014/15 with a reduction in RSG of approximately £33m, the details provided indicate that

funding for CTSS has been subsumed within the overall formula and that no specific amounts are identifiable. The Council may wish to consider making further changes to the CTSS for future years so as to more closely reflect the overall funding position. For the purposes of this forecast, no further changes to CTSS have been included.

Approach to balancing the budget

- 62. The Council requires sufficient savings proposals to meet a forecast shortfall of £37m in 2014/15 plus sufficient savings to meet the value of Portfolio cost/demand pressures. Over the first three years of the forecast period, the value of savings proposals required will amount to approximately £86m plus pressures.
- 63. There are some elements of the Council budget where it is particularly difficult to make reductions, where expenditure is not directly controlled by the Council and/or where the expenditure is largely fixed in nature. This does not mean that these budget elements will not be reviewed and that budgets will be ring fenced in some way. There will be a separate process for exploring the scope for achieving reductions in these budgets which will be outside of the business planning process. The elements that fall into this category include:
 - Benefit payments
 - ITA and Environment Agency Levies
 - Pension costs of former employees
 - Private Finance Initiative for Howden House
 - Streets Ahead Contract
 - Capital Financing costs
 - Housing Association payments
- 64. After adjusting for the items referred to above, to achieve the level of savings required over the next three years will involve reductions in service budgets of approximately 15% in 2014/15, 15% in 2015/16 and 10% in 2016/17: a total reduction of 40% across the three years. These reductions would be in all service budgets and would not provide for any degree of relative protection for those services that might be considered a priority.
- 65. The approach to balancing the budget will be to build on the strategic outcome model that the Council has adopted in the past year and which has assisted in developing strategic proposals that have achieved a greater alignment of priorities and resources. This will involve taking a three year view and is intended to result in the identification of detailed savings proposals for 2014/15 with outline proposals for the following two financial years.

- 66. Strategic Outcomes are an important statement of how the Council achieves its priorities and give important direction and prioritisation for the authority. However, they are also critical to shaping the decision making process for the budget. They should help the Council to articulate what it is seeking to achieve, what the objectives are within this, and to help it to make decisions about how to prioritise activity in support of these objectives, with a focus on impact. In particular, strategic outcomes if implemented effectively should assist the Council to make better decisions as they will focus on the key things that it is trying to achieve. This will clearly flow through into decision making about the budget.
- 67. In terms of developing the model used last year and building on that approach, there will be a focus on bringing greater consistency, with more structure around some of the outcomes. However, outcomes also operate within their own context and that therefore there needs to be some flexibility as to how this is done. Officers will be seeking to set minimum expectations for each outcome with EMT putting in place arrangements to check that these minimum expectations are in place.
- 68. To facilitate the alignment of resources with priorities and the identification of savings proposals, budgets will be allocated to outcomes and plans will be developed to keep within financial limits. Those financial limits will reflect the levels of savings required across the next three financial years. It is proposed that reductions of 40% over the three years will be built into the financial limits analysed across the three years as follows:
 - For 2014/15 reduction of 15%
 - For 2015/16 reduction of 15%
 - For 2016/17 reduction of 10%
- 69. A cumulative reduction of 40% over the three years is slightly more than the reduction of 32% that is required to achieve a balanced position. However the reality of the position facing the Council is that there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the precise level of resources that will be available in future years and a number of variables that could add considerably to the expenditure base of the Council beyond that currently forecast. Furthermore, if savings targets were set precisely at the level that would be required to balance, this places the Council in a position where it would have to deliver all of the required savings with little margin for variability or potential rejection of proposals. This adds further potential risk to the budget process.
- 70. It is important to note that this approach will involve broad planning totals that will assist in the identification and development of savings proposals. The final decisions regarding the allocation of resources will be made by Members. Having

a set of broad planning targets that represent a higher level of reduction than is needed, provides headroom against some of the targets not being met and a bulwark against some of the risks that have been identified.

	36.6	77.1	86.4	93.8	105.6
	8.4	11.6	16.0	18.1	25.6
	* 1		44.4		
costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adult Social Care costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0,0
erance costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
A-24	77.0	-7, V	7.0	7.0	0 to 2
debt	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-1.5
	-0.5	-1.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2
1 overspends	?	?	?	?	?
	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
FI	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8
ng	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0,5
	1.8	3.6	5.5	7.4	9.3
estment in NRQ / St Pauls Place	0.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
ibution from reserves	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
tributions			2.4	2.4	2.4
	5.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
	20.2	03.3	70,4	15.1	80.0
	28.2	65.5	70.4	75.7	80.0
ne (1% increase per annum)	-1.6	-3.2	-4.8	-6.4	-8.0
0.000.000.000.000.000					
ness rate multiplier	-3.0	-5.6	-8.2	-10.8	-13.4
ess rate income (appeals adjustment)	-3.0	-6.0	-9.0	-9.0	-9.0
Grant - 2013/14			1.6	1.6	1.6
3 - 2018/19 (10%)					8.5
3 - 2017/18 (10%)				9.5	9.5
3 - 2016/17 (10%)			10.5	10.5	10,5
3 - 2015/16		44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5
3 - 2014/15	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
		- 70.450 (1)			

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of:	Laraine Manley, Executive Director for Resources
Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	18 th September 2013
Subject:	Capital Programme Approvals Month
Author of Report:	Paul Schofield, 0114 27 36000

Summary:

This report seeks approval for a number of variations and additions to the 2013/14 Capital Programme, and the approval of two procurement strategies for the delivery of projects in the programme.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the roads and homes used by the people of Sheffield, and improve the infrastructure of the city council to deliver those services.

To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet

- (i) Approves the proposed additions to the capital programme listed in Appendix 1, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or Delegated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group;
- (ii) Approves the proposed variations and slippage in Appendix 1;

- (iii) Notes the conditions and obligations of the grant applications listed in Appendix 2 and approves the application for, and if successful, acceptance of those grants;
- (iv) notes the variations approved under EMT's delegated authority in Appendix 1;
- (v) notes the one exercise of delegated authority to vary capital expenditure by a director this month; and
- (vi) notes the one approval under the emergency provisions.

Background Papers:			
Category of Report:	OPEN		

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Eugene Walker
Legal Implications
NO Cleared by: Gillian Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Bryan Lodge – Cabinet Member for Finance
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Economic and Environmental Well Being
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
Not as yet, but at the appropriate time

Approvals and variations to the Capital Programme – Month 3

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A number of schemes have been submitted for approval in line with the Council's agreed capital approval process.
- 1.2 Below is a summary of the number and total value of schemes in each approval category:
 - 5 additions to the capital programme with a total value of £7.8m
 - 4 variations to the capital programme creating a net decrease of £0.43m
 - 2 slippage requests with a total value of £1.2m
 - Grant applications to the value of £9.9m
 - 2 procurement strategies worth £1.0m
 - 1 Emergency approval
 - 1 Director Variation
- 1.3 Further details of the schemes listed above can be found in Appendix 1.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

2.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the roads and homes used by the people of Sheffield, and improve the infrastructure of the city council to deliver those services.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 By delivering these schemes the Council seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Sheffield.

4.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

4.1 Background and Key Issues

The details of the schemes can be found at Appendix 1.

5.0 <u>Human Resources Implications</u>

5.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications for the Council.

6.0 Financial Implications

The primary purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the proposed changes to the City Council's Capital Programme and, as such, it does not make any recommendations which have additional financial implications for the City Council.

7.0 **Equal Opportunity Implications**

7.1 There are no specific equal opportunity implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 **Procurement Implications**

8.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield
- 11.2 To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 That Cabinet:
- 12.2 Approves the proposed additions to the capital programme listed in Appendix 1, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or Delegated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group;
- 12.3 Approves the proposed variations and slippage in Appendix 1;
- Notes the conditions and obligations of the grant applications listed in Appendix 2 and

approves the application for, and if successful, acceptance of those grants;

- 12.5 Notes the variations approved under EMT's delegated authority in Appendix 1;
- 12.6 Notes that the one exercise of delegated authority to vary capital expenditure by a director this month; and
- 12.7 Notes the one approval under the emergency provisions.

Finance 6th June 2013

Scheme Description	Approval Type	Value £000	Procurement Route
BETTER HEALTH & WELLBEING			
Bole Hill/Norbury Demolitions This project will demolish two Care Homes, Norbury in S6 (closed March 2013) and Bole Hill View in S10 (to be closed October 2013). Alternative capacity will be provided by the extension and refurbishment of the Hurlfield View Care Home, which is currently going through the Emergency Approval request process. Closing the homes shows estimated revenue savings of £729k over two years, disposal of the sites would generate a capital receipt to replace the funding from the Corporate Resource Pool which will be used to pay for the project.	Addition	120	Competitive Tender
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE			
Highways			
 Optio Orange: City to Halfway The project addresses the key bus route of City Centre to Mosborough. The additional proposed works include upgrade to several bus stops – raised kerbs, tactile paving, improved shelters and some audio-visual display equipment; changes to road junction layouts; and moving the Mansfield Road bus lane position within the highway. This variation seeks to add the 13/14 funding available, which will be used to further the works on the route, as follows: £345.8k from the balance of Better Buses (BB) 12/13 funding, with £43.5k from the BB Smart Management project; £35k from the 13/14 Local Transport Plan (LTP).; £10k is transferred from Community Assemblies South East allocation; and 	Variation (Cabinet)	466	N/A

 and £31.5k Chesterfield Road Clearway projects. Procurement route is unchanged with the outline design being done internally and the detailed design and works procured through Amey as part of single source tender in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Highways PFI contract which delivers the Streets Ahead programme. 			
Chesterfield Road Clearway This variation is to part fund the Optio Orange City to Halfway project above. The overall scope of this project remains unchanged, however the funding required from the Better Buses allocation has reduced due to a recent re-assessment of costs by the contractor and so the surplus can be redistributed	Variation (Cabinet: linked to above)	-32	N/A
Community Assemblies – South East This variation is to part fund the Optio Orange City to Halfway project above. The overall scope of this project remains unchanged as this contribution has been managed as a small proportion of the overall South East Community Assembly LTP 2012/13 Programme budget.	Variation (Cabinet: linked to above)	-10	N/A
Streets Ahead related Cycling Programme This scheme is to make small scale cycle improvements to the highway at the same time as the scheduled Zonal Highway maintenance as part of the Streets Ahead programme thereby saving cost. This is funded by LTP. This year's allocation is £200k.	Addition	200	Schedule 7 Highways PFI contract
Homes			
Long Term Empties This project is to purchase or repair long term empty property's. The planned acquisitions for 2013/14 have been delayed due to the delay in the signing of the contract with Homes and Community Agency. This variation is to move £630k from 2013/14 into 2014/15 which results of 8 acquisitions planned in 2013/14 and 23 in 2014/15. This project is funded by prudential borrowing £2.260m and £538k Homes and Community Agency funding.	Slippage	630	N/A

	Variation 10 N/A (EMT)				Addition 187.5 Jobs Compact with Kier LLP Sheffield
Parks	Firth Park Boating Lake This variation seeks to add S106 income of £14k to undertake additional drainage (works on site, and fund a £4k prior year exchange rate loss adjustment against the Interreg grant funding element which is paid in Euros. All funding has now been secured. The tenders have come back within budget and so it is possible to implement the full design scheme as planned.	The additional drainage work is required as water springs have been identified during the construction and a solution to the drainage problem is now required to ensure health and safety issues are addressed so that the enhanced site can be used effectively going forward.	Procurement continues as before, with Environmental Planning providing landscape architect services and competitive tender for the works.	INFRASTRUCTURE :-	Abbeyfield House Re-roofing Works Abbeyfield Park House is a Grade II listed building in Abbeyfield Park. The project works comprise the renewal of the slate roof covering and the replacement of built up bitumen felt roofs. All the existing timber gutters are to be relined and the gutters and down pipes are to be replaced. The project value is £187.5k and is funded by £170k Corporate Resource Pool (taken from the Place Roof Renewals Programme block allocation) and £17.5k revenue

Castle Market Decommissioning Project	Slippage	220	A/N
The scheme was approved by Cabinet in October 2012 for £4,402k for the demolition and decommissioning of the market including sums identified for statutory compensation payments to market traders.			
As planning and investigatory work progresses a more accurate project plan has been developed which slightly extends the work into 2015-16. As a result, it is necessary to slip £550k into 2015/16. Planning work has also shown that access from Exchange Street will be required to undertake the demolition. This street is occupied by a 'turret' kiosk selling food and beverages, an advertising display stand and by market 'day' traders on most days of the week. To take actions to gain vacant possession of the area, if required, it is necessary to include Exchange Street in the approved scheme.			
COMPETITIVE CITY:-			
Lower Don Valley Flood Defences This project will install flood defences in the Lower Don Valley (LDV) and maintain those defences and the riverbed for 5 years. The LDV is a strategically important area of the City; the defences will cover 8km of the river Don and protect 256 businesses and 5,000 jobs. The Environment Agency and partners have mapped the whole Don Valley catchment area and river basin in detail. It has been decided to defend the LDV against a 1 in a 100 year event but with an additional freeboard allowance above this of 40cm to provide a greater security. The Insurance Industry stipulates a minimum defence requirement of 1 in 75 years and the proposed measures are above these requirements but cannot guarantee flood protection. The total cost of this scheme is £8.1m, made up of £7.3m capital spend and £800k	Addition	7,300	Competitive tender using YorCivil Regional Framework

					ition 1,035 To be managed by the Grantees	
revenue budget costs. A technical funding application is being submitted to DEFRA in July for £6.74m (83%) subject to receiving approval of the the Business improvement District (BID) from local businesses in November 2013.	Various options have been explored to secure the remaining funding. Through consultation with business in the Lower Don Valley, and in partnership with members of a dedicated business steering group the BID framework has been selected. The BID framework is based on the principle that those who directly benefit make a contribution. Based on the rateable value listing at May 2013 the BID will generate a total of £1.4m equating to 17% of the costs.	Conditional approval is sought for this project conditional on obtaining the DEFRA grant and approval of the BID by Non Domestic Ratepayers.	Procurement will be through competitive tender to ensure best possible price using YorCivil framework contractors.	SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE :-	FEL (Free Early Learning) Capital (2 Year Old Entitlement) This project will evaluate claims and issue small grants for distribution of DfE Early Years Capital funding, funded by a £1.035m Government allocation for Free 2 Year Olds. The funding has already been received, is included in the programme as a block allocation and this approval now seeks authority to distribute the money to specific projects so there is no overall increase in the programme.	Distribution of allocated small grant funds will be made through an allocation consisting of Officers and Members, with approval routes through the CYPF Capital Commissioning Group (CCG). Grantees must spend the allocated funds on enabling the increase in the number of 2 year old places, by creation of room dividers, specific

toilet facilities for the 2 year old age group, redesign of internal spaces and similar longer term items: they are not allowed to spend it on consumables such as toys or other stocks. All bids must meet the published funding criteria as set out in the funding application pack and the grantees must provide appropriate evidence of completion. Individual grantees will manage their own procurement in line with SCC Standing orders.				
2 Year Old Entitlement – Block Allocation This variation is to set 100% of the bock allocation against the FEL Capital project above, now that a specific programme has been set up through a Business Unit to manage the Small Grants bidding and allocation process.	Variation	-1,035	N/A: Variation	
STAGE APPROVALS:-				
PROCUREMENT STRATEGY				
Bus Rapid Transit North – Tinsley Link This procurement strategy is to cover the appointment of site supervision staff following on from the main construction stage which was approved under a separate procurement strategy. It covers the provision of professional services for the Bus Rapid Transit Northern Route, which includes both the Tinsley Link project and the BRT North junction improvements. There are several different professional disciplines required to provide the necessary site supervision on this project and this procurement strategy aims to collate and seek approval for the appointment of these professionals through the appropriate procurement route. The various professionals and procurement routes are as detailed below: Professional 1 – Clerk of Works will be procured using the YorConsult framework.	Strategy	775		

				1
Professional 2 – Senior Structures Advisor (Tinsley Link Project Manager) and Road Works, Signals & Stats Advisor (Tinsley Link Assistant Project Manager) and the Road works, Signals and Stats Coordinator (BRT North Project Manager) will be procured using the YorConsult framework.				
Professional 3 - Quantity Surveying Services, Contract Administration and Assistant Structural Engineer - these services will be retained by Sheffield City Council Capital Delivery Service.				
Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation This work is part of a larger project called Council Housing Insulation which has an approved budget of £3.1m over the next five years. This work primarily comprises the provision of cavity wall and loft insulation to nontraditional built council owned properties in Sheffield.		218	Competitive Tender Construction Line framework	Г
Invitation to tender will be issued to any Construction Line registered contractors and will be evaluated and shortlisted. The contract awarded on the basis of quality price evaluation using 80%Price- 20% quality. The work is funded by contributions from the Housing Revenue Account.				
EMERGENCY APPROVALS:- (Note only)				
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE				1
Cross House Enabling Work The scheme enables the council to gain vacant possession of an asset which is surplus	Addition	က	N/A	

to requirements and will be disposed of, and give two council tenancies their own exclusive garden area. The agreed price for the sale of the surplus land is £69k, the £3k for the works to the existing tenancy to provide a suitable and safe garden area for the two tenancies is to come from the sale price. This is an Emergency approval due to the urgency to conclude this agreement with the tenants which has taken four years to date and which the tenants are keen to complete as it was agreed to conclude this arrangement in spring.				
DIRECTOR VARIATIONS:- (Note only)				
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE				
Hollinsend MUGA This project was set up to create a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Hollinsend Park on two of the existing derelict tennis courts. The variation is to reflect the addition of the remainder of the S106 funding now received.	Director Variation	7	N/A	

Value £000		5,500	ired to sign a)		nts being	y have to	or in part.	3,300	project.	or which the			ained as the	t for future	n assessing		rence to the		orted.	ad plnoo sr	
Conditions and Obligations		Conditions Spending must be of a capital pature	 Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor are required to sign a declaration by 31 March 2015 to confirm that all spending has 	been of a Capital nature.	Clawback	 Failure to comply could result in future grant payments being 	reduced, suspended or withheld or, the Council may have to	repay the grant it has received to date, either wholly or in part.	Conditions	 Grant could be withheld for failure to complete the project. 	 Spending must be consistent with the purpose for which the 	grant was given.	 Grant claims are to be submitted during the project. 	 All the work undertaken must be properly maintained as the 	funding granted includes a commuted element for future	maintenance. Failure to do will be considered when assessing	future applications.	 All publicity about the project should contain reference to the 	funding.	 Variations to the project of over £100k must be reported. 	 Work in Progress and estimates of grant claims could 	במקמו ממי
Project to be funded by the Grant		Lower Don Valley Flood Defence	Project						Lower Don Valley	Flood Defence	Project											
Name of the Grant		Flood and Coastal Risk	Management (FCRM) Capital	Growth Fund					Flood and	Coastal Risk	Management	(FCRM) Capital	Grant-in-Aid	(GiA)								
Grant Awarding Body		Environment Agency							Environment	Agency												



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of:	Jayne Ludlam						
Date:	: 18 th September 2013						
Subject:	School Places in Sheffield						
Author of Report:	Joel Hardwick (ext 35476)						
Summary: The report provides an update on the impact of the growth in population and the requirement to provide further additional primary school places from 2014/15. It seeks permission to consult on proposals to increase places in five areas of the city.							
Reasons for Recommendations: Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live.							
Recommendations: (i) Give permission for officers to carry out consultation in the areas identified and to report back to Cabinet following consultation.							
Background Papers:							
Category of Report:	OPEN						

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications						
No Cleared by:						
Legal Implications						
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter						
Equality of Opportunity Implications						
NO Cleared by:						
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications						
NO						
Human rights Implications						
NO:						
Environmental and Sustainability implications						
NO						
Economic impact						
NO						
Community safety implications						
NO						
Human resources implications						
NO						
Property implications						
NO						
Area(s) affected						
All						
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader						
Cllr Jackie Drayton						
Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee if decision called in						
Children, Young People and Families						
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?						
NO						
Press release						
YES/NO						

SCHOOL PLACES IN SHEFFIELD

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The report provides an update on the impact of the growth in population and the requirement to provide further additional primary school places from 2014/15. It seeks permission to consult on proposals to increase places in five areas of the city.

2. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is essential to the Council's focus on enabling children to have the best start, achieve their full potential and contribute to the success of the city. This programme is aimed at providing enough primary school places for all Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond in the area of the city in which they live.
- 2.2 At the heart of the vision for increasing primary school places in Sheffield is the council's role in guaranteeing excellent education outcomes and equitable access for all.

3. OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The outcome would be to provide enough primary school places in the right areas to meet demand in 2014 and beyond. This includes an assessment of whether the solution is sustainable in the long-term.

4. CONTEXT

- 4.1 Since 1977 birth rates in Sheffield have fluctuated, with a more recent peak of 6,805 in 1990/91, followed by a steady decline to 5549 in 2001/02. This downward trend was reversed in 2002/03 as Sheffield saw an increase in births, rising steadily to 6,602 in 2009/10. Recent data suggests the birth rate in Sheffield is, for the time being, sustained at this higher level. In addition to the population growth there has been a more recent rise in the number of pupils applying for places midyear, after the normal point of entry. The local schools are usually full so this has led to an increase in children allocated to out of area schools and families with siblings split across different schools.
- 4.2 Over the last five years the Council has taken steps to address the growth in demand with the addition of over 2,500 places to the primary system to date, with approved plans for a further 1,000. All targeted at areas of the highest demand.

4.3 The Council approved the most recent of those proposals in November 2012 with a decision to create two new primary schools in the north east of Sheffield. Following a successful capital bid the Council is also in the process of a commissioning a new 2-16 school in the Darnall/Attercliffe area. Overall, Sheffield is now operating in a tighter system as the reduced number of surplus places means reduced flexibility. This means that local population rises are more likely to require action to provide additional places.

5. AREAS FOR LOCAL DISCUSSIONS

Wybourn

- 5.1 Wybourn Primary is oversubscribed from its catchment area in 2013 and is expected to be so again in the following two years unless additional places are provided. The population across the area is growing, additional housing will create further additional demand, and places in neighbouring schools are expected to become increasingly tight.
- 5.2 Wybourn currently offers 45 places per year. A proposal to increase the school to 60 places per year would satisfy local demand for the foreseeable future and would be the preferred option for consultation locally.

Greystones

- 5.3 Greystones Primary was included in the Council's previous round of expansions with a temporary proposal to increase from 60 places per year to 90 places per year for intakes in 2009, 2011, 2012, & 2013. These places have all been taken up with around 80 first preferences from the catchment area. Although there is a drop in the cohort coming through in 2014, numbers return to recent levels in 2015 and 2016 with upwards of 80 first preferences from catchment expected.
- The preferred option for local discussion would be to permanently increase Greystones to 90 places per year.

Crosspool

- 5.5 The population has grown in the area covered by Lydgate and Hallam primary schools in recent years with catchment pupils initially refused a place in the 2012 intake. The nearest alternative places were at a considerable distance and provision was made for 30 additional pupils at Hallam prior to the start of the school year to offer these pupils a local place. Future years are anticipated to remain at the higher level requiring some additional places in the area.
- 5.6 Increasing places at the Lydgate schools is not considered feasible nor desirable given the current size of the schools and their sites. Hallam Primary currently offers 60 Reception places each year and the preferred option for local discussion is to increase places at Hallam

Primary. This could be up to 90 pupils per year.

Firth Park

- 5.7 The area around Hucklow, Hatfield, Hartley Brook, and Beck primaries has seen overall growth in population in recent years. This has been matched more recently by increasing numbers of mid-term applications. The schools have all filled in the latest Reception application round and Hatfield and Hucklow have catchment pupils on their respective waiting lists where pupils have applied after the deadline or arrived mid-year.
- 5.8 The demand is focussed on the southern end of this area around Hucklow and Hatfield. Given the size of the local schools and their sites, the preferred option would be a new school in the area offering at least 30 places per year. This would only be possible by 2015 and interim arrangements will be sought, such as increasing places at one of the local schools through temporary additional accommodation.

Tinsley

- 5.9 The Tinsley schools were included in a previous round of expansions with a temporary proposal to increase to 75 places per year for three years beginning in September 2012. The population has remained at this higher level but even with the additional places, further late and mid-year applicants are not always able to access a local place.
- 5.10 Given the size of the existing schools, the locations, and the relative geographical isolation the preferred option is to create a new primary school away from the motorway offering 90 places per year. This would replace the existing Nursery Infant and Junior schools.
- 5.11 The project to rebuild the Tinsley schools away from the motorway could not be afforded within the normal capital allocation. The Tinsley area was therefore part of the successful bid for additional funding through the Department for Education's Targeted Basic Need Programme announced in June 2013.

6. DELIVERING ADDITIONAL PLACES

- 6.1 The current legislation on making changes to schools means that the above proposals have different decision-making routes and timetables which are outlined below.
 - Expansion Proposals (Wybourn, Greystones, Crosspool)
- 6.2 A six-week consultation period with the results reported to the Council's Cabinet (November 2013). If proceeding, the Council then publishes a legal notice stating the final proposal with 4 weeks for the public to make written representations (expected December 2013–January 2014). Any representations received are then reported back to inform a final decision by Cabinet (March 2014).

Replacement Schools (Tinsley)

6.3 As above for expansion proposals but with a 6 week period for written representations and a final decision by the Schools Adjudicator.

New Schools (Firth Park)

- The process for establishing new schools does not require consultation at this stage. The Council would propose in this case a short preconsultation period running alongside the proposals above to share information with local stakeholders and listen to concerns prior to undertaking the statutory process at the next stage.
- 6.5 Should the Cabinet decide at the next stage to move ahead with the proposal under new legislation, the Council cannot propose a new Community School financially maintained by the Council. Having identified a need for a new school, the Council must seek proposals from prospective providers to set up and run a new Academy.
- 6.6 Discussions with local stakeholders would also continue following the decision in order to continue sharing information, find out local aspirations for the new school, and help shape the proposal as it develops. In particular we would want to find out what local people want to see from the provider of the new school.
- 6.7 The Council set out a process in relation to the recent development of new primary schools in Fir Vale and Shirecliffe when inviting proposals. Key criteria around a strong track record of improving outcomes in a similar context, inclusion, and partnership working were used. Each prospective sponsor met a panel of Sheffield representatives and were asked to commit to signing up to the Sheffield asks and the City Wide Learning Body as part of the process. Following this process all proposals would be passed to the Secretary of State with the Local Authority's assessment of them. The Secretary of State then makes the final decision on provider and would work with them and the Local Authority to set up the new school.

