

Our Vision for the Valley

Final draft 01/12/2025



Message from the Board

This plan sets out a bold new approach to the regeneration of Gleadless Valley.

In 2022, Sheffield City Council published the Gleadless Valley Masterplan but couldn't deliver it due to budget constraints and rising construction costs.

Clearly, a new approach was needed.

Since October 2024, the Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board has united local community leaders and council representatives to rethink the programme and make progress on the ground.

This Vision for the Valley is the result—a new way forward, created through genuine partnership between the council and the local community.

This document sets out an ambitious vision: to transform Gleadless Valley into a thriving Sheffield neighbourhood. A place where people choose to live, with local shops and services, easy city access, vibrant community life, and an incredible landscape of parks, woods, streams, and meadows.

That may feel far from today's reality, but aiming high is essential to attract the investment the valley deserves.

Because what we have learned from the stalled Masterplan is that the council cannot do this alone. We need other partners - housing associations, private developers - and funding from central and regional government, the Big Lottery, charitable trusts, and investors.

This Vision for the Valley identifies 12 big projects that, with the right funding, could be delivered over the next decade, transforming every aspect of the valley and improving life for residents.

While seeking funders and partners, we are committed to action now. The council will use its funding to improve council homes across the valley, to make a start on all 12 big projects within two years, to tackle issues like fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour, and to support residents to get active and make a difference.

Most importantly, we believe that regeneration is about



community power. While the council and partners provide expertise, local people are the true experts in their lives and communities. We will build community ownership and ensure the council and other partners work with residents as equals.

This Vision for the Valley shows us the path to a brighter future for Gleadless Valley. Now it is the responsibility of all of us to see it through.

Alexis Krachai,
Independent Chair

Ajman Ali, Executive Director of
SCC Neighbourhood Services

Cllr Alexi Dimond,
Ward Councillor (Green Party)

Cllr Marianne Elliot,
Ward Councillor (Green Party)

Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP,
Sheffield Heeley MP (Labour Party)

Cllr Tom Hunt, Leader of
the Council (Labour Party)

Andy Jackson,
Heeley Trust

Cllr Douglas Johnson,
Chair of the Housing Policy
Committee (Green Party)

Lara Joyce,
Gleadless Valley TARA

Matt Lawton,
Gleadless Valley TARA

Kate Martin, Executive
Director of SCC City Futures

Rev. David Middleton,
Holy Cross Church

Max Richardson,
Gleadless Valley TARA

John 'Jock' Stevenson,
Gleadless Valley Foodbank

Cllr Paul Turpin,
Ward Councillor (Green Party)

Delivering in partnership



Local partners discussing new plans for the local centres



June 2025 Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board meeting

Our Vision for the Valley has been prepared through a process of working in partnership between local community-focused organisations in Gleadless Valley and Sheffield City Council. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way.

Delivery of the vision will require everyone in the valley to pull together and play their part, as well as welcoming new partners to bring in additional expertise, capacity and funding.



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Regeneration

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the Valley

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Power

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Introduction

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow





Cllr Tom Hunt
The Leader
Sheffield City Council

Gleadless Valley is a pioneering neighbourhood. Built in the 1950s and 60s, the valley showcased modern living in a beautiful landscape.

Today, community leaders and the council are united in restoring pride and making long term improvements for Gleadless Valley.

In the short term, we will start work immediately to improve homes, clean up the estate, and tackle anti-social behaviour. Our long-term ambition is greater: working in partnership with central government, the Mayor of South Yorkshire, private investors and developers to secure new funding for the valley.

With the right investment, we can deliver hundreds of new homes, new shops, local services, community centres, improved parks and green spaces, more jobs, businesses, and better public transport—all the essentials of a great place to live.

There is strong determination from the Council and the community to secure the investment that Gleadless Valley deserves. By working together, Gleadless Valley can become a model for regeneration.

Alexis Krachai
Independent Chair
Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board



Writing a plan can frustrate those who want impact now. Rightly so. Words alone achieve little. What matters is delivery. That is why I am confident in this document and the energy behind it.

This is not just another council plan. It's a shared statement of intent from everyone working to transform Gleadless Valley—residents, community groups, charities.

The Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board reflects something Sheffield does best: working together to get things done.

This document is both a promise to residents and an open invitation to others. Trusts, foundations, developers, government bodies. You all have an opportunity to play your part.

We are and must do something transformational in Gleadless Valley.

Join us.

The Opportunity: over the next 10 years



200+

homes improved



1,100

new homes



9,000 m²

new commercial &
community space



3

new or improved
community centres



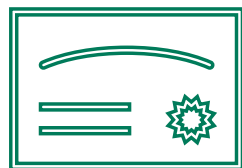
4

new or
improved parks



2,200

local residents into
jobs or training



800

apprenticeships and
work placements



17.5km

repaved or
improved paths



5km

improved
woodland trails



140+

homes with
solar panels



Pioneering Regeneration

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow



Gleadless Valley: then and now

Gleadless Valley is a unique neighbourhood...

Incredible ambition:

Nearly 5,000 council homes plus shops, schools and local services were built over a period of only 11 years by Sheffield City Council, a huge achievement

A model estate:

Admired internationally for combining modernist architecture with a verdant landscape including a river, ancient woodlands and meadow, all less than two miles from the city centre

Unique architecture:

Special housing types were designed to cope with the steep terrain and take full advantage of the stunning views out over Sheffield and into the countryside beyond.

“Gleadless Valley and its residents have been dreadfully neglected and disenfranchised. This plan offers a new start, hope and a tangible future”

Rev David Middleton

Board Member and Vicar, Holy Cross Church,
Gleadless Valley

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...but also typical of many post-war council estates

Under investment:

Gleadless Valley has suffered from a national failure to invest in social housing for decades. The estate today looks tired.

Under pressure:

Residents face significant social and economic challenges. Most parts of the estate are among England's 10% most deprived neighbourhoods. Nearly half of residents are economically inactive, often due to poor health or caring responsibilities and unemployment is up to five times the national average.

Funding Gap:

Right to Buy means that half the homes are now privately owned and the rents from the remaining council tenants are not enough to properly maintain the estate, let alone make major improvements. Crime and anti-social behaviour add to a feeling of neglect.



