

Gleadless Valley Masterplan Refresh

March 2025



Contents

1 Introduction	3	Development Opportunities	14
1.1 Vision, Aims & Engagement	4	4.1 Overview	15
2 Methodology	5	4.2 Opportunities Map	16
2.1 Review of Regeneration Principles	6	4.3 Every Home Fit to Live In	17
3 Guiding Principles	8	4.4 Better Local Centres	20
3.1 Renewing	9	4.5 Recreation Hubs & Play	22
3.2 Nuturing	10	4.6 Improved Connections	24
3.3 Welcoming	11	4.7 Better Landscape	26
3.4 Thriving	12		
3.5 Evolving	13		

Issue Date: 18.03.2025
Revision: v1

01 INTRODUCTION



1.1 Vision, Aims & Engagement

2022 Masterplan

Once a popular council housing estate, Gleadless Valley now faces multiple challenges. Many residents face poor-quality homes, a lack of shops and facilities, and issues like fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour, while 69.5% of households experience deprivation.

The Gleadless Valley Masterplan, adopted by Sheffield City Council in September 2022, was developed through a four-year consultation and co-design process with local residents and community leaders.

The plan sets out a range of housing improvements, from refurbishing existing council homes to demolishing and rebuilding outdated properties. The plan also references the need to improve green and public spaces, local services and facilities and support skills and employment opportunities.

Since its adoption, a dedicated Gleadless Valley Regeneration Team has been established to deliver the plan. They've made progress on feasibility studies for housing and green space improvements and implemented smaller "quick win" projects, such as play area upgrades and employment initiatives.

However, the team has faced significant challenges due to rising construction costs and inflation. Initial estimates for delivering the Masterplan have ballooned from £94 million to £195 million, leaving a substantial funding gap.

This has stalled major capital works, including housing redevelopment and large-scale infrastructure projects, leaving many residents frustrated as they continue to live in poor housing conditions.

Despite these setbacks, the Council remains committed to the Masterplan's vision. The focus is now on an improved approach to regeneration in Gleadless Valley involving working across the council, with voluntary and community groups and with delivery and investment partners to bring additional expertise, capacity and funding into the programme.

The new approach to regeneration aligns with the Council's mission, "Together we get things done," focusing on partnering with housing associations, investors, and organisations like Homes England to bridge the funding gap, adopting a "whole council" approach to target local needs, and addressing community wellbeing issues.



Reason for Refresh

The Gleadless Valley Masterplan needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the new approach to regeneration. Proposals for the area need to meet the needs of the local community and be deliverable and attractive to external funders and investors. The review is also considering how physical improvements to housing and open spaces can be complemented by social and economic interventions to address the high levels of deprivation in the area and build thriving communities.

Capital Delivery Service Brief

Sheffield Council's Capital Delivery Service (CDS) have been commissioned to review the Gleadless Valley Masterplan and update the physical elements of the plans in line with the new approach to regeneration. The aim is to create fully costed, deliverable plans that will support efforts to secure strategic partners and funding.

The plans should support the wider objectives of driving social and economic change, improving the area's reputation, attracting investment, and creating jobs and training opportunities for residents. In addition to reviewing the proposals in the masterplan, the team have been tasked with considering new opportunities including:

- » Development sites that were not considered in the 2022 Masterplan.
- » Adjacent opportunities like Norton Aerodrome which offers the opportunity to attract significant investment in new housing and infrastructure which can be captured for the benefit of Gleadless Valley.
- » Regeneration of local shopping centres.
- » Community facilities.
- » Employment space to support enterprise and create jobs.
- » More significant improvements to public realm and green space.
- » Transport improvements to improve access to opportunities for local residents and support housing growth.

The work will be progressed through a series of stages, provisionally as follows:

1. Baseline Study: Baseline assessment of the area and existing masterplan proposals, defining programme objectives/principles, identifying opportunities.
2. Options: Developing high level options for each of the opportunities identified in the previous stage. This will include site identification, capacity studies, indicative cost estimates, planning risks, and other implications such as rehousing.
3. Selection of preferred options through a robust appraisal of the costs, benefits and risks of each option. These preferred options will become projects within the regeneration programme.
4. Phasing proposals: A sequence for delivery of the projects taking into account funding availability, construction impact on residents, timely provision of infrastructure and any rehousing needs.
5. Design and Development Briefs: Detailed briefs for each project to ensure it is delivered in line with the programme objectives/principles.

The CDS team will coordinate their work with inputs from specialists in financial viability, transport, ecology and other areas as required.

Stakeholder and resident engagement will inform the work at every stage.



02 METHODOLOGY



2.1 Review of Regeneration Principles

Overall Approach

The team has reviewed the guiding principles of the Gleadless Valley Masterplan to 'refresh' this work in light of new requirements of the scheme, alongside ensuring alignment with the City Goals and Council Plan.

Through this process, any new and/or adjusted opportunities could then be identified and an updated set of project objectives proposed.

The Gleadless Valley Masterplan has been underpinned by a vast body of work undertaken historically, and significant input from both residents and local stakeholders. It has been important to recognise this work, and to ensure that this work is built upon during this review.

The overall intention was to ensure the guiding principles for the regeneration of Gleadless Valley Masterplan are appropriate to carry the project forward over the next 5-10 years of delivery.

It is expected that these principles will need to remain flexible throughout the life of the project, and will need to be regularly reviewed to ensure they maintain relevance as per the current refresh process.

Review Process

The first step in the process was to draw out the key objectives from the original 2022 Masterplan and gather the evidence base of reports and documents that fed into its production.

Through subsequent conversations with members of the Gleadless Valley Project Team, Workstream Groups, site visits and discussions with stakeholders, areas where the original masterplan could be enhanced were also identified.

Following the initial review, more recent citywide policies were incorporated, including the City Goals and the Council Plan, to ensure the proposals reflected the wider aspirations of the city.

In order to organise the vast array of objectives now in place, a Whiteboard was created using the Council Plan Drivers as 'themes' under which to compile the various targets. See image opposite.

The agreed scopes of the recently established Gleadless Valley Workstream Groups were also captured. A direct comparison against all other objectives could then be made.

A series of workshops were then held with the Gleadless Valley Project Team and Workstream Groups (see below photo). This involved each attendee voting for the 10 objectives that they felt to be of the highest priority for the successful regeneration of the Valley. The workshops also offered an opportunity for members to highlight any new areas not already covered, or indeed to highlight those that were now felt to be unnecessary.

This activity helped to create a better understanding of where priorities lie and to reduce the vast array of objectives into a more succinct set of 'Guiding Principles' under the following 5 themes:

- **Renewing:** Housing & Local Services
- **Nurturing:** Children, Families & young People
- **Welcoming:** Inclusion, Health & Well-being
- **Thriving:** Economy, Jobs & Culture
- **Evolving:** Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management



A further workshop was held with external stakeholder groups to obtain feedback on the proposed Guiding Principles to ensure that their content and wording appropriately reflected local needs and aspirations (see photo above). The comments received were invaluable in identifying gaps within the topics covered, or where more focus was needed.

Following the stakeholder workshop, the Guiding Principles were updated for inclusion within this report.

	OUR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES				
	A place where all children belong and all young people can build a successful future	Great neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home	People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support wellbeing	A creative and prosperous city full of culture, learning, and innovation	A city on the move – growing, connected and sustainable
Council Plan	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan
GV Masterplan	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan
Workstream Scopes		<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 		<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan
Planning & Development		<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 			
Green & Blue	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan
Refurb & Sustainability		<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 			<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan
Guiding Principles	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan 	<p>2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan Develop a new council plan

Above

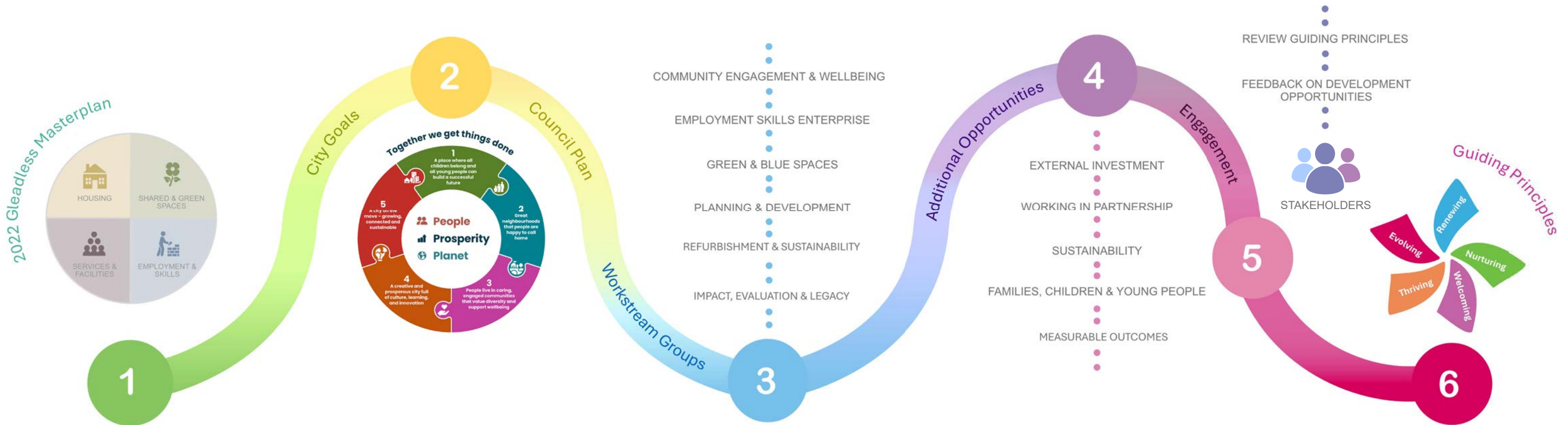
Screenshot of whiteboard produced to collate all previous and existing documentation into a single point of reference, demonstrating the vast array of objectives currently in place.