7. IMPLICATIONS

Lega

7.1 Local Authorities have a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient primary schools are available for their area. The proposals to reorganise school provision to meet this requirement, such as expansion, are governed by the procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended. New school proposals are governed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as amended by the Education Act 2011 and the Academies Act 2010. The Council also has a duty to have regard to the statutory guidance.

Financial Implications

7.2 Capital: The resulting capital schemes would be funded from the Council's Basic Need Allocation of £13.2m to cover 2013/14 and 2014/15. This is funding from central government to allow Councils to fulfil their statutory duty to provide enough school places. The only exception would be the Tinsley scheme which will be part-funded from the successful bid into the Targeted Basic Need programme amounting. The estimated capital costs would be presented to Cabinet at the next stage once preferred options from the consultation are confirmed.

Equality of Opportunity

7.3 The overall aim of this programme is to ensure that access to quality primary school provision is available to all children of primary school age across Sheffield.

Environmental & Sustainability

7.4 Providing additional local school places will increase the number of families who are able to go to their local school. This will reduce the number of longer journeys and should therefore increase the number of pupils who are able to travel to school in a sustainable way.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The consultation process will allow for alternative proposals to be put forward and this would be reported back to Cabinet at the next stage.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet are requested to:
 - (i) Give permission for officers to carry out consultation in the areas identified and to report back to Cabinet following consultation.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

Report of:

Executive Director – Resources
Executive Director - Place

Date:

18th September 2013

Subject: Proposed Disposal of the former Firth Park Library, Firth

Park Road, Firth Park, Sheffield, S5

Author of Report: Dave Wood, Place

Nick Slater, Resources

Summary:

Firth Park is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1104444) and the Council hold the parkland on charitable trust. This report seeks approval for the sale of the former Firth Park Library, to Dawat-e-Islami UK, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1110114) and Islamic organisation established to advance the Islamic faith and to help the poor and needy. This organisation was selected following an informal tender exercise inviting bids from local community organisations.

The building had previously been declared surplus and leased to Community North Forum (Sheffield) Limited, which had held the premises on a 125 year lease from 2005. Following the winding up of this organisation, the property was formally surrendered back to the Council in October 2012.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The sale of the property will result in the disposal of a surplus property asset for a capital receipt, the removal of an on-going maintenance liability and the purchaser intends to continue with its community use for the foreseeable future.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- 1. All necessary action is taken in accordance with the powers given to the Council as Trustee under the provisions of Section 15(d) Trustee Act 1925.
- 2. As Trustee of the Firth Park at Sheffield, South Yorkshire Charity, to approve the sale of the former Firth Park Library in accordance with terms of this report and a Surveyor's Report obtained in connection with the sale of the property, in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The receipt obtained from the sale is transferred to the respective Trust.
- 3. The Director of Legal and Governance is authorised to prepare and complete all necessary documentation to conclude the sale in accordance with the agreed terms.
- 4. Notice under Section 121 of the Charities Act 2011 to be given in the local press to notify people within the beneficial area that the Charity Trustees intend to dispose of the freehold interest in Firth Park Library.

Background Papers:	None
Category of Report:	OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications				
YES Cleared by: Paul Schofield 15 July 2013				
Legal Implications				
YES Cleared by: David Blackburn 17 July 2013				
Equality of Opportunity Implications				
YES - positive Cleared by: Michelle Hawley 17 July 2013				
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications				
YES/NO				
Human rights Implications				
NO:				
Environmental and Sustainability implications				
NO				
Economic impact				
NO				
Community safety implications				
NO				
Human resources implications				
NO				
Property implications				
YES –cleared by Nalin Seneviratne 23 July 2013				
Area(s) affected				
Firth Park (Firth Park Ward)				
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader				
Cllr Bryan Lodge – confirmed proceed on revised sale price 31 July 2013				
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in				
Scrutiny Management Committee				
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?				
No				
Press release				
NO				

REPORT TO CABINET 18th September 2013

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER FIRTH PARK LIBRARY, FIRTH PARK ROAD, FIRTH PARK, SHEFFIELD, S5

1. Summary

- 1.1 Firth Park is a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1104444) and the Council hold the parkland on charitable trust. This report seeks approval for the sale of the former Firth Park Library, to Dawat-e-Islami UK, a registered charity (Charity Registration Number 1110114) and Islamic organisation established to advance the Islamic faith and to help the poor and needy. This organisation was selected following an informal tender exercise inviting bids from local community organisations..
- 1.2 The building, shown by red outline on the attached plan, was purpose built as a library in the 1930's but this use ceased some years ago. It was subsequently declared surplus and leased to Community North Forum (Sheffield) Limited on a 125 year lease from 2005. Its use limited to a community café, recycling centre, adult education centre and other community uses.
- 1.3 The Council took over management of the building during the winding up of the organisation, with the property being finally surrendered back to the Council in October 2012. This role was always seen as being temporary so when an expression of interest was made by Dawat-e-Islami, one of the user groups, to purchase the building, councillors were informed of the intention to sell at the meeting of the North East Community Assembly on 12th September 2012 and the building was included in the September 2012 Councillor's Disposal List. No objections were received to the proposed disposal.
- 1.4 As other user groups had previously expressed an interest to purchase, all were invited to submit bids on 21st September 2012; however the only bid received was from Dawat-e-Islami UK, as detailed in the appendix to this report.
- 1.5 Following receipt of the offer from Dawat-e-Islami the heating system at the building has suffered a complete failure and will need to be replaced. The Council has reached agreement with the purchaser that they will replace the heating system in return for a reduction in price. This has been reflected in the surveyor's report.

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2. What does this mean for Sheffield people?

2.1 The proposed disposal will result in a capital receipt to be reinvested by the Council, as Trustee of the Charity, in the Park, subject to charitable objects and the requirements of the Charity Commission, and will allow for the continued use of premises for community purposes.

3. Outcome and sustainability

3.1 The disposal of the property to Dawat-e-Islami UK will result in its continued use as a community facility.

4. Property Implications

- 4.1 In accordance with the Charities Act 2011 a Section 119 Surveyor's Report dated 26 day of April 2013 has been prepared and attached for Cabinet's consideration; as Charity Trustees for and on behalf of the Firth Park at Sheffield, South Yorkshire Charity. The Surveyor's Report advises that the offer represents best consideration and that it meets with the estimate of Market Value as defined by the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Valuation Professional Standards. The Council as Trustee must obtain best consideration for the disposal and any disposal should be on the basis as set out in the Surveyor's Report.
- 4.2 This Report has been prepared in accordance with instructions from the Council that the interest to be conveyed will be freehold with no restrictions limiting the future use of the building.
- 4.3 Prior to exchanging contracts, it will be necessary for the Charity Trustees to give notice under Section 121 of the Charities Act 2011. The notice will advertise the Charity Trustees general intention to dispose of the freehold interest in Firth Park Library. If they fail to give notice, the agreement for disposal will be invalid.

5. Financial implications

5.1 The money raised from the disposal of charitable land will be retained by the Council as Trustees of the Charity. This capital must be applied in accordance with the charitable objects, The general objects of the charity are the provision of a public park or pleasure grounds, but part of the park may be used for the purpose of promoting the benefit of the inhabitants of Sheffield without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinion by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants..Any wish to use the capital outside these objects would require the consent of the Charity Commission, which would not be granted unless they could be satisfied that the proposal was in the best interests of the charity.

5.2 The purchase price and yearly ground rent paid to the Council by Community North Forum (Sheffield) Limited was funded as part of a Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Funding Agreement. The sale of this property will not however result in a claim for clawback by the Government in respect of the SRB Funding Agreement as these rights have been waived.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The legal implications relating to the charitable status are contained within the body of this report and inform the recommendations being made to Cabinet
- 6.2 Formal consent from the Charity Commission has been obtained for the disposal of Firth Park Library to Dawat-e-Islami UK.

7. Human rights implications

7.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising from the proposed sale.

8. Environmental and sustainabilty implications

- 8.1 The proposed disposal will not result in any immediate change to the existing use of the property. Any future development will be subject to planning policy and the sustainability requirements of any planning conditions.
- 8.2 The disposal is essentially the building with only a very small area of additional land. Its potential for alternative uses will therefore be precluded by the lack of dedicated parking and Open Space allocation in the Local Plan.

9. Equality of opportunity implications

9.1 There are no specific equal opportunities implications associated with this report.

10. Alternative Options

10.1 The Council could continue to let the property for community use but this would produce a very low return compared to full market value.

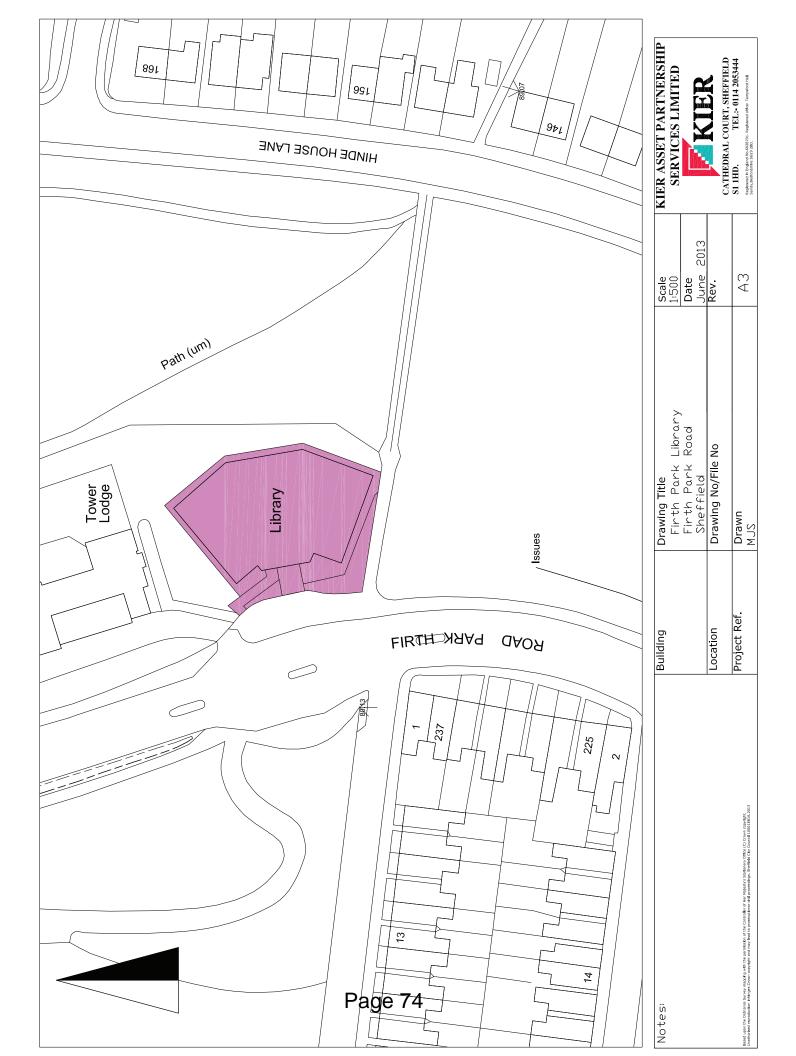
11. Reasons for recommendations

11.1 The sale of the property will result in the disposal of a surplus property asset for a capital receipt, the removal of an on-going maintenance liability and the purchaser intends to continue with its community use for the foreseeable future.

12. Recommendations

12.1 It is recommended that:

- All necessary action is taken in accordance with the powers given to the Council as Trustee under the provisions of Section 15(d) Trustee Act 1925.
- 2. As Trustee of the Firth Park at Sheffield, South Yorkshire Charity, to approve the sale of the former Firth Park Library in accordance with terms of this report and a Surveyor's Report obtained in connection with the sale of the property, in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. The receipt obtained from the sale is retained by the respective Trust.
- 3. The Director of Legal and Governance is authorised to prepare and complete all necessary documentation to conclude the sale in accordance with the agreed terms.
- 4 Notice under Section 121 of the Charities Act 2011 to be given in the local press to notify people within the beneficial area that the Charity Trustees intend to dispose of the freehold interest in Firth Park Library.



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNAIgenda Item 13



Cabinet Report

Report of:	Executive Director of Place
Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	18 September 2013
Subject:	Sheffield Waterways Strategy - Endorsement
Author of Report:	Simon Ogden – 273 4189

Summary:

This report seeks to gain endorsement for the Sheffield Waterways Strategy to promote the regeneration of the 150 miles of Waterways in Sheffield. The Strategy was drawn up on behalf of the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group, a body which draws together statutory organisations and many of the voluntary, not for profit groups with an interest in waterways across the City.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Whilst there are no direct funding implications it is envisaged that this endorsement of this Strategy will influence and strengthen a range of funding bids for flood defences, walking and cycling routes, waterside regeneration schemes, river restoration, green and open space investments etc

Recommendations:

That Cabinet :-

- a) welcomes the Waterways Strategy and thanks the members of the WS Group for their longstanding commitment and ongoing contribution and involvement
- b) approves the Strategy as a declaration of intent and a guide to partnership

- work which will be referenced as appropriate in future SCC statutory and regeneration plans
- c) authorises the Cabinet Member for Sustainability to sign the City of Rivers Partnership Agreement along with other partners
- d) endorses in principle the proposal for a biennial State of Sheffield's Rivers Conference, the first to take place in 2013-14

Background Papers:

Waterways Strategy Document Waterways Strategy Five Year Plan Spreadsheet

Category of Report: OPEN

If Closed add – 'Not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph... of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).'

^{*} Delete as appropriate

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by:
Legal Implications
NO Cleared by:
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
YES
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES
Economic impact
YES
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
No NO
Area(s) affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Cllr J Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

Report to Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The aim is to carry out flood modelling of the Porter Brook and River Sheaf in the City Centre, to ascertain how improved defences, river naturalisation and deculverting interventions on both rivers will impact on flood risk and development opportunity. This information will then form the basis of regeneration work on the Porter Brook and the River Sheaf.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

The study will provide flood risk data which will inform the regeneration of these two rivers in the City Centre, which will in turn benefit the people of Sheffield as it is proposed to improve public access to these rivers, as well as improving the existing levels of flood risk.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The benefits of the project will arise directly from the data produced by the hydrological flood modelling of the Porter Brook and Sheaf in a number of scenarios, including river bank modifications and naturalisation, deculverting, removal of concrete dry weather channels and naturalisation of the river bed, all of which are sustainable interventions.
- 3.2 This data will be used for regeneration work on and around both rivers, as well as helping owners and developers of land adjacent to the Porter and Sheaf by providing up to date flood risk information.

4.0 BACKGROUND TO THE FLOOD STUDY

4.1 The banks of the Lower Porter Brook between St Mary's Square and its confluence with the River Sheaf under the Midland Station have been intensively used by industry for 200 years or more. The river is entirely canalised along this route, and frequently runs through culverted sections, hidden from public view. Much of this length of River is neglected with the banks in a poor state and with no public access through many of the river bank developments and development sites. The River's constrained nature also adds to the flood risk of the area and restricts its potential as a habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.

There are now redevelopment proposals for a number of key sites along the Porter Brook and River Sheaf which give an opportunity to establish a more strategic and comprehensive approach to the treatment of the River and access to it. A strategy for the river, for which the Flood Study will form the basis, will ensure the Porter Brook becomes a publicly accessible, naturalised river, through the use of viewpoints and a riverside walkway with a much improved wildlife habitat and will also clarify the source and scale of flood risk to the area and provide mitigation through the removal

of culverting.

The new Comprehensive Flood Model for Sheffield has recently been completed by ARUP, but they are the first to concede that it does not cover this complex area of culverts and historic goyts in enough detail to inform any interventions.

It is now an opportune time, with considerable development and regeneration interest in the area, to carry out more focussed flood modelling of the Porter Brook and River Sheaf in the City Centre, to ascertain how improved defences, river naturalisation and deculverting work on both rivers will impact on flood risk and development opportunity. This information will then form the basis of flood protection work on the Porter Brook and the River Sheaf.

The study will specifically seek to map the unknown goyts and channels hidden beneath buildings in the Cultural Industries Quarter, and around the station, so that a more informed picture of existing flood risk can be gained for the benefit of regeneration and flood risk mitigation within this area. The study will also focus on the modelling of a series of interventions mentioned below, to ascertain how these might affect flood risk.

4.2 Case 1: Sheffield Station, Sheaf Square and Porter Brook Site

The site comprises the cleared sites of two former office blocks between the Porter Brook and Sheaf Square, the recently built public space in front of Sheffield's principle mainline station.

It is proposed to carry out a multi-functional reprofiling of this section of the Porter Brook to remove redundant and intrusive infrastructure (the EA's debris screens, lifting machinery, skip compound and sub-station), provide a new left bank flood defence to the 1/100 year level, re-naturalise the channel and left bank, and create a new public cycle-footway access to the Station linking to the proposed new Station Cycle Hub.

The Porter Brook at this site is very constrained with a straightened alignment and a predominantly concrete or paved bed incorporating a narrow dry-weather flow channel which leaves an impoverished and unsympathetic river environment in sharp contrast to the upper reaches of the same river which is the principle feature of the Porter Valley river parkway.

Following the clearance of buildings which once lined it the left bank is essentially undefended at this point and the current Flood model for the Porter shows it flooding to a depth of 1.8m in the 1/100 year plus Climate Change event. Flooding would seriously affect both the development sites and also the operation of and access to the Station. The site has now passed into the sole ownership of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

This model will shortly be updated by the new comprehensive hydrological model being finalised by ARUP for the EA and SCC. Information already seen from that study by SCC shows that there is a complex relationship between the Sheaf and Porter flood plains in this area which is exacerbated by the extensive culverting

particularly of the Sheaf downstream of Granville Sq. This needs to be properly understood to evaluate the various opportunities for deculverting, flood defence and other benefits.

At the downstream end of the site the Porter goes into a culvert under the Station where it joins the Sheaf. At this point there is a disused Environment Agency screening gantry and skip compound which partly blocks access and is an eyesore. Next to it is an electricity sub-station which now only supplies power to this gantry. The substation extends out into the station access road and causes a major bottleneck for taxis and others wishing to drop and pick up. The screen is now to be removed by the EA, allowing the substation to be decommissioned.

The Lower Porter Brook from where it passes under the Inner Ring Road to the Station culvert is now the subject of a co-ordinated strategic approach by the City Council and its partners including the Homes and Communities Agency, Network Rail, Environment Agency and Friends of the Lower Porter to deliver a continuous public river walkway, improved flood defence and linked open spaces with improved river and habitat quality. This builds on policy commitments in the Development Framework Core Strategy, the approved City Centre Master Plan and Sheffield Waterways Strategy.

Case 2: River Sheaf De-culverting at confluence with River Don

The River Sheaf joins the Don at Castlegate close to the historic site of Sheffield Castle and the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Sheaf-field.

Virtually the whole of the Sheaf within the City Centre, approximately one kilometre in length, is currently culverted and invisible. It flows under the Railway Station and Ponds Forge Sports Centre as well as new offices and car parks at The Square. None of these sections are likely to be available for major de-culverting for many years, if at all, although there may be opportunities for daylighting short sections.

However a significant opportunity exists at the confluence with the Don where the culvert lies under the former SYPTE building now in the ownership of the Council. The planned relocation of the Castle Markets to a new site will allow clearance of the market site and its redevelopment alongside the site of the former SYPTE building. This clearance could include removal of the culvert slab and the deculverting and reprofiling of a significant section of river including a weir.

Other potential interventions which the study will evaluate include the reprofiling of the Porter and local deculverting between St Mary's Road and Shoreham Street, and the creation of drainage/light shafts between Granville Square and the Station on the Sheaf.

4.3 Financial Implications

The Study will be funded by £50,000 from the Environment Agency's Local Levy Programme. This money is available for the 2013/2014 financial year only. It is intended to procure the work using the YORConsult programme to ensure that, if required in the near future, the funding can be used as match.

The funding from the EA is given with specific terms and conditions that must be met regarding procurement and delivery. These are as follows:

- Grant could be withheld for failure to complete the project.
- Work must be undertaken in accordance with the bid.
- All publicity about the project should contain reference to the funding.
- Variations to the project of over £100k must be reported.
- Work in Progress reports and estimates of grant claims could be requested by the Environment Agency.
- Final accounts for the project must be returned. Any procurement should comply with EU regulation.
- Although there are numerous conditions, there is little reference to the potential for clawback, other than saying than grant may be withheld for noncompliance

We are using YORConsult (already OJEU compliant) in order to comply with their requirements and we are confident that the project has sufficient time to be carried out and finished by the end of March 2014. The contract will be for a fixed price

A signed Environment Agency funding offer has now been received.

The Study is planned to be procured in early August 2013, so that there is sufficient time for a Consultant to carry out the work and present their findings well within this financial year. The project is ready to go to tender as soon as we have the necessary approvals.

4.4 Objectives

Sheffield Station, Sheaf Sq, River Sheaf and Porter Brook

- Assess current flood risk on the Porter Brook, associated with blockages and potential deterioration, and the potential advantages and reduction of flood risk that opening up and/or reprofiling will present. As part of the study, the Consultant will survey and map the un-modelled hidden goyts and channels beneath existing buildings in the area, which will inform and update current flood risk information and will provide a more accurate picture of flood risk in the City Centre. Provision of up to date flood risk data will inform future regeneration and flood mitigation efforts in the area.
- New data from the results of the Flood Study will inform the future reprofiling and re-naturalisation of the Porter Brook. This will serve as a very prominent and publicly accessible demonstration of multi-functional improvement to a watercourse with Flood Protection, Regeneration, Transport and Water Framework Directive outputs.
- Provision of up to date flood risk data for the Porter Brook in the City Centre, which will assist owners of stalled development sites alongside the Porter.

4 The study will model a series of interventions on the Porter Brook, including deculverting and naturalisation which will affect flood risk in the area. The final report will provide new flood risk data to support these changes.

River Sheaf De-culverting at confluence with River Don

- Assess current flood risks on the River Sheaf, associated with blockages and potential deterioration, of the current culverted sections and the potential advantages and reduction of flood risk that opening up and/or reprofiling will present.
- The culvert includes a historic weir which, with the culvert roof at this point, forms a significant pinch-point in high water conditions as demonstrated by the hydrological modelling for the Sheaf. Removal or passage of this weir and the effects on flood risk will be evaluated.
- Removal of a significant pinch-point in the channel between the weir and the culvert soffit at Castle Market which currently can lead to backing up in flood conditions and impacts on key transport and business sites in the Lower Sheaf Valley including the Railway Station, Bus Station and Park Square junction.
- 4 Improved bankside and channel habitat for fish, birds and aquatic vegetation at this key entry point from the Don, leading particularly to improved fish migration up the Sheaf. Possible limited daylighting at other points on the culverts.
- The flood risk data gathered during the Study will assist the wider regeneration of the Castlegate and the Cultural Industries Quarter, and Sheffield's main City Centre concentration of waterways.
- With the removal of the screens and substation, the creation of a new cycle-footway along the Porter between Shoreham St and the Station will considerably improve cycle access in particular and will connect with the proposed new Cycle Hub facility, which is planned to be located in the main station buildings on Platform 1 almost directly opposite.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 **De Minimis Option**

A 'Do Nothing' option would be to allow redevelopment of the various riverside sites in the study area to go ahead without any proactive measures to provide flood defence or improvement of the waterways (probably quite limited uses), or to leave any such measures to a piecemeal site by site approach.

This would mean that an integrated cycleway/pedestrian walkway would not be created between the Station Cycle hub and the ring road/Staples as the Study provides the basic hydrological data for improving the Porter Brook around the Station and through the CIQ. The provision of a cycleway/walkway would be a priority for the regeneration of this river and sites alongside it.

It would also mean that new open space and cycleway/walkway adjacent to the University Technical College, alongside the Porter Brook at Sidney Street, would not be created, as provision of flood risk data is essential to kick-starting this proposed project.

It would also mean that existing stalled development sites in the Cultural Industries Quarter, on the banks of the Porter Brook, would remain undeveloped, as the Flood Study would be providing new data and proposals for improving flood risk of this river. This new information will assist developers making decisions about their stalled sites in this area. Without this information, these development sites will remain derelict and neglected.

The current offer of £50,000 funding from the Environment Agency's Local Levy Programme for the Study would be withdrawn, and would be diverted to other priority projects in the Region.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The study will provide detailed flood risk data for the Porter Brook and River Sheaf as well as data relating to proposed interventions which will naturalise and improve the appearance of these rivers, through deculverting and reprofiling the river banks, as well as improving public access and some open space provision.

In addition, the study is essential as it will provide detailed flood risk information for important riverside regeneration sites, such as the Castle Market site, and the regeneration of sites adjacent to the Porter Brook between the Station and the ring road/Mary Street.

The Study will be fully funded by the Environment Agency's Local Levy Programme 2013/2014.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That authority is given for the Porter Brook and River Sheaf Flood Study to proceed using the YORConsult framework to procure the contractor.

SCC accepts accountable body status for the funding under the terms and conditions as identified in the funding agreement from the Environment Agency.

Author: J Stratford

Job Title: Development Officer

Date: 12 July 2013

Report of the Director of Regeneration & Development

Sheffield Waterways Strategy - Endorsement

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Sheffield Waterways Strategy for approval by the Council's Cabinet as a vision for the future and a basis for partnership.

2.0 Background

The Strategy was commissioned by the Sheffield First For Environment Board (SFFEB), a subsidiary of the former Strategic Partnership Sheffield First. The Board delegated this responsibility to the Waterways Strategy Group (WSG), a body which draws together many of the voluntary, not for profit and community groups with an interest in water across the City. These include the Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Groundwork, South Yorkshire Forest, Five Weirs Trust, Upper Don Walk Trust, Canal & Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Water, Trout in the Town as well as the University of Sheffield (Civil Engineering), Environment Agency and the City Council.