Bagshaw Arms 1929



Gleadless Valley estate shortly after construction

The ambition: a pioneer in regeneration

Recapture the ambition of the 1950s

A belief that, with the right vision and commitment, a brighter future can be built for 'left behind' places like Gleadless Valley

Cutting Edge Vision

Page 203 For Gleadless Valley to become a national model for estate renewal. A model that can help suburban council estates across the country

People at the heart

Residents leading change with pride and commitment



Aerial view of Gleadless Valley

A new model of estate regeneration



Existing approaches to council estate regeneration won't work in places like Gleadless Valley

Regeneration in the South doesn't translate to the North

Wholesale redevelopment of council estates into new mixed-tenure communities has been a successful model in London and other areas with high property values. But it doesn't work in northern towns and cities where private housing isn't profitable enough to cross-subsidise new social housing.



Low density 'Estate Renewal' doesn't address the housing crisis or the climate crisis



'Estate Renewal' is the typical model in northern towns and cities. It involves replacing blocks of flats with low rise houses. While this has created some fine new homes, it reduces the stock of affordable housing and can lead to car-dependent suburbs with few shops and services.



**A new approach is urgently needed
Here's what it could look like**

Generate demand through placemaking



Build a successful housing market by creating a great place to live – invest in high quality local centres, great public spaces and excellent transport connections.

Gently densify and diversify housing

Increase the quantity and range of housing through a sensitive mixture of redevelopment and infill across a range of tenures. This will increase spending power, supporting local economic growth.



Think beyond bricks and mortar.



Address every aspect of a successful neighbourhood: a vibrant community with spaces to meet, shop, work and play; a thriving voluntary, community and faith sector; local employment and business opportunities; modern, accessible shops, services, schools and health facilities.

A sustainable funding model

In today's financial climate, delivering through ongoing public funding is not an option

Instead, our approach is to build a **four-point** sustainable funding model

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1

Use **public funding as seed capital** to attract private & charitable funding

2

Maximise **social and economic benefits** through training, employment and enterprise

3

Build **local assets that generate income** for the community

4

Introduce desirable private and shared ownership homes so people can thrive and stay



Guiding principles

These principles will guide our regeneration efforts and ensure Gleadless Valley's renewal aligns with Sheffield City Goals and the Council Plan

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Renewing

Great neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home



Welcoming

People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity & support wellbeing



Nurturing

A place where all children belong & all young people can build a successful future



Thriving

A creative & prosperous city full of culture, learning & innovation



Evolving

A city on the move – growing, connected & sustainable



Transforming the Valley

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow



The Place Vision

Our vision is that in 20 years time Gleadless Valley has been transformed into a successful suburb of Sheffield.

A place where families choose to live and bring up their children, offering shops and services on your doorstep, easy access to the city centre and a vibrant community life, all set in an incredible landscape of parks and woodlands, streams and meadows.

A neighbourhood that is once again proud to be at the forefront of the growth of Sheffield, through improved economic activity, hundreds of new sustainable homes and a shining example of living in harmony with nature.



We will achieve the vision by:

Putting the Valley's incredible landscape front & centre

- Creating new and improved parks in the heart of communities
- A Gleadless Valley Country Park offering a great family day out exploring the ancient woodlands
- Buildings designed to showcase the landscape

Renewing local centres

- Rebuilding the valley's run-down shopping precincts with new shops, workplaces and community facilities
- Creating safe, welcoming places for people to work, visit, shop and meet
- More greenery and open views across the valley
- Improved paths making it easier and safer to walk, cycle or wheel to your local centre



Building new and improved homes

- Upgrades to existing council homes, concentrating on those in worst condition and those closest to the improved local centres
- A great choice of new homes for existing and new residents, including homes to buy and rent
- Located close to shopping areas and parks, supporting thriving communities



Phasing: Prioritising resident priorities

We have identified 12 Big Projects that between them could change the face of the valley over the next 10 years

We will prioritise making visible progress on the ground, improving people's homes and supporting residents to get involved

The Big Projects would go a long way toward delivering our vision for the valley.

But we don't want to make promises we can't deliver – the bigger, more ambitious projects require funding from government or from the private sector.

Only those projects that are badged as 'fully funded' should be regarded as definite at this stage.

Due to the false start with the 2022 Masterplan, local people have been waiting a long time for change.

Residents deserve to see changes on the ground as soon as possible and are particularly concerned about the condition of their homes.

We will deliver the regeneration programme in phases, with short term improvements fully funded and based on resident priorities.

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Short term MAKING A START (2026-2027)

Fully funded

Cleaning up the estate and making a small start on every Big Project in the next two years



Medium term IMPROVING HOMES (2028 onwards)

90% funded

Big Projects 1 to 3 focused on improving existing homes



Long term DELIVERING THE VISION (2030 onwards)

Not yet funded

Working with partners and funders to transform the valley through Big Projects 4 to 12

RESIDENT POWER (throughout the regeneration programme)

Partially funded

Building community power so that residents can take action for themselves

The Big Projects

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

- VALLEY-WIDE**
1. THE BIG FACELIFT
 2. WARM HOMES
 3. BRIGHT FUTURES
 4. RENEWING NEWFIELD GREEN
 5. GAUNT COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD
 6. HEMSWORTH NATURE NEIGHBOURHOOD
 7. HERDINGS FAMILY NEIGHBOURHOOD
 8. PARKS TO PLAY & STAY
 9. WONDERFUL WOODLANDS
 10. MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE
 11. BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT
 12. A CONNECTED VALLEY



Making a Start: Place Management

“I remember when the estate was well looked after. Now fly tipping and anti-social behaviour are a constant problem”

Max Richardson

Board Member and Treasurer, Gleadless Valley
Tenants and Residents Association

This programme is up and running and aims to achieve:

25%

Reduction in
response times to
environmental
issues



Greater
satisfaction with
the council's
contribution to the
neighbourhood



An
Environmental
Stewardship
team

Improved tenant
inspection scores,
making Gleadless
Valley a city-
leader



Skills & training
opportunities for
unemployed
young adults

A new approach to maintaining the estate and tackling littering, fly tipping, illegal parking and other anti-social behaviour

Team Around the Place (TAP)
Gleadless Valley is a new
community-led approach bringing
local people, council staff, and
partners together to make the area
cleaner, greener, and safer.

