

ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Revised September 2025

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1. Introduction

Background

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out the Council's programme to produce the planning policy documents that form the Local Plan.

The Local Plan consists of a portfolio of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) together with documents concerned with the management of the plan making process.

Rotherham Local Plan documents produced to date include:

- the Local Development Scheme
- the Statement of Community Involvement
- Annual Monitoring Reports
- the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Core Strategy (DPD)
- the Rotherham Core Strategy (DPD)
- the Rotherham Sites and Policies Document (DPD)

The Council's first Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by the Council on 14 June 2006. It was replaced with revised versions on 3 June 2015, 30 October 2019 and 18 September 2024.

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 8 March 2012.

The Rotherham Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 10 September 2014.

The Rotherham Sites and Policies Document was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2018.

Purpose of the Local Development Scheme

This document sets out a revised project plan for the preparation of DPDs that comprise the Rotherham Local Plan. The LDS is intended to:

- Set out the subject matter, geographic coverage, development plan status and inter-relationships of Local Plan documents and if any are to be prepared jointly with other local planning authorities.
- Establish and reflect priorities for the Local Plan to steer associated work programming and resource allocation.

- Give a timetable and set milestones for the preparation and review of documents.

The LDS is subject to periodic review and may be amended due to legislative changes or any requirement to carry out significant additional technical work in response to consultation on draft DPDs. The LDS is available at

<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/local-plan>

2. Local Plan programme

New Local Plan

The Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and new standard method for assessing housing needs in December 2024. This new national policy significantly increased Rotherham's housing target, which is also now mandatory. As a result, the Council will not progress the Core Strategy Partial Update and will begin preparation of a full Local Plan under the new plan-making system brought in by the 2023 Act¹. When adopted, the new Local Plan will replace both the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies DPD.

At the time of writing, the provisions of the 2023 Act relating to the new plan-making system had not yet been implemented in revised Local Plan regulations². The timetable given in this LDS is therefore subject to change.

Core Strategy Partial Update

Legislation requires the Council to prepare and keep under review a Local Plan. It also requires the Council to review Local Plan documents every five years from adoption, to determine whether they require updating. The Council reviewed the Core Strategy (adopted in September 2014) and commenced an update, carrying out public consultation on a Core Strategy Partial Update (Regulation 18) in August and September 2024. As outlined above, due to the new national policy position the Council will not progress the Core Strategy Partial Update.

Sites and Policies Document DPD

The Council reviewed the Sites and Policies Document (adopted in June 2018) in 2023 and determined at that time that the document remained fit for purpose and did not require updating. In light of the new national policy position outlined above, the Council will prepare a new Local Plan. This will incorporate a review of all sites allocated in the Sites and Policies DPD.

South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan

The Council is working with the other South Yorkshire authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to prepare a new Joint Waste Plan, to replace the Plan adopted in 2012. A Joint Waste Needs Assessment was completed in 2022, to provide supporting evidence for a Joint Waste Plan. Work is ongoing to consider the scope and content of a Joint Waste Plan and its relationship with the emerging Spatial Development Strategy to be prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). It is not possible to confirm the timetable to prepare a Joint Waste Plan at present.

¹ Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Statement of Community Involvement

The Council is required by legislation to review the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) every five years from adoption. The current SCI was approved by the Council on 18 September 2024. The next review of the SCI is due by September 2029.

Neighbourhood Plans

Local communities can prepare plans for their local areas if they wish to do so. The local planning authority does not prepare Neighbourhood Plans but has a duty to provide advice and technical assistance to community groups engaged in Neighbourhood Planning. Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan for those areas of the borough if they have successfully passed independent examination and a local referendum.

The Council has designated the following Neighbourhood Areas:

- Dinnington St John's Parish (designated 11 July 2016)
- Maltby Parish (designated 10 April 2017)
- Wickersley Parish (designated 11 December 2017)
- Dalton Parish (designated 19 February 2018)
- Firbeck Parish (designated 7 October 2021)

The following Neighbourhood Plans have successfully completed the examination and referendum process and have been adopted by the Council:

- Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 26 May 2021)
- Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 25 May 2022)
- Maltby Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 28 February 2024)

Timetable

The Rotherham Local Plan programme is focused on the following development plan documents (DPDs):

- New Local Plan
- South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan

The programme is illustrated in the timetable below and expanded in the subsequent detailed profiles. The milestones are dependent on revised Local Plan regulations

confirming the stages required under the 2023 Act. Gateway assessment dates are indicative only.