An initial report focusing primarily on background information and historical context was prepared by Yellow Book Consultants Following the lead consultant being incapacitated by longterm ill health the Strategy was then completed by members of the Group, with support from University of Sheffield.

Although the parent body SFFEB is currently not meeting the WSG continues to be very active and is keen to play its part in implementing the Strategy as are key partners such as The Environment Agency, Canals and Rivers Trust, Groundwork and Sheffield Wildlife Trust.

3.0 What this Means for Sheffield People

Our rivers are one of the features which make Sheffield distinctive and are associated with some of its most attractive places. But they have also frequently been neglected in the past in the interests of industry or economy and much remains to be done. Rivers have improved dramatically in the south and west of the city, becoming a major factor in wellbing and quality of life, but much less so in the north and east, reflecting many other social and economic indicators.

Climate change and increased flood risks mean that rivers can also be a threat to safety if they are not properly maintained.

So now it makes sense for the economy, environment and community to have well managed, accessible and healthy waterways everywhere in the city. The Strategy puts forward the arguments for why this is so and offers a variety of ways for partners and the people of the city to support and get involved in the further regeneration process.

4. 0 The Strategy

Sheffield has over 150 miles of waterways. They have shaped its landscape, character,

economy yet their visibility and quality vary widely. In the south and west of the city they run through well-loved river parkways such as Endcliffe, Millhouses or Rivelin Valley but as they approach the City Centre and in the north and east they are still too frequently hidden, culverted or neglected although recently this has begun to change.

The Strategy offers examples of good practice from across the UK, Europe and Canada.

It also highlights many examples of excellent practice in the restoration, opening up and regeneration of waterways in Sheffield but points out that these standards have not always been consistently applied, hence the need for a more comprehensive and explicit approach.

The strategy outlines why this has happened and what the people of Sheffield will gain by a more concerted and holistic approach. It highlights the changes in the economy, environment, climate and settlement patterns which make such an approach particularly important at this time.

The strategy complements similar documents prepared in Rotherham and other parts of the Don Catchment.

The strategy identifies eight broad areas of benefit:

- I) People the city is noted for its history of pro-active environmental voluntary sector groups and the strategy emphasises the importance of involving and working with active citizens to achieve its objectives
- ii) Economy attractive waterways can make a key contribution to making Sheffield a distinctive and compelling place for business to develop and invest and people to visit, particularly in the City Centre and local centres
- iii) Climate Change Adaptation it is now essential that we manage the extreme weather patterns so we need well-maintained rivers and streams which can accommodate both flood and drought and are linked to more sustainable drainage systems, upstream water storage and well-managed uplands. Where appropriate harnessing water power for energy
- iv) Promoting Sheffield the City of Rivers message should complement the image of the city as one of Europe's most green and corrects outdated impressions of industrial grime and dereliction
- v) Heritage, History and Culture our rivers can tell the story of the city's development, its special industrial heritage and its unique urban forms. These can be highlighted through education, conservation, celebration and events
- vi) Access we need to complete the already extensive network of waterside walks, parks and public spaces providing both healthy and sustainable travel routes and recreational amenity in an increasingly densely populated city
- vii) Stewardship to grow and encourage the better care and management of waterways, in the first place in partnership with riparian owners, with communities and

where appropriate with users and volunteers, including the innovative River Stewardship Company model developed by the Waterway Strategy Group

viii) Wildlife and Natural Habitats – to enhance and protect waterways as continuous green wildlife corridors and reserves, improving bird and mammal habitats and fish passage

Together these contribute in particular to the Strategic Outcomes of Competitive City, Great Place to Live and Sustainable City

5.0 Implementation

The Strategy sets out a Five Year Action Plan with 52 individual actions each with a lead agency and partners mainly drawn from the WSG Membership (see Appendix 1). Of these actions ten are already completed, 16 are under way and 20 are in preparation. Only 6 have yet to be commenced.

In order to promote the Action Plan and the wider Strategic recommendations the WSG proposes the following:

- a) Public sign-up of all WSG Partners to the City of Rivers Partnership Agreement
- b) Inclusion of the WSG as a reference point in future regeneration master plans and statutory Local Plans
- c) Support for a biennial 'State of Sheffield's Rivers' conference for partners and citizens to measure progress against the strategy and to consider new projects and initiatives
- d) to review membership of WSG to ensure maximum involvement of local groups and agencies

6.0 Consultation

The consultants carried out extensive interviews with a wide range of stakeholders in preparing the initial strategy. This was subsequently reviewed and updated by the Waterway Strategy Group who have particularly developed the Action Plan. The draft strategy was launched for public comment and feedback at the Down by the Riverside Event at Kelham Island/Nursery St in September 2012 and was further modified following that process.

7.0 Financial Implications

There are no specific new financial implications of the Waterways Strategy although it is fully expected that it will influence and strengthen a range of funding bids for flood defences, walking and cycling routes, waterside regeneration schemes, river restoration, green and open space investments etc. Working in partnership in this strategic way will help draw in additional resources to the city, including invaluable contributions from the Council's partners.

8.0 Sustainability

The Strategy is based firmly on principles of sustainability both in the broad sense of environmental sustainability based on low carbon travel and energy and in the narrower sense of building in sound management and partnership to ensure proposals are viable longterm.

9.0 Equality

The Strategy promotes equal access to waterways for all ages, genders and ethnic groups

and those with limited mobility, sight or hearing.

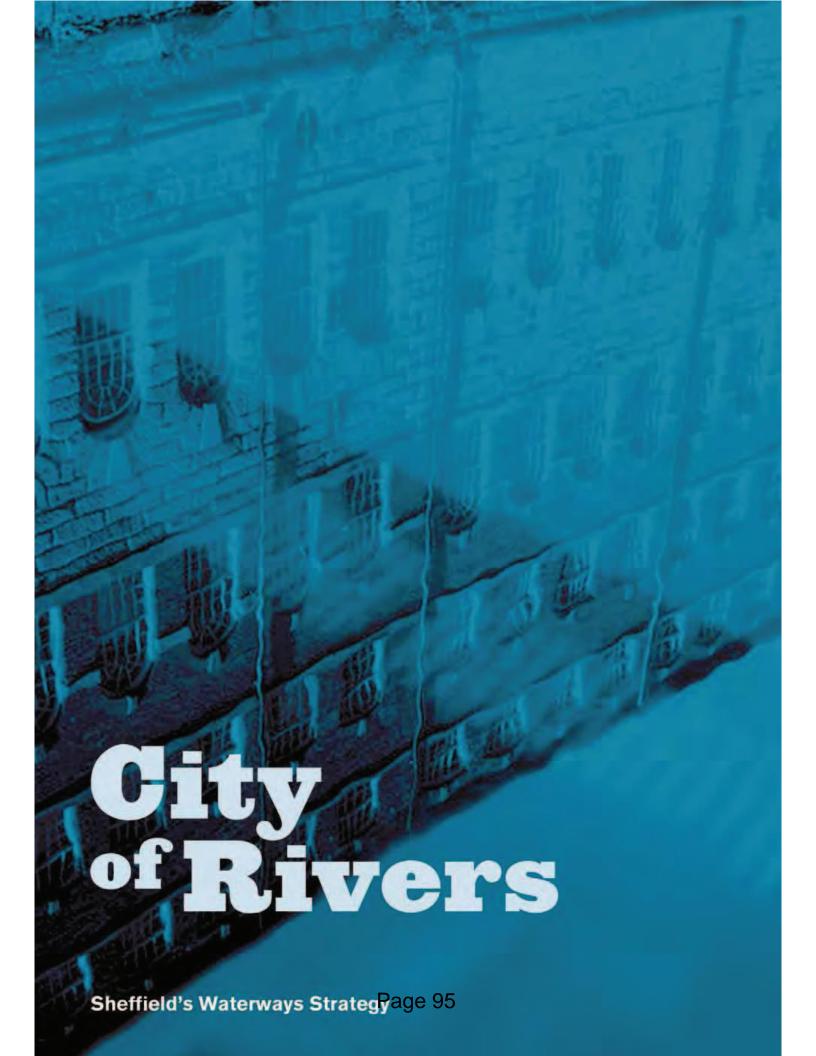
10.0 Communications

The Strategy will be of general public interest and will be the subject of a press release, possibly followed by a press event linked to the signing of the Partnership Agreement.

11.0 Recommendations

The Cabinet

- a) welcomes the Waterways Strategy and thanks the members of the WS Group for their longstanding commitment and ongoing contribution and involvement
- b) approves the Strategy as a declaration of intent and a guide to partnership work which will be referenced as appropriate in future SCC statutory and regeneration plans
- c) authorises the Cabinet Member for Sustainability to sign the City of Rivers Partnership Agreement along with other partners
- d) endorses in principle the proposal for a biennial State of Sheffield's Rivers Conference, the first to take place in 2013-14



SHEFFIELD WATERWAYS STRATEGY

This document has been prepared by Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group.

The Group was formed in 2003 at the request of the former Sheffield First for Environment Partnership, which was part of the Local Strategic Partnership, Sheffield First.

Waterways Strategy Group is a partnership between voluntary sector groups and statutory organisations, all of whom have an active role in the care and regeneration of Sheffield's various rivers, waterways and other water bodies.

The aim of the group is to promote co-ordinated regeneration of our waterways.

Members include Sheffield City Council (Planning Service, Housing, Enterprise & Regeneration and Culture & Environment Service), the Environment Agency, Groundwork Sheffield, Sheffield Wildlife Trust, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, University of Sheffield, the Five Weirs Walk Trust, the Upper Don Walk Trust, Canal and River Trust (formerly British Waterways), Yorkshire Water and a number of other local environmental and amenity groups. The Strategy Group is always open to new members.

Initial work on preparation of the strategy was carried out by John Lord (Yellow Book Ltd). Parts of his work have been incorporated into this document and his contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

The strategy has been edited by Tom Wild (South Yorkshire Forest Partnership), Keith Missen (formerly Sheffield City Council) and John Lord (Yellow Book Ltd).

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The development of this strategy would not be possible without the input of the wider stakeholder group. We are grateful to all those who agreed to be consulted, took part in events and helped to review the draft strategy.

Disclaime

This document has been prepared solely as guidance for those involved in strategic development within Sheffield and the wider South Yorkshire sub-region. Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group accepts no responsibility or liability and shall not be liable for or in connection with any use that is made of this document (whether by a third party or otherwise) other than the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared. We make every attempt to ensure that carbon emissions from our activities are offset through our annual programme of tree planting.

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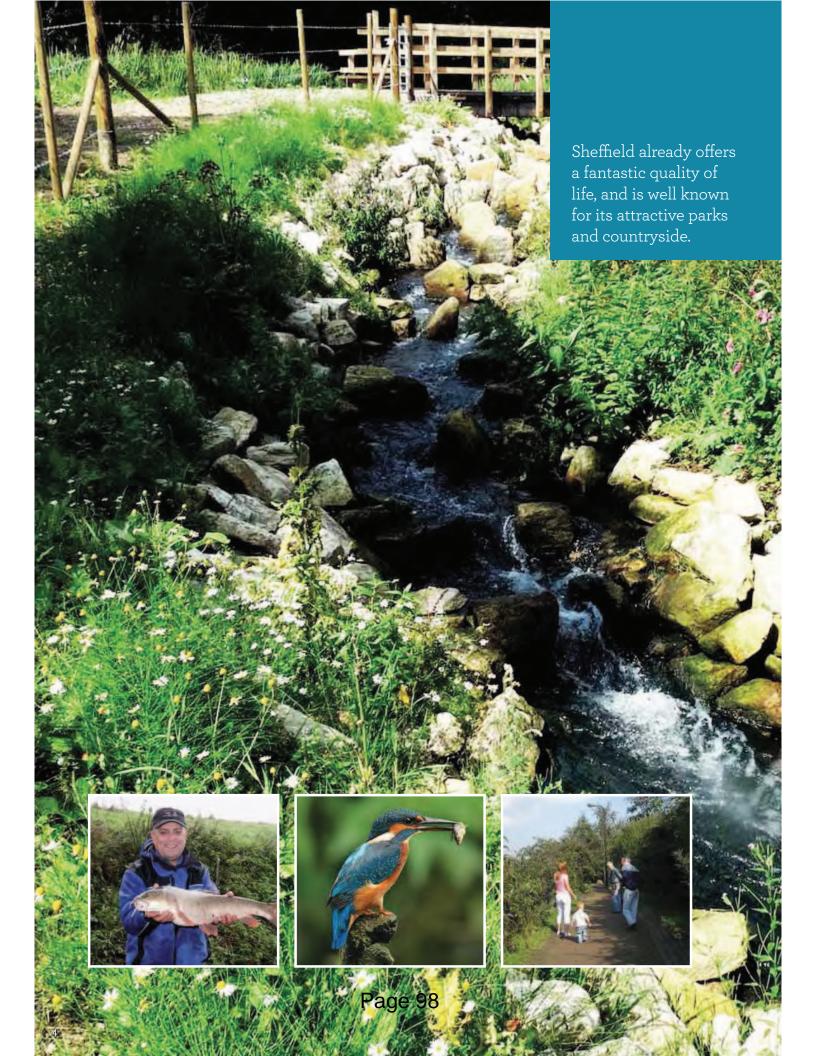






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1

WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY FOR SHEFFIELD'S WATERWAYS?

Sheffield is a city made by its rivers.

We have more than 150 miles of rivers and streams; they made the city that we know today, creating our hill and valley landscape with its intimate human scale, they shaped the pattern of settlement and community and they enabled the growth of world leading industry. Rivers have had a profound effect on the character and personality of Sheffield and in large part are responsible for our unique sense of place. In short, waterways and their valleys are the defining features of the city, they have a central role in telling the Sheffield story; they are what made Sheffield - 'Sheffield.'

Although we owe so much to the rivers, we have until recently turned our back on them and years of use and abuse have broken the intimate connection between the city, working life and its waterways.

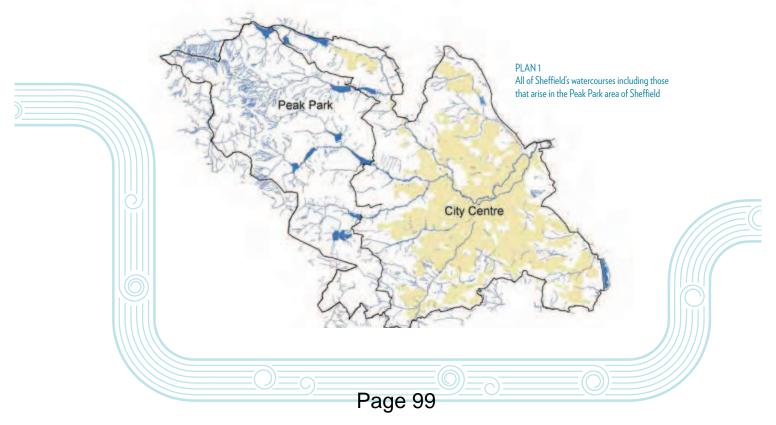
From the early twentieth century and particularly in recent decades, there has fortunately been a change for the better. Water quality has been improved and a great deal of regeneration work has taken place. However, there is no doubt that much more can be achieved and now is an ideal time for the city to re-engage with this major asset.

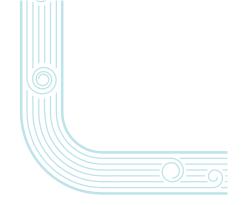
The central argument of this strategy is that there are three

big prizes that can be won by successful river regeneration.

Sheffield's rivers can play a major part in:

- Making Sheffield a thriving place and competitive city
- Helping us adapt to climate change
- · Improving quality of life





A Thriving and Competitive City

Competitive places are those that offer not only economic opportunity but also an outstanding quality of life.¹ Having the right business location is important but not enough and focus needs to be centred on character, identity, diversity and richness of experience; not just shopping centres, leisure centres and short-lived visitor attractions which can be found in every town and city.

Sheffield's rich heritage of rivers provides us with essential ingredients for a winning place offering a great opportunity to help develop a signature as a unique, distinctive and successful European city.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Climate change has been called "the greatest emerging humanitarian challenge of our time" and the river system is where the effects are likely to be felt first. We are increasingly likely to suffer flooding, our city will become hotter and many of our best wildlife habitats will be threatened.

Before the city was here, rivers swept down from the hills and dissipated their energy naturally in the reed beds and willows of the Lower Don Valley. Since those times, so much human intervention has taken place that we can never return the rivers to anything like a fully naturalised state but there is still much we can do to help protect against the changes that we know are coming.

Some locations do however offer scope for re-naturalisation and there are areas suitable for creating new washlands to absorb floods.

Deculverting is possible in places and there are also opportunities to nurture new resilient habitats for threatened wildlife. Taken as a whole our rivers and their corridors offer a great opportunity for the creation of a new 'green infrastructure' network.3

A further element of our response to climate change must be to adopt more environmentally friendly building types and our urban riversides offer good locations for redevelopment, particularly where climate change resilience measures such as sustainable drainage, living roofs and biodiversity enhancing features are incorporated.

Heart of the city: the Peace Gardens modelled on Sheffield's five main rivers.



- 1. Making Places Profitable (2007). Proceedings of the First Tanagool 1000nce on Creating a Setting for Investment, Sheffield, 2007. South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, Sheffield.
- 2. Kofi Annan, in Global Humanitarian Forum (2009), 'The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis'.

Quality of Life

Sheffield's green and open spaces are places for everyone to use and enjoy. They are also places that improve our environment and quality of life. Our rivers provide one of the strongest links that enable people to connect with these spaces. With sensitive development and the engagement of local people, they can add value to quality of life in many ways, including better health, leisure and recreation opportunities, sporting activities, social engagement and perhaps most importantly, stronger and more prosperous communities.



Endcliffe Park, one of Sheffield's finest riverside parks

^{3. &#}x27;Green infrastructure' is defined as "a network of multi-furctiang enland both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities." (Planning Policy Statement 12, 2010).



This strategy proposes a 10-year vision (2012-2022) for Sheffield's waterways and introduces an action plan for the coming 5-year period (2012-2017). It builds on existing achievements and ongoing activities, and it supports new work where action is needed. There are immediate initiatives to address urgent problems and more strategic initiatives to tackle longer-term and intractable issues.

It is not a strategy that relates solely to environment, the Waterways Strategy Group is firmly of the opinion that there are benefits to all aspects of life in the city. It is however primarily concerned with river corridors and not so much with wider catchment management issues. The strategy is not intended to be the nuts and bolts of how to fix everything that needs doing, its purpose is to:

- Open people's minds to the possibilities
- Engage and influence those who have the ability to make things happen
- Coordinate existing river regeneration activities and avoid duplication
- Help secure resources both financial and practical for collaborative work

- Propose an initial set of actions to be delivered in partnership.
- Provide the links with other initiatives

There is great synergy with the recently published Green and Open Space Strategy and whilst there are inevitably some areas of overlap, there are also benefits in dealing with waterways separately. Not only do waterways have a distinct policy agenda and different statutory stakeholders but riparian (riverside land) ownership presents challenges which are specific to waterways. So much needs to be done across the two areas of river regeneration and green space regeneration that there are also benefits in breaking the work down into two more manageable parts. Clearly, careful coordination is required and it is useful to consider waterways regeneration and green space regeneration as being united under the wider aims of green infrastructure development.

Good progress has already been achieved in regenerating our rivers to the benefit of communities, businesses and nature but much of this work remains largely unknown and there is much more still to be done.

Attitudes have begun to change, many people are awakening to the potentials of our waterways and major improvements in water quality mean that now is a perfect time for the city to begin the process of reconnecting with its rivers. There are indeed dangers in delay, we have already lost significant parts of our river related cultural heritage and a part of what remains is under threat. Climate change is also threatening our riverside communities with increased flooding and threatening some of our richest wildlife areas with habitat disruption.

Many parts of our waterways remain unappealing, but could be wonderful. Improvements in water quality, new riverside walkways and riverfront redevelopments mean that our rivers are now again becoming one of our greatest assets.

Realising the many opportunities will take a great deal of hard work, investment, and above all the engagement of many different people working together. Partnership is essential because the rivers are not the responsibility of any single agency.

Sheffield already offers a fantastic quality of life and is well known for its attractive parks and countryside. With careful management and wise decisions, our networks of rivers and associated green spaces can contribute more to the life of the city, creating an attractive landscape and helping us to adapt to climate change.

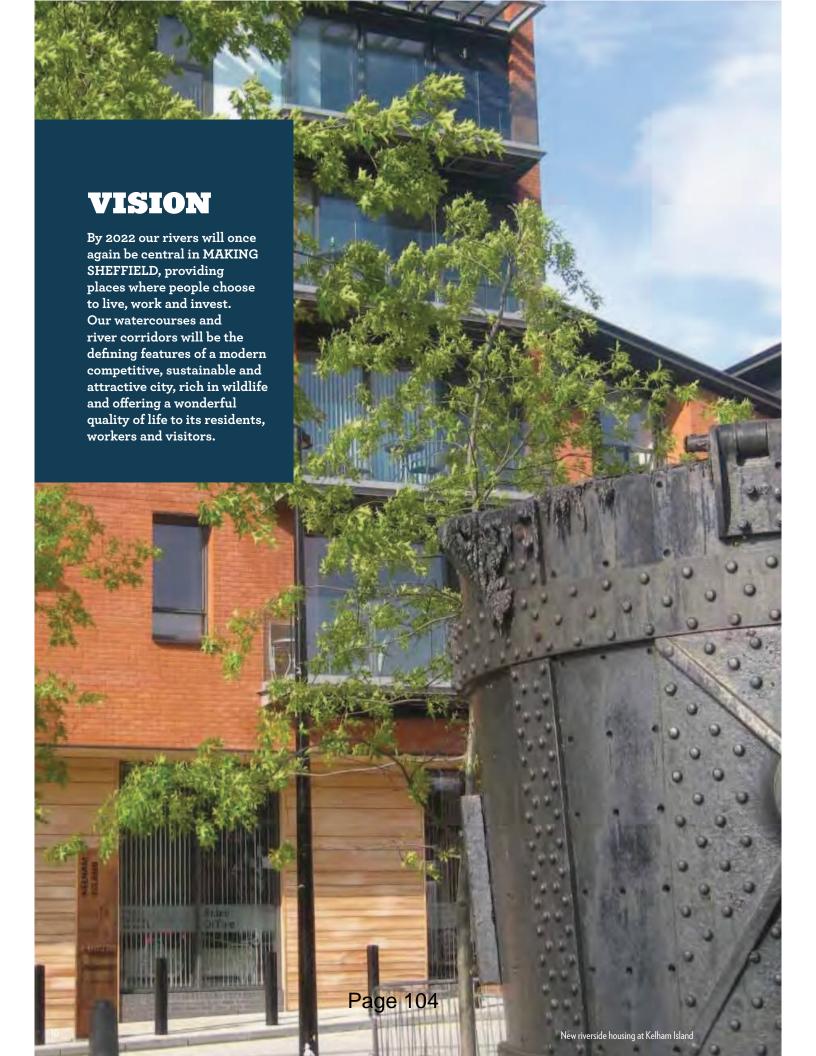
Sheffield is now ready to reconnect with all of its rivers, offering an invaluable opportunity to help this significant European city become what it deserves to be: successful, distinctive and competitive.

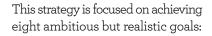


Victoria Quays



Photo Credit: Tom Wild





3.1 People

To place people at the heart of Sheffield's efforts to promote waterways regeneration in ways which are open, inclusive and democratic. We want to help Sheffield regenerate its rivers, and let rivers help regenerate Sheffield.

3.2 Economic Opportunity

To help our city rediscover the economic opportunity of its wealth of waterways. We will help deliver attractive riverside landscapes and high quality riverfront buildings to stimulate investment and opportunities for business.

3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

To adapt to climate change and manage flood risks more sustainably by restoring the natural water cycle as far as practicable, ensuring the use of sustainable drainage systems, promoting low carbon options for travel and development along river corridors and delivering robust yet sensitive approaches at the scale of the entire river catchment.

3.4 Promoting Sheffield and its Waterways

To make Sheffield well known as a city of rivers and show how waterways are a central part of what makes Sheffield. We will promote our shared vision of Sheffield as an attractive, sustainable and competitive city whose defining features are its waterways.

3.5 Heritage, Culture and History

To use our rivers and canals to help celebrate the heritage, culture and rich history of our city. In order to do this we will provide educational opportunities, seek new resources for conservation and promote the careful retention and reuse of Sheffield's culture and industrial heritage. Sheffield's waterways will become a focus for an exciting series of celebrations, festivals and cultural events.

3.6 Access

To secure access along Sheffield's waterways as part of a city-wide network of riverside parkways providing pedestrian and cycle paths that link safe, attractive and natural green spaces.