Instead of services like street
cleaning and green space
maintenance being managed
separately, TAP introduces a
Neighbourhood Manager and a
Place-Based Partnership Forum of
residents, youth reps, council
teams, and organisations to shape
decisions and track progress.

Building on successful models in
Page Hall, Darnall, and the City
Centre, TAP in Gleadless Valley will
be larger and more ambitious,
aiming to set a gold standard for
place management and create a
model that can be used across the
whole city. The work will roll out in
phases—assessing current issues,
testing ideas, and measuring
impact—supported by tools like
digital dashboards so residents can
report problems and see results.



Making a Start: Starting the Big Projects

For every Big Project, we are **Making a Start** with smaller actions and projects that **are fully funded** and will be delivered by the end of 2027.

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The Big Facelift

Refurbishment of the first homes underway



Renewing Newfield Green

Upgraded paving, benches and service road in the shopping precinct



Gaunt Community Neighbourhood

Two more shops refurbished for community use & derelict pub demolished



Herdings Family Neighbourhood

Construction underway on 25 new homes for Gleadless Valley tenants on Leighton Drive

Hemsworth Nature Neighbourhood

Support to Charnock Women & Girls FC to make improvements to the football pitch



Parks to Play and Stay

Improvements to Herdings Park and a new community greenspace with natural play on Spotswood Road



Wonderful Woodlands

New wayfinding boards, more motor vehicle restrictions and woodland activities for all ages



Making Space For Nature

Support for Regather and Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust's EU In Nature Fund improvements



Bright Futures

At least 20 homes fitted with solar panels



Warm Homes

In partnership with E.ON Energy, ten existing homes fitted with insulation and low energy heating, plus a Living Lab show-home



Better Public Transport

Reduced bus delays on Blackstock Road caused by vehicles queuing to get into the Household Waste Recycling Centre

A Connected Valley

Programme of footpath renewal



Improving Homes: 2028-2032

The first three Big Projects are already 90% funded and will kickstart regeneration by improving homes across the valley.

Project 1
The Big Facelift
A £30m programme to refurbish flats and maisonettes across the estate

Project 2
Warm Homes
Insulation and low energy heating for existing homes

Project 3
Bright Futures
Lower energy bills and community benefits from solar power

Our promise to tenants

As far as possible, these works will be undertaken while residents are still living in their homes. While these projects are progressing, the council will continue to make repairs to homes as usual, so please keep reporting problems that need fixed.

“Residents are clear that improving housing is the top priority. Everyday we hear from residents struggling in damp, draughty, run down homes.”

Matt Lawton
Board Member and Chair,
Gleadless Valley Tenants and Residents Association





Project 1: The Big Facelift

A £30m programme to refurbish flats and maisonettes across the estate

Funding status: fully funded
Total estimated cost: £30m

To be delivered by:
Sheffield City Council

This project aims to deliver:



Reduction in required repairs



Reduction in tenancy turnover



Increased resident satisfaction

Gleadless Valley has a rich history and a special charm, but age and dilapidation is affecting the housing and people are rightly unhappy about this. We want to change that and make the area a welcoming place for everyone.

Over the next ten years, we will upgrade homes across the valley, working closely with residents and local partners. We know we can't reach every property, so we'll focus on the homes that need it most, looking at things like condition, location, and wider plans for the area.

Residents of the selected homes will be involved in deciding what work is needed. This could include small updates like decorating, moderate

improvements such as new windows, or bigger projects like adding insulation or creating private gardens or parking areas.

The project will also create local jobs and training opportunities, helping residents learn new skills while making Gleadless Valley a better, healthier, and more sustainable place to live.

Making a Start

Work will start on the first homes to be refurbished by the end of 2027





Project 2: Warm Homes

Insulation and low energy heating for existing homes

Funding status: fully funded
Total estimated cost: £4.3m

To be delivered by: Sheffield City Council and Energy Companies

Many of the homes in the valley are poorly insulated and draughty, which means residents living in cold, unhealthy conditions or spending a lot on energy.

The **Warm Homes Project** aims to tackle fuel poverty, improving both the health and financial wellbeing of residents.

The project will demonstrate how energy efficiency can enhance living conditions while reducing household costs. The council will commit to creating 50 warm homes over the next five years plus 10 warm homes in partnership with E.On.

We will work with energy companies and green investment funds to extend this by finding innovative ways to fund energy efficiency works.

This project could deliver:



60 decarbonised homes



Significant savings on bills

EPC

Energy rating exceeds C in all affected homes



Increase in resident satisfaction with improved home



A pioneering approach to extend to the whole Valley

Making a Start

The project will start with two initiatives in partnership with E.On delivered by 2027:

The **Living Lab** will fit energy efficiency and cost-saving measures in a show home for residents to visit and see in action.

The **Decarbonisation of Homes** programme will retrofit 10 homes with insulation, low-carbon heating, renewables, and smart tariffs, improving comfort and lowering energy bills.





Project 3: Bright Futures

Lower energy bills and community benefits from solar power

The **Bright Futures project** will bring solar power to Gleadless Valley, helping households save on energy bills, gain control over their power, and lower environmental impact.

Battery storage will make homes more efficient by saving extra energy for later.

We plan to trial solar panels on four blocks of flats and maisonettes and launch a no-upfront-cost scheme for houses by 2028, so

families can enjoy lower energy bills without any upfront cost.

If successful, solar power could be rolled out across the valley, with potential for financial returns to be shared with the community.

Bright Futures will also create local jobs and training opportunities, supporting a stronger, greener community.

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: c£3.6m

To be delivered by: Energy companies and external partners

This project could deliver:



140 homes
with solar panels



Reduced
energy costs



A blueprint
for the Valley

Making a Start

At least 20 homes will be fitted with solar panels by 2027.



Delivering the Vision: 2030 onwards

The rest of the Big Projects encapsulate our vision for the future of the valley.

But they will take longer to deliver and need additional investment from the government and private sector.

Our promise to tenants

Depending on the proposals we get from private developers and housing associations, some homes may need to be demolished to make way for new, better homes. We won't know for sure for 2-3 years.

Any affected tenants will be offered a new home to meet their needs within the local area and will be compensated for the costs of moving.