Left

Photo of stakeholders reviewing Guiding Principles at workshop held in February 2025.

Review Process Flowchart

The below diagram summarises the process followed in reviewing the guiding principles for the regeneration of the Valley. The process started with an assessment of the original 2022 Gleadless Valley Masterplan against the new City Goals and Council Plan. Input from the Workstream Groups and local stakeholders was then gathered, before compiling into a final set of refined 'Guiding Principles' to underpin all ongoing design activities. These are aligned with the Council Plan, and are assessed via the same measurable outcomes.



03 GUIDING PRINCIPLES



3.1 Renewing Housing & Local Services

Overview

Our aim is to raise the quality and range of dwellings across a range of types and tenures to accommodate for people at all stages of life and provide choice, within a framework of strong place-making.

We will seek to reinforce the distinctive character and sense of place of the Valley, enhancing the landscape to support well-being, social interaction and diverse community needs, as well as supporting nature recovery.



Measurable Targets

- » Tenant satisfaction - overall satisfaction.
- » Rate of anti-social behaviour offences/1000 population by LAC.
- » Number of new homes under construction and completed within previous 12 months (total and affordable).
- » Percentage of public open space managed to the 'Sheffield Standard'.



Above - Park Hill Flats, Sheffield
Improve housing stock and the appearance of poorly maintained buildings to restore a sense of pride for residents.



Above
Grey to Green, Sheffield
Create a high-quality public realm and encourage a sense of local identity.

Left
Manor Fields Park Green Flag Award
Support the work of local community groups.

Great Neighbourhoods that People are Happy to Call Home

Guiding Principles

- » Make council homes safe, comfortable, and more energy-efficient, fostering well-being and pride for residents.
- » Build high quality, modern homes in a mix of sizes, offering more ownership options besides social rent to give people more choice.
- » Improve the look of buildings and landscapes to create pride in the area.
- » Create high-quality public spaces with clear maintenance plans, using the Valley's natural beauty.
- » Enhance and celebrate what makes the Valley unique: its views, woodlands, meadows, and architecture.
- » Ensure shops, schools, health services, and community facilities are within walking or wheeling distance.
- » Provide new or improved community facilities that meet local needs.

3.2 Nurturing Children, Families & Young People

Overview

We aim to provide an environment that supports family life, and create spaces for children and young people to live, play, learn and socialise in a safe and comfortable environment. We will strive to support inclusive development that provides for children with a wide range of special needs.



Measurable Targets

- » Number of families registered to a Family Hub.
- » Percentage of children meeting key development milestones at 2-yr review.
- » Proportion of 16–17-yr-olds who are participating in education, employment or training (+ 16-25 yr-olds with EHCP and Care Leavers aged 18-25 years-old).

A Place where All Children Belong and All Young People can Build a Successful Future

Guiding Principles

- » Parks and open spaces should support play, learning, and activities for all.
- » Create dedicated spaces for children and young people that are safe, inclusive and welcoming and within walking or wheeling distance.
- » Ensure the regeneration benefits children and young people.
- » Create opportunities to raise aspiration and fulfil potential for all.
- » Give everyone – including young people - a voice in the regeneration process.
- » Ensure Gleadless Valley is a safe, inclusive and welcoming place for all.



Above
Provide opportunities for young people to socialise in safe and comfortable environments.



Above
Increase opportunities for education, training and early employment.

Left
An environment that supports families living, playing, and learning.

3.3 Welcoming Inclusion, Health & Well-being

Overview

We aspire to provide a suitable range of accommodation for people through all stages of life and encourage a strong sense of community through spaces that bring people together, celebrate diversity and facilitate social interactions.

We will aim to support well-being through health and fitness and improved engagement with the Valley's remarkable landscape.



Measurable Targets

- » Outcome of short-term services: % not resulting in long term support.
- » Number of people engaged and informed through digital engagement platform.
- » Healthy Life Expectancy (male/female).
- » Annual net household income by Sheffield and LAC.



Guiding Principles

- » Create spaces and services that are accessible and welcoming to everyone, regardless of background or ability.
- » Provide homes for people at all stages of life, from young people to older residents.
- » Design spaces that feel safe and discourage anti-social behaviour.
- » Create walking and wheeling opportunities so that people can enjoy the Valley's landscape and improve health.
- » Make it easier to get around the valley on foot, bike, wheelchair and public transport.
- » The regeneration process should be accessible and welcoming to everyone.



Above
Promote inclusivity, celebrate diversity and facilitate social interactions.



Above
Manor Park Run, Sheffield
Develop active travel networks to support health and well-being.

Left
J G Graves Woodland Discover Centre
Encourage a strong sense of community through spaces that bring people together.

People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity & support well-being

3.4 Thriving Economy, Jobs & Culture

Overview

We will aim to provide spaces for new and improved shops, cafes, local services, education and training facilities, small businesses and community groups.

We will invest in the area and encourage businesses to invest and grow.



Measurable Targets

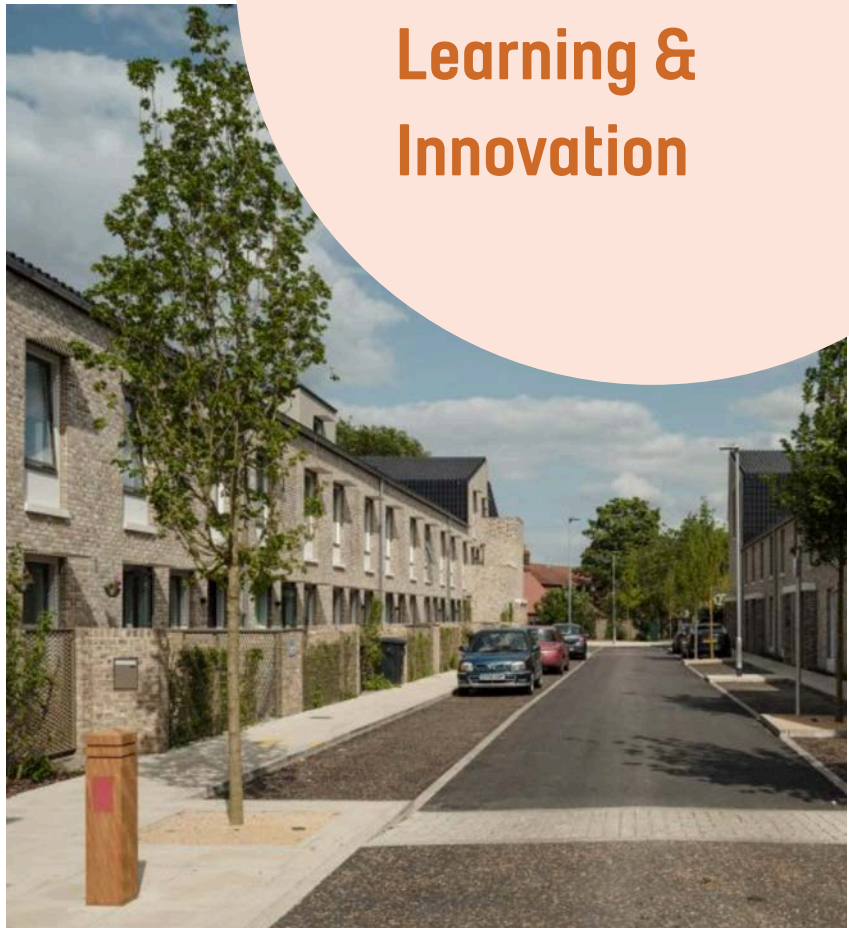
- » Number of business start-ups in previous 12 months.
- » Unemployment and economic activity rate.
- » Working age population qualification levels.
- » Number of jobs in creative industry sector.