Rotherham Local Plan Timetable

	2025						2026						2027						2028						2029					
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
New Local Plan																														
South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan																														

Stages based on the Government's July 2023 consultation and February 2025 response on implementing the plan-making reforms in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act.

Pre-production

Review and update evidence base, eg green belt review, call for sites, settlement capacity, housing & employment land, transport study, SA etc.
Procure and commission necessary systems to produce "digital plan" with interactive maps
Ensure staff resource and training in place to produce digital plan and deliver front-loaded public engagement

Commencement

4 months' notice (minimum)

- N** Planning authority "gives notice" of start of plan-making
Scoping and early participation stage
Preparation of Project Initiation Document for Gateway 1

Plan preparation

23 months

Plan visioning and strategy development
Evidence gathering/revision and drafting the plan
Engagement, proposing changes, submission

Gateway 1 (Advisory)

- G1** Self assessment using standard forms

Public consultation (6 weeks)

- C** Visioning about the future of the area
Identify and test spatial options and local priorities

Gateway 2 (Advisory)

- G2** Mandatory assessment by the Planning Inspectorate

Public consultation (8 weeks)

- C** Communities, statutory bodies and stakeholders comment on draft plan
Planning authority makes any changes required prior to submission

Gateway 3 (Stop/Go)

- G3** Mandatory assessment by the Planning Inspectorate

Submission

- S** Plan submitted to secretary of state

Examination

6 months

(plus 3 months if consultation on modifications required)

- E** Examination in public by an examiner appointed by the secretary of state
Examiner determines if the plan is sound and legally compliant
Representors have a "right to be heard"

Adoption

1 month

- A** Finalisation and adoption of digital plan by planning authority

New Local Plan	
Document details	
Role and content	Complete new Local Plan to include: • Strategic and local policies (subject to not duplicating National Development Management Policies) • Site allocations to meet standard method local housing need, employment land, retail, community facilities etc. • Digital policies map • Infrastructure delivery plan
Status	DPD
Chain of conformity	To conform with national planning policy
Geographic coverage	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough
Timetable and milestones	
Notice of Plan commencement	October 2026
Gateway 1 (self assessment)	February 2027
Public consultation on draft Plan (vision, options and local priorities)	June / July 2027
Gateway 2 (PINS assessment)	February 2028
Public consultation on draft Plan (pre-submission)	June / July 2028
Gateway 3 (PINS assessment)	November 2028
Submission of Plan to Secretary of State	December 2028
Examination by Government-appointed Planning Inspector	January / June 2029
Adoption of the Plan by the Council	July 2029
Arrangements for production	
Lead responsibility	Planning Policy Team, Rotherham MBC
Management arrangements	Production stages guided by briefing of Members. Public consultation will require approval by Cabinet. Submission of the plan for examination and subsequent adoption will require a resolution by the Council.
Resources required	Produced internally with consultant input in relation to certain evidence base studies and Sustainability Appraisal
Approach to involving the community and stakeholders	Outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement
Post production	
Monitoring and review mechanisms	Via the Annual Monitoring Report

South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan	
Document details	
Role and content	Allocates strategic waste management sites within the four local authorities to deliver the Plan, together with supporting policies
Status	DPD
Chain of conformity	To conform with national planning policy
Geographic coverage	The Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, the City of Doncaster, the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, the City of Sheffield
Timetable and milestones	
Notice of Plan commencement	To be confirmed
Gateway 1 (self assessment)	
Public consultation on draft Plan (vision, options and local priorities)	
Gateway 2 (PINS assessment)	
Public consultation on draft Plan (pre-submission)	
Gateway 3 (PINS assessment)	
Submission of Plan to Secretary of State	
Examination by Government-appointed Planning Inspector	
Adoption of the Plan by the Council	
Arrangements for production	
Lead responsibility	Joint Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils
Management arrangements	Steering Group comprised of lead officers from the constituent authorities, working to agreed MoU. Oversight for the Plan and joint planning work by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority infrastructure and housing portfolio.
Resources required	Combination of specialist consultants managed by Steering Group with representation from the constituent authorities and in-house planning officers
Approach to involving the community and stakeholders	Co-ordinated approach to consultation drawing on a common specification from the adopted SCIs of the four local authorities
Post production	
Monitoring and review mechanisms	Via the Annual Monitoring Reports of the four local authorities