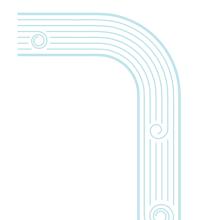
3.7 Stewardship

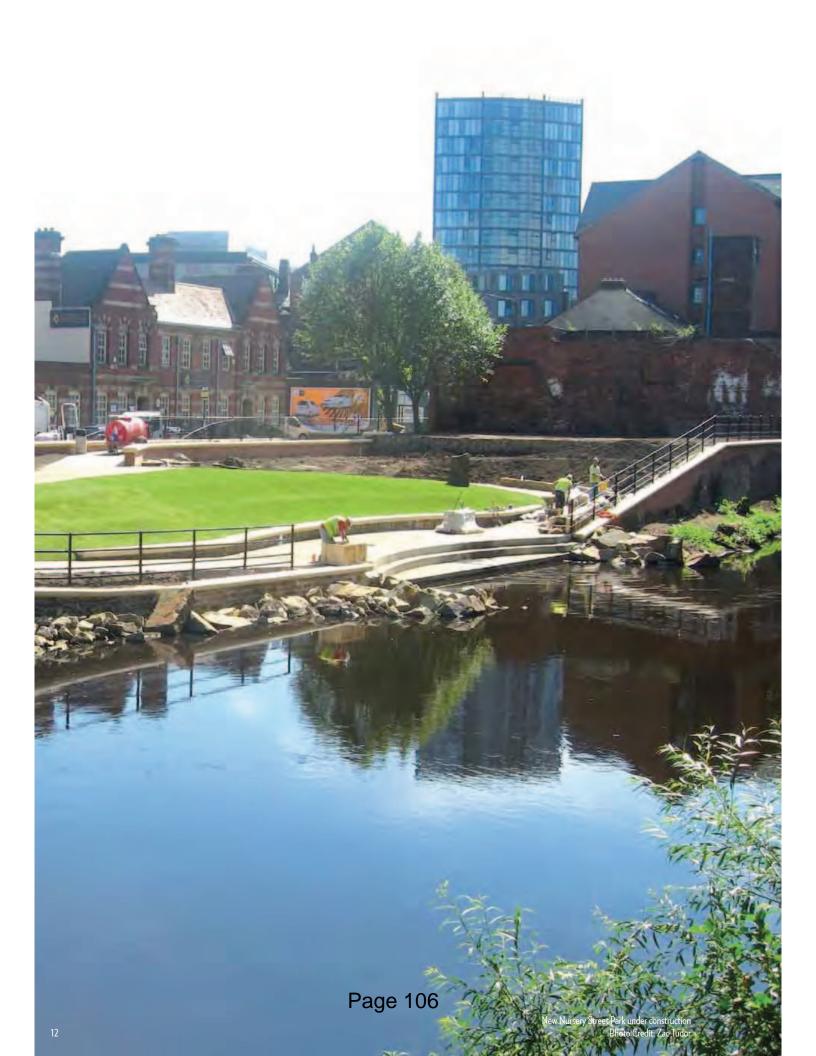
To care for our waterways; by promoting river stewardship in order to provide clean, safe and attractive environments, encouraging riparian owner responsibility, involvement, regular and sensitive channel maintenance and helping people to enjoy these unique places.

3.8 Wildlife and Natural Environments

To protect and enhance habitats for wildlife right into the heart of the city, ensuring biodiversity, helping people to access nature and contributing to Sheffield's reputation as the greenest city in England.









The Opportunity

Because of changes in land use patterns, water quality improvements and changing attitudes, we now have the once in a lifetime opportunity to begin reshaping our urban riversides and canal waterfronts, mending the relationship between the city and its waterways. We have the chance

to reclaim our rivers, improve their quality and at the same time use them to help deliver sustainable regeneration for the benefit of Sheffield's citizens of today and tomorrow.

This opportunity is partly due to evolving requirements for different types of building in the city centre, as a result of global economic forces. It is vital that we make good decisions now about how to treat our waterfronts because future generations will live with the legacy of these choices. It is also vital that we act now to respond to the impacts of climate change, for instance by taking more sustainable approaches to managing risk to life and property from flooding.



"On the Waterfront" festival at Victoria Quays



The Don as it used to be in Attercliffe



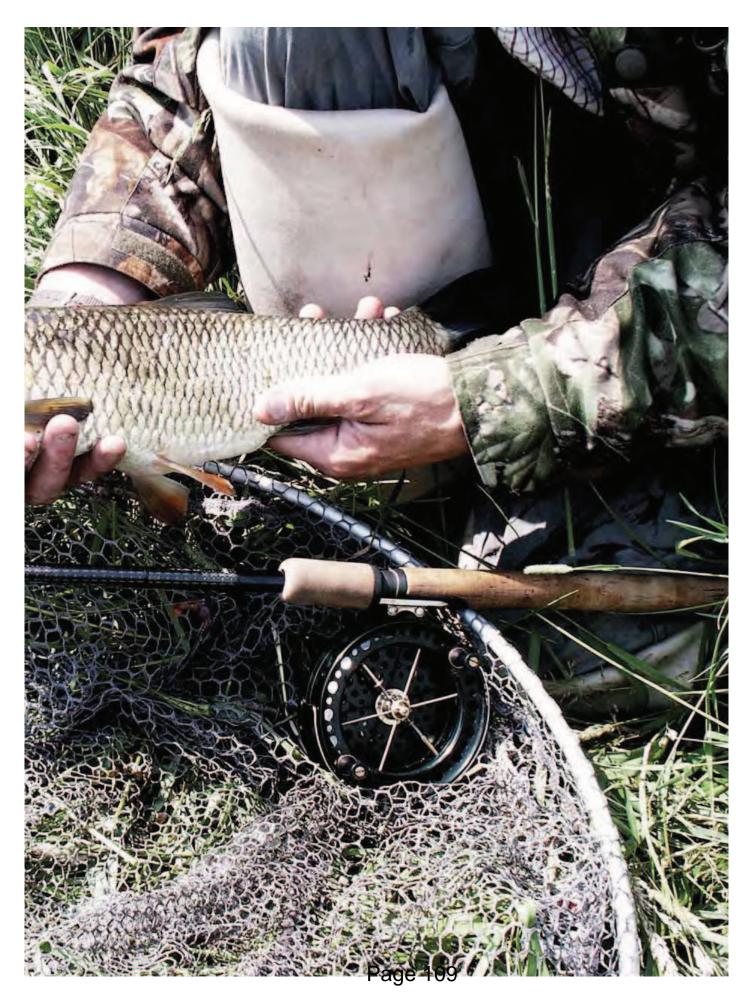
Dramatically changed, this is the same part of the river today

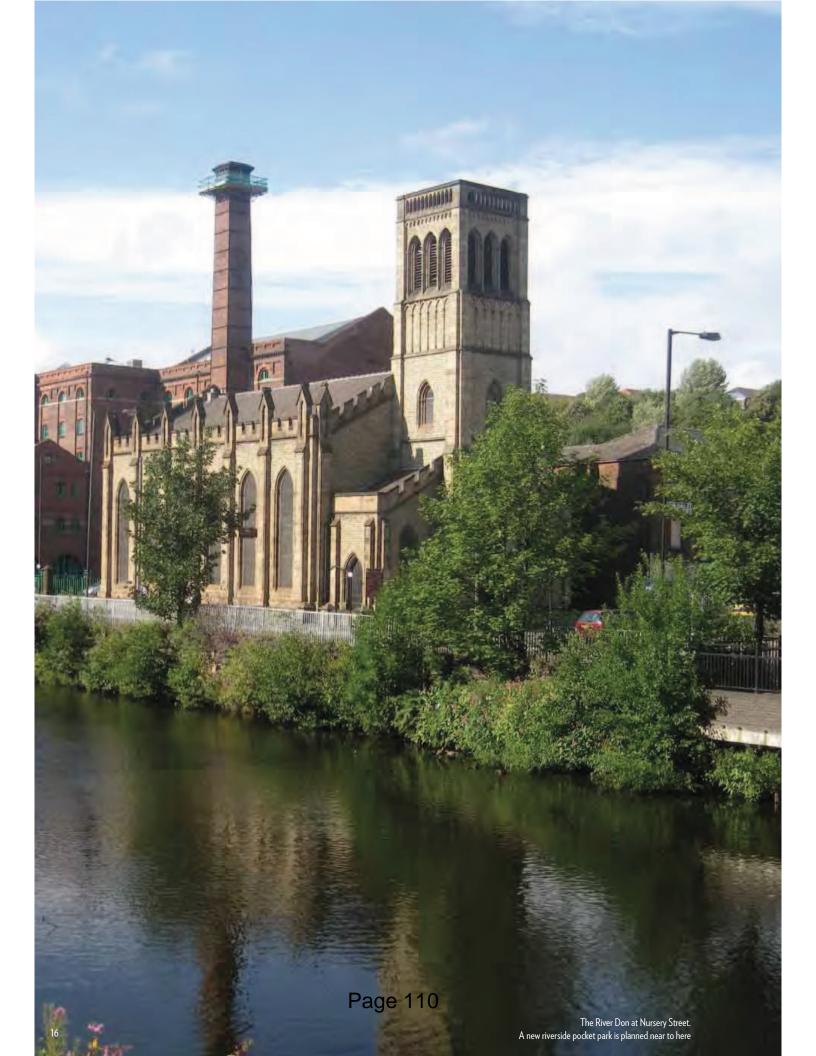
With the involvement and support of the right people, we believe the rivers can help the city, and the city can help the rivers. We want Sheffield's waterways to be beautiful, well loved and well known, contributing to a high quality of life for citizens and helping the city to adapt to the effects of climate change.

In places, waterways in Sheffield are currently well looked after and beautiful, known about and loved by some, and quietly contributing to cooling the city. Some rivers stretches to the West and in the city centre demonstrate the good things that might be possible elsewhere and we already have some great examples of what can be achieved with strong community involvement. In other places however, the waterways are still unknown to many, a source of unhappiness for others due to flooding and rubbish on the banks, and vulnerable to neglect and harm through patchy maintenance and indifferent development or management.



Canal Basin at Victoria Quays





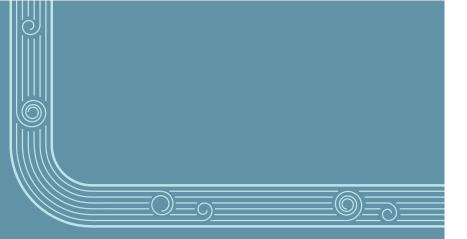
Part of our vision is to make better use of what we already have. This means looking after our waterways and taking better care of riverside communities. We can achieve this by building on the progress made in establishing initiatives such as the River Stewardship Company, to deliver long-lasting changes in the ways we manage our waterways. We can also create new places to live, work and play, across the entire system of waterways, by delivering carefully targeted environmental improvements and public space enhancements that will act as a catalyst for investment. We have done it before in the city centre through the Heart of the City programme and by exploiting our watery assets we can do it again.

We think that in Sheffield's heart, there is a golden opportunity to create lively and attractive new riverfront areas right in the city centre. The bigger vision is for this new 'oasis' to become the centrepiece of a network of riverside parkways; wildlife rich green corridors that can both link up our beautiful nature reserves and act as routes for sustainable travel. In this way a new open space in the city centre can become the 'jewel in the crown.' This is in keeping with Sheffield's Corporate Plan, its Economic Masterplan and the City Centre Masterplan and at the same time provides a framework for Sheffield to build on its reputation as the England's Greenest City.

Taking the opportunity for regeneration along Sheffield's waterways will strengthen the identity and appeal of its urban quarters and suburban centres. This network of riverside parkways can also help showcase Sheffield's rich cultural and industrial heritage. By working together with existing and new partners, we believe we can create culturally exciting, vibrant and attractive waterway locations.

Our opportunity is to help Sheffield's rivers help make Sheffield.





CASE STUDY: AARHUS, DENMARK DE-CULVERTING AND WATERFRONT ECONOMY

Aarhus expanded rapidly in the 1930's and to cater for traffic, much of the town's main river was buried below concrete to enable the building of a new road. Changed priorities in the 1990s removed traffic and to break out the river. There was an almost immediate transformation to the economy and character of the area with the development of a lively waterfront and an increase in value of residential properties

by up to 40%. The success of the scheme has led to recognition that "blue infrastructure" is a driver for economic development and there are now further projects in progress to de-culvert more of the river areas in the city. More widely in Denmark, 'blue infrastructure' is being used as an integral especially to help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Lessons for Sheffield

Nearly all of the city centre stretches of the Porter and Sheaf are hidden or buried underground. Not all can be brought to daylight again but the opening up of as much as possible could help transform the character and economy of this part of Sheffield as well as adding vibrancy to the overall to the image of the city.

















Waterways are, in short, the defining features of the city. They gave rise to the hill and valley landscape which gives the city such a human scale, the growth of world leading industry and a unique pattern of settlement and communities. Waterways therefore have a central role in telling the city's story; they are what make Sheffield – 'Sheffield.'

Nevertheless, many Sheffielders and visitors are largely unaware of how many rivers and other water bodies we have and of the part that they have played in developing the shape, the heritage and the culture of the city that we know today.

In recent times, we haven't used the rivers well, we have largely ignored what they have to offer and in many cases destroyed much that would now be valuable. There are however, still many good things about the rivers that we can build on to develop the Sheffield story.

We have over 150 miles of flowing watercourses in five main valleys that converge in the city centre, our rivers link communities; nowhere in Sheffield is far from a river.

PLAN 2
Flowing down from the Pennines, our rivers have carved out a hill and valley landscape which gives Sheffield a much more intimate scale than most other cities.
Attribution: © Infoterra & Bluesky, © 2010 Google



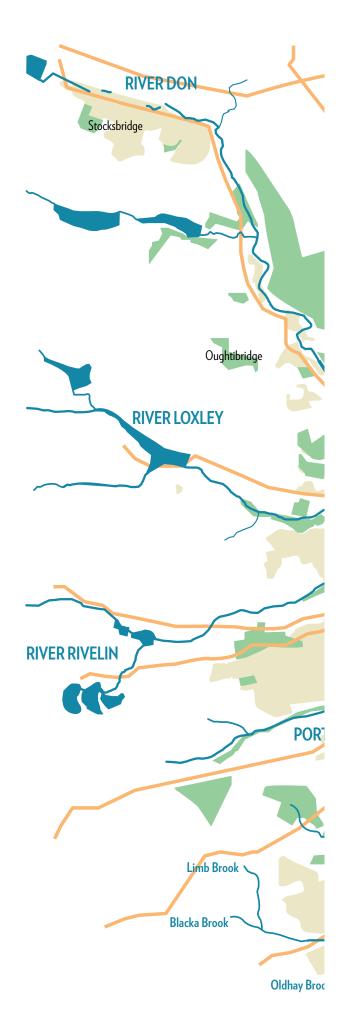
Our principal river is the Don rising in the Pennines above Penistone and reaching the River Ouse at Goole. Throughout Sheffield, it is wide, flows at a moderate pace and is prone to flooding.

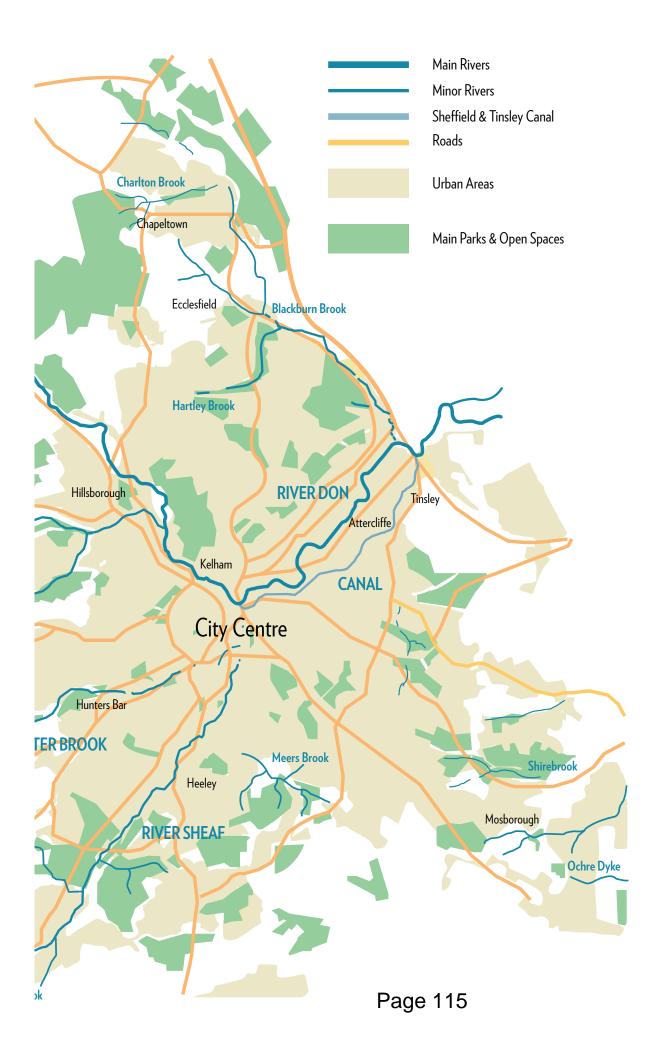
Joining the Don at Hillsborough are the Loxley and Rivelin, both are narrow and fast flowing as they run down from their sources on the hills to the west. The Porter and the Sheaf, again narrow and fast flowing, join the Don further to the south in the centre of the city.

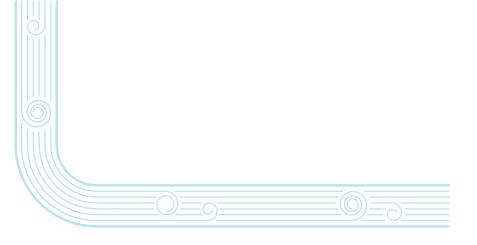
Parallel to the lower reaches of the Don is the Sheffield to Tinsley Canal and as the Don flows out of Sheffield, we have Blackburn Meadows Nature reserve, a recently created wetland reserve of European significance.

There are also many hundreds of smaller rivers and brooks, notable amongst these are the Blackburn Brook, the Shire Brook and Ochre Dyke but sadly many of these streams now run underground in culverts.

Since most of our rivers arise in the hills, high and fast flows can form rapidly. Before Sheffield grew into the city it is today, the energy from these flows was dissipated naturally amongst the water meadows of the Lower Don Valley but this natural floodplain was long ago covered by buildings and roads.







A Brief History

Our waterways have always been places in transition, changing and adapting as the city itself has changed. Sheffield was originally centred around a Norman castle built in a strategic location between the River Don and the River Sheaf and it is from this latter river that Sheffield derives its name. The original market held alongside the castle and river would have played a vital role in the growth of the local economy, bringing together the community and visitors coming to buy and sell produce from all around the sub-region.

Chris Firth's millennium history of the Don Catchment describes the Sheffield floodplain of the Don in the 11th century:



... the river opened out into a complex of open water and marshes which had been formed as a result of the converging flow of the Don with its tributaries. This fluvial plain helped dissipate the energy of the floods which bore down the steep valley following heavy rain in the catchment... vegetation probably consisted of reed beds, interspersed with willow carrs enclosing shallow pools, the pools providing homes to a range of fish species which in turn supported a range of fish eating birds and mammalian predators such as the otter...

The Castle was built in the 12th century on land reclaimed from marsh; probably one of the earliest attempts at land drainage in the city. From this time onwards, the impact of human activity has been profound, not only with more drainage and reclamation but also with the impoundment of water to harness the power of the rivers and then in more recent centuries, chemical pollution.



What most of the river may have looked like in the Don Valley before settlement



What the Don had become by the beginning of the C20th. Photo Credit: www.picturesheffield.com

During the 17-20th centuries, the local industries of cutlery production, steel manufacturing and coal mining fuelled an almost hundred fold increase in the population of Sheffield and surrounding communities.⁵ This growth in the city and its economy was in part driven by access to plentiful natural resources and raw materials including woodland, iron ore, coal and the gritstone used for

grinding. Probably the most important natural resource however was that of Sheffield's five fast running rivers: the Don, Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and Rivelin. These rivers provided the lifeblood of industry: water supply, power, cooling and a place to wash away the waste.

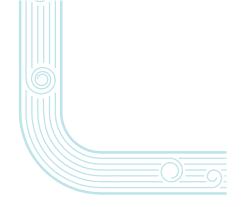
The late 17th century was the key period for development of water power and by the end of the 18th century, all available sites on the rivers had been developed. Some of the weirs were substantial structures and in dry weather, the entire flow of the river might be diverted through ponds and goits leaving the river bed dry. The effect on fish was so disastrous that fish populations could not sustain themselves.



John Leather's 1823 Plan of Sheffield, showing just how heavily modified Sheffield's rivers had become by this date



Old Horse Dyke Culvert on the Porter Brook used to be near the bottom of Ecclesall Road Photo Credit: www.picturesheffield.com





The canal basin in its heyday Photo Credit: www.picturesheffield.com

By the beginning of the 19th century, sewage and industrial pollutants took their toll since the rapidly growing industrial town had no effective means of disposing of human waste, which flushed from streets into the town's gullies, streams and rivers. The Don became a sewer, "black and foul smelling."

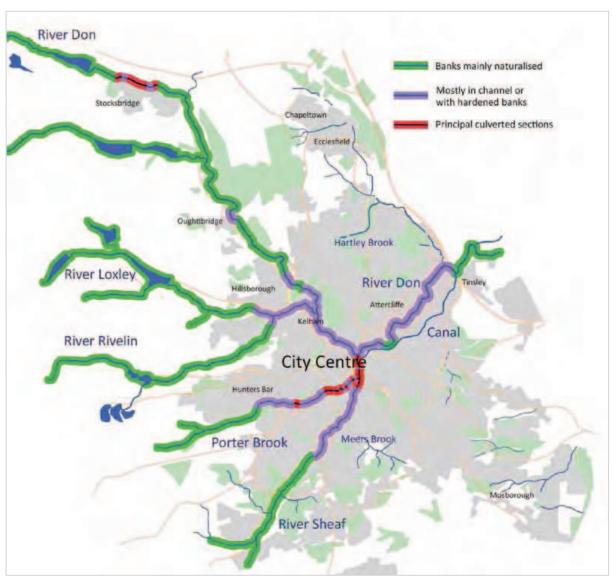
Rehabilitation of the Don catchment started in the 1960s with the reintroduction of fish into disused dams on the Upper Don. In the 1980s factory closures and more stringent environmental legislation, followed by the construction of the Don Valley trunk sewer, resulted in a marked improvement in water quality. It is a measure of the dramatic improvement in the condition of our rivers, which were only recently biologically dead, that wildlife has returned with

improved fish populations which in turn have supported the return of other species including kingfishers, herons and otters.

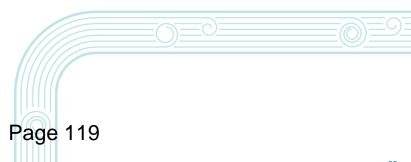
Despite the rehabilitation of our rivers, they have been altered to such an extent that there can never be a return to a fully naturalised state. Now many of our waterways are constrained within walls and culverts with little capacity to cope with high flows so that flooding is an ever present threat. This has been made worse by large areas of hard paving which prevent rainfall soaking into the ground before it reaches the rivers. Our aspiration must be to introduce a more environmentally sympathetic regime of river use and management which strikes a better balance between the demands of development and the demands of nature.

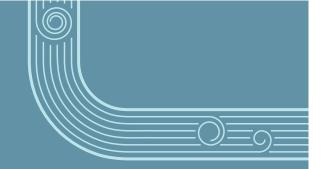


Tapping furnaces at Thomas Firth & John Brown Ltd Photo Credit: www.picturesheffield.com



PLAN 4 River Channel Condition





CASE STUDY: ZURICH

'DAYLIGHTING' CULVERTED RIVERS



Deculverted waterways in Zurich Photo Credit: Tom Wild



Zurich is widely considered as a leading European city in the field of sustainable water management, including deculverting (or 'daylighting') and other forms of river restoration. Since the late 1980s, Zurich has implemented its 'Bache Konzept' of restoring urban brooks throughout the city and its suburbs, by engaging local communities and landowners in projects to open up hidden and buried watercourses. The city has made major cost savings and created attractive new river environments in a wide variety of settings, bringing flood risk management benefits, ecological improvements and reduced water treatment requirements, as well as involving citizens in the planning process to help bring about a more integrated view of water management. Large volumes of clean river water

have been removed from the sewer network and instead brought to the surface as an environmental asset for local communities. Fritz Conradin, a drainage engineer working in the city throughout this period commented that, "every litre per second of clean river water diverted from the sewer network saves us 5,000 Swiss Francs or about £3,000 each year."

Lessons for Sheffield

Almost all of our smaller streams and brooks have been culverted in parts, especially in their lower stretches. Emulating the Zurich model would not only reduce flooding, save money and improve wildlife, it would also provide an ideal opportunity for local people to become actively involved in environmental projects on their doorstep.



^{6.} Wild et al (2010). Daylighting: reviewing the evidence on daylighting and restoration of culverted rivers. Water & Environment Journal. Chartered Institution of Water & Environment Management London.

The Waterways Today

The recovery of our rivers has been a remarkable success story and its significance for this strategy is that these improvements have opened up opportunities for development, recreation and nature conservation which, only a couple of decades ago, would have been impossible.

Waterways are valuable assets with great potential but also with significant issues that we still need to address. They present us with a range of opportunities and problems and how we respond will determine our success or failure in achieving our vision.



The Porter Brook Photo Credit: Tom Wild

Strengths and Opportunities

Rivers are integral to Sheffield's topography and its structure, especially its green spaces and built environments. Watercourses help link the city with the countryside and provide the community with valuable access to open spaces and recreation. Our rivers help create places with strong character and distinctive identity. They are associated with Sheffield's rich industrial history and heritage, the appreciation of which is growing rapidly among local people and visitors alike. The Western river parkways offer highly successful models of river regeneration and mature management involving a broad range of stakeholders.



Kelham Island



The Goit at Kelham Island is a haven for wildlife



Regeneration is well underway in central riverside areas and is spreading fast to adjoining parts of the city. The quality of the environment is improving too. Water quality is much better, fish and mammals have returned. Nature reserves have been created throughout the city in areas such as Blackburn Meadows, Salmon Pastures and Shire Brook Valley. New routes such as the Five Weirs Walk and Upper Don Walk have created opportunities to enjoy natural areas by improving access for walkers, cyclists and other users by connecting together a wider network of paths and tracks.

This has stimulated changes in the way we view waterways, many people now see rivers as contributing positively to our quality of life and this has encouraged users to demand better standards of management and maintenance.

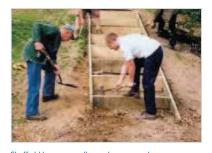
Another major strength for Sheffield is dedication amongst many local people who are devoted to improving our waterways and are willing to go that extra mile to make the most of these unique assets. Strong community engagement in areas such as Rivelin, the Porter Valley, Shire Brook and the Upper Don Valley in Hillsborough shows how real progress may be made relatively quickly and through mechanisms that can deliver lasting and durable benefits.