Guiding Principles

- » Use local government funds to inspire companies to invest in the area, develop local supply chains and increase employment opportunities.
- » Create jobs, education, training, and business opportunities for local residents through the regeneration programme.
- » Build homes and business spaces in the right places to create opportunities for people to spend their money in the local area, helping businesses to thrive.
- » Improve public transport to connect people to jobs and opportunities in the city and beyond.
- » Support and create local arts opportunities and celebrate the Valley's cultural diversity.
- » Empower and support local community groups to take the lead in delivering impactful projects and manage facilities.
- » Build a supportive community where people can thrive.
- » Include Gleadless Valley in the city's economic development and use this to drive growth.



Above
Support local community and stakeholder groups in delivering projects.



Above
Goldsmith Street, Norwich
Support economic development through high quality and sustainable affordable housing and regeneration.

Left
Castlegate, Sheffield
Provide transport and infrastructure to support growth.

A Creative and
Prosperous
City Full of Culture,
Learning &
Innovation

3.5 Evolving Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management

Overview

We aim to improve environmental and social sustainability across the Valley through ecological strategies, energy provision and waste management proposals, as well as creating a place people value and have a shared responsibility for.



Measurable Targets

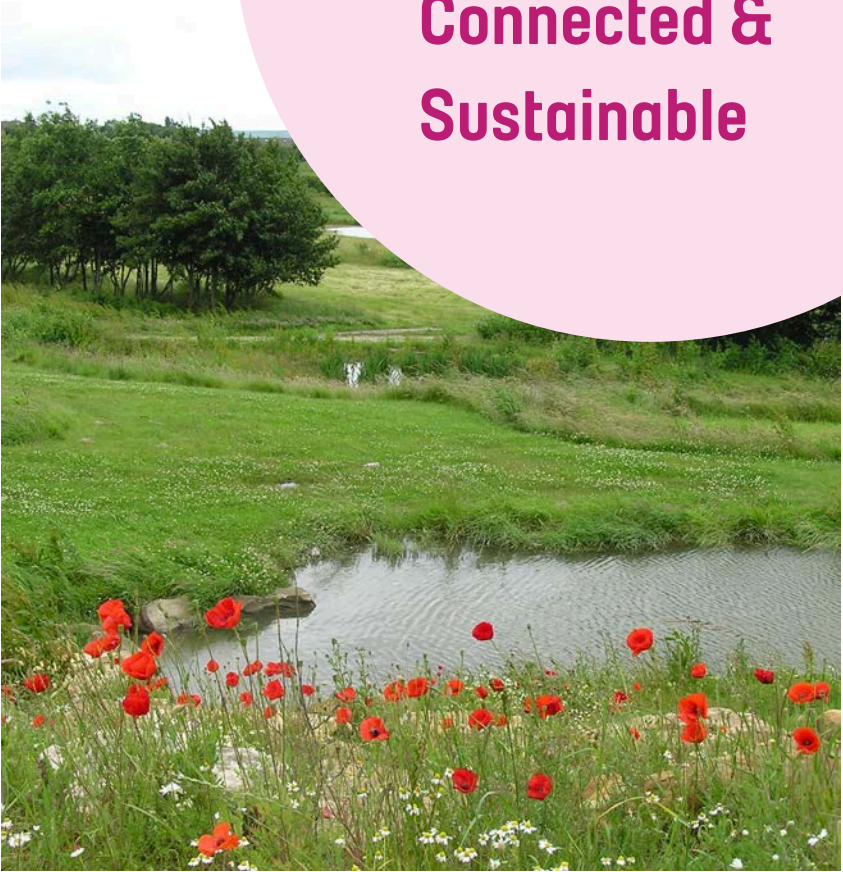
- » Proportion of journeys made on foot or by bicycle (modal share survey).
- » Passenger satisfaction with public transport.
- » 95% reduction in Council GHG (CO2e) emissions per sector.
- » Average PM10 concentration at relevant locations.



Above
Improve connectivity across the Valley and opportunities for active travel.




A City on the Move - Growing, Connected & Sustainable



Above
Enhance landscape character through delivering a strong green and blue framework.

Left
Develop a long-term sustainable strategy for energy provision and housing decarbonisation.



Guiding Principles

- » Refurbish homes to make them more sustainable, make them warmer and lower residents' bills.
- » Encourage safe walking, wheeling and public transport to cut emissions.
- » Generate more clean energy, like solar power, in the Valley.
- » Improve waste management and design spaces to deter fly-tipping.
- » Increase access to woodlands and meadows for recreation while protecting wildlife.
- » Create well designed, private and community gardens to boost wildlife and sense of ownership for the residents.
- » Support wildlife recovery through nature-friendly design and management.
- » Reduce flood risk and improve water quality in the Valley's rivers and streams.

04 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



4.1 Overview

Current Status

The following pages provide an overview of the opportunities that have been identified for consideration as part of the regeneration scheme.

The opportunities have been chosen based on their ability to offer a significant impact to the Valley whilst also aligning with the 2022 masterplan, City Goals and Council Plan.

They are put forward here simply as suggestions for further consideration during the next stage of the review process. They are by no means intended as a final list and all will be subject to further analysis, costings and stakeholder engagement.

It is important to recognise that some opportunities will become projects to be delivered in the short-medium term, some are likely to be considered longer term opportunities and others will be dropped as unfeasible or unlikely to attract funding.

To convey the comprehensive nature of the revised set of proposals, all are shown on a single ‘Development Opportunities Map’ overleaf (page 16). The subsequent sections then cover each in more detail under 5 separate ‘themes’ as follows:

- 1. High Quality Homes
- 2. Better Local Centres
- 3. Recreation Hubs and Play
- 4. Improved Connections
- 5. Better Landscapes



Above and Right
Photos of stakeholders discussing the ‘Development Opportunities Map’ at workshop held at the Terry Wright community centre in February 2025.



Stakeholder Engagement

Obtaining feedback from stakeholders is considered essential to the production of a robust (and ultimately successful) framework for regeneration.

To ensure that the ‘right’ ideas are taken forward for further exploration, and that the basis upon which they are developed is correct, a stakeholder workshop attended by representatives from groups across the Valley was held in February 2025.

The level of engagement and feedback received was felt to be very positive.

Groups discussed the ‘Development Opportunities Map’ (overleaf on page 16) and offered feedback on the location and types of interventions suggested. A few key takeaways from these discussions were as follows:

- » Engaging with residents on the proposals at an early stage is critical and should ideally be done before taking any of the ideas forward.
- » People need to be at the heart of the scheme, not only in the eventual use and operation of the schemes delivered but also in their production.
- » Health and well-being across the Valley is critical and needs to feature as more of a focus for driving proposals.
- » The refurbishment and repair of existing housing issues needs to continue to be a priority and not delayed or omitted due to wider regeneration activities.
- » The proposed locations for the local centres and recreation hubs were logical and considered to offer a good distribution of facilities across the Valley.
- » The majority of the improved connection routes were mapped in the correct locations, and would offer a more attractive means of travelling around the Valley. However, some key recreational and commuter routes were missing and need adding.

All feedback obtained from this initial workshop will be compiled and incorporated into any future updates of this report and the development opportunities.

4.2 Opportunities Map

KEY

- 2022 GV Masterplan Sites
- 2025 Refresh Opportunities
- Sites with New Briefs/Aspirations
- Green space
- Community facilities
- Food/refreshments
- GP/pharmacy/healthcare
- Retail
- Potential housing