3. Monitoring and review

Annual Monitoring Report

Continuous monitoring and review are essential to the plan, monitor and manage process in the successful implementation of the Local Plan. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is published at the end of each calendar year, reporting progress made in the preceding financial year. The report:

- Provides details of how well policies are being achieved by tracking their impact on relevant targets and whether policies need adjustment in the light of changes to national policy.
- Provides an updated list of technical studies, reports and other relevant publications contributing to the evidence base supporting Local Plan preparation.
- Indicates the performance of infrastructure providers against the infrastructure delivery planning requirements set out in the Core Strategy.

Annual Monitoring Reports are available at <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/local-plan>

Risk Assessment

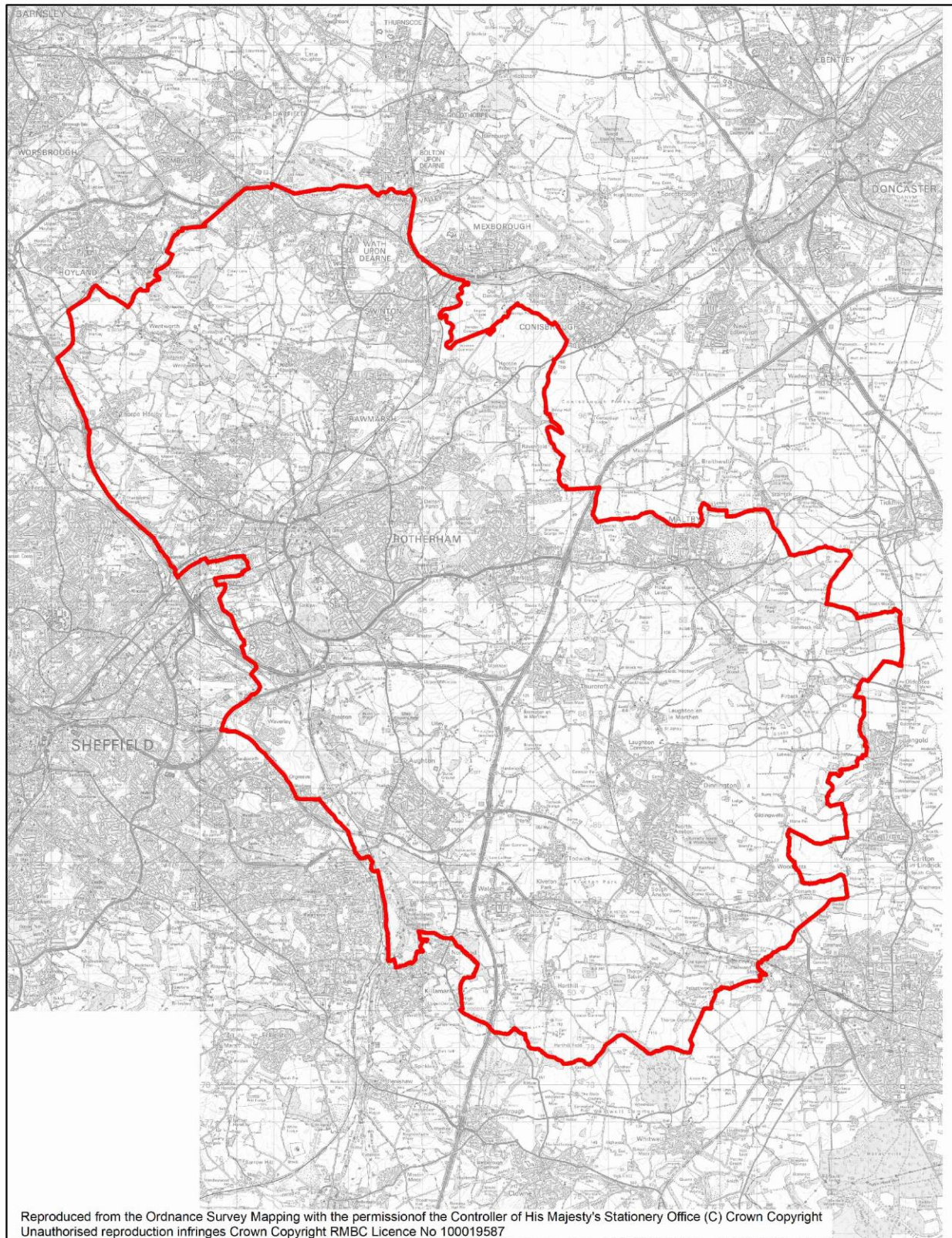
The table below identifies the risks in preparing the DPDs set out in this LDS, the probability and nature of any impact, and the mitigation / contingency for dealing with each risk.