Projects 4 to 7 will transform the valley's local centres and surrounding areas



Project 4
**Renewing
Newfield Green**

Project 5
**Gaunt
Community
Neighbourhood**

Project 6
**Hemsworth
Nature
Neighbourhood**

Project 7
**Herdings Family
Neighbourhood**

Projects 8, 9 and 10 will improve and showcase the valley's outdoor spaces



Project 8
**Parks to Play
and Stay**

Project 9
**Wonderful
Woodland**

Project 10
**Making Space
For Nature**

Projects 11 and 12 will make it easier to get around the valley and beyond



Project 11
**Better Public
Transport**

Project 12
**A Walkable
Valley**



Project 4: Renewing Newfield Green

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

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A multi-generational local centre with a beautifully landscaped park at its heart

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost : £185m

To be delivered by: a housing association or private developer

Newfield Green is the valley's biggest local centre, but it has become run down and some people feel unsafe there.

Working with developers and housing associations, the existing shops and community facilities will be redeveloped, making way for new, high-quality buildings in a leafy centre that is a pleasure to walk around.

Hundreds of new homes above and around the shops will bring more life into the area and could include older person's apartments and family houses with gardens.

With improved shops, leisure and community amenities, plus a new park (see Project 8 Parks to Play and Stay) offering easy access to woodland walks, it will be a welcoming destination for families and a great place to live for all ages.

Making a Start

The council is buying the shopping forecourt and the access road behind. Once owned, we will upgrade the paving, service road, and benches.

This project could deliver:



12,700sqm of new high quality public space



340 new homes



4,000sqm of new commercial and community floorspace



An improved community centre & library



Artistic representation of the new park at Newfield Green overlooked by new housing



Newfield Green today





Project 5: Gaunt Community Neighbourhood

The heart of the local neighbourhood providing a mix of community facilities and workspaces fronting a new park

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £90m

To be delivered by: a housing association or private developer

“Gleadless Valley Foodbank is so much more than just a foodbank, offering all types of critical help to people, via the 189 Project. In working with the Regeneration Team, we are extremely hopeful that we can offer even more help to the people of Gleadless Valley. I'm really excited about that.”

John ('Jock') Stevenson

Board Member and Manager, Gleadless Valley Foodbank / 189 Project

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An artistic representation of potential changes to Gaunt Shopping Precinct



Community projects in **Gaunt's** empty shop units are reviving the local centre, though the buildings remain run down and hidden away. Some local residents live in poor quality flats.

We'll encourage more community and small business activity by creating new workspaces, shops and cafés along Blackstock Road and around a new park at the heart of the neighbourhood (see Project 8 Parks to Play and Stay).

Pedestrian improvements will make it safer to

cross Blackstock Road.

A green walking route will link the new park with local green spaces at Gaunt Meadow, Rolleston Wood and Herdings Park beyond.

Some of the worst homes will be demolished and replaced with new blocks of flats.

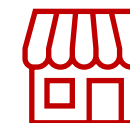
This project could deliver:



9,830sqm of new
high quality public
space



175 new
homes



2,500sqm of new
commercial and
community floorspace

Making a Start

The regeneration programme has already made refurbished shop units available for a foodbank, community pantry, playgroup and other activities. We have also funded new benches, street art and play markings.

In 2026, we will refurbish two more shop units for community groups plus demolish the derelict pub and start work on replacing it with a community-run play area.



Project 6: Hemsworth Nature Neighbourhood

A brand new neighbourhood offering a new style of living – with a focus on low energy homes in harmony with nature

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £45m

To be delivered by: A private developer or housing association



The **Hemsworth Nature Neighbourhood** project seeks to create a small neighbourhood of new homes and community facilities on the site of the old Hemsworth School opposite the Co-Op, as well as improving links to and from the area.

Surrounded by a wooded valley, playing field, mature hedgerows and pockets of important natural habitat, the new development will seek to protect and celebrate these ecological features, create new buildings that minimise energy use and carbon emissions and introduce a nature-based playground.

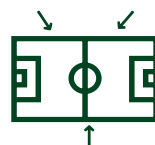
This project could deliver:



90 new homes



A new community building



Improved playing field access



Improved landscaping and natural play

Making a Start

We ran a competition to select a football club to play on the playing field – won by Charnock Girls FC.

While we wait for the new development, we will work with the club to improve the ground and reduce issues such as dog fouling.





Project 7: Herdings Family Neighbourhood

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

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New homes for family living in a natural setting around Herdings Park and on the site of the old Norton Aerodrome

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £250m

To be delivered by: A private developer or housing association

The Herdings area at the top of the valley has great potential - a large park, good transport connections, a unique heritage building, a popular primary school and amazing views. But the park is under-used and suffers from anti-social behaviour, the tram service is infrequent, and the local shops are hidden away.

Herdings Family Neighbourhood seeks to create a great family neighbourhood around Herdings Park and Woodlands Primary School with a better park (see Project 8 Parks to Play and Stay) and enhanced links to the local shops, tram and bus stops.

Making a Start

Around 25 new affordable homes for Gleadless Valley tenants will be built on the site of the old Castelayn Care Home on Leighton Drive.

The housing will be built and managed by a housing association working in partnership with the council. Construction is expected to start late 2027.

New homes around the edges of the park will provide a pleasant backdrop and improved sense of safety through more overlooking of the park.

A new public square linking the local shops and the Herdings Centre will provide space for community events.

Safer crossings over the dual carriageway will also encourage use of the park, school and local shops by residents of new housing planned for the site of the old Norton Aerodrome across the road.

This project could deliver:



500 new homes (including on Norton Aerodrome)



A new square for events



An improved park



1,600 sqm of new or refurbished commercial and community floorspace

An artistic representation of new square with Herdings Centre in the background





Project 8: Parks to Play & Stay

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

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Four new or improved parks with something for everyone, alongside improved community spaces and play provision across the valley.

Funding status: partially funded
Total estimated cost: £15m

To be delivered by: SCC with developer & government infrastructure funding

Artist's impression of improved Herdings Park overlooked by new housing



Gleadless Valley has a lot of beautiful green spaces but lacks parks with recreation and play opportunities.

At **Newfield Green**, a new park will become a vibrant hub providing safe outdoor spaces and play facilities overlooked by shops and flats, connecting people with nature, and offering recreation for all. The park will provide a gateway into walks in Buck Wood.