Housing

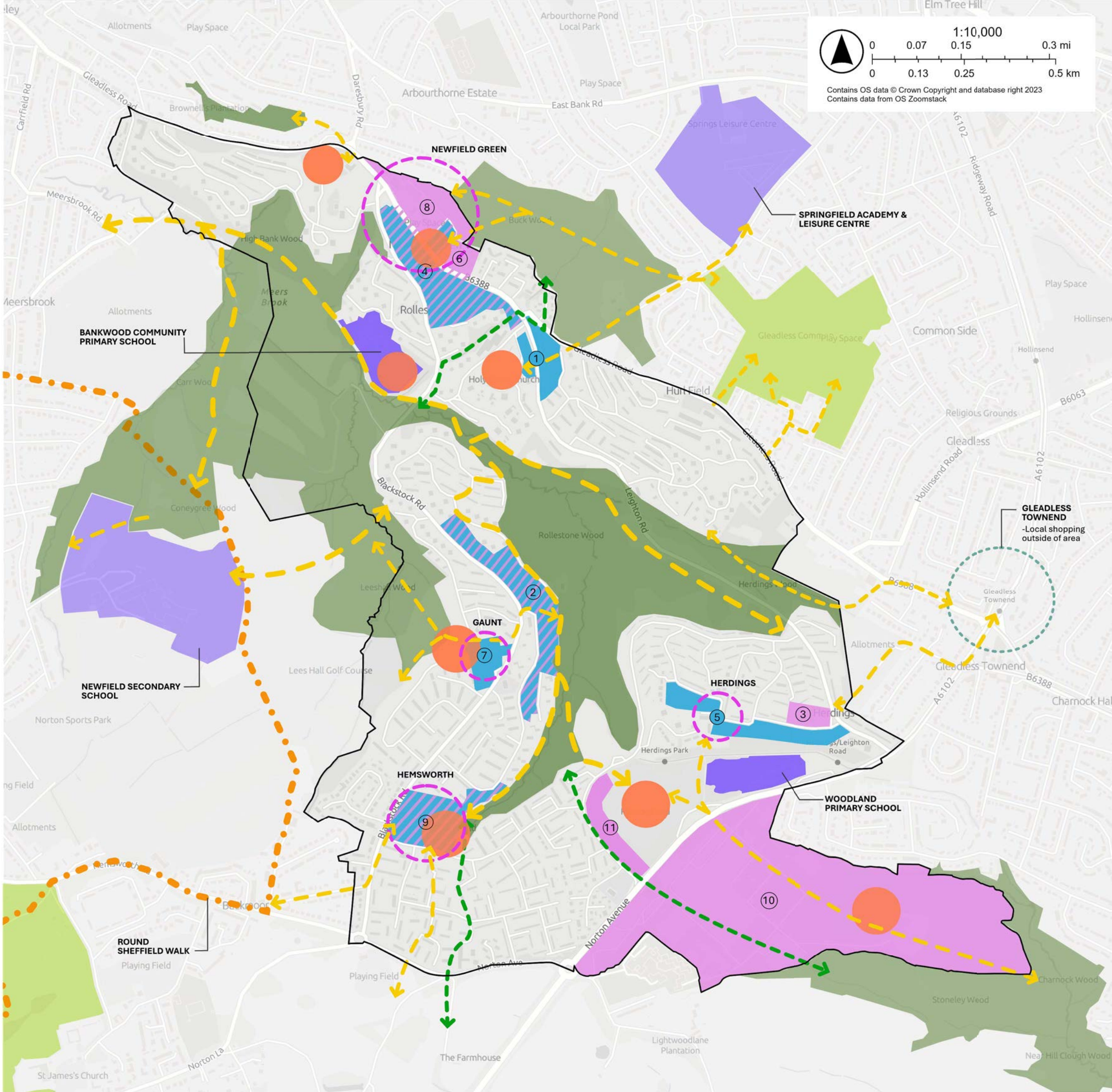
- 1 Middle Hay View/Close & Leighton Road
- 2 Blackstock Road & Ironside Road
- 3 Castelayn - New Build
- 4 Plowright & Newfield Green

Mixed Use

- 5 Herdings Morland Road & Leighton Drive
- 6 Paddock Hill - New Build
- 7 Blackstock Rd (Gaunt)
- 8 Newfield Green
- 9 Blackstock Rd (Hemsworth)
- 10 Norton Aerodrome - New Build
- 11 Raeburn Rd

Landscape

- Woodland Enhancement & Nature Recovery
- Improved Connections
- Green Corridors
- Recreational Hub
- Local Retail/Community Hub
- School
- Woodland Adjacent to Study Area
- Parkland/Recreational Greenspace
- Round Sheffield Walk



4.3 High Quality Homes

The council is committed to ensuring every council home is safe, warm, dry and up to date. An intensive repairs task force has been created to catch up on a backlog of repairs and this has so far received positive feedback from the community. This work will continue as a priority of the regeneration scheme, and will continued to be reviewed in order to ensure that necessary standards are being met.

As well as ensuring repairs are carried out in a timely fashion, the regeneration programme will include more intensive refurbishment of properties to improve living conditions. It will also consider opportunities to better meet the needs of families through changes to the internal layout of homes or adding outdoor spaces around homes. Finally, there are several opportunities to bring additional housing into the Valley.

Guiding Principles to be Addressed

 Housing & Local Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Make council homes safe, comfortable, and more energy-efficient, fostering well-being and pride for residents.» Build high quality, modern homes in a mix of sizes, offering more ownership options besides social rent to give people more choice.» Improve the look of buildings and landscapes to create pride in the area.
 Children, Families & Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Ensure the regeneration benefits children and young people.
 Inclusion, Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Provide homes for people at all stages of life, from young people to older residents.» Design spaces that feel safe and discourage anti-social behaviour.
 Economy, Jobs & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Build homes and business spaces in the right places to create opportunities for people to spend their money in the local area, helping businesses to thrive.
 Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Refurbish homes to make them more sustainable, make them warmer and lower residents bills.» Create well designed, private and community gardens to boost wildlife and sense of ownership for the residents.

Improving the Quality of Existing Homes

Ensuring all homes are warm, safe, dry and up to date. This could involve a range of work to existing homes such as:

- Carrying out general scheme of internal and external repair and refurbishment (e.g. roof repairs, structural repairs, mechanical & electrical repairs, grounds maintenance etc).
- Alterations to overcome issues with anti-social behaviour (e.g. improving lighting along access routes and installing secure gates to building passageways to prevent use by non-residents).
- Eliminating damp through various measures such as identifying and repairing leaks, resolving cold bridging and installation of additional ventilation (e.g. trickle vents, extract fans etc).
- Installation of retrofit solutions to reduce carbon emissions and improve the thermal comfort of homes. Activities could include measures such as installing insulation to roofs, floors and/or walls; upgrading heating systems to more energy efficient options (e.g. air source/ground source heat pumps, solar thermal etc); upgrading windows and doors, etc.

The Council's contractor Savills is visiting all council homes in Gleadless Valley to inspect their condition and see where investment is needed. This process will be completed in late Spring 2025. In addition, community input is needed to understand where most impact could be made. Both of these activities will be fundamental in informing the type, scale and location of proposals.



Award winning social housing at Goldsmith's St, Norwich where every home has private outdoor space as well as access to communal gardens

Gardens and Balconies

Alongside improvements to the wider landscape of the Valley there is also an ambition to improve the provision of private and shared outdoor space. The priority is to ensure all homes are safe, warm, dry and up to date and so any work to outdoor spaces will be very much dependent on funding availability.

Whilst there is ample open space around properties, it is offering little benefit to residents. This could be significantly improved to support both security (e.g secure perimeters etc.) and family life (e.g usable playspace, drying clothes etc).

In addition, many flats and maisonettes do not have balconies, and those that do are in a state of dis-repair and need refurbishing or replacement. Possible opportunities could include providing a mix of private gardens, shared gardens, balconies and roof terraces. Feasibility studies would be required to determine if and where these sorts of works could take place and how much they would cost.

Alongside these studies, it will be important to engage residents to understand the type of spaces that would offer most benefit, the likelihood of uptake and the most appropriate approach for ongoing maintenance and stewardship.

Sustainability Standards

The council has an ambition to tackle climate change by reducing Sheffield’s carbon emissions to ‘net zero’ by 2030.’ Achieving net zero ahead of the national government’s 2050 target will require all projects to reduce emissions as far as possible, striving for the use low carbon and energy efficient options where available.

The developments that will form a part of the Valley’s regeneration offers a fantastic opportunity to pave the way towards a more sustainable future for Sheffield. Proposals could, for example, include the integration of solar panels on existing and new homes in order to reduce energy bills, tackle fuel poverty and potentially generate a long term income source for maintenance and/or community activities.

During the next stage of the project delivery, it is proposed that the requirements for retrofit, remodelling and new housing projects are reviewed against the council’s carbon reduction targets and to set standards that would best enable these targets to be met. This review should include consideration of both the housing itself, but also that of associated developments (e.g. local centres, recreational hubs etc).



Houses in Solar Avenue, Leeds, which require as little as 10% of the energy consumed by a conventional home



Left: Regeneration of Park Hill Estate, Sheffield.

Middle: Hundred House by HTA which won the 2018 ‘Terrace of the Future’ award.

Right: Regeneration of 1930s housing estate at St John’s Hill, London.

Remodelling of Existing Properties

A number of sites were identified in the 2022 Gleadless Valley Masterplan for remodelling works that involved changes to properties that are more substantial than standard repair and refurbishment work. Such interventions are generally undertaken where housing typologies no longer meets local need or where the design of the properties is found to be contributing to social issues.

Example of possible remodelling works could include:

- » Reconfiguration of layouts e.g. adding or removing walls, re-positioning of rooms etc.
- » Amending position and type of access e.g. providing lift access, improving the design of entrances and walkways, creating secure internal corridors or altering the location of stairs.
- » Joining or dividing homes to make larger family units, or an increased number of smaller single-person units.
- » Major structural changes such as extensions or adding/removing floors.

Opportunities for remodelling will be reviewed following the completion of the conditions survey, stakeholder engagement and will be subject to costings to assess whether viable. Proposals will then be drawn up for consideration alongside all other ambitions for the Valley including the essential repair and refurbishment programme, wider landscape improvements and new-build development opportunities.

It is expected that proposals will need to be regularly reviewed against the wider strategic ambition for the Valley to ensure they meet local need, council targets and budgetary constraints.

New Homes

A number of sites have been identified that provide opportunities to build new homes. New housing will be designed to provide a sense of identity and to create safe and desirable communities that make a positive contribution to the local community.