Working together, we have the capacity to achieve major

improvements, bringing our waterways back into the hearts of our citizens and the city itself. Existing examples such as these can help to inspire new initiatives, such as along the Eastern urban sections of the Don, the Blackburn Brook, the Car Brook and the Shire Brook. Dedicated individuals can also be given more support by the organisations with a strong track record of delivering improvements to Sheffield's waterways over the decades.







Sheffield has many willing volunteers and many communities that are keen to get involved Photo Credit: All – Sheffield Landscape Trust



New residential and office development together with a new river walkway in the city centre



COMMUNITY LED, ECOSYSTEM BASED REGENERATION

Like our own River Don, the
Toronto Don is subject to flooding
and for a time, was so heavily
polluted by industry that it was
almost dead. Regeneration
activities have been underway
for a number of years and are
especially notable because of
the development of an extensive
partnership network with strong
roots in the community. The
principal aim is to restore the
natural water processes as far
as practicable and a key element
is that everyone, from citizens
to those in business and in
governmental organisations,
has a responsibility for the river
and a part to play in its restoration.

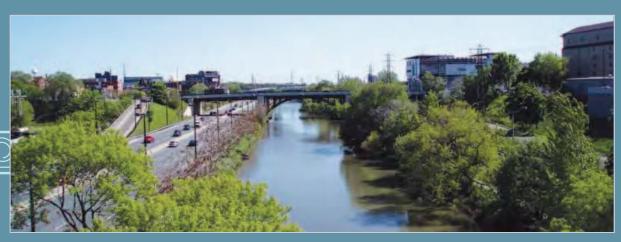
An inclusive steering group known as the 'Watershed Regeneration Council' is made up of voluntary groups, community councils, residents, businesses and academics together with the local authority and the conservation authority. The original regeneration strategy published in 1995 has now been replaced by an updated strategy and thanks to a strong programme of monitoring and reporting; detailed knowledge has been accumulated about what needs to be done. Numerous community groups work throughout the catchment carrying out restoration works, stewardship activities and access improvements.

Other organisations play their part too, the City Council for example has introduced many initiatives to improve the quality of storm water reaching the Don, these include a strong green roof byelaw, car park greening measures and roadside drainage swales.

Lessons for Sheffield

One of Sheffield's strengths is its large number of voluntary organisations and active citizens; there is a vast pool of energy, which could be directed towards waterways regeneration once the right catalyst is found.

Also important to note from the Toronto Don, is the wide sharing of responsibility for the river.



Toronto's heavily urbanised River Don Photo Credit: Raysonho, Wikimedia Commons

We have at our disposal legal powers but the key to success has been, and will continue to be, a robust and flexible approach based on sound science and proven ways of working in partnership.

There are many exciting opportunities and Sheffield's waterways have a vital part to play in addressing the twin themes of the Sheffield Development Framework which are transformation and sustainability. We may consider waterways as an opportunity to adapt to climate change as well as responding sustainably to increasing flood risks. This can involve establishing a network of ecologically-rich wildlife corridors and nature reserves, and providing the core framework for a city-wide green and open space network.

The waterways can act as a catalyst for investment, especially where they help to create distinctive places such as in the urban Don Valley. They can help provide new places to live, work and play, providing the city centre with lively, stylish riverfronts and strengthening the identity and appeal of urban quarters and suburban centres. They can be a showcase for Sheffield's rich industrial heritage and provide new sites for culture and creativity.



PLAN 5
Rivers, green corridors and the potential 'Hub and Spoke' network of routes and trails.

River corridors are already well endowed with walking and cycling routes and where these haven't been completed yet, they are relatively feasible to build subject to funding being found. They form the perfect basis for a city wide network of routes and trails, radiating out from the 'hub' of the city centre. Green corridors exist in many parts of the city which will provide an excellent basis for new routes to be constructed to link the river corridors and allow good connections throughout Sheffield



5 Weirs Walk, Lower Don, Sheffield

Access is available to many of the river corridors, often as part of a footpath network. However, the experience of being close to a river is variable. In the western suburbs and on the upper reaches of the tributary rivers, there are woodlands, fields and parks linked together in green corridors making some of these rivers idyllic and cherished places. Elsewhere, particularly towards the city centre and in the north and east, the rivers can be unwelcoming and daunting

with derelict buildings, neglected landscapes and fears for personal safety.

Sadly, some of the partially regenerated Lower Don Valley and other river related regeneration areas are bland and cheerless 'commodity' landscapes where new developments have so far failed to adequately replace the visual drama of former industrial areas although others like Kelham Island, North Bank and the

Canal Basin show what is possible with more imaginative design.

Many of the city's historic and industrial buildings are of national and even international significance and whilst many important sites have been lost, there remains an extraordinary variety and spread of sites. Our heritage is fragmented but remains distinctive, memorable and rich in cultural and historic associations.



Sheffield Canal Basin



A major weakness is that our city centre is disconnected from the River Don and the River Sheaf, the main reasons for the city being here in the first place. Furthermore the missing link between the city centre and the canal represents a significant unexploited opportunity. Sheffield does not have a civic riverfront and its other urban centres are not well connected to their rivers.

There are also no obvious connections between the main channel of the River Don itself and the tributaries such as the Loxley, Porter and Sheaf. The result is that it can be difficult for people to understand how the entire river system and its catchment 'works together.' Many of our urban rivers are buried, hidden or heavily modified from their natural form. This degradation includes rivers that have been culverted or lie behind high flood walls with water passing through unattractive artificial channels. The quality of riversides also varies greatly, with poor environments being far too common, particularly in the city's east and north. Many riverside areas lack good quality open space and suffer from continuing problems with litter, vandalism and antisocial behaviour. In too many riverside locations the city has a weak architectural legacy with the design quality of many public and private buildings being disappointing and uninspiring.



Saville Street in the floods of June 2007 Photo Credit: Craig Broadwith



Lower Don Valley. Some areas have lost much of their character and new development has not made good use of its riverside location

In areas such as Heeley, Hillsborough and Attercliffe, the important connections between communities and their rivers have been lost. For most people in these locations, rivers are no longer viewed as an asset and are instead seen as a threat. This lost opportunity can be redressed by helping these centres become hubs with strong pedestrian, cycle and public transport links. By clustering civic and community facilities in these centres, we can encourage footfall and improve trading conditions for local businesses. Through improvements to the

public realm, we can strengthen people's connections with the rivers so that they become a source of pride.

There are big gains to be made but success is by no means guaranteed. The waterways strategy will need to overcome significant threats including the growing risk of flooding which may deter investors and discourage people from living or running businesses in areas near rivers. This may also lead to inappropriate and overengineered flood prevention measures, which would dilute

the ecological and amenity value of the waterways.

The lack of an overarching landscape strategy may result in piecemeal development and lost opportunities, allowing bland and anonymous development to become the norm, thus undermining Sheffield's distinctive character and culture. The full benefits of capital investment will not be realised unless there is a commitment to the management and stewardship of the rivers and riverside areas.

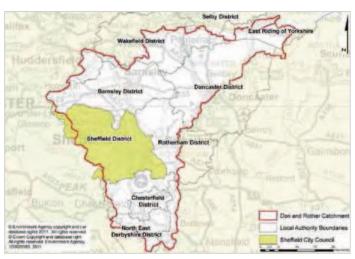


In many places, the rivers have been heavily engineered, this is the Sheaf on Little London Road



The Wider Context for Sheffield

Not only do we need to take into account how local matters affect our rivers, we must also be aware that regional issues affect us. Physically, Sheffield lies within the River Don and River Rother Catchment, part of the Humber River Basin. In terms of economic relationships, Sheffield is part of the much larger Sheffield City Region.



PLAN 6
The River Don and Rother Catchment © Environment Agency

The European Water Framework Directive

Adopted by EU member states in 2000, the Water Framework Directive is the biggest piece of new legislation on the aquatic environment for many years. It will shape how our rivers, lakes and ground water are managed for decades to come. The Directive will have implications for all organisations with a role in managing the water environment including local authorities, water companies and the Environment Agency. The Directive requires that improvements are made, that there is not deterioration in quality and that water, as resource, is managed sustainably. Much good work has been done to clean up and restore the water environment. Fish and other wildlife have returned and people can now enjoy waters that until recently were spoilt by pollution. In many towns and cities, the waterside is now a focus for regeneration and economic growth.

Previously rivers had been simply assessed on their basis of chemical quality. The Directive looks at the ecological quality of waterbodies, which often isn't as good as it could be. Watercourses may fail to reach their full potential because of man-made features like weirs and sluices so a new long-term programme to improve our watercourses is required.

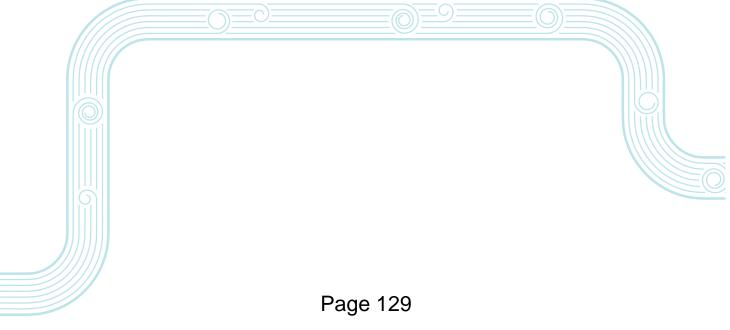
The directive sets a target of returning waterbodies to good ecological status. Currently, only 16% of the river Don Catchment meets this standard. Over the next few years, planned and coordinated action is required from a wide range of stakeholders if the necessary improvements are to be achieved. There are opportunities for the voluntary sector and community groups to participate in these improvements.

Don Catchment Flood Management Plan

A Catchment Flood Management Plan has recently been published by the Environment Agency giving an overview of the flood risk in the Don catchment. The plan sets out sustainable flood risk management proposals for Sheffield and the rest of the catchment for the next 50 to 100 years and identifies that currently some 5000 Sheffield properties could be at risk of flooding. It predicts that the impact of climate change on Sheffield will not lead to a significant increase in the geographic area affected by flooding but that there will be an increase in the frequency, speed and depth if no action is taken. Generally, the thrust of future flood management actions is not to build major engineering

types of flood defences but to work towards more sustainable solutions such as naturalised river corridors and flood water storage areas.

The plan contains Sheffield specific actions that rely on partnership working and they include taking opportunities to enhance river corridor habitats, river landscapes, access and amenity facilities, also that the City Council should support a planning policy drive to develop green infrastructure and increase access to the riversides. There is a message that new development must be controlled so that it does not increase flood risk.



Sheffield City Region

Our city is part of Sheffield City Region, not just Sheffield alone. The City Region is based on the towns and cities around us with which we share economic links and the strategic lead is provided by the newly formed Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The aim is to encourage growth and economic activity to create a prosperous and sustainable region.

Although the LEP has only recently been established, support has already been given to the role that high quality environment can play in successful economic regeneration. The LEP Board has given endorsement to two major water related regeneration proposals; Chesterfield Waterside, which makes great use of its canal-side location and also the Dearne Valley Eco Vision. This latter initiative puts ecology and a low carbon economy at the heart of wide scale regeneration proposals which are built around green infrastructure and eco-literacy. Significant use of the River Dearne is proposed to provide washlands, leisure uses and green routes. Clearly there is also much potential for a similar type of regeneration within our own part of the city region.

Rotherham Connections

The River Don corridor provides us with a strong and well defined physical connection with Rotherham, forming an important element in the region's green infrastructure network. We also share a number of other common river related issues: for instance, flood waters that arise in Sheffield, quickly flow onwards to Rotherham from where they take a longer time to subside. Also important is that we depend on Rotherham's section of the Don to link us with the downstream catchment areas and allow the movement of wildlife up into Sheffield. The better the quality of the waterways connection, the healthier our own wildlife populations will be.

Recently, Rotherham has published its own waterways strategy with broadly similar objectives to the Sheffield strategy. It emphasises the role that Rotherham's waterways can play in 'place making' and for providing a focus for high quality regeneration. It stresses their biodiversity value and the opportunities that they provide for the engagement of local people. It also identifies the value of the Rotherham's river and canal system in tackling climate change and it highlights the need for flood management actions.

Rotherham has already begun to engage with its rivers, creating a new flood storage washland at Centenary Riverside and, as part of 'Rotherham Renaissance', treating it's rivers and canal as key drivers of regeneration.

Clearly there is great opportunity for productive collaboration between Sheffield and Rotherham, not just on issues where there is a direct interrelationship but also where the same types of issues arise in both areas so that sharing of knowledge would be beneficial.

Rotherham's strategy specifically proposes working with Sheffield on the key challenges of flood risk management and the restoration of urban rivers. It also presents the concept of an urban landscape park to provide a framework for development along the common floodplain of the Don Valley. There is a suggestion that both Rotherham and Sheffield should jointly prepare a unified landscape strategy. Other opportunities for collaboration would perhaps include the extension of the River Steward Company area of operation to include Rotherham's waterways.

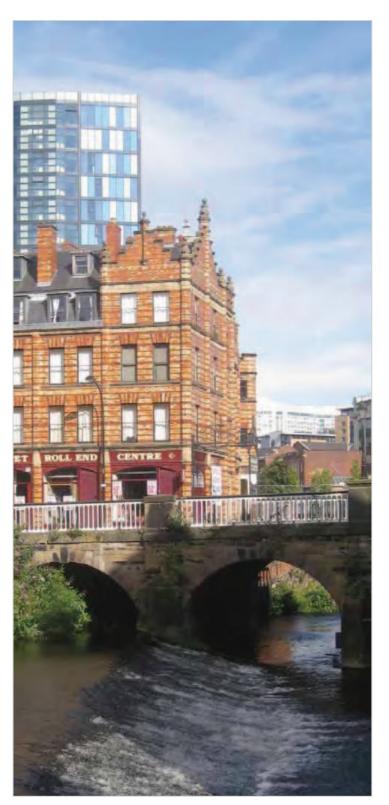


Guiding Principles

The strategy for Sheffield's waterways must build on the progress that has already been made, capitalising on the strengths and tackling the persistent problems and liabilities.

Remarkable progress has been made elsewhere in Sheffield in the past 10-15 years with the success of landmark projects such as the Peace Gardens, the Millennium Galleries, the Winter Garden and many others. The transformation and recovery of special places like the Botanical Gardens and Weston Park has strengthened Sheffield's special character and identity, linking the city's past and future with flair and imagination. A common thread running through all of these high profile projects is a well-resourced and sustainable management regime.

This success is a great message and should inform the regeneration of Sheffield's waterways just as it has the rebirth of the city centre. The aim must be to nurture and strengthen Sheffield's distinctive sense of place and to make the revived waterways network one of the defining features of the 'Sheffield signature.' These should be guiding principles of a strategy to assist in the delivery of a new wave of economic, community and environmental benefits over the next 10-20 years.



Lady's Bridge, Sheffield





Perhaps the single most important job of this Strategy is to engage the people of Sheffield in the care of all of our waterways. We will work with local communities to seek funds to deliver local 'river rescue plans.' This will be co-ordinated through a project to interconnect the wide network of waterways, both small and large, throughout the city. For these improvements to be durable, the focus must be on helping local people to bring about change themselves. Projects will be supported preferentially where they have the wide engagement of the local community. This will not only involve physical work but will include also efforts relating to local history, education, training and work experience.

At the strategic level, we will also welcome new partners to work with the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group. We will retain an inclusive and open approach, built on mutual respect and valuing the input of equal partners. We will also retain our focus on working with people who can deliver real improvements 'on the ground.' We will maintain efficient yet legitimate governance processes, ensuring that decisions are fair, efficient and accountable, and will keep our strong ties with leaders in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors - these arrangements will be formalised through partners signing up to a 'City of Rivers' partnership agreement.

HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THE STRATEGY GOALS?

Opposite: Millhouses Park Sheffield. New water play area. We will support the voluntary and business sectors and work with local people to prepare action plans identifying their own priorities. Practical jobs will include addressing issues such as keeping places clear of litter and debris, restoring canalised rivers and removing culverts, looking after archaeological sites and providing habitats for wildlife. We will work with a range of partners to provide guidance and to help raise funding for this work.



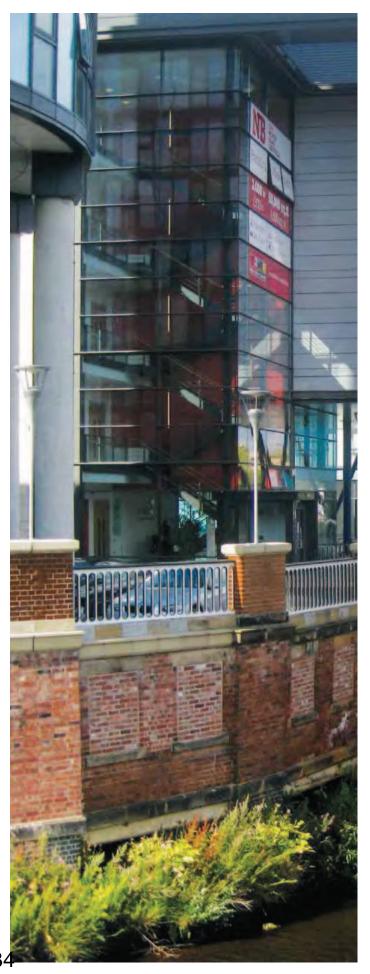
The Five Weirs Walk Trust exhibiting proposals for a new section of riverside walk

6.2 Helping Our City Rediscover its Wealth Of Waterways as an Economic Opportunity

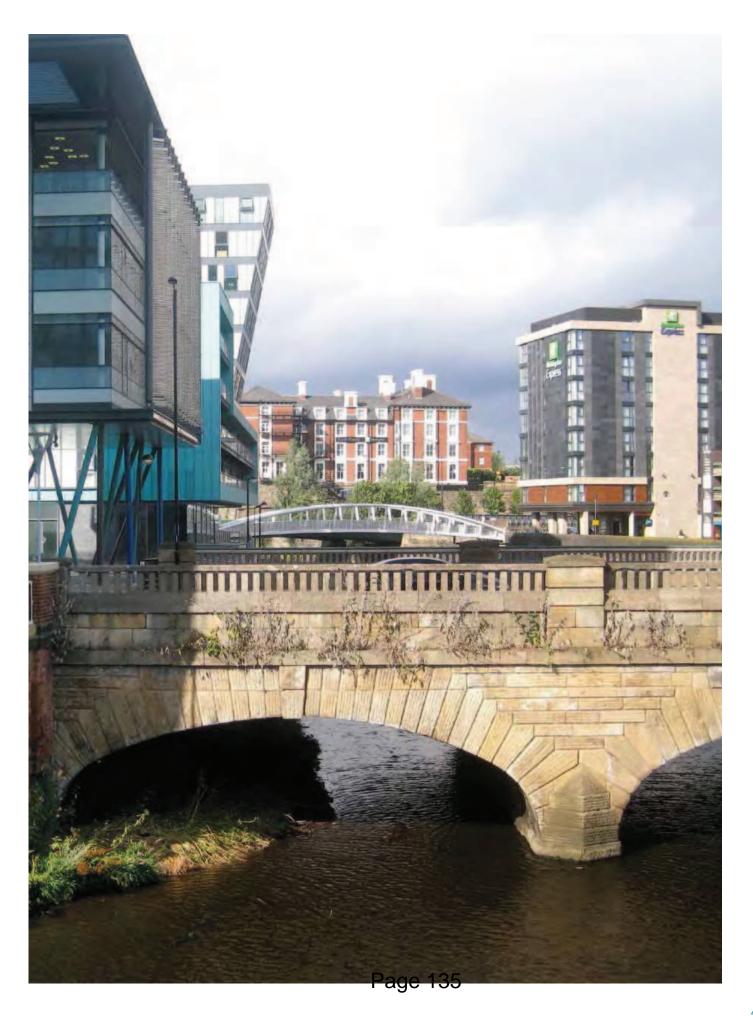
Historically, Sheffield's economy was always intimately linked with its rivers. Markets were traditionally held near the river alongside the Norman castle, built at the bridge crossing and stronghold location at the confluence of the Sheaf and the River Don. Water power was harnessed from the Middle Ages and by the time of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, the fast flowing rivers contained one of the densest arrays of water mills in Europe. Later in the 19th century, steam power replaced water power but industry clung to the waterways. Through industrial times and right through to the present, rivers have always been a special place for business in Sheffield, with the current focus being on commercial and residential developments.

The small scale, dense usage and absence of navigation give Sheffield's rivers a particularly intricate and highly adapted character which is different from that found in most other major industrial cities. Now, changes in land use along the waterways give us an incredible opportunity to develop distinctive, attractive and vibrant 'riverfronts', right in the heart of the city and through to its suburbs and 'lost' riverside towns such as Attercliffe and Heeley.

If Sheffield is to be a competitive city and a major player on the European stage, it needs to secure investment and to attract and retain talent. The challenge is to grow a knowledge-based economy where human capital, the skills, creativity and enterprise of people, is the critical success factor.



Blonk Street Bridge, this is one of the few areas where new development has openly embraced and carloid A





CASE STUDY: RIVER QUAGGY, LONDON

FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS
GAINED BY NATURALISING THE RIVER CHANNEL



Newly naturalised river in Sutcliffe Park Photo Credit: Mike Quin, CC

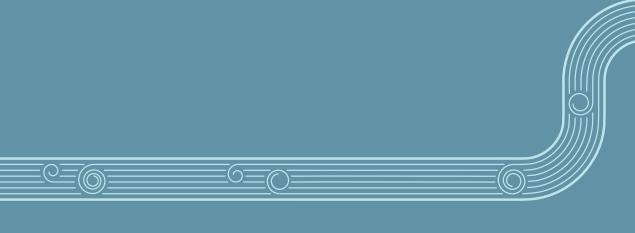
The Quaggy River is an inspirational case study showing how river restoration can successfully deliver a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

The river travels for 17km through the London boroughs of Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham before feeding into the Thames. During the 1960s, the Quaggy was channelised and culverted in an attempt to alleviate flooding but this made the flooding problem worse.

During the last decade, the concrete channel has been demolished in a number of places and the river re-naturalised to spectacular effect

The impressive series of partnership projects on the Quaggy have delivered enviable results and won many accolades. This progress has in part, been led by the community via the Quaggy Waterways Action Group (QWAG). Its aim is to demonstrate that rivers can

be major assets to an urban environment, bringing natural beauty, educational facilities and wildlife value into urban landscapes and lives. The action group have highlighted the importance of winning the hearts and minds of planners, politicians and landowners with a simple message "that the mistakes of the past, burying urban rivers in concrete coffins, can be reversed, to bring living natural features into the hearts of our urban jungles."



The Environment Agency has undertaken a major programme of flood defence and river restoration works. In all, around £18 million has been spent on flood protection works, parkland creation, and wetland habitat enhancement, covering a 4.3 kilometre stretch penetrating right into Lewisham's town centre.

High profile successes include Sutcliffe Park and Chinbrook Meadows where the main aim has been to provide space for floodwater to go without damaging property. At Sutcliffe Park, the flood risk to 600 homes and businesses has been reduced and according to the Environment Agency, the standard of flood protection has been improved from 1 in 5 years (20% probability) to a minimum of 1 in 70 years (1.4% probability).

The scheme involves much more than just flood defence however. Via a sustained collaboration. many partners have come to restore the river, improving the quality of the environment, making it better for wildlife, and turning the Quaggy into a valuable and attractive asset for local people. Since opening One in four only started visiting the park after the improvements park before are now staying longer. Both Sutcliffe Park and Chinbrook Meadows have been awarded 'Green Flag' status.

For many years, the Quaggy was forgotten and neglected. It flowed underground through concrete channels, unnoticed and providing little habitat

for wildlife. By bringing the Quaggy out of its culvert, a meandering river has been reborn. The restored river can overflow into the park using it as a flood storage area and at other times, the park and wetland is there for local communities to enjoy.

Lessons for Sheffield

Most of our rivers and streams have been confined within hard banked, man-made channels for at least part of their course. The Quaggy example shows that naturalisation is possible in many places to slow down water flow and provide flood storage. We also already have some fine riverside parks and a water themed 'Green Flag' site would raise the profile of our waterways generally.

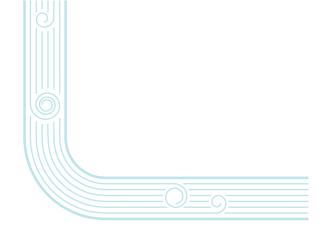


Sutcliffe Park Lake Photo Credit: Ian Yarham, CC



Typical section of the Quaggy that has yet to be naturalised Photo Credit: Mike Quinn, CC

City of Rivers | Sheffield's Waterways Strategy How can we achieve the strategy goals?



Having the right business location is important but no longer enough by itself. In the 21st century, the focus has shifted from location to place. Places attract talent and companies follow talent. It is character, identity, diversity and richness of experience which make places; not just shopping centres, leisure centres and visitor attractions which can be found everywhere. Winning places are those that offer economic opportunities together with an outstanding quality of life. Our rivers offer a unique opportunity to help Sheffield become a place where people want to stay.

We will prepare new 'masterplan' documents to guide land use and development along waterways in the city. Masterplans will need to be supported by a policy framework to address key issues such as urban design and sustainability, ensuring a 'level playing field' for all investors.

We will prepare new design guidance, focusing on the re-use and adaptation of existing buildings and the incorporation of new development into the historic landscape. We will work with a range of partners to promote opportunities to create new, high quality mixed-use developments alongside waterways and promenades, including routes along newly restored and re-naturalised rivers.

The riverside will be fully integrated into the city centre through a centrepiece regeneration scheme involving new open spaces at the Wicker and at the site of Sheffield Castle. This project will involve new buildings, attractive riverfront amenities, restored habitat and new access routes. which link the river between Corporation Street, Castlegate and the Wicker. New links will also be forged with the canal at Victoria Quays and beyond to Park Square. The approach

will also include measures to deal with flood and drought risk stemming from climate change.