At **Gaunt**, ancient woodlands will be linked by a new park at the heart of the local centre, creating opportunities for natural play and community activities in a safer space.

Herdings Park will become a safe, well-connected destination with revitalised play, sports and community facilities and

refreshments. Better lighting will improve safety and use of the park.

A new nature-based playground at **Hemsworth** old school site will complement the playing fields and woodland areas.

We will work with Gleadless Valley stakeholders and the Sheffield Play Partnership to develop adventure playgrounds to support children of all ages.

Additionally, smaller outdoor community spaces and play areas will be created across the valley as funds allow, enabling more local, safe recreation for all.

Sustainable water management will support wildlife and offer learning opportunities about nature and water systems.

This project could deliver:



10-16k sqm of new park space at Gaunt and Newfield Green



New pocket parks across the Valley



Green Flag status for three local parks



A community hub / café at a revitalised Herdings Park



Making a Start

A **new community greenspace** with natural play will be created on Spotswood Road below Holy Cross Church in 2026.

By 2027, **Herdings Park** will get a toilet for use by the Sunday football teams, fencing improvements to discourage motorbikes, a pop-up coffee stall and lighting for the multi-use games area.



Project 9: Wonderful Woodlands

A welcoming, safe, well-maintained network of walking, cycling and wheeling paths through the woods offering the experience of a country park within the city

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £19m

To be delivered by: Sheffield City Council, Woodlands Activity Partners

Gleadless Valley has a wealth of fantastic woodlands, nearly all ancient. As highly valuable natural and historical habitats, they support physical and mental well-being through healthy activity, connection with nature, and opportunities for education and skills.

However, compared to other areas of Sheffield, the woods are currently underused and undervalued with limited management. Residents report feeling unsafe in the woods.

Our ambition is to create a Gleadless Valley Country Park which will transform the experience of walking in the valley. The woodlands will become multifunctional spaces supporting adventure play, nature-based learning, walking, cycling, running, picnicking, community events and foraging.

A network of primary routes will feature appropriate surfacing, clear signage, welcoming entrances, and improved sightlines through vegetation management, alongside measures to reduce motorbiking and anti-social behaviour.

If funding allows, we aim to develop a nature discovery and skills centre. Interactive trails

through the woods will engage and educate and include public art to explore.

Making a Start

By 2027, we'll install wayfinding information boards, barriers to reduce motorised vehicle access and facilitate regular woodland activities for all ages. The newly appointed ranger will look to increase sightlines at key entrance points to improve safety.

This project could deliver:



A woodland ranger



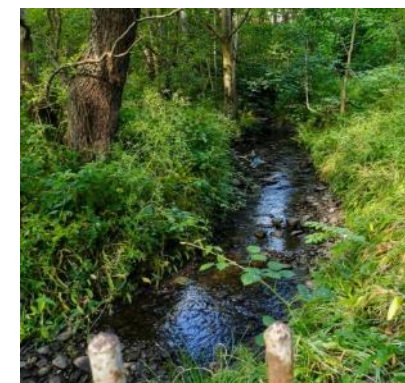
5km of improved woodland trails



Improved accessibility and wayfinding



Community activities and woodland play





Project 10: Making Space for Nature

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

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Allowing nature to thrive by protecting habitats & improving low-value areas with sustainable management & habitat creation

Funding status: partly funded
Total estimated cost: 4m

To be delivered by: Sheffield City Council, Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust, Regather, academic partners

“There is such amazing nature right on our doorstep in Gleadless Valley. We need to protect it for future generations”

Lara Joyce
Board Member and Secretary, Gleadless Valley Tenants and Residents Association



Gleadless Valley is home to an exceptional natural landscape, including Local Wildlife Sites, a Local Nature Reserve, and key habitats such as 48 hectares of ancient woodland, 11 hectares of meadow grassland, and 7 kilometres of streams.

The **Making Space for Nature project** aims to protect, enhance, and connect these habitats, complementing the community-focused *Wonderful Woodlands project*.

The project promotes the recovery of natural ecosystems by conserving existing habitats, restoring degraded areas through sustainable management, and creating green corridors linking spaces within and beyond the valley.

Guided by the Gleadless Valley Greenspace Management Plan, this work will strengthen biodiversity, improve habitat quality, reduce pollution and support local wellbeing.

Community involvement will be central, offering opportunities for environmental volunteering, training, and employment in the long-term care of the valley's unique landscape.

This project could deliver:



6 nature corridors developed and 3 nature areas expanded



Woodland under positive management



2km of restored ancient hedgerows



A new community orchard and restoration of Lees Hall and Newfield Hall orchards

Making a Start

The ranger will work with Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust and Regather to improve ecological conditions. They will also support the work of these partners by match funding the practical elements of the EU In Nature Fund, which is focused around Cat Lane.



Project 11: Better Public Transport

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow

Improving access, frequency, and quality of public transport services across Gleadless Valley through inclusive infrastructure upgrades

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £5m

To be delivered by: Sheffield City Council and the South Yorkshire Mayor



Many people in the valley don't own a vehicle, and the steep hills make walking and cycling tough, so good public transport is essential to connect people with services, jobs and other opportunities across the valley and beyond.

Gleadless Valley has several bus services and a tram service at Herdings Park. However, challenges include low service frequency, limited tram coverage, and affordability concerns.

Buses are currently privately run so there is a limit to what can be done to improve services. However, the South Yorkshire Mayor has committed to bringing buses in Sheffield under his control from 2027 to 2029.



Once this happens, we will work with him and his staff to seek service improvements. Additional homes being built in the valley will strengthen our case.

Priorities are increased frequencies and improved visibility and access to bus and tram stops, plus shelters, seating, and real-time information displays to improve user experience.