Homes will be designed to be of a high quality and should include:

- » High levels of insulation to keep residents warm and reduce energy bills.
- » Modern and efficient heating systems throughout.
- » Good quality windows to prevent noise and draughts.
- » Ventilation to prevent damp and mould and keep the inside air healthy.
- » Optimum access to daylight whilst respecting neighbouring buildings.
- » Private amenity space for families in the form of gardens or balconies.
- » Access to communal play spaces and communal gardens to foster a strong community.
- » Maximising the views towards the abundant green spaces in the Valley.
- » Safe and easy access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and bicycles.
- » Defensible space around homes to build communities and prevent antisocial behaviour.
- » Good quality robust materials that are low maintenance and age well.
- » Well-designed routes and spaces that help design out crime.
- » Fire safety standards that exceed the regulations and put residents safety first.

SHEFFIELD GLEADLESS VALLEY REFRESH

The map opposite shows the strategic sites as identified on the ‘Opportunities Map’ on page 16. These sites have been chosen for further exploration as it is felt that they each could offer a significant positive impact to the Valley. It is expected that this list will be updated following further engagement with the community and the results of the housing conditions survey by Savills (due late Spring 2025).

The map includes sites from the original masterplan as well as new locations that have been identified as part of the recent review. The design briefs for some of the original sites are being reconsidered where it is felt that alternative proposals could deliver more in terms of additional housing or improving the look and feel of the area.

Note that this map only shows large strategic sites with potential for major change. It does not show locations for potential refurbishment, remodelling or new gardens/ balconies as these could be spread across the Valley.

KEY

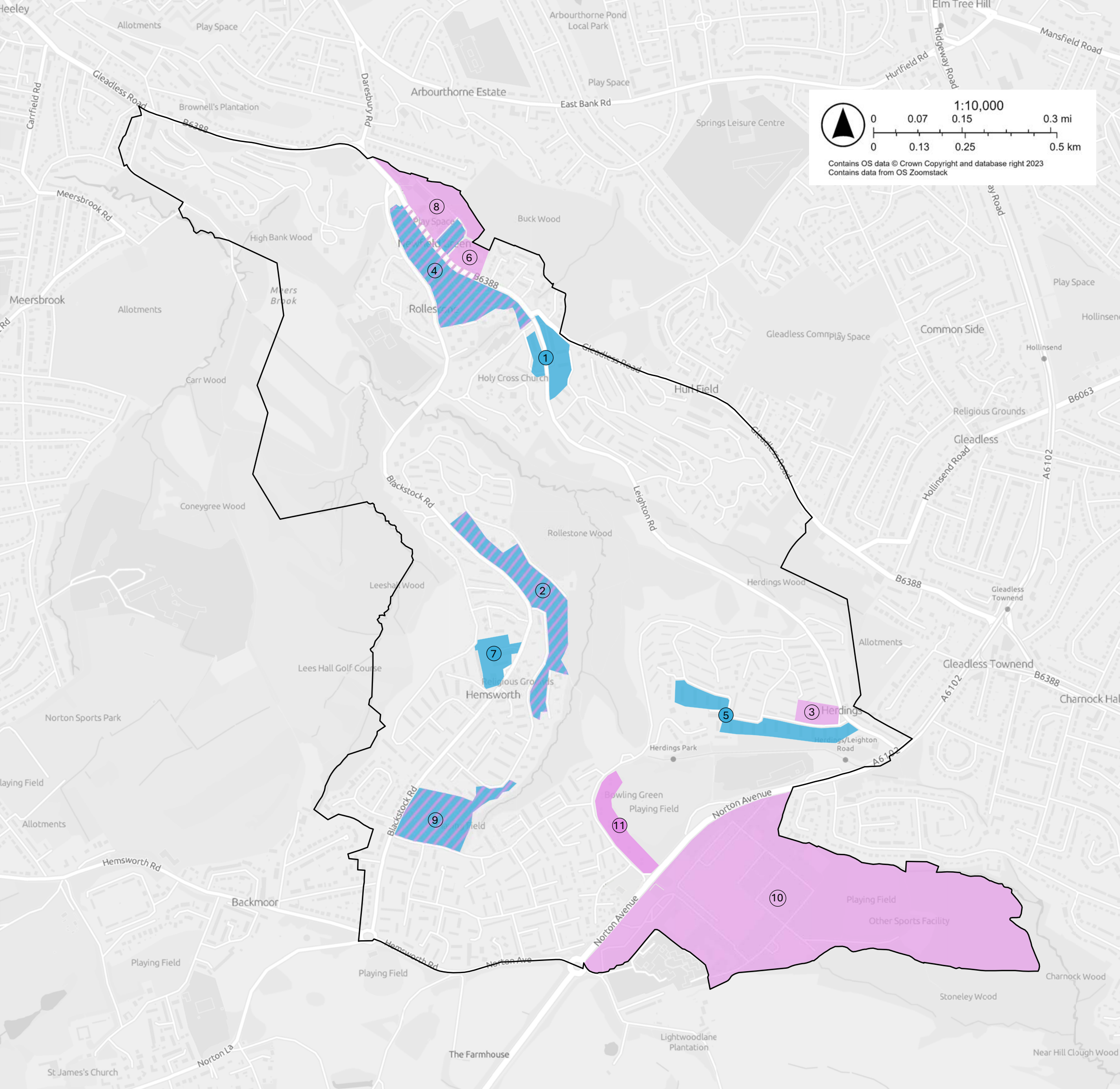
- 2022 Gleadless Valley Masterplan Sites
- 2025 Additional Refresh Opportunities
- Oringal 2022 Masterplan Sites with New Briefs/Aspirations
- Other council owned properties (TBC)
- Green space
- Community facilities
- Food/refreshments
- GP/pharmacy/healthcare
- Retail
- Potential housing

Housing

- 1 Middle Hay View/Close & Leighton Road
- 2 Blackstock Road & Ironside Road
- 3 Castelayn - New Build
- 4 Plowright & Newfield Green

Mixed Use

- 5 Herdings Morland Road & Leighton Drive
- 6 Paddock Hill - New Build
- 7 Blackstock Rd (Gaunt)
- 8 Newfield Green
- 9 Blackstock Rd (Hemsworth)
- 10 Norton Aerodrome - New Build
- 11 Raeburn Rd



4.4 Better Local Centres

High-quality local centres play a key role in supporting communities by offering essential services, spaces for socialising, supporting well-being and boosting local economies. In Gleadless Valley, while centres are well-distributed and connected to public transport, they suffer from issues like rundown premises, low footfall, and anti-social behaviour. Our goal is to enhance these centres with improved shops, facilities, housing and outdoor spaces to better serve the community.

Guiding Principles to be Addressed

Housing & Local Services

- » Improve the look of buildings and landscapes to create pride in the area.
- » Build high quality, modern homes in a mix of sizes, offering more ownership options besides social rent to give people more choice.
- » Create high quality public spaces with clear maintenance plans, using the Valley's natural beauty.
- » Ensure shops, schools, health services and community facilities are within walking or wheeling distance.
- » Provide new or improved community facilities that meet local needs.

Children, Families & Young People

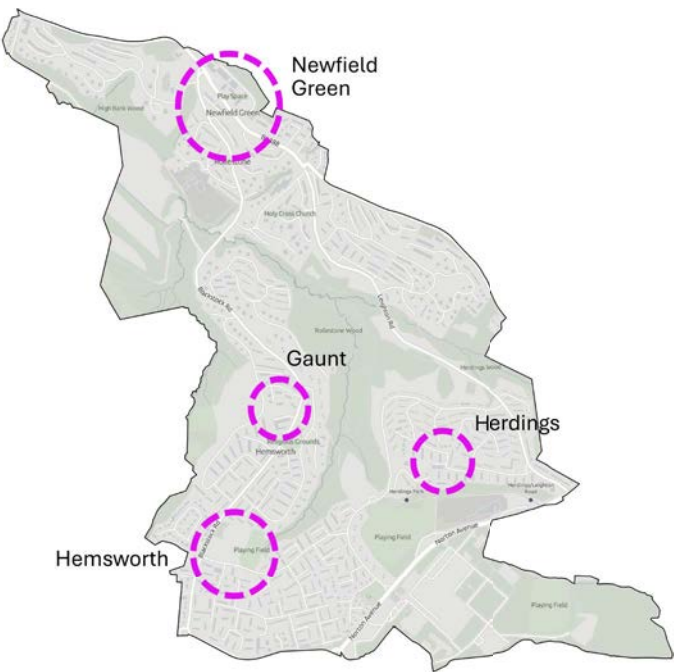
- » Give everyone - including young people - a voice in the regeneration process.