Risk assessment

Risk	Implication	Impact / Probability (low / medium / high)	Mitigation / contingency
Planning Inspectorate unable to meet timescales for examination	Programme slippage	H / M	Beyond the control of the Council; however the Council can ensure early and ongoing engagement with the Planning Inspectorate regarding timescales. The Gateway assessments in the new plan-making system should further mitigate this risk.
Insufficient budget	Programme slippage	H / M	Ensure scoping of the Plan identifies realistic budget requirements with appropriate flexibility. Early internal engagement to identify and allocate appropriate budgets to support the Plan (including Examination).
Failure to meet Duty to Co-operate requirements	Programme slippage due to further work Plan likely to be found unsound	H / L	Ongoing co-operation at regional level through SYMCA. Ensure early and ongoing engagement on strategic, cross boundary issues with relevant Duty to Co-operate bodies, and production of Statements of Common Ground as required by national policy.
DPD found unsound at examination	DPD could not be adopted by the Council	H / L	Ensure the Plan complies with national planning policy and meets the requirements set out in legislation and regulations. Ensure the Plan is based on up to date and robust evidence. Access support and training, and draw on tools to support Plan preparation such as that offered by the Planning Advisory Service.
Legal challenge	All or part of the Plan may be quashed	H / L	All efforts will be taken to ensure that the Plan is found sound at examination. Legal advice to be sought as necessary.
Changes to national policy	Further work required to comply may result in slippage	M / M	Ensure awareness of national policy position and respond to changes as soon as possible. Ensure any additional work is effectively managed to ensure quality of output to an agreed timetable.

Risk	Implication	Impact / Probability (low / medium / high)	Mitigation / contingency
Additional work required (for example arising from representations submitted, or need for further evidence)	Programme slippage due to further work	M / M	Implementing the new plan-making system gives rise to potential for unforeseen additional work. Extra resources may need to be deployed, including external consultancy support at key stages. Adopt effective project management approach to undertaking the Plan. Consider internal resources available to contribute towards the Plan, and/or appointment of specialist consultants where necessary. Consider and resolve budget implications arising from additional work requirements. Work commissioned by external consultants to be managed effectively to ensure quality of output to an agreed timetable.
Planning Policy resources diverted to other work	Programme slippage	M / M	Ensure corporate support for the Plan. Management of Planning Policy work programme to ensure priority of the Plan (including through service and team plans, and individual workloads).
Staff retention and recruitment	Programme slippage	H / H	Consider internal resources available to contribute towards the Plan, and/or appointment of specialist consultants where necessary. Seek to fill vacancies with appropriately qualified officers as soon as possible. Consider graduate planner programmes.
Political uncertainty	Programme slippage	M / M	Ensure corporate support for the Plan. Ensure briefing of and engagement with Members throughout the Plan process.
Breakdown of joint working arrangements	Programme slippage or abandonment	H / L	Ensure appropriate Memorandum of Understanding is signed and adhered to by all parties. Regular reporting to oversight groups.