This project could deliver:



Tram frequency increased



Bus frequency increased on key routes



3 new cycle hubs across the Valley



Improved bus and tram stops with shelter, seating and digital displays

Making a Start

We'll work with Veolia to reduce delays to buses (and other traffic) on Blackstock Road caused by vehicles queuing to get into the Household Waste Recycling Centre



Project 12: A Connected Valley

Connecting communities through safer, greener and more accessible travel options when walking, wheeling and cycling

Funding status: not yet funded
Total estimated cost: £27m

To be delivered by: Sheffield City Council

This project could deliver:


17.5km of repaved or improved paths


20 new or improved pedestrian crossings



1.7 km of quiet streets – controlled for safer cycling



7.3km of segregated cycleways on Gleadless Rd, Leighton Rd & Blackstock Road

The **Connected Valley project** aims to make it easier and safer for people to walk, wheel and cycle around the area. It will introduce a network of walking routes that link homes with local centres, schools, parks and bus stops. These routes will be improved with better pavements, safer crossings, clearer signs, and places to rest—especially important given the valley's steep hills.

To improve walking routes and prevent vehicles from obstructing pavements, the project proposes extending double yellow lines and creating formal parking bays on key roads like Blackstock, Raeburn, and Constable.

New walking trails will be created through green

spaces and residential areas, encouraging people to explore the valley on foot. These include nature walks, routes to schools, and paths connecting community spaces.

For cycling, the project proposes new bike-friendly routes between key destinations, avoiding steep roads where possible. Secure bike parking and e-bike hire will be made available at local centres as part of any city-wide roll out, and new mobility hubs could make it easier to switch between walking, cycling and public transport.

Overall, the project is about making everyday journeys more pleasant and connecting people to their community and surroundings.

Making a Start

We will relay some of the worst footpaths across the estate by 2027



Resident Power

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow



We believe that regeneration must be community-powered.

Local people are the experts in their own lives and communities.

Our approach is not about delivering services to people, but about building capacity, confidence and resilience so that residents can take action for themselves — and support others to do the same.

This is a radical shift from traditional regeneration. It's about redistributing power, growing local leadership, and creating a culture of mutual support and civic participation.

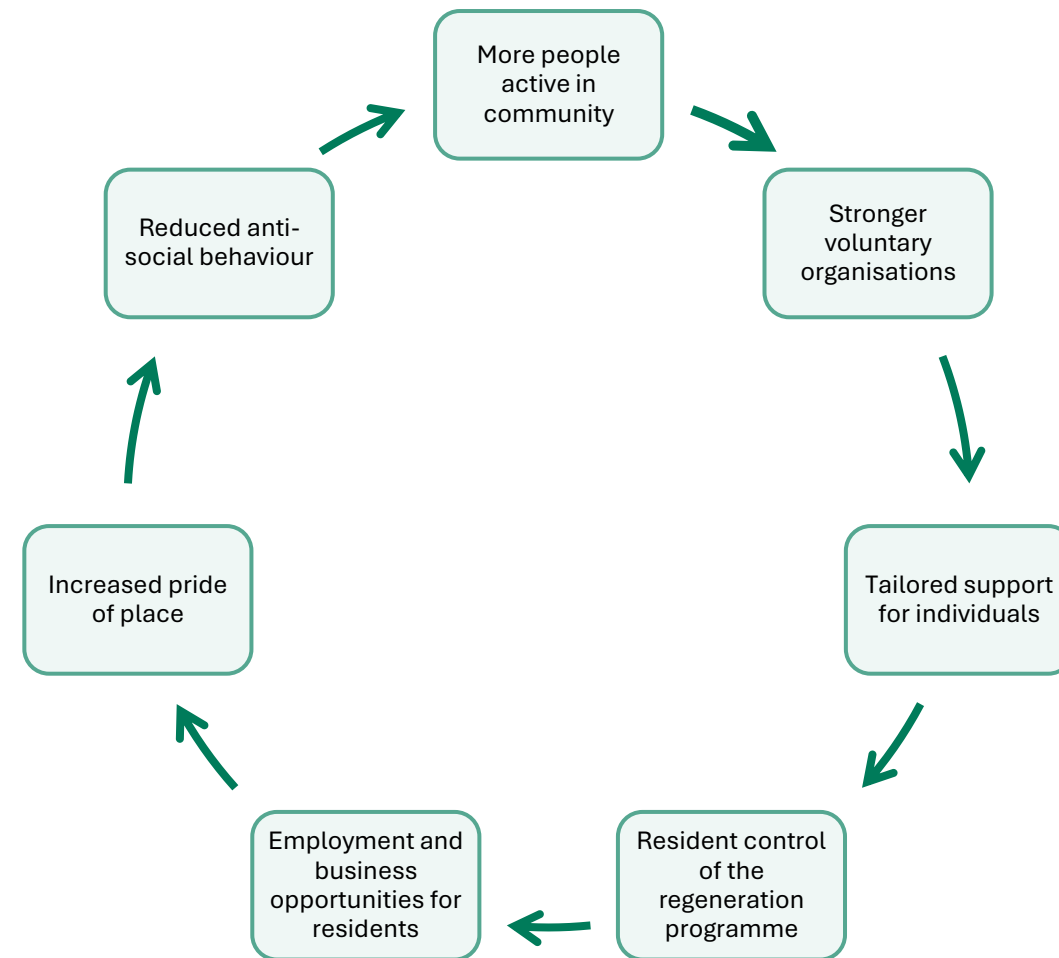
We are seeking partners who share this vision — who will work *with* residents to co-design, co-deliver and co-govern the future of Gleadless Valley.



“Sheffield has a proud history of Communities leading and shaping change in their Neighbourhoods, this is a big opportunity for Gleadless Valley to be the next of those pioneers. If we work together, we can make a massive positive difference to the future of the valley”

Andy Jackson

Board Member and Manager, Heeley Trust



Our community empowerment approach

Resident Power: Foundations of Wellbeing



Gleadless Valley's long-term regeneration will be all about people.

It will only succeed if everyone feels hope, pride, and a sense of belonging. The Regeneration Board recognises that health and wellbeing are built on housing, work, social connections, secure finances, and family support—often as much as on healthcare.

The Wellbeing programme will use a strengths-based approach across all ages, joining up services through local hubs and outreach so no one will miss out. Support will range from

crisis intervention (housing, debt, food, health) to confidence-building activities, helping residents move forward with work, learning, or community participation.

Services will collaborate flexibly to harness local strengths. By linking wellbeing support with training, employment, and community participation, we will address poverty and exclusion while empowering residents to shape and sustain regeneration. This will only work if the council, NHS, and community sectors come together in new, place- and prevention-focused partnerships.