Economy, Jobs & Culture

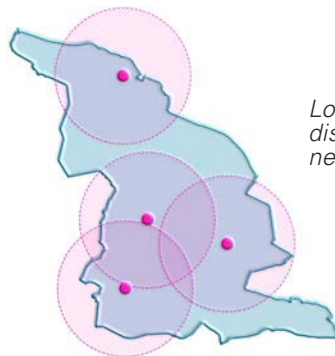
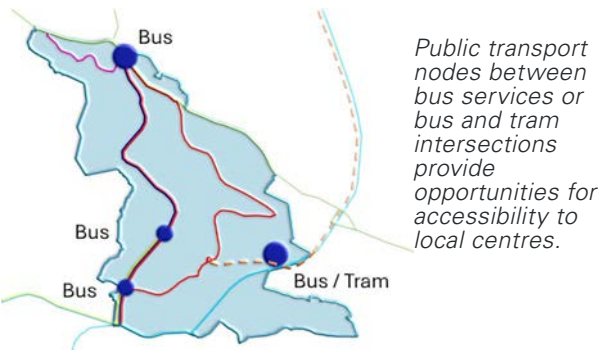
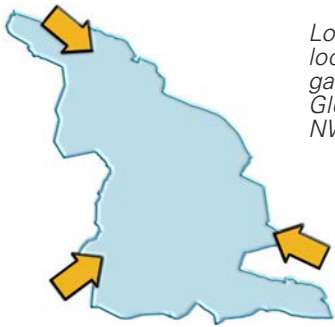
- » Use local government funds to inspire companies to invest in the area, develop local supply chains and increase employment opportunities.
- » Create jobs, education, training & business opportunities for local residents through the regeneration process.
- » Build homes and business spaces in the right places to create opportunities for people to spend their money in the local area helping business to thrive.
- » Empower and support local community groups to take the lead in delivering impactful projects and managing facilities.

Why in these Locations ?

- » Located at key gateway sites, offering visibility and potential for impactful change.
- » Located at the intersection of public transport routes enhances accessibility and increases foot traffic.
- » Opportunity to revitalise existing retail and community facilities in disrepair.
- » Combining retail, community spaces, housing, and parks can create attractive destinations for residents and visitors.
- » Fair distribution of local centres to ensure equal access to shops and facilities within walking distance.



Map showing potential locations for improved centres.



Newfield Green



Newfield Green is a well-known area located at the north-west entrance to Gleadless Valley, close to the city centre. It has a mix of low and medium density housing and offers a variety of community services like the Terry Wright Community Hall, Newfield Green Library, a housing office, NHS healthcare facilities, small shops, and a pub. The area is easy to reach and has many services, which makes it a popular spot. However, the buildings are in a poor condition and there are issues with antisocial behaviour.

Positives

- » Key location to serve the northern area of Gleadless Valley.
- » A functioning urban centre that needs improving.
- » Well-used retail and community facilities.
- » Public realm offering limited outdoor community space and play, needing improvement.
- » Proximity to Bucks Wood offering potential connection to nature and well-being benefits.

Negatives

- » Poor building condition.
- » Poor natural surveillance of public areas.
- » Occurrences of anti-social behaviour leading to users feeling unsafe.
- » Fly-tipping and lack of appropriate waste management particularly on Gleadless Road behind the shops, with piles of rubbish being unsightly and a health hazard.
- » Unfriendly underpass pedestrian/cycle access under the busy Gleadless Road.
- » Single story development and a lot of surface car parking makes poor use of a largely flat site in a key location.

Main Opportunity

Redevelopment of Newfield Green to provide a medium density, mixed use centre with improved access to retail, community facilities and recreation, harnessing the potential of the adjacent natural environment.

Hemsworth / Gaunt



Hemsworth / Gaunt has two small local retail centres within half a kilometre of each other. There are several empty shops at Gaunt potentially indicating an issue with retail viability here, or that the type of retail on offer does not meet local need. This area is served by buses running through the Valley, and also benefits from the potential recreational opportunities within the landscape around Lees Hall Wood, Rollestone Wood and the small playing field at Hemsworth.

Positives

- » Hemsworth is an existing functioning small local centre offering a small supermarket and doctors’ surgery, in a key location at the southwestern gateway to Gleadless Valley.
- » Hemsworth and Gaunt are served by buses running through the Valley and to adjacent areas.
- » Proximity to existing walking and wheeling routes that could be improved.
- » Proximity to grassland and woodland landscapes suitable for recreational use.
- » Well-used pharmacy at Gaunt.
- » Offers one of very few large, flat sites in the Valley that might be able to accommodate a full size supermarket.

Negatives

- » Empty shops at Gaunt indicate a lack of retail viability here.
- » Empty pub at Gaunt requires new purpose/redevelopment.
- » Split level access to the existing Gaunt shops making this site less suitable for a new supermarket development.
- » Poor building condition at Gaunt shops.

Main Opportunity

Rationalisation of retail provision across this area of Gleadless Valley to ensure it aligns with local needs including potential integration with recreational and community facilities to develop a multi-functional local centre at the southwestern gateway to Gleadless Valley.

Herdings



Herdings is located at an important southeastern entrance to Gleadless Valley, near the many facilities at Gleadless Townend. The area has different types of housing, from tower blocks at Raeburn Place to lower-density homes along Raeburn Road, Morland Road, and Leighton Drive. It also has a few shops (like Mick and Jenny’s general store), a boxing gym, a small public outdoor space, and the Herdings Community and Heritage Centre. Being close to Herdings Park offers a significant advantage for the area.

Positives

- » Key location to serve the southeastern area of Gleadless Valley.
- » Close to tram links and buses.
- » Existing retail and community facilities with potential to improve.
- » Proximity to Herdings Park with potential for improved recreational facilities.
- » Potential for an improved public space linking the shops and the Heritage Centre and the potential to improve the appearance of the historic building and bring it into wider community use.
- » Proximity to Norton Aerodrome development site.

Negatives

- » Low frequency of trams and buses limits transport choice.
- » Tram line makes access by foot and wheels between Herdings Park and the existing local centre difficult.
- » Existing uses of Heritage Building restrict community access and requires security measures such as high fences which look unattractive.
- » Poor condition of existing shops and adjacent small public open space limits its potential community use.

Main Opportunity

Creation of an improved multi-functional local centre including the activation of Herdings Park with the provision of homes, better community, retail and recreational facilities.

4.5 Recreation Hubs and Play

Recreation and play are vital for health, personal development, and quality of life. Safe play areas strengthen families and communities, improve social skills, and encourage community participation.

In Gleadless Valley, we aim to identify potential sites for high-quality recreation hubs at key locations that could foster social cohesion and improve life through play and recreation. These hubs could also drive social and economic regeneration, addressing issues like high crime, poor health, and limited local jobs.

The hubs could be of varying sizes and differ in the range of facilities offered, such as inclusive age-appropriate play including playgrounds, multi-use game areas (MUGAs), adventure play, bike tracks, and youth centres, along with amenities like cafes and toilets. The potential locations identified are subject to feasibility and funding. As a result, only some of the potential opportunities are likely to be delivered.

Guiding Principles to be Addressed

Housing & Local Services

- » Provide new or improved community facilities that meet local needs.

Children, Families & Young People

- » Parks and open spaces should support play, learning, and activities for all.
- » Create dedicated spaces for children and young people that are safe, inclusive and welcoming and within walking or wheeling distance.

Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

- » Create spaces and services that are accessible and welcoming to everyone, regardless of background or ability.

Economy, Jobs and Culture

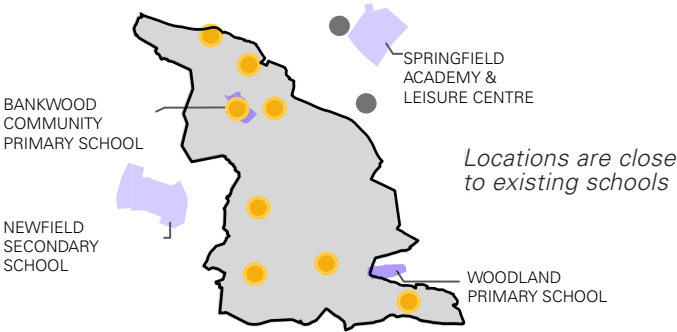
- » Build a supportive community where people can thrive.

Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management

- » Increase access to woodlands and meadows for recreation while protecting wildlife.
- » Support wildlife recovery through nature-friendly design and management.

Why in these Locations ?

- » Hubs distributed across the Valley, ensures healthy recreational opportunities are available to all.
- » Located close to existing public transport routes to maximise accessibility.
- » Improving some existing facilities such as at Herdings Park, Newfield Green and Charnock aims to build on existing well used locations to create attractive spaces to socialise and exercise.
- » Recreational hubs in new locations such as Hemsworth, Gaunt and Holy Cross will be integrated to serve local communities and create desirable places to live with space to socialise, play and exercise.
- » Opportunities to provide amenities such as toilets and cafes in recreation hubs to encourage broader use and community engagement.
- » Linking recreational use to other income-generating opportunities such as shops, rentable spaces and cafes, aims to lead to their long-term viability.



1 Gleadless Road

Existing site

- » A key location in the north of Gleadless Valley.
- » The Gleadless Road/Daresbury Road intersection is a main gateway into the area with good access.
- » Situated in one of the most economically deprived areas, a recreation hub here would greatly benefit the local community.