Further out from the centre, trade and growth can be encouraged in riverside towns such as Heeley, Hunter's Bar and Hillsborough by improving the quality of the public realm and improving the cultural 'offer' to visitors by carefully targeted investment. Together we can reconnect local riverside centres with their waterways to create lively and attractive areas. Well-connected walkways, cycle paths and open spaces alongside the rivers in these local centres will increase footfall and stimulate economic opportunity.





Sustainable drainage. A flood storage basin at the manor holding water after the rainstorm that caused Sheffield's floods in June 2007 Photo Credit: Roger Nowell

6.3 Adapting to Climate Change and Managing Flood Risks More Sustainably

We are beginning to understand how we can manage our waterways and the water cycle more wisely but of course the flooding of June 2007 shows how serious a threat to life and property water can be if we do not follow nature's way. These local events, coupled with a greater appreciation of the impacts of global climate change, highlight the need to act now so that our communities can adapt for the future. Climate change means we have to get used to the increased likelihood of heavy rainfall, but also of droughts and heat waves.

It is not an exaggeration to say that global climate change is the greatest emerging challenge of our time. We need to make room for water in the city; 'blue spaces' such as rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains and sustainable drainage systems have a vital role to play in creating climate change resilient development.

As a city, Sheffield could have one of the most forward thinking approaches to water management in the whole country, informed by the best science from its Universities and from around Europe through targeted project partnerships. The city has put in place a ground-breaking planning policy to help reduce runoff of rainwater from urban areas using 'green roofs' and sustainable drainage systems. Sheffield is a world-leader in researching urban water and we have the opportunity to make more of this asset in planning our future use of water and our relationships with rivers.

Through this strategy, we intend to work with others to restore natural water processes as far as possible, in order to reduce vulnerability to flooding. Sheffield should be designated a sustainable drainage zone. This, combined with increased storage capacity, and work to reinstate natural floodplains in the east of the city, would help reduce the risk of flooding.

Since June 2007, the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group partners have acted together to reduce flood risks in the city and the wider river catchments. This includes removing debris from the river channel and at major 'bottlenecks' such as bridges and weirs. We have also worked with communities and businesses to understand their needs and to raise awareness of the duties of riverside landowners, for instance to manage waterfront land.





Work by the Environment Agency at Kelham to reduce flood risk by clearing the river channel obstructions. Habitat improvements were made at the same time

Furthermore, we have produced and implemented designs for new flood defences and are seeking opportunities for water storage at the top of the river catchments, where they can bring most benefit to the entire city and downstream urban areas. This would also be of benefit to other South Yorkshire towns and cities. Through our strong links with research projects and European networks, we will continue to learn how we can best respond to both the opportunities and threats associated with regeneration along our city's waterways.

Of course, responding positively to climate change also means addressing the source of the problem by using less carbon in the form of fossil fuels. We believe that river corridors offer lots of great opportunities to do this. We can create pathways for walking and cycling, and use the river to create carbon-free power, for cooling the city and

for creating attractive green areas. The need to make space for more extreme flooding events as well as droughts can be harnessed to create more attractive river corridors with new parks, wetlands and water meadows. These initiatives cannot be limited to Sheffield's city limits but should be shared and developed by partners throughout the Don catchment from the Peak District right through to the Humber.

We will deliver inspiring demonstration projects that show how this can be achieved for minimal cost and to deliver a wide range of benefits; for profit, for people and for the planet. Over time, we will build these responses into our communities by encouraging locally led projects and through adaptations to our planning system. This way we can ensure that we grow and develop in more sustainable ways, meeting not just our own needs, but also those of future generations.



CASE STUDY:

ROTHERHAM, CENTENARY RIVERSIDE FLOOD STORAGE AND GREEN SPACE

This new urban wetland park is located on the River Don between Templeborough and Rotherham town centre. On the site of a former steel works, it restores flood plain functions by providing new areas for floodwater storage and giving 1 in 100 year flood protection to nearby sites. The project underpins the community led 'Rotherham Renaissance' strategy and allows adjacent land to be developed safely.

Importantly, it also provides many other benefits including enhanced wildlife value and opportunities for local recreational and educational use. The site has been carefully designed to create a number of new wildlife habitats and it will function as a 'stepping stone' for wildlife such as otters, moving along the river corridor. At the same time the park is intended to be very accessible to people, having new footpaths, a cycle route and ultimately a visitor centre. Industrial relics from the former steel works have been incorporated into the design and bold new sculptures added.

At a cost of £15 million, the project is a partnership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Forward, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and South Yorkshire Forest Partnership. To enable future management, an endowment has

been provided as part of the project costs and is to be invested to pay for maintenance in perpetuity.

Lessons for Sheffield

This project is an excellent demonstration of how flood defence can be designed with conservation in mind, providing both economic benefits and multiple green infrastructure benefits.



New urban wetland Photo Credit: Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust



Before the project
Photo Credit: Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

6.4 Promoting Sheffield and its Waterways

An important job is to promote Sheffield as an attractive, thriving and enjoyable place which offers opportunities for business and a high quality of life. Sheffield has ambitions to be a first-rate European city, competing alongside other major centres of business and industry but networked with other successful partner cities around the world. During the last decade we have made great progress towards this goal, for instance through European projects to develop best practices. It is widely recognised however, that we need to bring about a step change to move up a gear in order to really punch our weight as a major European city.

Sheffield has always been known as both an innovative and creative city with worldwide trade links and an international reputation for quality as well as offering an attractive green environment. We need to put rivers back into the heart of 'What Makes Sheffield.' The two main strands of our future approach are to be both globally competitive and to keep offering a very high quality of life. We believe that we can achieve a shared vision of sustainable development in the Don Valley, meeting the needs of citizens, businesses and visitors. Our river 'corridors' can become internationally renowned locations as places where people want to live, work, invest and play. They can again become repopulated with rejuvenated traditional neighbourhoods, homes, schools, shops and healthcare.



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New homes by the river where there used to be factories

Riversides can provide places for employment, featuring high quality environments for modern work space, high tech manufacturing and creative production in 'urban villages.' Waterways can also provide places for leisure and recreation, taking better advantage of opportunities for boating, fishing and walking, and with a productive landscape of gardens, allotments, smallholdings, orchards and woodlands. We can also provide unique opportunities for culture, creativity and learning with townscapes and buildings being reused as flexible spaces for performance, events and studios, with cultural events becoming internationally known.

All of this effort will be wasted though, if we do not get out there and tell people about the opportunities in Sheffield and its wonderful waterways. A key part of our strategy must be to communicate our strengths to our investors and partners. We will do this by forging new links with globally significant partners and strengthening our existing networks.

6.5 Using Our Rivers to Help Celebrate the Heritage, Culture and Rich History of Sheffield

More must be done to celebrate the city's built heritage along its network of waterways, including the globally significant mills, works, weirs and 'goits', the mill races or channels feeding waterwheels. This can be achieved by retaining and reusing industrial buildings and traditional street patterns, and by nurturing the intimate scale and long tradition of craft manufacturing in Sheffield. Former riverside towns can be reconnected with their rivers, for instance by creating multifunctional cultural and community spaces, celebrating heritage and offering a high quality public realm.

At the broader scale, an exciting opportunity for Sheffield is to discuss whether our network of waterways should become a new Cultural Landscape under UNESCO's World Heritage List scheme. We believe that Sheffield's river valleys and their complex system of man-made infrastructure are worthy of this claim as the home of steel manufacturing and the cutlery industry. We think that this is a globally important place, which deserves proper care and protection, and we will consult widely about these ideas.

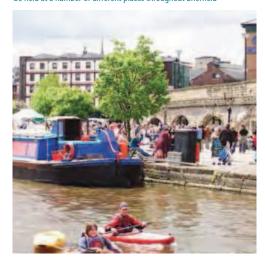
Sheffield has learned that much can be achieved through these types of physical enhancements and demonstration schemes. However, an equally important task is to promote awareness and understanding of the multiple values of waterways, not just to visitors but also amongst citizens.

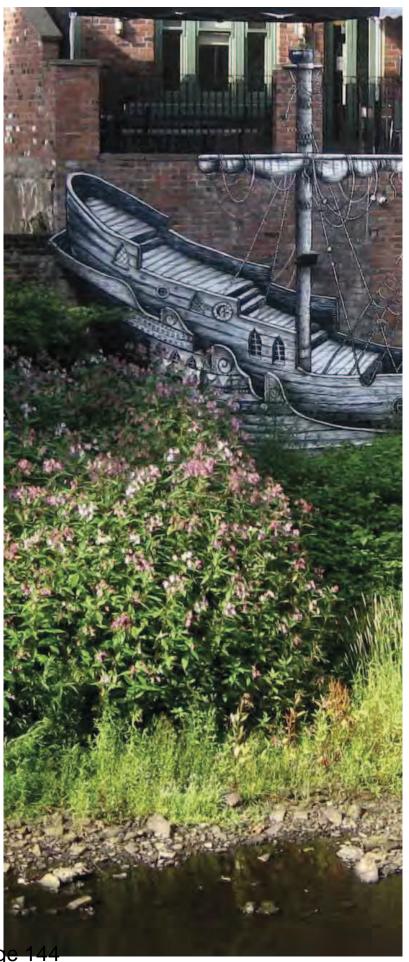
An exciting way to promote Sheffield's cultural heritage, which is so intimately linked with its waterways, is through an innovative and exciting series of celebrations, festivals and cultural events. We will also work hard to create new opportunities for education for people of all ages and from all walks of life using waterways as an important community resource.

At the core of our efforts to support the cultural heritage of Sheffield's waterways will be an annual celebration, the 'City of Rivers Festival', held right by the river in the newly restored waterfront environment. This celebration will build on the successes of the 'On the Waterfront' events which have been held several times in recent years and will grow to become an internationally important cultural event. We will tie in a series of high profile business meetings, conferences and international visits to the city, held alongside the festival, so that our visitors can experience Sheffield at its very best, whilst celebrating our raison d'être - our wonderful waterways.

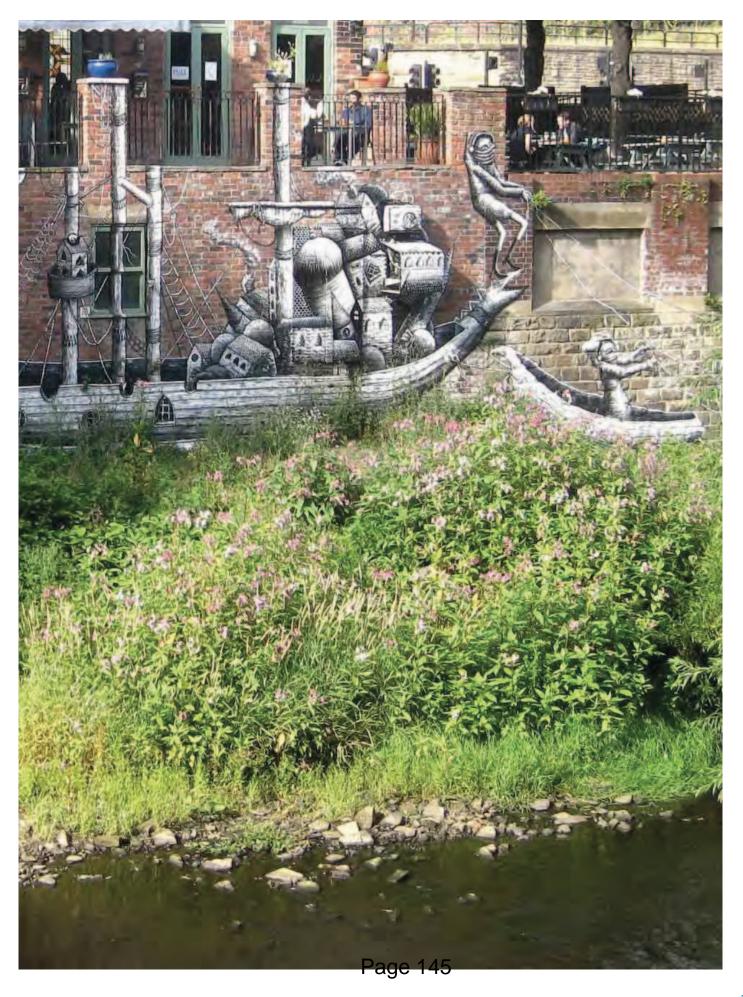
This event will be at the heart of a broader cultural programme – a 'meeting place' in which to celebrate the heritage and cultural richness that surrounds our city. This will include a specially prepared and well publicised programme of exciting events and less formal social aspects relating to the city's waterways. The programme will be a major opportunity for networking and learning from others, not just within the city, but also from around the world and will extend our reach to new friends through a cultural celebration.

'Waterfront' festival held at Victoria Quays. Events like this could be held at a number of different places throughout Sheffield





The Riverside Pub at Bridgehouses



Case Study: Germany

GERMANY'S RIVER RUHR REGION & THE 'EMSCHER LANDSCAPE PARK'

Emscher Park in Germany's Ruhr Region provides an inspirational lesson for regeneration in post-industrial economies, which is extremely relevant to places like Sheffield. A key part of this regeneration strategy was the Emscher Park 'International Building Exhibition' which was commenced in 1989 and finished in 1999. According to the European Academy for the Urban Environment:

"The ten-year project 'Emscher Park' was based on a structural programme of 1988 with the objective of giving a strong impulse to the derelict Emscher area and with the main goal of urban development and ecological renewal in the highly contaminated former industrial and coal mining area."⁷

The programme focused on the re-use of industrial sites including collieries and steelworks, 'reimagining' this cultural heritage to create a valuable asset from what had become a liability. To the people of the Ruhr region, it was not acceptable to simply let these structures become rusted and derelict, then to tear them down. The industrial infrastructure was seen as valuable and culturally important, having helped to build and shape local communities.

The environmental legacy of the industry was however negative, similar to that of Sheffield in the 1980s, one of pollution, habitat loss and unattractive spaces.

The Emscher Park project rebranded the regional identity, leading regeneration through improvements to environmental quality as part of a broader strategy for reinventing the image of the Ruhr region.

Careful consideration was given in spatial planning processes to the importance of restoring and recreating wildlife corridors and taking a broader, catchmentwide view of rivers and water management.



The new landscape and buildings are good but what makes them memorable is the retained pit head gear Photo Credit: LEG GmbH Page 146

Another critical aspect of this approach was the 'Working in the Park' concept, which involved creating attractive locations for business and employment.

In 2009, the Sheffield-led 'Creating a Setting for Investment' project concluded that, at the wider scale, these investments in environmental quality had brought about higher land values and improved investor confidence in the region.8

The 'Creating a Setting for Investment' project, under the leadership of South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, included partners from the Ruhr region including a publicly-owned company responsible for regenerating coal-field sites, and the regional spatial planning research institute. Together, they carried out a full-scale cost benefit analysis of the 'greening' of industrial sites throughout the Emscher Park area, along with in-depth qualitative research on people's perceptions of the value of land and the quality of the environment. They concluded that improving the landscape had been a successful economic

measure as part of a broader regional regeneration strategy

Lessons for Sheffield

Early regeneration initiatives in the Ruhr Valley were based on providing conventional new infrastructure and were not especially effective. Changing focus to concentrate on 'spirit of place' by celebrating regional industrial heritage and culture has been much more successful and has achieved international recognition for the distinctive qualities of the area. Extensive greening has provided an excellent complement and significant improvements to quality of life.





Re-used structures that could easily have been cleared away as derelict Photo Credit: Tom Wild

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From L-R – (1) Salmon Pastures Nature Reserve, created from a former spoil heap adjacent to Five Weirs Walk (2) Rare visitor: a Cetti's Warbler at Blackburn Meadows Nature Reserve in the lower Don Valley. The reserve was created from a former sewage works (3) Until recently, this area was a derelict paddling pool at Millhouses Park, now the River Sheaf partly flows through it allowing fish to swim past two major weirs

6.8 Wildlife and Natural Environments

Sheffield's green and open spaces are places for us all to use and enjoy. They are also places that improve our environment and quality of life. Our waterways provide one of the strongest links that enable people to connect with these spaces.

With sensitive development, waterways can add value to our lives in many ways. Sheffield has a long history of nurturing wildlife and nature in its urban and industrial areas, and has been extremely successful in creating new reserves in the heart of the city. Working together we will continue to conserve biodiversity and to enhance natural habitats 'on our doorstep.'

We will do yet more to create new wetlands, woodlands and nature reserves, and to target improvements where they will make the biggest difference, in joining up wildlife corridors along the city's rivers. We will continue to improve fish passage at barriers such as weirs and culverts, and will work towards our target of bringing salmon, eels and otters right back up our river system. The result will be that our waterways again become attractive places of high ecological value as well as prized community assets. Through careful decisions and good management, we can help rivers and riverside areas to become neat, tidy and ecologically diverse, whilst being robust and durable in areas of heavy use.



Working together, the partners in the Sheffield Waterways
Strategy Group have delivered the following improvements, providing direct and measurable benefits to the city and its people.

Riverside Walkways

We have created new riverside access routes along great stretches of Sheffield's previously ignored rivers. For instance, the Five Weirs Walk runs almost continuously from the city centre to Meadowhall; achieved through the work of Five Weirs Walk Trust and with a total investment value of about £10,000,000. The beginnings of an Upper Don Walk are in place, running from the City Centre to Kelham with other stretches to be added soon. The canal has been elevated from 'remainder' to 'cruising' status with the towpath and bank wall having been repaired and rebuilt where necessary. Almost the whole of the Shire Brook Valley has been reclaimed from industry which included mining, landfill and sewage treatment. Now it is a rich haven for wildlife and a great asset for local people. Charlton Brook and Tongue Gutter have also been transformed into accessible and wildlife rich green corridors. The beginnings of a River Sheaf Walk from Granville Square to Millhouses Park have been laid out. There are superb mature riverside parkways on the Upper Porter, Sheaf, Loxley, and Rivelin each with a different character and providing good templates for the further regeneration in

River Stewardship Company

We have established a notfor-profit company that helps businesses and communities make the most of their relationship with the river, for instance by taking steps to create and maintain an attractive. natural environment, whilst at the same ensuring that riverside landowners meet their legal responsibilities and statutory duties. The River Stewardship Company has played a very important role in developing improved resilience to flooding and developing a community of people engaged with our rivers. It is recognised across the country as an innovative model of good practice. Recent work by the Environment Agency and Sheffield City Council to clear away flood debris and establish clear channels now requires regular and smaller scale management to maintain the improvements, and the River Stewardship Company is well placed to help do this.



River stewards Photo Credit: River Stewardship Company

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?



Upper Don Walk. The first mile is in place, it needs to continue at least as far as Oughtibridge

other areas.

Nature Reserves, Habitat Enhancement and Biodiversity

We have created new nature reserves from deserted industrial wastelands, abandoned sites and derelict land. Blackburn Meadows Nature Reserve is now of international significance and is actively used as an education resource and community green space. New urban wildlife sites such as Salmon Pastures. Crabtree Ponds and the Shire Brook Valley help bring nature right into the city centre to provide peaceful areas where citizens can watch, reflect and relax. Fish passes have been created and habitat improvements made to enable migration of wildlife such as salmon, otter and kingfishers. On both the Sheaf and the Don, we are working to remove barriers to wildlife, enabling healthier and more sustainable populations to flourish. Biodiversity surveys have been undertaken along the entire River Don corridor, mapping out just what is there and helping us to understand the importance of our urban wildlife.

Water Quality Improvements

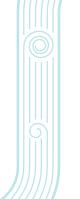
We have brought about major improvements in water quality, through controls to pollution from industry, sewage works, agriculture and urban development. The investment and the results are dramatic. Yorkshire Water has invested approximately £30,000,000 in the last few years to improve the quality of discharges into the river system and this has been crucial to support the growth of fish populations and the return of otters.



Blackburn Meadows Nature



Pond dipping at Blackburn Meadows Photo Credit: The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham



Improved Flood Risk Management

We have responded positively and sensitively to the increasing risk of flooding brought about through climate change, and successfully implemented policies to promote the use of sustainable drainage (SUDS) throughout the city. Since the devastating flooding of June 2007, we have worked together to reduce flood risks and to develop strategies covering the entire catchment so that problems are not just passed on downstream. Major blockages in the river system have been removed and measures have been put in place to maintain ecologically diverse and attractive river environments whilst sustaining the benefits of flood protection works. We have worked hard to engage with local businesses and residents to help develop resilience to future flooding, and to improve the uptake and efficiency of warning systems. A comprehensive Sheffield Flood Protection Strategy is now emerging, based for the first time on a more thorough understanding of the catchment hydrology and river hydraulics.

Quality Riverfront Developments and Waterside Recreational Facilities

The City Centre Master Plan identifies the Central Riverside as one of the two major new business districts in Sheffield. High quality riverfront offices, flats and recreational facilities have already been built at Victoria Quays Canal Basin, Kelham Island, Blonk Street and North Bank. However, these developments require more coherent and better quality public spaces to link them together and create access to the water whilst providing improved flood protection. The diversion of traffic away from the river by the new northern section of the Inner Relief Road offers an opportunity to further transform these areas.







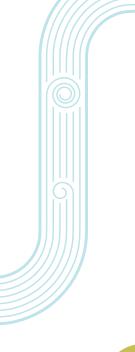
Top to Bottom: (1) Sustainable drainage schemes such as this help prevent floodwater reaching rivers and so reduce flooding (2) Corporation Street Bridge, June 2007 (Photo Credit: Craig Broadwith)





Top to Bottom: (1) Photomomtage of proposed pedestrianisation for Castlegate and suggestions for new mixed use development (Image Credit: Sheffield City

Page Con 52 tlegate Action Plan) (2) Castlegate, impression of proposed mixed use development and open space (Image Credit: Sheffield City Council, Castlegate Action Plan)



As can be seen from previous sections, much work has already been done by partners in the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group and other groups. Knowledge acquired from this work together with consultation and dialogue with other stakeholders including local people has been used to inform development of further actions, which are required to achieve the eight goals of this strategy.

Strategic Lead and Governance

Waterways regeneration activities have been taking place for many years in Sheffield, largely due to organisations making the most of opportunities as they arise and no doubt this opportunistic approach will continue. Results are already significant but the scale of what is needed means that much more has to be done. Delivery of the comprehensive range of actions contained in this strategy will require change from an opportunistic approach to one of concerted partnership with wide support.

To ensure that this happens, it is necessary to have an organisation to take a strategic lead. Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group with its representation of statutory and voluntary sector groups is well placed to provide this lead, acting as the delivery coordination body for the strategy. All partners have been responsible for significant regeneration activities and have extensive experience covering all aspects of the work that needs to be done.

To formalise delivery of the strategy, it is recommended that Waterways Strategy Group partners, together with other stakeholders engaged in regeneration, sign a 'City of Rivers Agreement' setting out their commitment to delivery and to making resources available within their organisations. It is also proposed that Waterways Strategy Group produces an annual report on activities and achievements which will be submitted to the relevant governing parts of their individual organisations for approval as well as being made publically available.

Membership of Waterways Strategy Group will be reviewed with the objective of maintaining its representativeness and involving all potential partners.



Case Study: Edinburgh

WATER OF LEITH COMMUNITY TRUST

The Water of Leith is
Edinburgh's main river,
a relatively modest but very
picturesque and varied one
which flows for 24 miles from
the Pentland Hills to the Firth
of Forth at Leith Harbour.
It is comparable in scale to
the Loxley or Don in Sheffield.

Parts of the walk were built in the 19th century at Dean Village around the picturesque edges of the New Town and are characterised by high quality Victorian park-like features. Most of the river however, was dominated by industry and lined by over 70 watermills as well as railway yards and warehousing close to the Leith Docks. De-industrialisation in the 70s and 80s created the opportunity to reclaim the river.

In 1988 a charitable trust was set up to promote a continuous walkway (incidentally inspiring the Five Weirs Walk Trust) and this was slowly achieved over the next decade particularly after 1997 when the Trust was successful in gaining a £5m Lottery grant to complete the walk and build a River Visitor Centre in the old Slateford School. Some sections have involved ingenious bridges and structures.

More recently, flood defences have been added to sections running close to housing requiring hard decisions about intrusion, loss of tree cover and some loss of views.

The Water of Leith Community
Trust now runs the Visitor
Centre and carries out
extensive educational work,
represents river users and
organises a significant volunteer
programme climaxing in an
annual community clean up
where local people compete for
a trophy for the most unusual
items of debris in the river!

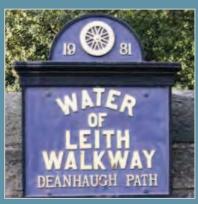
Lessons for Sheffield

The Water of Leith success clearly demonstrates the power of community organisations to bring about major change. The Trust has raised large amounts of funds, carried out practical work, established stewardship and engaged the wider community. Through their efforts, they have ensured the survival of a major cultural asset for the benefit of future generations.









Top to Bottom: (1) Water of Leith Visitor Centre (2) City Centre Walkway (Photo Credit: both Simon Ogden) (3) Near to Leith (Photo Credit: David Dixon, CC) (4) (Photo Credit: CC)



Riversides can provide places for employment, featuring high quality environments for modern work space, high tech manufacturing and creative production in 'urban villages' Photo Credit: Tom Wild

Delivery Mechanism and Funding

As the strategy moves into the delivery phase, the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group will widen its representation to include political and private sector support and to broaden its involvement at 'grass roots' level through the engagement and representation of community groups.

Funding to augment the initial outlay by partners will be sought in the form of bids for support by the European Union under various schemes and from sub-regional funding allocations. Monies will also be sought from a range of charitable foundations and trusts having an emphasis on environmental quality, social cohesion and local governance. Funders can expect to receive excellent value for money, and proven, real benefits delivered by a group with a demonstrable track record in managing innovative, purposeful and durable partnership projects. Together we will bring about sustainable improvements 'on the ground.'