Subject to successful funding applications, the programme aims to achieve:



More residents engaged in community activities and volunteering



10 new community-led initiatives by 2027



Economic activity increased to city average by 2035



A Resident Journey: Chapter 1

Let's imagine a parent of two young children who had lived in Gleadless Valley for years but felt disconnected and isolated from the community. Let's call them Alex.

During a period of crisis, Alex accessed the Foodbank. Through the new single point of access referral system, Alex was able to receive coordinated support—covering debt advice, mental health services, and family assistance—after sharing their story just once.

This experience helped Alex feel more supported and, after joining a local group focused on practical skills and wellbeing, less isolated.

Resident Power: Pathways to success

Subject to successful funding applications, the programme aims to achieve:



100 apprenticeship & work placements each year



Youth unemployment reduced by a fifth by 2035



Increased proportion of residents with a Level 2 qualification



2,200 local residents into jobs or training

Clear, visible, and achievable pathways into skills, employment, and community life

For regeneration in Gleadless Valley to succeed, residents need not only access to essential services and crisis support, but also clear routes to skills development, employment, and community involvement. Pathways to Success aims to build wellbeing by offering opportunities for confidence, participation, and progression.

It creates a coordinated pathway that helps people move from confidence-building and volunteering into training, civic engagement, and quality work.

Residents will receive support and

resources to fully engage in their community and local democracy.

The programme invests in skills hubs, volunteering networks, apprenticeships tied to regeneration, and small grants for resident-led projects.

Key courses—including digital inclusion and green economy skills—will range from entry-level to advanced. The emphasis is on practical skills, real job pathways, and empowering residents to shape Gleadless Valley's future.



A Resident Journey: Chapter 2

Feeling more confident, Alex felt ready to explore options with a work coach. They joined a local learning group and begin exploring next steps. They attend basic skills classes and started volunteering at their child's school.

With reduced pressure, Alex identified realistic options for local jobs that fit around school hours. In a chat with a new neighbour, Alex found themselves offering advice on where to go for support and how to access services.



Resident Power:

Community ownership and enterprise

Ensuring the benefits of regeneration are owned by the community, circulate within the local economy, and continue long after the programme ends

To secure lasting change, regeneration in Gleadless Valley must grow local power, community leadership, and a resilient neighbourhood economy shaped by the people who live here.

Sheffield has a long proud history of strong community organisations and community anchors leading change and delivering services in a people focussed way. The Regeneration Board knows we need to learn from this and the regeneration programme needs the Community to be an Equal Partner

We support the development of a locally rooted and governed development trust or similar community anchor which could hold assets, generate income, employ residents and support local groups to flourish. The Regeneration Board will

work with existing community groups including the Heeley Development Trust and 189 Project to develop the right infrastructure and ensure it is shaped by and accountable to the community.

Gleadless Valley currently lacks enough welcoming and flexible spaces for people to come together. As part of the 12 Big Projects, we will deliver new or improved multi-use community centres at Newfield Green, Gaunt, and Herdings - designed with residents to support connection, creativity, and collaboration.

These centres will host resident-led ventures such as childcare co-ops, repair cafés, cultural initiatives, and food co-ops. Refurbished and new commercial units will offer affordable space for local businesses, helping

build a circular economy that creates jobs and addresses environmental challenges.

We will maximise the local economic impact of regeneration by prioritising local procurement, supporting locally owned supply chain businesses and encouraging local hiring.

Governance structures will build local confidence, capacity, and ownership—so that Gleadless Valley's future is shaped and sustained by its own residents.

Subject to successful funding applications, the programme aims to achieve:



A development trust for the valley



3 new or improved community centres



20+ new resident-led enterprises



A Youth Voice Panel established by 2027

A Resident Journey: Chapter 3

After completing their course and gaining work experience, Alex decided to start a new business with support from a locally rooted enterprise hub. In time, they were able to employ someone from the community. Within 10 years they employed a small team.

"I remember how low I was a few years ago. With support, I cleared some debt and found confidence in myself. Volunteering at the school gave me purpose. Now I'm running my own local business, I'm a trustee at the Gleadless Valley Community Hub, and I speak at conferences about how to do regeneration well. I'm so proud of myself."

Delivery

Gleadless Valley
A great place to live and grow



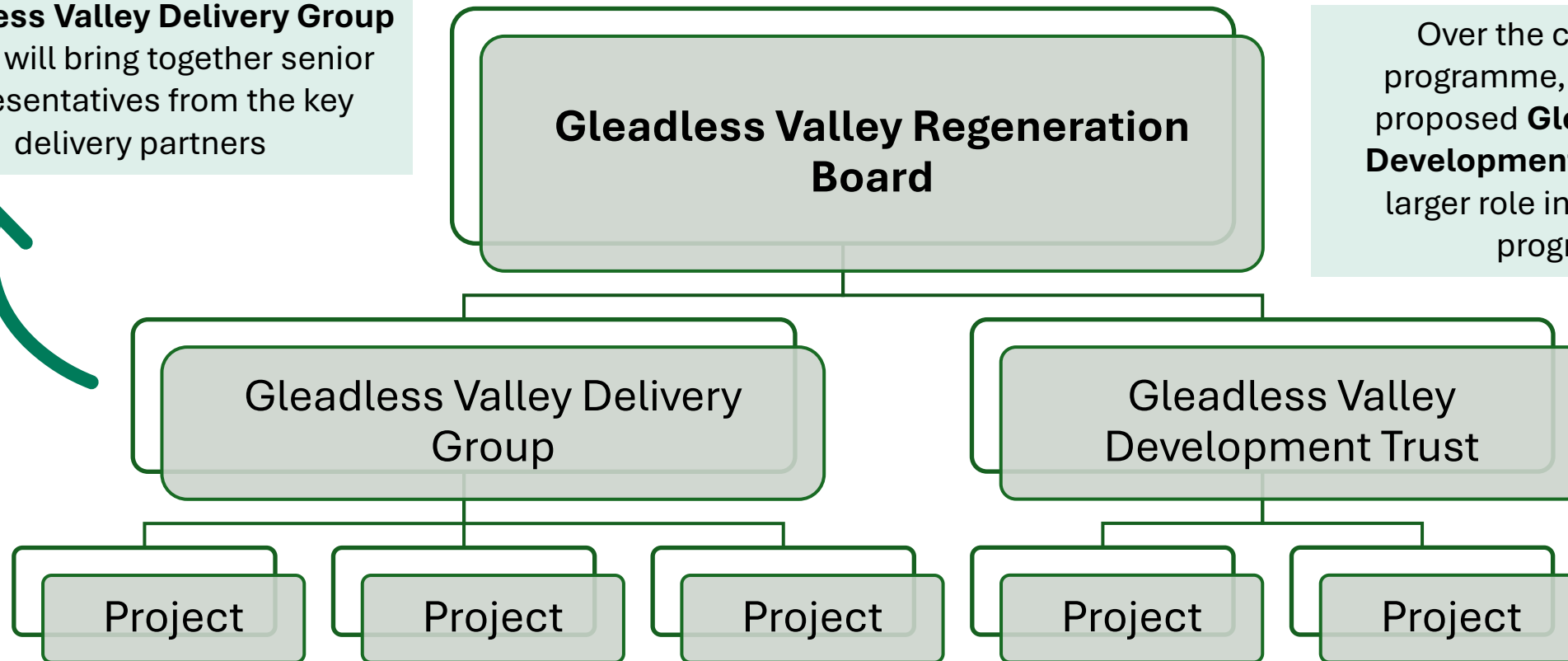
Delivery Structure:

Delivery will be coordinated by a core programme team based in the council reporting to the **Gleadless Valley Delivery Group** which will bring together senior representatives from the key delivery partners

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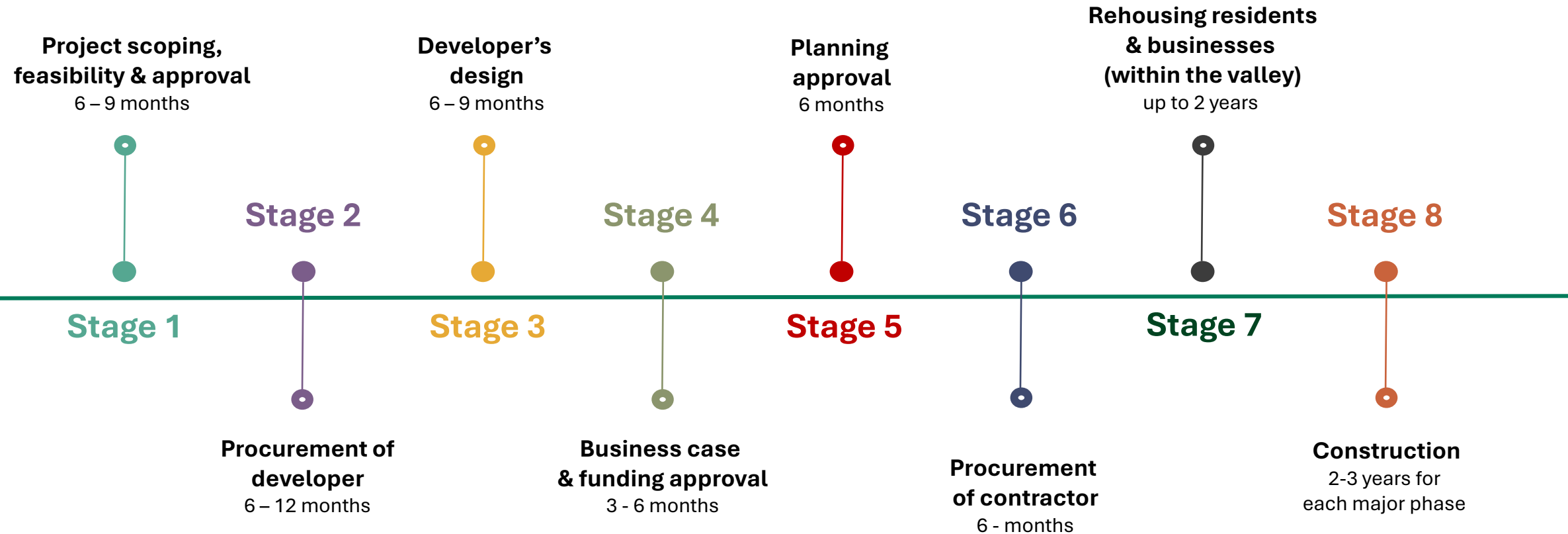
The strategic direction of the programme will be set by the **Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board**, responsible for ensuring it delivers for the local community

Over the course of the programme, we expect the proposed **Gleadless Valley Development Trust** to play a larger role in delivering the programme



Rough Timescale (for the Big Projects)

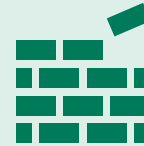
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All projects could be delivered within 10 years with the right investment



Delivery timescales are uncertain as many projects rely on further investment



It will likely be at least 5 years before the first new buildings are ready



Non-construction projects will be quicker once funded

The model below shows our approach to community engagement, which is centred around openness, collaboration and empowerment.



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Inclusive collaboration

We aim to:
engage everyone,
ensuring all voices are
heard and respected in
the decision-making
process

Transparency & trust

We aim to:
foster open, honest
communication to
rebuild trust & create a
shared
understanding



Empowerment through action

We aim to:
enable residents and
partners to take an
active role in shaping
their community

Make every contact count

We aim to:
encourage meaningful
interactions at every
touchpoint, where each
conversation shapes the
future of community



This document is based on the views of residents and people who work in Gleadless Valley. We are very grateful to everyone who has given their time or views.

Evaluation: making a long-term difference

We are developing an evaluation framework to ensure the regeneration programme makes a measurable long-term difference to people's lives. The framework will align with the relevant **outcomes** in the Sheffield City Council Plan, which could include:

Renewing

- » 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'

Nurturing

- » 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 in education, employment or training (+ 16-25 yr-olds with EHCP and Care Leavers aged 18-25 years-old)

Welcoming

- » 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

Thriving

- » 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

Evolving

- » 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

We will embed evaluation into every project to ensure we learn and improve the programme as we go along

We are grateful to Gleadless Valley FilmFam for providing many of the images featured in this document.

We also wish to thank Neck of the Wood, Regather, the Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, Anwar Suleman, Sam McQueen, and Will Roberts at Vox Multimedia for their additional contributions.

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