Opportunities

- » Potential for adventurous play within an open space with mature trees.
- » Close to Newfield Green local centre, offering a great spot for recreation and play.
- » Existing local interest in developing and managing a recreational facility here.



4 Bankwood

Existing site

- » Playing fields within existing school grounds.
- » A flat area in the Valley with restricted school access.

Opportunities

- » Potentially provide public access to playing fields outside of school hours.
- » Potential for a Multi-Use Games Area or improved playing pitches for both community and school use.



6 Hemsworth

Existing site

- » Site of a former school building.
- » Existing playing fields currently regularly used by a football teams.

Opportunities

- » Improved playing field.
- » Potential to link to surrounding green spaces.
- » Create a recreation hub as part of broader developments, offering a local centre with community, retail and recreation facilities.



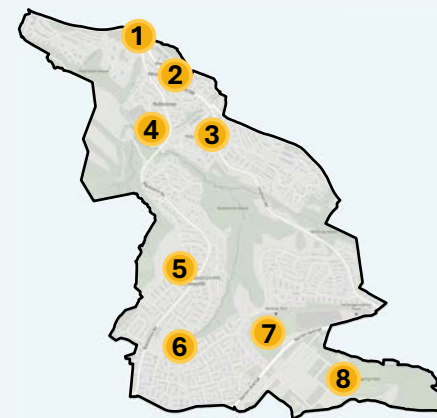
2 Newfield

Existing site

- » Community facilities including a small play space.
- » Located in one of the most economically deprived areas in Gleadless Valley, a recreation hub would greatly benefit the local community.

Opportunities

- » Chance to create a new recreational destination linked to a local centre.
- » Good location for improving connections with Buck Wood for recreation.
- » Central location for a main recreation hub serving a wide age range between Bankwood Primary School and Springfield Academy.



7 Herdings Park

Existing site

- » Well-used park that could benefit from landscape improvements to enhance visual and amenity value.
- » Close to existing retail and community facilities and Woodland Primary School.

Opportunities

- » Improve facilities and landscape design for better socialising and recreation.
- » Enhance small outdoor community space adjacent to shops.
- » Improve the park by linking it to the proposed Herdings local centre and across dual carriageway as part of the Norton Aerodrome development, including potential community facilities such as brew and loo.



3 Holy Cross

Existing site

- » Adjacent to Holy Cross Church, community facilities and Bankwood Community Primary School.
- » Located in one of the most economically deprived areas, a recreation hub would benefit the local community.
- » Spotswood Road Open Space project already planned, offering natural play.

Opportunities

- » Potential for enhanced green and active travel routes linked to play.
- » Opportunities for diverse play options on flat area of land that is close to housing, providing a safe overlooked area.



5 Gaunt

Existing site

- » Linked to improved active travel through Rolleston Wood.
- » Along existing public transport routes.
- » Adjacent to housing and small local centre.
- » Located in an area currently under-served by recreational facilities.

Opportunities

- » Potential to connect to nearby natural spaces.
- » Good location to add recreation to a redeveloped, multi-functional local centre.
- » At the heart of existing housing, well-served by public transport.



8 Norton Aerodrome/Charnock

Existing site

- » Site of an existing bike track.
- » Access from Charnock and the wider area.
- » Connections to Charnock Ridgeway Football Club.

Opportunities

- » Add facilities like toilets and a cafe creating an inclusive destination.
- » Link to the potential Norton Aerodrome residential development with potential for additional new open space as part of this scheme.
- » Enhance access to Stoneley Wood and Charnock Wood for recreation.



4.6 Improved Connections

Steep terrain and dense woodland currently make connectivity and accessibility challenging in Gleadless Valley. Limited connection to shops, services, jobs and recreation can contribute to a reduced quality of life and social isolation.

Better active travel, public transport, and safer roads would improve access to jobs, schools, and services while boosting local businesses. Safer routes would encourage walking and wheeling, enhancing health and reducing accidents, and improved transport would lower congestion, pollution, and car dependency, making neighbourhoods greener and more connected. Enhanced accessibility would benefit all residents, especially the elderly and disabled, fostering a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community.

Guiding Principles to be Addressed

Inclusion, Health and Well-being

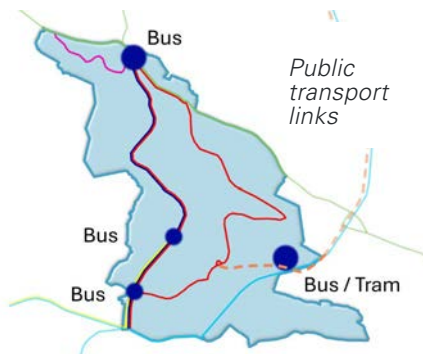
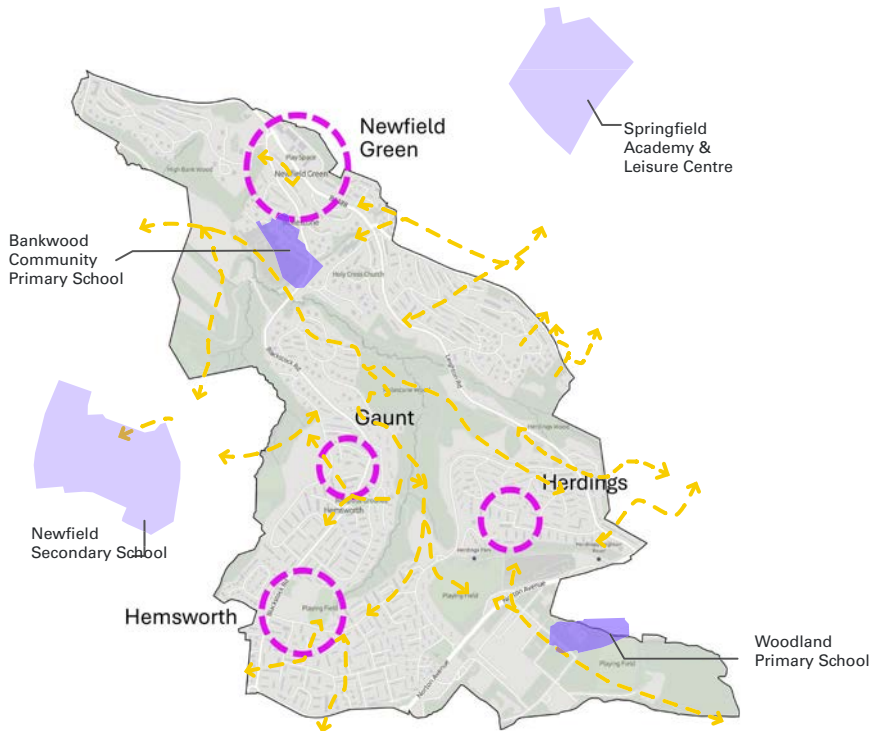
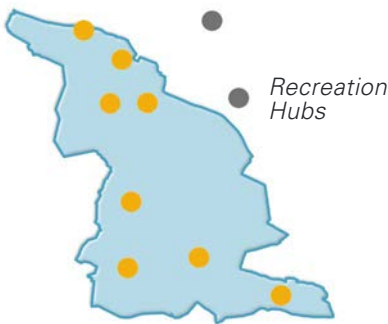
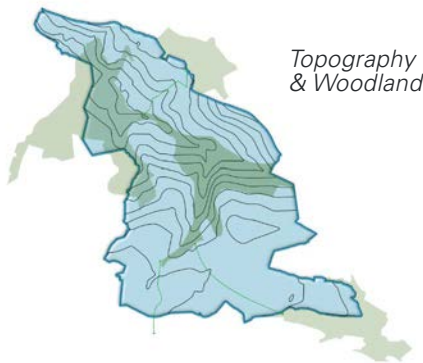
- » Create walking and wheeling opportunities so that people can enjoy the Valley's landscape and improve health.
- » Make it easier to get around the valley on foot, bike, wheelchair and public transport.

Economy, Jobs and Culture

- » Improve public transport to connect people to jobs and opportunities in the city and beyond.

Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management

- » Encourage safe walking, wheeling and public transport to cut emissions.
- » Increase access to woodlands and meadows for recreation while protecting wildlife.



Encourage Walking & Wheeling



We aim to promote active travel in Gleadless Valley by making it easier to walk and wheel to local shops, services and schools. Active travel benefits health, reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, and helps reduce traffic congestion. Identifying opportunities to remove barriers to active travel in the Valley is key to improving connections for residents.

Weaknesses

- » Steep slopes in the Valley make walking and wheeling difficult.
- » Lack of well-connected and dedicated walking and wheeling paths.
- » Unwelcoming woodland entrances discourage existing path use.
- » High bike costs and lack of facilities (storage, charging, servicing) can limit cycling

Opportunities

- » Identify strategic walking and wheeling routes through the Valley to encourage active travel and improve connectivity.
- » Improve connections to nearby local centres and link to planned active travel routes along East Bank Road and the Sheaf Valley.
- » Enhance walking and wheeling connections to the city centre, improving access to jobs and facilities.
- » Identify circuits for walking, wheeling and play to promote activity and health.
- » Design routes that highlight the Valley's unique landscape and views to enhance its identity.
- » Explore extending the Sheffield Round Walk to better connect Gleadless Valley and attract visitors.
- » Investigate ways to improve residents' access to bikes and supporting facilities.