Map 1: Rotherham DPD geographic coverage



**Rotherham Borough
Boundary**

Map Not To Scale

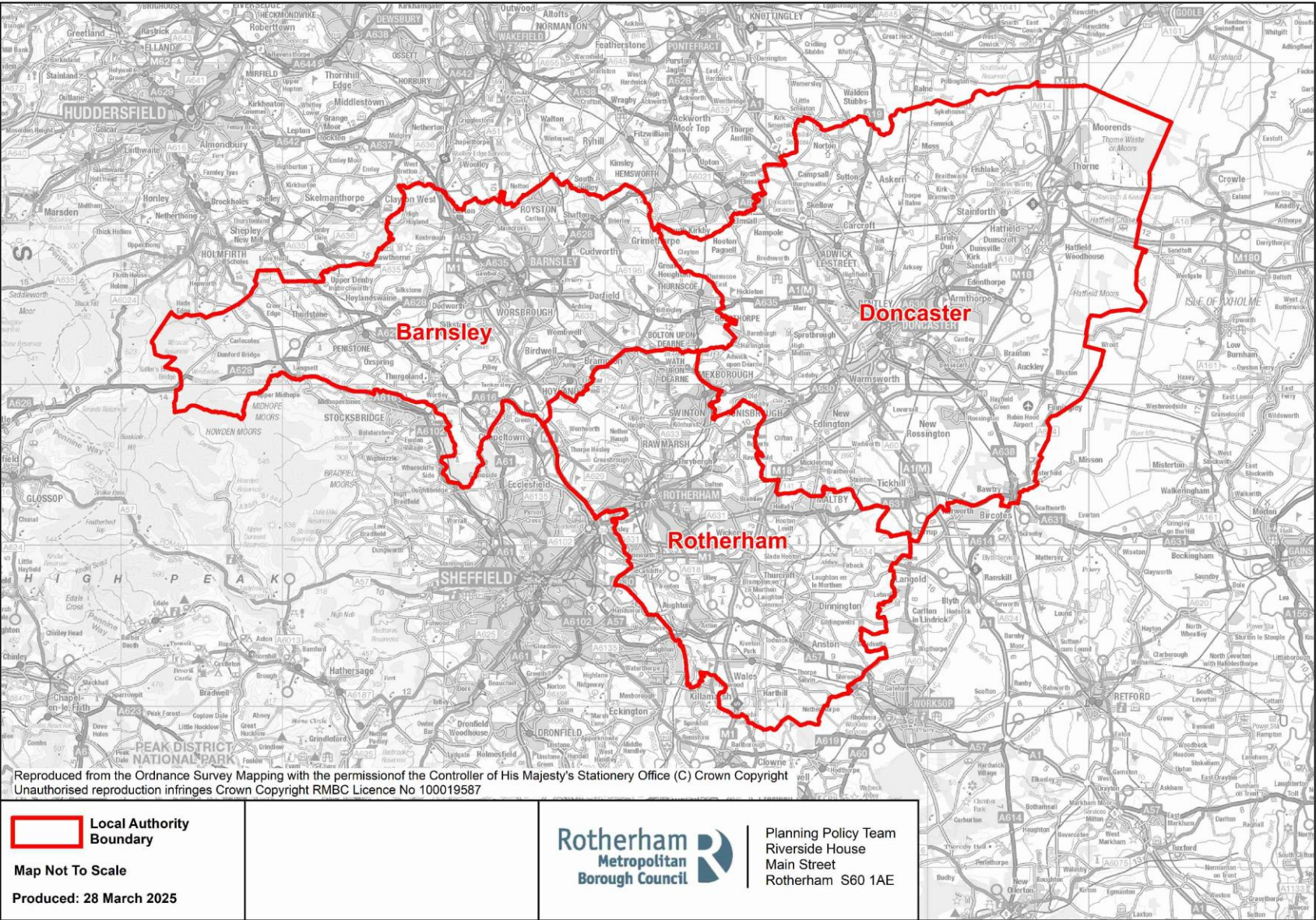
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Map 2: Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Core Strategy DPD geographic coverage



Map 3: South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan DPD geographic coverage