Initially, our work will focus on developing partnerships with the groups that have the power to change or influence what happens to our waterways:

- Voluntary Sector and the Sheffield
 Community They have led much of what has been achieved so far
- Statutory Authorities Those who have responsibilities which must be carried out as part their duties
- Developers & Landholders Much development land is in the river corridors and developers bring the biggest financial resource. More can be done to bring together these interests and to find common solutions and opportunities for shared benefits
- Funders Several charities and statutory
 funding programmes have clear objectives that
 fit well with the goals of the Strategy, including
 schemes administered at the local, regional,
 national and transnational levels. We will work
 with them to establish how we can meet their
 aims and provide good value for money
- Researchers Sheffield has the excellent asset of two leading universities plus many other higher educational institutions. We will work together to investigate innovations and best practices in bringing about waterways regeneration, sustainable creation of jobs and growth, climate change adaptation, environmental resilience and social cohesion



ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

The map displayed here and the tables shown on pages 64-71 identify potential key actions together with lead delivery organisations, stakeholders and the key outcomes. Actions are organised geographically as follows:

- Urban projects and actions.
- Suburban & rural projects and actions.
- · City-wide projects and actions
- Regional projects and wider links

We will work together with stakeholders to establish which initiatives are to be highlighted and considered to be 'key projects.' Some of these actions are already underway and others need to be initiated. Following consultation and subsequent adoption of this strategy, detailed explanations of these actions, together with specific objectives will be shown in a separate document entitled 'Sheffield Waterways Master Plan and Action Plan.'





We will support or if necessary initiate the following:

Improved management of all waterways through river stewardship and involving riparian owners and communities

Don catchment level partnership on water quality, biodiversity and river corridor management; for instance through Living Landscapes Project and South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

Promotion of recreational and tourism potential of the waterways

Develop more sustainable fisheries

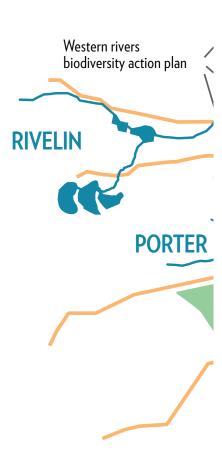
Change management of moorlands and upland catchments including reservoirs to improve flood retention and compensation flows Extend plans for public access to all waterways working with local and catchment-wide partners

Seek Green Flag status for key waterway sites

Look for opportunities to share knowledge with higher educational institutions, other UK cities and international partners

Develop new ways of communicating with the public; for instance social networking via the 'Riverlution' website

An annual or biennial State of the Rivers Conference to review progress and partnership







FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Urban Projects and Actions

These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.

SCC Sheffield City Council

DCRT Don Catchment Rivers Trust

SWT Sheffield Wildlife Trust

FWW Five Weirs Walk Trust

 $\pmb{\mathsf{RSC}} \;\; \mathsf{River} \; \mathsf{Stewardship} \; \mathsf{Company}$

TBC To Be Confirmed

All SWSG partners

SCC CDD City Development Division

UDWT Upper Don Walk Trust

EA Environment Agency

SYFP South Yorkshire Forest Partnership

RCV Rivelin Conservation Volunteers Group

CRT Canal and River Trust

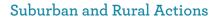
UoS University of Sheffield

FoPV Friends of Porter Valley

RMBC Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

				Borough Council
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Open up the River Sheaf at confluence with River Don	Regeneration at Castle Market site, making a more attractive site, promoting Sheffield's heritage and daylighting the river – establish project development process and secure funding. Close linkage with proposed Victoria Sq new public square strengthening connection to Canal Basin	scc	DCRT; SWT; FWW, Private developers	 Regeneration of Castlegate Quarter Heritage enhanced and protected Improved flood resilience Removal of 'barrier' between Sheaf and Don
Flood preparedness programme	Work with communities to improve resilience to flooding	EA	RSC; Community groups	 People, businesses and property protected against flooding Reduced financial loss Improved ability to cope with flooding impacts
City centre watersports and waterways recreation	Promote opportunities for a diverse range of recreational activities including fishing, canoeing, canal boat trips and cycling	TBC likely to be local sport/ recreation group	All	 More visitors to waterways Increased trade to existing businesses and new economic opportunities Greater appreciation of environment, wildlife and heritage
Upper Don walkway	Completion of walkway, promotion of vision and work towards aims and objectives of the Upper Don Valley Masterplan	UDW	SCC; EA; Private developers,	 Sustainable transport; reduced carbon emissions Reduced road congestion Health and wellbeing Employment opportunities Access to services Wildlife protected
Club Mill Road	Restoration of former land fill site to form green space and riverside walk	TDI Whites	SCC; UDWT; Local businesses	
Lower Porter Brook public realm and river restoration	River daylighting and regeneration of Lower Porter Brook in Cultural Industries Quarter & St Mary's Gate area. Flood protection including Railway Station, Riverside cyclefootways, improved environment and stimulate development	scc cdd; syfp	EA; Network Rail; Private developers	 Improved access Flood risks reduced More aesthetically pleasing environment Better quality of life Distinctiveness of local area

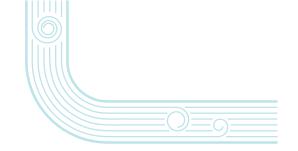
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Central Riverside regeneration and flood defences	Co-ordinated river management and public realm improvements, commencing with debris removal, development of permanent and interim flood defences and green space enhancements – towards regional best practices	SCC CDD	SYFP; EA, Private Developers	Improved economic conditions for investment Reduced flood risks Extend benefits of Heart of City programme towards deprived communities More people accessing the River Don, particularly for boating Develop best practice and roll out across region
Sheffield-Rotherham Don Valley Masterplanning	New vision for Lower Don Valley 'string of pearls' - connected open spaces along the Five Weirs Walk from Sheffield City Centre to Rotherham Town Centre, access links between the canal and river. Co-ordinated projects for sports and leisure, renewable energy, flood protection and economic regeneration.	SCC Planning	FWW; SWT; CRT	 Raised land values More people using Lower Don Improved design and quality of development More attractive landscape Urban wildlife and biodiversity Active use of waterfront Reduced crime and fear of crime
Lower Don Valley Flood Protection Strategy	Comprehensive Flood Protection Plan for major industrial and infrastructure with potential for wider amenity and habitat benefits	SCC; EA; Private stakeholders	SYFP	Improved economic conditions for investment Reduced flood risks Support for Don Valley Modern Manufacturing More people accessing waterways Develop best practice and roll out across region
Attercliffe Canalside project - Sheffield & Tinsley Canal	Mixed use development programme including public realm and canal towpath improvements	BW; SCC; Norfolk Estate	Private developers	Strengthen district centre More viable businesses Conomic investment More people living in Lower Don Valley Active and healthy lifestyles
Blackburn Meadows Nature Reserve phase III	Community engagement programme, access to nature and extended local stewardship – potential Blackburn Meadows visitor centre. Link Bridge to Magna.	SWT	RSC, FWW	 Improved local involvement More visitors to an attractive natural environment Less vandalism and flytipping Potential jobs at visitor centre
Meadowhall Metropolitan	Creation of new waterside park(s) and improved access to River Don	British Land	SCC; SYFP; RSC; Groundwork Sheffield	 More accessible, safe and attractive open spaces Recreation, activity and leisure opportunities



The middle and upper reaches of the Porter, Sheaf, Rivelin and Loxley together with the myriad brook, streams and culverts.

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Sheffield Comprehensive Flood Review	Strategy for Flood Protection for the Sheffield river system	EA; SCC	All riparian owners	 More responsive flood risk management Efficient use of assets More integrated water cycle management Drought management Programme of hard and soft resilience measures
Uplands flood storage and control projects	Investigate opportunities for flood control in upper catchments including water retention, farming diversification, changes to moorland and peat management	EA	SCC; SYFP; SWT; DCRT; UDW	 Reduced flooding More sustainable rural drainage Less flashy flows Drought protection Climate change adaptation and mitigation
Real-time river management project – River Don catchment	Future management of river water quantities and quality using weather forecasting and flow management techniques – wiser management of compensation flows and sewer drainage for floods	EA; YW	DCRT	 More responsive flood risk management Efficient use of assets More integrated water cycle management Drought management Reduced fish kills
Loxley – Rivelin World Heritage Site	Investigate opportunity for entire river corridors to be designated as World Heritage site due to global importance as 'birthplace' of cutlery and steel manufacturing – with associated tourism, leisure and environmental opportunities	SCC	SYFP; SWT; RCV	 Increased visitor numbers Impacts on wider city image Tourism Economic opportunities Education Protect and showcase globally important heritage More biodiversity High quality linkage between city and countryside
Shepherd Wheel restoration project	Restoration of water wheel, millpond and other associated structures at this unique heritage site dating back to 1584. Educational facilities, landscape interpretation and wildlife conservation.	SCC	SIMT; FoPV	 Protect and promote unique, listed heritage feature Education Tourism Biodiversity
Green corridor management plans	Green and open space masterplans for each river corridor covering management and improvement schemes	SCC	All	Better quality of lifeImproved access to recreationMore green and open spaces in urban areas

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Sheffield's river rescue projects	Community-led projects involving a wide range of SWSG partners, supporting local people to deliver river restoration e.g. at Blackburn Brook, Car Brook etc.	SCC	All	 Reduced flood risks Increased number of people engaged in volunteering Increased skills, confidence Job opportunities More active lifestyles Improved community cohesion More targeted funding
Western Rivers Biodiversity Action Plan	Provision of more coherent information and data resources on biodiversity	SWT	SCC Ecology Unit	 Greater biodiversity and wildlife protection More coordinated partnerships Fundraising Improved awareness
Forge Dam restoration project	Potential restoration of historic showpiece water asset and key 'node' on Porter Brook waterway - investigate how to manage siltation and encroachment most sustainably	FoPV	SCC; SYFP	Educational opportunitiesAwareness of biodiversityAddress neglect of heritage asset
Local Waterside Urban Centres	Establish local 'hubs' for transport, economic development and high quality public open spaces at Hillsborough, Attercliffe, Heeley, Hunter's Bar and Stocksbridge – Thriving Local Centres at these former riverside 'towns'	SCC Planning	All	 Stronger community cohesion Economic and social regeneration Pride in the local environment Improved awareness of the river Viable businesses and investment opportunities
Meadowhall Weir river restoration	Provision of major new fish pass, access improvements and recreational facilities	DCRT	EA; SCC; UDWT	 Increased fish populations More efficient and sustainable fishery management Leisure and recreation opportunities Better access and transport links to currently isolated community centre Reduced flood risks
River Sheaf weirs restoration scheme	Removal of obstructions to fish passage	SCC	EA	Increased biodiversity including healthier fish populations and more connected river ecology

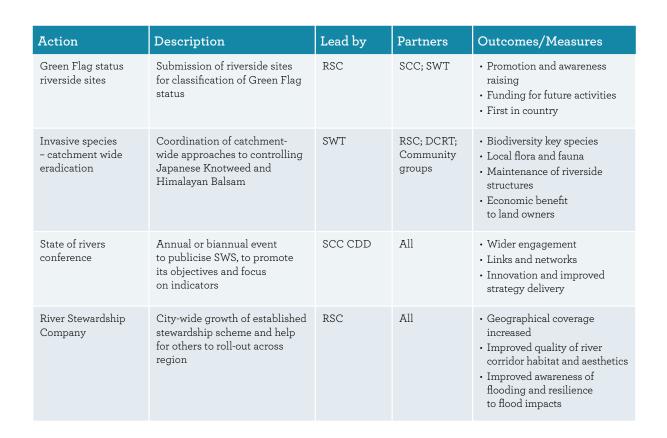


City-Wide Projects and Actions

City-wide projects and actions. These are the initiatives requiring action across the city or towards the river catchments scale.

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Community engagement in waterways regeneration - coordination via a city-wide 'hub' for involving local people	Capacity-building for community involvement in local river restoration projects	scc	RSC; SWT; DCRT	Numbers of people involved Right people mobilised More political support for waterways and SWS actions Increased resilience Stewardship Widen benefits to deprived communities Support materials available Funding information, expertise and delivery capacity
Annual programme of events/festivals along the city's waterways including 'On the Waterfront,' educational activities and fun events	Events located at Central Riverside, Victoria Quays, Kelham Island and potentially at Abbeydale Hamlet, Shepherd Wheel and similar sites	RSC/ Groundwork Sheffield	SCC; Community groups; Schools; Businesses	 Greater involvement of local people Protection of waterways for future Improved awareness Celebration of water heritage
Sheffield Waterways Volunteers	Coordination of voluntary workforces – city-wide arrangements for voluntary activity	RSC	SCC; SWT; DCRT; Community groups; Recreational organisations	 Active lifestyles Health and wellbeing Friendships More effective activity More volunteers Training, skills and qualifications Areas of land improved and maintained
Supplementary Planning Document on waterways regeneration	Management agreements for waterfront developments – agreements secured for future maintenance of landowners sections of rivers	SCC Planning	All	 Quality developments Amount of well-managed riverside open spaces Flood resilience Contributions to strategic aims More riverside walks Reduced carbon emissions
Sheffield Waterways Access Network (SWAN project)	Promoting total, city-wide network of pedestrian and cycle routes, addressing key gaps and links	SWSG	All	 Sustainable transport Reduced carbon emissions Health and wellbeing Reduced congestion Employment opportunities Access to services Wildlife protected

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Sheffield Waterways Communications Strategy	Development of key messages - targeting of audiences and communication channels	SWSG	All	 Greater awareness and buy-in Political support Community involvement Number of presentations, briefings and press coverage of SWSG activities
Catchment Flood Management Plan	Coordination of strategic approach to flood risk management at river catchment scale	EA	All	Reduced flood risksWider involvementInnovationKnowledge-sharing
Eels recovery project	Improvement of wetland habitat, fish passage and recovery of crashed populations (down 95%)	DCRT	EA; Defra	 Recovery of keystone species populations Wetland habitat enhanced Improved flood resilience Better awareness of eels 'plight'
Aquatic Mammals Initiative	Potential project	SWT	N/A	 Populations of keystone aquatic mammal species e.g. otters on all rivers More ecologically connected river systems
White-Clawed Crayfish action plan	Sustainable management of environmental modifications (e.g. changes to weirs)	SWT	SCC	Increase chances of survivalPopulation levelsAwareness of endangered species
Sustainable fisheries management	Delivery of improved fisheries - cost effective, inclusive and environmentally sustainable management of resource	EA	DCRT	Fisheries habitat enhancedBiodiversity of fish species
South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Targeting of investment in key greenspace nodes and links, to establish green networks and corridors	SYFP	All	Better targeted investmentConnected communitiesClimate change adaptation
River channels management and maintenance planning	Detailed 5-year management and maintenance plan for Sheffield river channels and banks – more sustainable approaches	EA	RSC; All	 Reduced flood risks More community involvement and ownership Efficient and coordinated input Less debris Improved perceptions of environmental quality Reduced vandalism and misuse
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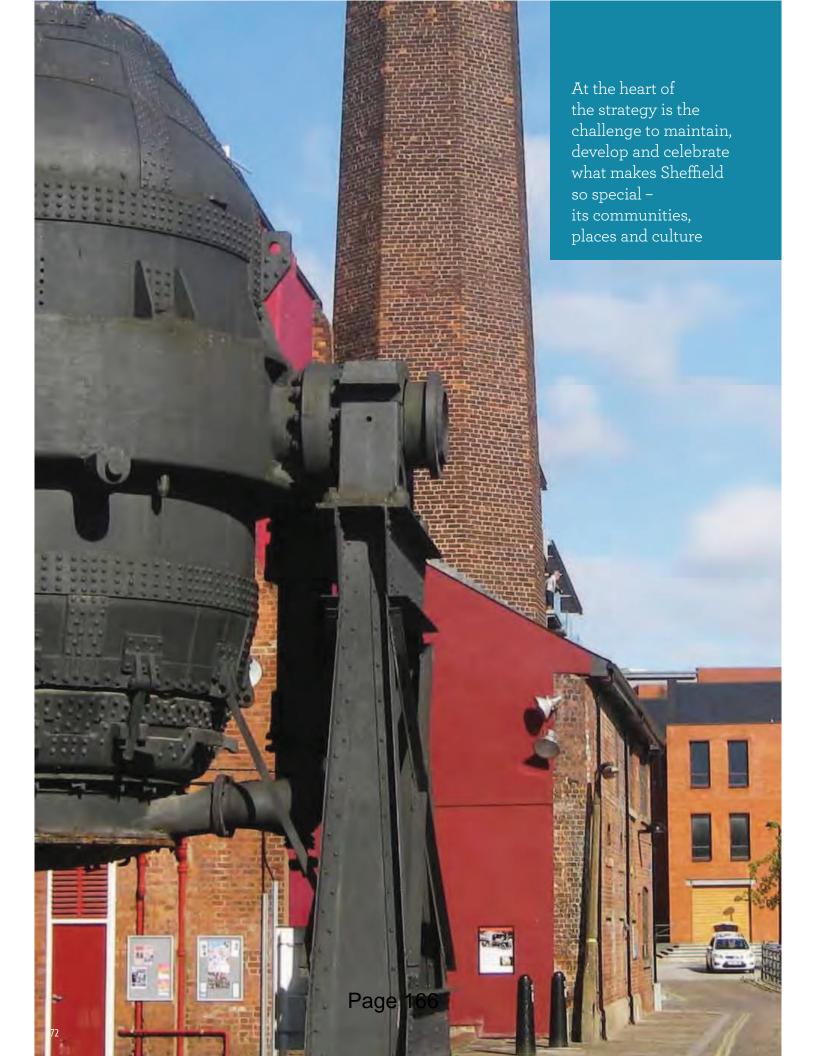


Regional Projects and Wider Links

Activities occurring across local boundaries and with broader links to other areas, including projects with partners in other parts of the country or overseas.

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Living Landscapes regional biodiversity opportunities map	Promotion, uptake and use of map to highlight potential improvements	SWT	Regional BAP forum; SCC	Biodiversity key speciesClimate change adaptationAwareness and coordination
URSULA - urban river corridors and sustainable living agendas	Research project (EPSRC funded) on sustainable regeneration of urban river corridors for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment	UoS	SCC/EA	Evidence on social, economic and environmental benefits of waterways regeneration 3D visualisations of Sheffield's river corridors

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures
Interreg IVB MARE project	EU flood adaptation project - including Don Catchment Learning Alliance and regional learning network	SCC CDD	UoS; Rotherham MBC; Other authorities; Sheffield City Region	Transnational learning on climate change adaptation and flood resilience
Interreg IVB VALUE project	EU project on Valuing Attractive Landscapes in the Urban Economy	SYFP/SCC	UoS	 Evidence on efficient targeting of green infrastructure investments Improved approaches to valuing natural environments Public realm improvements at Wicker Riverside, Centenary Wetlands and A61 Corridor
Interreg IVB Making Places Profitable	EU network project on long-term stewardship of environmental investments	SYFP/SCC	UoS	 Best practice in durable management and maintenance of public realm environment Public realm investments at Sheaf Valley Park and Firth Park
Transnational project on waterways governance	Proposal for a new EU project to help fund the work of this strategy	SWSG	All	Funding for work to establish best practices in governance of waterways regeneration
Rotherham Waterways Strategy	Liaison and coordination with Rotherham on common objectives	RMBC		 Value for money Catchment-wide approaches Sub-regional investment
Tourism links	Promotion of city and waterways to visitors – e.g. Trans Pennine Trail; linking international conferences etc. to city of rivers festivals/cultural programme	SCC	Interreg project partners	Profile as a first rate destination city in EU
River Basin Management Plans	Ongoing planning cycle for EU Water Framework Directive - promotion of more holistic water management (much of Don system has 'Poor' ecological status)	EA	All	 Ecological status (lengths): water quality and habitat Education and community involvement Visitor numbers Economic impact of water management







New walkway and development at Bridgehouses

At the heart of the strategy is the challenge to maintain, develop and celebrate what makes Sheffield so special – its communities, places and culture.

The quality of the urban environment in the centre of Sheffield has never been better, setting a new benchmark for public realm. However, with a few exceptions, the riverside environment falls far below this standard.

The strategy aims to drive up standards of design and management of the riverside, benefiting society, the economy and the environment. Successful delivery of the strategy will also create a city image that has a resonance with investors and decision makers, a distinctive offer that combines best of urban living with access to a superb outdoor environment, providing the best quality of life in any UK city.

The economic value of public spaces is now well documented; a high quality public environment is an essential part of any regeneration strategy, impacting positively on the local economy particularly by encouraging investment and the creation of jobs. In less favoured parts of the city, our restored waterways will act as one of the catalysts to regeneration.

The important environmental benefits that our rivers bring to urban areas will be much improved with greater opportunity for people to be close to nature. Wildlife corridors and natural habitats

will be protected, extended and joined up as part of a concerted greening programme. Re-naturalised river corridors will help develop the city's resilience to climate change, slowing flood waters, helping cool the city and providing new and alternative wildlife habitats.

Well maintained public spaces will help improve physical and mental health, encouraging more people to take opportunities to become active. The experience of the natural environment will provide children and young people with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning. Better managed and more visited public spaces will help to reduce crime rates and allay people's fears of crime.

Well designed and maintained riverside places will bring communities together, providing meeting opportunities in the right context and fostering social ties. One of the fundamental benefits arising from better connected river corridors will be to allow people to move around without the challenge of reconciling the needs of different modes of transport.

New riverside neighbourhoods will provide homes, workspace, cultural and educational opportunities in a memorable and productive landscape setting. Cultural assets and venues will be created from the retention and re-use of buildings, not only those of architectural merit but also the workaday buildings where so much of Sheffield's history was enacted.







Kelham: new uses for old buildings

These will be the indicators of success.

A Thriving and Competitive City

- Sheffield's distinctive image reinforced enhancing its aim to be a unique and leading European City
- More jobs and new economic opportunities leading to increased competitive advantage and investment
- Design guidelines on waterfront development leading to improved design and quality of development
- Increased footfall along waterways and in district centres
- · More attractive public realm
- Heritage protected, promoted and conserved
- · Raised waterside land values
- Reduced economic cost of water management
- Increased trade for existing riverside businesses
- Improved distinctiveness of local area
- Improved citizens' pride in the local environment

Quality of Life

- Improved social cohesion and inclusion
- Support for the voluntary sector groups and networks

- Improved educational opportunities and capacity for lifelong learning
- Improved safety and accessibility
- Opportunities for social engagement and involvement in projects
- More visitors to waterways and more people accessing natural environments
- Greater involvement of local people
- Reduced congestion
- · Better health and wellbeing
- Less vandalism and fly-tipping
- · Healthier fish populations
- Recovery of keystone species populations
- More efficient and sustainable fishery management
- Recreation, activity and leisure opportunities
- More active lifestyles
- High quality linkages between the city and countryside
- More urban wildlife and biodiversity
- Benefits of regeneration extended towards deprived communities
- Riparian rights and responsibilities known, understood and implemented



The Don at Effingham Street

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Reduced flood risk and improved flood resilience, including better awareness and preparedness and ability to cope with flooding impacts
- People, businesses and property protected from damage and loss
- More sustainable urban and rural drainage
- Prevention of drought and protection against its impacts
- Less flashy river flows
- Improved water quality
- Reduced reliance on private car transport
- Greater uptake of sustainable transport options including walking and cycling

- · Reduced carbon emissions
- Connected habitat network resilient to climate change
- A connected, high quality and functional green infrastructure network
- Biodiversity action plans preparing for impacts of climate change
- Climate change adaptation plans
- More connected river ecology
- Better targeting of interventions and improved value for money



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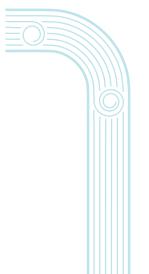
Griffiths P. East End Trails 3 The Five Weirs Walk.

Ogden S. East End Trails 1 The Sheffield and Tinsley Canal.

For further information please contact

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FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Urban Projects and ActionsThese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley

Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	deadows.					
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Open up the River Sheaf at confluence with River Don	Regeneration at Castle Market site, making a more attractive site, promoting Sheffield's heritage and daylighting the river – establish project development process and secure funding. Close linkage with proposed Victoria Sq new public square strengthening connection to Canal Basin	OOS	DCRT; SWT; FWW, Private developers	a) Regeneration of Castlegate Quarter b) Heritage enhanced and protected c) Improved flood resilience d) Removal of 'barrier' between Sheaf and Don		
Flood preparedness Work with	Work with	EA	RSC;	a) People, businesses and		
programme	communities to improve resilience to		Community groups	property protected against flooding		
	flooding			b)Reduced financial loss		
				c) improved ability to cope with flooding impacts		

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Urban Projects and ActionsThese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.