Make Walking & Wheeling Safer



Many children and young people in Gleadless Valley rely on walking or wheeling to get to school, so creating a safer and more pleasant environment is important. Improving safety for all users involves minimising risks by adding better traffic separation, upgraded signage and lighting, and improved crossing points to ensure safer travel for everyone.

Weaknesses

- » Lack of safe and well-maintained walking and wheeling paths.
- » Fast roads, busy intersections, poor lighting and unsafe crossing points.
- » Steep gradients and overgrown areas make walking and cycling risky, particularly for elderly and disabled residents.
- » Insufficient lighting and/or surveillance on some routes.
- » Too many footpath options around housing resulting in underused and potentially unsafe routes.

Opportunities

- » Improve walking and wheeling safety with better surfacing, signposting and lighting to connect key areas.
- » Reduce traffic speeds at key crossing points to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- » Prioritise active travel with better crossings over busy roads like Norton Avenue, Gleadless Road, and Blackstock Road.
- » Manage residential parking to ensure clear, accessible pavements for people using wheelchairs or mobility aids, while exploring opportunities to increase off-road parking.
- » Ensure routes are safe after dark with proper lighting and natural surveillance.
- » Simplify footpath layouts around housing areas to eliminate unsafe routes and reduce maintenance costs.

Improve Public Transport Access



Car ownership in the Gleadless Valley is lower than the city average, making reliable public transport crucial for residents. Key bus routes run along Blackstock Road, Leighton Road and Gleadless Road, with tram stops at Gleadless Townend and Herdings Park serving the southeast of the Valley. Changes to some bus services have forced residents, especially the elderly and those with mobility issues, to walk long distances to reach other routes, limiting access to essential services and social connections. Improving service frequency and transport access could encourage more public transport use and increase local footfall.

Weaknesses

- » Reduced and infrequent bus services, making travel difficult for those without private transport.
- » Limited bus coverage in some areas makes commuting less convenient, especially during off-peak hours.
- » Steep terrain and the scattered bus stops make it hard for elderly and disabled residents.
- » Lack of shelters or seating at some stops, making waiting uncomfortable.
- » Limited tram service covering a small part of the Valley.
- » Rising fares can make public transport less affordable for low-income residents.
- » Inadequate transport options lead to more cars on the road, increasing congestion and parking problems.

Opportunities

- » Better links between schools, homes, shops, recreation and public transport.
- » Adjust bus routes and extend/or increase the frequency of the trams to better serve local needs.
- » Increase service frequency to boost usage.
- » Improve connections between buses and trams.
- » Enhance accessibility with better stops, shelters, and links.
- » Addressing these issues could improve mobility, reduce isolation, and make public transport a better option.

4.7 Better Landscapes

Gleadless Valley is known for its green spaces, woodlands and watercourses, particularly Meersbrook, which offers recreational opportunities and ecological benefits. The area's steep topography has shaped the distribution of buildings, preserving rich natural landscapes, with most ancient woodland and green space located on the steeper, less-developed areas. Regeneration efforts will aim to maintain and enhance these natural assets, promoting their use, whilst protecting habitats, and seeking opportunities for creating new green corridors.

Guiding Principle to be Addressed

Housing & Local Services

- » Create high quality public spaces with clear maintenance plans, using the Valley's natural beauty.
- » Enhance and celebrate what makes the Valley unique: its views, woodlands, meadows and architecture.

Children, Families & Young People

- » Parks and open spaces should support play, learning, and activities for all.
- » Create dedicated spaces for children and young people that are safe, inclusive and welcoming and within walking or wheeling distance.

Inclusion, Health and Well-being

- » Create spaces and services that are accessible and welcoming to everyone, regardless of background or ability.
- » Design spaces that feel safe and discourage anti-social behaviour.
- » Create walking and wheeling opportunities so that people can enjoy the Valley's landscape and improve health.

Sustainability, Landscape & Water Management

- » Increase access to woodlands and meadows for recreation while protecting wildlife.
- » Support wildlife recovery through nature-friendly design and management.
- » Reduce flood risk and improve water quality in the Valley's rivers and streams.



Opportunities Map

The above map shows the woodlands and open spaces of Gleadless Valley where regeneration could focus on landscape enhancement, habitat protection and promoting controlled use.

Examples of potential opportunities for green corridors linking these areas and nearby natural assets are indicated for further investigation.



Better Landscape for Health, Wellbeing & Learning

Connecting with nature can improve mood and boost overall wellbeing. Enhancing Gleadless Valley's landscape will benefit residents by strengthening their connection with nature, encouraging healthy activities and offering opportunities for community engagement and learning.

Weaknesses

- » Woodlands and housing are disconnected with overgrown, unclear entrances that discourage use.
- » Limited sightlines and dense vegetation create a sense of unsafety.
- » Steep terrain makes it hard to create accessible walking and wheeling routes and gathering spaces.
- » Large mown grass areas near homes lack visual interest and reduce the landscape's positive impact on wellbeing.
- » Anti-social behaviour (such as motorbike riding and fly-tipping) creates a sense of insecurity and neglect, which deters use of the green spaces.
- » Lack of community orchards and learning opportunities in the landscape.

Opportunities

- » Improve connections between homes, local centres, woodlands and green spaces, enhancing physical access and visual links.
- » Upgrade woodland paths improving surfacing, widths and entrances and providing clearer signage and sightlines to encourage use.
- » Develop walking and wheeling routes to encourage active travel, exercise, quiet recreation and nature-based play.
- » Highlight long views to the Peak District National Park and the city to enhance the landscape's appeal.
- » Enhance connections between people and the landscape by using natural and historical features to encourage learning, conservation and sustainability.
- » Design public spaces to prevent motorbike access and anti-social behaviour.



Protect & Enhance Habitats & Biodiversity

Gleadless Valley's landscape features Local Wildlife Sites, Open Spaces, a Local Nature Reserve, and vital habitats for conservation, supporting species from the UK and Sheffield Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Key habitats include ancient woodlands (some dating back to 1400), wildflower meadows, species-rich hedgerows, streams, ponds, and orchard remnants. The focus will be on protecting and enhancing these habitats through management whilst encouraging controlled community use. Opportunities for creating new habitats will also be explored.

Weaknesses

- » Limited woodland management.
- » Poor vegetation management along woodland boundaries and path edges, impacting biodiversity.
- » Large areas of low biodiversity amenity grassland, requiring frequent mowing with high maintenance costs.
- » Some culverted watercourses provide little biodiversity and are prone to flooding.
- » Restrictions to habitat diversity such as closed canopy woodlands, limited species rich hedgerows and grasslands.

Opportunities

- » Explore habitat management opportunities to boost biodiversity in woodlands, grasslands, hedgerows and waterways across the Valley.
- » Replant community orchards to provide new habitats and help alleviate flooding.
- » Create new ponds, swales and wetland areas to support biodiversity, manage flooding, and integrate with a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) where possible.
- » Explore habitat improvement opportunities on the former landfill site.
- » Identify potential for habitat creation including open spaces and boundaries within housing areas.



Reinforce Green Corridors & Green Infrastructure

Green corridors are natural or semi-natural areas that connect larger green spaces such as parks or woodlands, allowing wildlife to move between them and supporting biodiversity. They also help manage stormwater. Green infrastructure is a network of natural and semi-natural features in urban areas, like parks, woodlands and rivers, contributing to benefits like improved health and well-being, reduced pollution, and urban cooling.

In Gleadless Valley, there are opportunities to link and enhance existing habitats like woodlands, hedgerows, meadows and streams, that are remnants of its former rural landscape, as well as creating new green spaces.

Weaknesses

- » Some areas of woodland are disconnected with a lack of varied vegetation along edges which limits wildlife and biodiversity.
- » Species-rich hedgerow remnants are isolated.
- » Weak green links through some housing areas.
- » Large areas of amenity grassland act as barriers to wildlife movement.
- » Busy roads block wildlife movement and contribute to air and noise pollution near homes.

Opportunities

- » Create green corridors to connect habitats and support biodiversity, like planting hedgerows along boundaries and better planting in public spaces.
- » Connect with the woodlands and landscape to the south of the Valley.
- » Explore opportunities for a green corridor between Rolleston Wood and Buck Wood to the north of the Valley.
- » Retain significant individual trees within the landscape.
- » Wildlife corridors and crossing points to roads in key areas.
- » Enhance woodland edges to improve wildlife movement.
- » Use planting to reduce noise and air pollution near homes and parks.
- » Link to nature-related opportunities with appropriate community groups such as at Regather Farm and Sheffield Organic Growers.