_	Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
	City centre	Promote opportunities TBC likely	TBC likely	All	a) More visitors to waterways		
>	watersports and		to be local		b) Increased trade to existing		
>	waterways	diverse range of	sport/		businesses and new economic		
_	recreation	recreational	recreation		opportunities		
		activities including	group		b) Greater appreciation		
		fishing,			of environment, wildlife		
		canoeing, canal boat			and heritage		
		trips					
		and cycling					
م.د ا	Upper Don walkway Completion of	Completion of	NDW	SCC; EA;	a) Sustainable transport;		
		walkway,		Private	reduced carbon emissions		
7		promotion of vision		developers,	b) Reduced road congestion		
_		and work			c) Health and wellbeing		
		towards aims and			d) Employment opportunities		
		objectives of			e) Access to services		
		the Upper Don Valley			f) Wildlife protected		
		Masterplan					
	Club Mill Road	Restoration of former TDI		SCC;			
		land fill site	Whites	UDWT;			
		to form green space		Local			
		and riverside		businesses			
		walk					

These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Funded Status e) Distinctiveness of local area c) More aesthetically pleasing Outcomes/Measures a) Improved access b) Flood risks reduced d) Better quality of life environment Rail; Private developers **Partners** EA; Network scc cpp: Lead by regeneration of Lower SYFP River daylighting and Quarter & St Mary's **FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN** including Railway Station, **Brook in Cultural** Flood protection Navigation and Blackburn Meadows. Description **Urban Projects and Actions** cyclefootways, and stimulate development environment Gate area. Industries Riverside improved Porter Lower Porter Brook public realm and river restoration Action

These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Funded Status d) More people accessing the of City programme towards c) Extend benefits of Heart Outcomes/Measures River Don, particularly for and roll out across region conditions for investment e) Develop best practice b) Reduced flood risks a) Improved economic deprived communities boating Developers SYFP; EA, Private **Partners** Lead by SCC CDD nterim flood defences space enhancements Co-ordinated river commencing with FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN and public realm Navigation and Blackburn Meadows. Description debris removal, development of permanent and mprovements, **Urban Projects and Actions** management regional best and green - towards practices Central Riverside regeneration and flood defences Action

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Urban Projects and ActionsThese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Sheffield-	New vision for Lower	SCC	FWW; SWT;	a) Raised land values		
Rotherham	Don Valley	Planning	CRT	b) More people using Lower		
Don Valley	'string of pearls' –			Don		
Masterplanning	connected open			c) Improved design and quality		
	spaces along the Five			of development		
	Weirs Walk			d) More attractive landscape		
	from Sheffield City			e) Urban wildlife and		
	Centre to			biodiversity		
	Rotherham Town			f) Active use of waterfront		
	Centre, access			g) Reduced crime and fear		
	links between the			of crime		
	canal and river.					
	Co-ordinated projects					
	for sports					
	and leisure,					
	renewable energy,					
	flood protection and					
	economic					
	regeneration.					
Lower Don Valley	Comprehensive Flood SCC; EA;	SCC; EA;	SYFP	a) Improved economic		
Flood Protection	Protection	Private		conditions for investment		
Strategy	Plan for major	stakeholders		b) Reduced flood risks		
	industrial and			c) Support for Don Valley		
	infrastructure with			Modern Manufacturing		
	potential			d) More people accessing		
	for wider amenity and			waterways		
	habitat			e) Develop best practice		
	benefits			and roll out across region		

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN	CTION PLAN					
Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Sout Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	_	together with the low	Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley	Loxley and also the Sheff	ield to Tinsley
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Attercliffe Canalside project - Sheffield & Tinsley Canal	Mixed use development programme including public realm and canal towpath improvements	BW; SCC; Norfolk Estate	Private developers	a) Strengthen district centre b) More viable businesses c) Economic investment d) More people living in Lower Don Valley e) Active and healthy lifestyles		
Blackburn Meadows Community Nature Reserve engagemer phase III programme to nature and extend stewardship phase III potential I	t, access ed local slackburn e. Link	SWT	RSC, FWW	a) Improved local involvement b) More visitors to an attractive natural environment c) Less vandalism and flytipping d) Potential jobs at visitor centre		
Metropolitan	n of new de park(s) proved access	British Land	SCC; SYFP; RSC; Groundwork Sheffield	 a) More accessible, safe and attractive open spaces b) Recreation, activity and leisure opportunities 		
Suburban and Rural Actions The middle and upper reaches streams and culverts	Suburban and Rural Actions The middle and upper reaches of the Porter, Sheaf, Rivelin and Loxley together with the myriad brook, streams and culverts	, Sheaf, Rivelin and	Loxley together with	r the myriad brook,		

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Urban Projects and ActionsThese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.

D						
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Sheffield	Strategy for Flood	EA; SCC	All riparian	a) Reduced flooding		
Comprehensive	Protection for the Sheffield river		owners	b) More sustainable rural		
	system			c) I ess flashy flows		
				d) Drought protection		
				e) Climate change adaptation		
				and mitigation		
Real-time river	Future management	EA; YW	DCRT	a) More responsive flood risk		
management	of river water			management		
project – River Don	project - River Don quantities and quality			b) Efficient use of assets		
catchment	nsing			c) More integrated water cycle		
	weather forecasting			management		
	and flow			c) Drought management		
	management			d) Reduced fish kills		
	techniques – wiser					
	management of					
	compensation					
	flows and sewer					
	drainage for					
	floods					

Action	Description	l ead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Real-time river management project – River Don		EA; YW	DCRT	a) More responsive flood risk management b) Efficient use of assets		
catchment				c) More integrated water cycle management		
	management techniques – wiser			e) Reduced fish kills		
	management of					
	flows and sewer					
	drainage for					
Loxley – Rivelin	gate	scc	SYFP; SWT;	a) Increased visitor numbers		
World Heritage Site	opportunity for entire		RCV	b) Impacts on wider city image		
	river corridors to be			c) Tourism		
	designated as			d) Economic opportunities		
	World Heritage site			e) Education		
	due to global			f) Protect and showcase		
	importance as			globally important heritage		
	'birthplace' of			g) More biodiversity		
	cutlery and steel			h) High quality linkage		
	manufacturing			between		
	with associated			city and countryside		
	tourism, leisure					
	and environmental					
	opportunities					

							-	
	Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded	
	Shepherd Wheel	Restoration of water	SCC	SIMT; FoPV	a) Protect and promote			
	restoration project	wheel,			unique,			
		millpond and other			listed heritage feature			
		associated			b) Education			
		structures at this			c)Tourism			
		nnique			d) Biodiversity			
P		heritage site dating						
24		back to 1584.						
7		Educational facilities,						
- د		landscape						
1 S		interpretation and						
20		wildlife						
		conservation.						
	Green corridor	Green and open	scc	All	a) Better quality of life			
	management plans				b) Improved access to			
		masterplans for each			recreation			
		river			c) More green and open			
		corridor covering			spaces			
		management			in urban areas			
		and improvement						
		schemes						

These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Funded Status b) Increased number of people c) Increased skills, confidence c) Address neglect of heritage a) Educational opportunities b) Awareness of biodiversity Outcomes/Measures g) More targeted funding engaged in volunteering e) More active lifestyles d) Improved awareness f) Improved community a) Reduced flood risks a) Greater biodiversity and wildlife protection b) More coordinated d) Job opportunities c) Fundraising partnerships SCC; SYFP **Partners** SCC Ecology ₹ Lead by FoPV SCC information and data Potential restoration partners, supporting - investigate how to encroachment most Provision of more e.g. at Blackburn Brook, Car Brook FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN showpiece water nvolving a wide range of SWSG **Brook waterway** node' on Porter Navigation and Blackburn Meadows. Description Community-led **Urban Projects and Actions** to deliver river on biodiversity asset and key ocal people siltation and restoration sustainably of historic projects coherent manage etc. **Biodiversity Action** restoration project Western Rivers Sheffield's river rescue projects Forge Dam Action

These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Funded Status d) Better access and transport a) Increased fish populations Outcomes/Measures e) Viable businesses and c) Leisure and recreation investment opportunities inks to currently isolated d) Improved awareness b) Economic and social a) Stronger community e) Reduced flood risks fishery management b) More efficient and c) Pride in the local community centre opportunities regeneration environment sustainable of the river cohesion **Partners** EA; SCC; UDWT ₹ Lead by Planning Establish local 'hubs' quality public open Provision of major Attercliffe, Heeley, development and FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN Hunter's Bar and Centres at these and recreational former riverside Navigation and Blackburn Meadows. **Description** Stocksbridge – **Urban Projects and Actions Thriving Local** improvements pass, access Hillsborough, for transport, economic spaces at new fish towns' high Meadowhall Weir Local Waterside river restoration **Urban Centres** Action

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN	CTION PLAN					
Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Sout Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	and Actions Jon flowing Southwards kburn Meadows.	from Oughtibridge t	together with the low	Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	Loxley and also the Sheff	feld to Tinsley
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
River Sheaf weirs restoration scheme	Removal of obstructions to fish passage	SCC		Increased biodiversity including healthier fish populations and more connected river ecology		
City-Wide Projects ar	City-Wide Projects and Actions City-wide projects and actions. These are the initiatives requiring action across the city or towards the	e initiatives requirin	g action across the g	ity or towards the		
river catchments scale.	ale.					
Community engagement in waterways regeneration — coordination via a city-wide 'hub' for involving local people	Capacity-building for community involvement in local river restoration projects	SCC	RSC; SWT; DCRT	a) Numbers of people involved b) Right people mobilised c) More political support for waterways and SWS actions d) Increased resilience e) Stewardship f) Widen benefits to deprived communities g) Support materials available h) Funding information, expertise and delivery capacity		

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Annual programme	Events located at	RSC/	scc;	a) Greater involvement		
of events/festivals	Central	Groundwork	Community	of local people		
along the city's	Riverside, Victoria	Sheffield	groups;	b) Protection of waterways		
waterways including Quays,	Quays,		Schools;	for future		
'On the Waterfront,'	Kelham Island and		Businesses	c) Improved awareness		
educational	potentially			d) Celebration of water		
activities	at Abbeydale Hamlet,			heritage		
and fun events	Shepherd					
	Wheel and similar					
	sites					
Sheffield Waterways Coordination of	Coordination of	RSC	SCC; SWT;	a) Active lifestyles		
Volunteers	voluntary		DCRT;	b) Health and wellbeing		
	workforces - city-wide		Community	c) Friendships		
	arrangements for		groups;	d) More effective activity		
	voluntary		Recreational	e) More volunteers		
	activity		organisations	f) Training, skills		
				and qualifications		
				g) Areas of land improved		
				and maintained		
Supplementary	Management	oos	All	a) Quality developments		
Planning Document agreements for	agreements for	Planning		b) Amount of well-managed		
on waterways	waterfront			riverside open spaces		
regeneration	developments –			c) Flood resilience		
	agreements secured			d) Contributions		
	for future			to strategic aims		
	maintenance of			e) More riverside walks		
	landowners			f) Reduced carbon emissions		
	sections of rivers					

Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	kburn Meadows.))		,	`
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Eels recovery	Improvement of	DCRT	EA; Defra	a) Recovery of keystone		
project	wetland			species		
	habitat, fish passage			populations		
	and			b) Wetland habitat enhanced		
	recovery of crashed			c) Improved flood resilience		
	populations			d) Better awareness of eels		
	(down 95%)			'plight'		
Aquatic Mammals	Potential project	LMS	N/A	a) Populations of keystone		
Initiative				aquatic mammal species		
				e.g. otters on all rivers		
				b) More ecologically		
				connected		
				river systems		
White-Clawed	Sustainable	LMS	SCC	a) Increase chances of		
Crayfish action plan management of	management of			survival		
	environmental			b) Population levels		
	modifications			c) Awareness of endangered		
	(e.g. changes to			species		
	weirs)					
Sustainable	Delivery of improved	EA	DCRT	a) Fisheries habitat enhanced		
fisheries	fisheries			b) Biodiversity of fish species		
management	cost effective,					
	inclusive and					
	environmentally					
	sustainable					
	management of					
	resource					

Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	kburn Meadows.					
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
South Yorkshire	Targeting of	SYFP	All	a) Better targeted investment		
Green Infrastructure investment in key	investment in key			b) Connected communities		
Strategy	greenspace nodes			c) Climate change adaptation		
	and links, to					
	establish green					
	networks and					
	corridors					
River channels	Detailed 5-year	EA	RSC; All	a) Reduced flood risks		
) management	management			b) More community		
and maintenance	and maintenance			involvement		
planning	plan for			and ownership		
	Sheffield river			c) Efficient and coordinated		
	channels and			input		
	banks – more			d) Less debris		
	sustainable			e) Improved perceptions		
	approaches			of environmental quality		
				f) Reduced vandalism		
				and misuse		
Green Flag status		RSC	SCC; SWT	a) Promotion and awareness		
riverside sites	riverside sites			raising		
	for classification of			b) Funding for future activities		
	Green Flag			c) First in country		
	status					

FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN	CTION PLAN					
Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Sout Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	from Oughtibridge t	ogether with the low	Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley	, Loxley and also the Sheff	field to Tinsley
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Invasive species	Coordination of	SWT	RSC; DCRT;	a) Biodiversity key species		
catchment wide	catchmentwide			b) Local flora and fauna		
eradication	approaches to			c) Maintenance of riverside		
	controlling			structures		
	Japanese Knotweed			d) Economic benefit		
	and			to land owners		
	Himalayan Balsam					
State of rivers	Annual or biannual	acc cpp	All	a) Wider engagement		
conference	event			b) Links and networks		
	to publicise SWS, to			c) Innovation and improved		
	promote			strategy delivery		
	its objectives and					
	focus					
	on indicators					
River Stewardship	City-wide growth of	RSC	All	a) Geographical coverage		
Company	established			increased		
	stewardship scheme			b) Improved quality of river		
	and help			corridor habitat and aesthetics		
	for others to roll-out			c) Improved awareness of		
	across			flooding and resilience		
	region			to flood impacts		
Positional Designation of Mideal Particular	Midor Links					
Activities occurring	Negional Frojects and Widel Lilling Activities occurring across local boundaries and with broader links to other areas, including projects	and with broader lin	ks to other areas in	Chiding projects		
with partners in othe	with partners in other parts of the country or overs	overseas.				
-						

	NDUIL INGOUNDS.					
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Living Landscapes	Promotion, uptake	LMS	Regional BAP	a) Biodiversity key species		
regional biodiversity and use	and use		forum; SCC	b) Climate change adaptation		
opportunities map	of map to highlight			c) Awareness and		
	potential			coordination		
	improvements					
URSULA - urban	Research project	Son	SCC/EA	a) Evidence on social,		
river corridors and	(EPSRC			economic		
sustainable living	funded) on			and environmental benefits		
J agendas	sustainable			of waterways regeneration		
	regeneration of urban			b) 3D visualisations of		
	river			Sheffield's river corridors		
	corridors for the					
	benefit of					
	society, the economy					
	and the					
	environment					
Interreg IVB MARE	EU flood adaptation	acc cpp	UoS;	a) Transnational learning on		
project	project		Rotherham	climate change adaptation		
	including Don		MBC; Other	and flood resilience		
	Catchment		authorities;			
	Learning Alliance and		Sheffield City			
	regional		Region			
	learning network					

I hese relate to the Don flowing Souti Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	I hese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	from Oughtibridge 1	ogether with the low	Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley	Loxley and also the Sheff	field to Tinsley
Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Interreg IVB VALUE project	EU project on Valuing SYFP/SCC Attractive Landscapes in the Urban Economy		Son	a) Evidence on efficient targeting of green infrastructure investments b) Improved approaches to valuing natural environments c) Public realm improvements at Wicker Riverside, Centenary Wetlands and A61 Corridor		
Interreg IVB Making Places Profitable	EU network project on SYFP/SCC long-term stewardship of environmental investments	SYFP/SCC	Son	a) Best practice in durable management and maintenance of public realm environment b) Public realm investments at Sheaf Valley Park and Firth Park		
Transnational project on waterways governance	Proposal for a new EU project to help fund the work of this strategy	SWSG	All	 a) Funding for work to establish best practices in governance of waterways regeneration 		
Rotherham Liaison and Waterways Strategy coordination with Rotherh common objectives	am on	RMBC		a) Value for money b) Catchment-wide approaches c) Sub-regional investment		

Urban Projects and ActionsThese relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.

Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded
Tourism links	Promotion of city and waterways to visitors	SOC	Interreg project partners	a) Profile as a first rate destination city in EU		
River Basin Ongoing Management Plans cycle for EU Wate FU Wate Directive — promoti holistic water ma (much of Don sy 'Poor' ecologica	planning r Framework on of more nagement stem has	EA	ΡΙ	a) Ecological status (lengths): water quality and habitat b) Education and community involvement c) Visitor numbers d) Economic impact of water management		

Abreviations

SCC - Sheffield City Council
DCRT - Don Catchment Rivers Trust
SWT - Sheffield Wildlife Trust

	FIVE YEAR A	FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN		_			-	
<u> </u>	Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Soutl Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	and Actions Don flowing Southwards ckburn Meadows.	from Oughtik	oridge together with the	Urban Projects and Actions These relate to the Don flowing Southwards from Oughtibridge together with the lower reaches of the Sheaf, Porter, Loxley and also the Sheffield to Tinsley Navigation and Blackburn Meadows.	ier, Loxley and also th	le Sheffield to Tinsley	
	Action	Description	Lead by	Partners	Outcomes/Measures	Status	Funded	Π
Page 102	FWW - Five Weirs Walk Trust RSC -River Stewardship Company TBC - To Be Confirmed All - All SWSG partners SCC CDD - City Development Divi UDWT - Upper Don Walk Trust EA - Environment Agency SYFP - South Yorkshire Forest Pa RCV - Rivelin Conservation Volunt CRT - Canal and River Trust UoS - University of Sheffield FoPV - Friends of Porter Valley RMBC - Rotherham Metropolitan B	FWW - Five Weirs Walk Trust RSC -River Stewardship Company TBC - To Be Confirmed All - All SWSG partners SCC CDD - City Development Division UDWT - Upper Don Walk Trust EA - Environment Agency SYFP - South Yorkshire Forest Partnership RCV - Rivelin Conservation Volunteers Group CRT - Canal and River Trust UoS - University of Sheffield FoPV - Friends of Porter Valley RMBC - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	no:					1



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

Report of:	Executive Director, Place
Date:	18 th September 2013
Subject:	Negotiation of a new lease to allow the redevelopment of the Fox Hill site
Author of Report:	Christine Rose 2734373

Reasons for Recommendations:

SCC wants to ensure that a new developer is secured who can deliver high quality housing for Fox Hill.

We are working with KPMG, who have been testing the market to identify developer interest.

This report requests that officers are authorised to continue with the negotiations and agree either a new lease or a variation of the existing lease to allow a scheme of development which will still maintain the high quality standards required.

Recommendations:

- 1 That the Director of Capital and Major Projects and the Director of Regeneration and Development Services in conjunction with the Director of Finance be authorised to negotiate the terms of a new lease or to amend the existing lease, whichever is more appropriate, as are considered necessary for the provision good quality housing at Fox Hill.
- 2 That the Cabinet members for Homes and Neighbourhoods and Business, Skills and Development are delegated the authority to consider the developer's final proposals and whether they meet SCC's

requirements and make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with those proposals.

3 That, subject to the decision being made to proceed with the proposals the Director of Capital and Major Projects be authorised to instruct the Director of Legal Services to complete all the necessary legal documentation.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN part 1 CLOSED part 2*

If Closed add – 'Not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).'

^{*} Delete as appropriate

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications	
YES/Cleared by	
Legal Implications	
YES Cleared by: David Sellars	
Equality of Opportunity Implications NO Cleared by:	
, ,	
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications	
NO	
Human rights Implications	
NO:	
Environmental and Sustainability implications	
No	
Economic impact	
NO	
Community safety implications	
NO	
Human resources implications	
NO	
Property implications	
YES	
Area(s) affected	
Fox Hill	
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader	
Harry Harpham	
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in	
Safer homes and communities	
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?	
NO	
Press release	
YES	

Redevelopment of Fox Hill site

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 On 21.09.2005 Cabinet noted that Artisan H Ltd was selected as the successful developer following a competition process for the Fox Hill redevelopment site. The Council entered into a lease with Artisan H Ltd dated 28 April 2008 However, in December 2011 Artisan H Ltd went into administration and KPMG were appointed as administrators by the Bank of Ireland who hold a charge over the lease. SCC is still the freeholder of the land which is the subject of the lease and as such has a major role in how the redevelopment of the site is taken forwards. This report recommends that officers are given the authority to negotiate a way forwards and either enter into a new lease or vary the existing lease as required in order to ensure the delivery of high quality housing at Fox Hill.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 The delivery of new housing at Fox Hill effectively stopped in late 2011 as the developer, Artisan H Ltd had been placed into administration. 6 apartments have been completed and sold and 23 units were under construction.
- 2.2 SCC is the freeholder for this site. This report authorises officers to negotiate a way forwards with KPMG, the administrators, and any suitable developer to ensure that approximately 160 units of good quality housing is developed on the site.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The anticipated outcome of the negotiations would be that a new developer who has been identified by KPMG will be able to deliver good quality housing on the site. Since the original lease was drawn up many of the housing standards required by it have been incorporated into planning regulations and building standards. However, there may be different requirements which we wish to include in a new or amended lease.

As matters currently stand any developer who acquires the lease takes on the obligations to provide good quality housing. They are obliged to use the existing planning application.

However given the changes in planning regulations and building standards as well as the need to revisit the timescales involved it is felt that it would be better from a drafting point of view to amend these requirements in the lease or if needs be take a surrender of the old lease with a simultaneous re grant of a "clean" lease incorporating whatever amendments are required.

3.2 The contract with Artisan H Ltd provided that the grant of the lease would be conditional on the grant of planning permission which was based on a planning application approved by SCC as landowner. This condition will be contained in the new lease. In addition to the planning regulations and building standards the lease will reflect the need for 100% of dwellings to meet Lifetime Homes standard if this is feasible and that level 3 of the code for sustainable homes is to be met by the fabric-first approach, i.e. high insulation levels.

In addition there will be a planning requirement for affordable housing. There is currently an agreement with Great Places housing association that they will acquire 21 units, comprising of 10 x 1bed dwellings and 11 x 2 bed dwellings. A new planning application may result in a different layout and build out plan, and so officers may need to renegotiate the types of property whilst ensuring that a similar quantum is delivered.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Fox Hill site formed part of the North Area Development Framework and was a key opportunity for SCC's Housing Market Renewal programme to significantly regenerate and support the housing market through improved housing quality and choice.
- 4.2 Fox Hill is a visible site along a ridge line overlooking the city and is located in the north west corner of Southey Owlerton area of North Sheffield, adjacent to surrounding farm land, countryside and the popular areas of Old Fox Hill and Birley Carr. The site consists of 3 separate plots of land as referred to on the plans to the lease

In 2005 an open market competition was held to identify a developer who could deliver to the requirements set out in a market brief.

On 21.09.05 Cabinet noted that Artisan H Ltd was selected as the successful developer following the competition process for the Fox Hill redevelopment site

The Council entered into a long lease with Artisan H Ltd on 28 April 2008. Artisan H Ltd obtained funding from the Bank of Ireland to help develop the site. The Bank secured the funding by way of a legal charge over the lease. Artisan H Limited paid the value for the site based on the conditions of the quality scheme. The lease also contained an overage clause and profit sharing agreement.

Construction at the site continued until late 2011. However, during the months prior to this, lack of available cash meant that several suppliers were not paid to terms. Discussions between Artisan H Ltd and key stakeholders were ongoing but Artisan H Ltd was unable to fund construction. As a result, construction work ceased at the Development in November 2011. Shortly thereafter the Bank of Ireland appointed KPMG as Administrators pursuant to the powers under their charge.

Since then SCC has been working with KPMG and a cabinet report of May 2012 set out a previous proposal to unblock the site. Unfortunately this was not successful and we now need to identify a different way forwards.

4.4 Legal Implications

KPMG initially made contact with parties who have expressed an interest in acquiring the site, with the view to continuing and completing the development. The Joint Administrators continue to liaise with the key stakeholders – namely the Bank, the Homes and Communities Agency (both of whom have previously helped with funding), and SCC in seeking a resolution for the development.

In the meantime since the date of the appointment of KPMG Artisan H Ltd has breached at least one of its obligations under the lease in that it failed to complete 50 homes by 31 December 2011. Under the terms of the lease this breach triggers a process by which SCC can serve a series of notices on Artisan H Ltd requiring it to remedy the breach within a reasonable period of time or if the breaches are not remedied then the Bank of Ireland can ultimately elect to either remedy the breaches itself or dispose of the lease to a third party. In order to protect the Council's position notices have been served in accordance with the terms of the lease. The first notice was served on 5 January 2012 requiring the 50 homes to be built within 6 months. That obligation has not been complied with but the Bank of Ireland has served its own notice electing to find a purchaser of the lease. If the Bank is unable to find a purchaser or that purchaser does not comply with the obligations in the lease then ultimately SCC will be in a position to re purchase the lease for £1.00 (One pound). It is envisaged that the process would take approximately 24 months from service of the notice i.e. till January 2014.

Although a developer has been identified it is clear that they do not consider the scheme as it stands to be practicable both logistically and economically. The developer wishes to explore in more detail the possibilities for an alternative scheme that whilst viable would maintain the high building standards required by SCC.

If SCC is to agree to an amendment to the scheme this will require consequential amendments to the terms of the lease. It is also possible that if the scheme proposed by the developer and accepted by SCC is materially different from that first proposed and accepted then an application for Secretary of State's consent may be required.

4.5 Financial Implications

This is covered in the closed part 2

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 SCC has been cooperating with KPMG to allow them to secure a new developer. They have carried out some extensive market testing but interest in the site with the present obligations under the lease has been weak, resulting in only one positive expression of interest in 2012. Unfortunately this did not result in an acquisition of the land. Therefore we have continued to work with KPMG to identify further interest.

5.2

If the Bank of Ireland do not find a purchaser for the lease or the purchaser does not comply with the obligations in the lease SCC could require that the lease is assigned to it for £1 and could seek to identify another developer. However, following the market testing already carried out, this is unlikely to result in any further interest. In the mean time SCC would be responsible for all security and health and safety costs and no funding is available for this.

6.0 RISK

There is a reputational risk to SCC if this project is not taken forwards in a timely manner. Currently, SCC is cooperating with KPMG and an interested developer in order to get best value and high quality design for the site.

7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 SCC wants to ensure that a new developer is secured who can deliver high quality housing for Fox Hill.
- 7.2
 We are working with KPMG, who have been testing the market to identify developer interest.
- 7.3 This report requests that officers are authorised to continue with the negotiations and agree either a new lease or a variation of the existing lease to allow a scheme of development which will still maintain the high quality standards required.

8:0 REASONS FOR EXEMPTION (if a Closed report)

8.1 This report is presented as an exempt item because it contains exempt information under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The reasons for its exemption are that it refers to items covered in the cabinet report of 28/4/2008 which were closed then and still remain confidential.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Director of Capital and Major Projects and the Director of Regeneration and Development Services in conjunction with the Director of Finance be authorised to negotiate the terms of a new lease or to amend the existing lease, whichever is more appropriate, as are considered necessary for the provision good quality housing at Fox Hill.
- 9.2 That the Cabinet members for Homes and Neighbourhoods and Business, Skills and Development are delegated the authority to consider the developers final proposals and whether they meet SCC's requirements and make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with those proposals.
- 9.3 That, subject to the decision being made to proceed with the proposals the Director of Capital and Major Projects be authorised to instruct the Director of Legal Services to complete all the necessary legal documentation.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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