ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD Wednesday 12 January 2022

1 NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD HELD ON 12TH JANUARY, 2022

Rotherham Town Deal Board

Microsoft Teams Meeting due to Covid-19 12th January 2022, 9.00am-10.15am

Attend	ed	By:
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Neil Baxter, Engie – NB (Chair)
Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP
Simon Moss, RMBC – SMo
Steve Morris, Signs Express – StM
Tim O'Connell, RIDO RMBC – TOC
Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV
Ray Kinsella, Great Places – RK
Justin Homer, BIES/CLGU – JH
Paul Woodcock, RMBC – PW
Paul Harper, DWP – PH
Andrew Denniff, BRCC – AD
Tracey Mace-Akroyd, RNN Group -TMA
Simeon Leach, RIDO RMBC – SL
Mike Smith, NHS – MS

Apologies:

Sarah Champion MP – SC* Jacquie Falvey, Sarah Champion's office – JF* Phil Hayes, Rotherham Conf. of Communities – Pha

Stuart Kerr, Wilmott Dixon – SK

Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ Duncan Armstrong-Payne, Harworth – DAP

Lizzie Dealey, CRT – LD

Councillor Denise Lelliott - DL

Peter Hill, HMP Bespoke Construction Ltd - PH

Sam Pollard, BIES/CLGU – SaM

Gurminder Sanghera, AHR – GS Deborah Bullivant, Grimm & Co – DB

Vicki Norman, RIDO RMBC – VN

Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC - LM

Helen Revitt, AHR – HR Isobel Hunter, RIDO – IB

Ryan Shepherd, SCR - RS

Action Points:

- Mechanism for board members to receive latest designs and a live log for questions/answers to be investigated, and implemented if feasible HR/VN
- Place Based Investment Plan (PBIP) which is to be completed by the end March to have input from members from each of the four Boards All
- Accessing RNN's social media which is reaching 10k young people to be looked at SL/TMA
- Separate comms meeting to be arranged PW/LV

Apologies for Absence/Introductions and Declarations of Interest Apologies listed above. Declarations of Interest: MS declared an interest in Magna, where he is a Trustee and StM declared an interest in signage/graphics. Ryan Shepherd was welcomed to the Board as a new member, representing the SYMCA. Thanks were given to members who have recently left the Board; Andy Lock, Nick Bussey, Tom Hawley and Dan Needham. Replacements from their organisations are being looked into. 2/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th November 2021 The minutes were accepted as a true record. Matters arising to be picked up through the agenda.

3/22 **Project Updates**

LM provided an update on the **Mainline Station**. She said the future of Northern Powerhouse Rail is uncertain, but we have a positive business case. Local partners to pick up the lead on lobby. Consultants have produced a document. TD £10m for land acquisition, to progress the business case on the benefits to Rotherham and produce a masterplan. Currently working with Transport for the North, identifying potential sites, with the preferred site being Forge Way. LCR are working on the station site and the surrounding area through the masterplan, they have previously worked on sites such as Kings Cross. It is felt there is a strong case for the Council, partners and MCA, but all need to progress it in a coordinated way.

SMo added that even with timescale slips, it still makes sense to move forward.

AD said this is good to hear and is exciting news, he asked about communication of this, as some information is not in the public domain, we need good news stories to come out as things move forward, give people something to look forward to.

LP said she was interviewed on Radio Sheffield this morning regarding the closure of the TC Wilkinson Store, on the show some of the public were saying Rotherham is a ghost town, we need to respond to these negative comments. She added that she managed to get in all the positive things that are happening in the town during the interview.

Templeborough – At draft design stage, shortly going to pre-app. Currently in dialogue with Magna on how it will all work. Meeting to be held in near future.

Riverside – Images were shared with the Board. Currently developing a masterplan, which is nearly finished, status of plan is currently being looked at. Masterplan to be shared with Board when complete. Land Valuations currently being carried out, then offers will be made. Royal Mail still not engaging, so alternative options are also being looked at. Others now trying to engage with Royal Mail. Infrastructure could use Levelling up Fund (LUF) monies, so need to ensure it all ties in.

Guest and Chrimes – Images were shown to the Board. The building is in a poor state of repair, Historic England asking for justification on why part of the building needs to be demolished. So now looking at an option of what we can do if we keep the building. There has been positive contact with the Football Club.

Leisure and Culture – Additional Levelling up Fund (LUF) money is enabling us to acquire more land/buildings. Masterplan to be worked on.

Corporation Street 2 progressing, AHR looking at design to include more residential units and some commercial, the newly designed scheme now to be reviewed. With Wilkinson's leaving and Mecca Bingo looking to sell it is an important site in relation to Forge Island.

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Eastwood – Other options being considered. £2.7m allocated for the new bridge, estimated costs are £3m-£5m, which would not be affordable with TD funds only. For the local community the bridge is not the preferred choice, so looking at other options; invest in transport structure or potential investment in housing sites. Work still to be done, any change request needs to be in by February/March, so a decision to be made quickly. There is to be a site visit next week. A special meeting of the Board may be required.

NB said the Board involvement is needed to progress. He suggested a live log of questions so they can be answered rather than wait for the next meeting. HR/VN to look into a mechanism for this.

HR/VN

He added that Eastwood is a challenge, for any members who have any insight into Eastwood, what is their thoughts on the need for a bridge?

4/22 Programme/Business Cases

The Business Case template was circulated previously to the Board. LV gave an overview of what the content of the business cases will be, they are led by the Green Book principles. Business cases to include better social value by the end and all the project information will be in one place. All to be written by March/April and completed by June 2022.

There are 5 cases within each Business Case:

Strategic / Economic / Financial / Commercial / Management

We are currently working towards completion of Economic/Financial and Commercial and have started to write some of the strategic and management cases.

Resources – We now have AHR on board and Turner & Townsend. There is some concern regarding internal capacity for writing cases, but the Council are currently recruiting.

MS asked about pressure on current staff. SMo confirmed that there are a number of staff involved in the work, including 2 new starters and we are to recruit a further 2 more staff.

NB asked if the programme can be updated before the next meeting. LV confirmed that T&T are working on this but is a "beast" of a document, which will be shared with the Board. One of the new members of staff, Simon, is pulling together a dashboard summarising all activity.

StM said a project timeline is helpful showing how all separate projects fit in but needs to be done in as simple form as possible.

LV confirmed that the team are currently working on a map which will be an interactive document including everything on layers, showing how it looks now and how it will look, this will be shared with the Board.

NB mentioned the overall strategy; Place Based Investment Plan (PBIP) which is to be completed by the end of March which will have all strategies in one document. A couple of members from each of the four Boards are required to work on this.

Αll

5/22 **Project Champions**

SL said there are 11 different themes with a champion required for each theme, who will need to be fully engaged/involved and act as a critical friend. The work will be kept to a minimum and feedback will be provided for their input. There is a draft role description which will be passed to the Board when complete. We already have several volunteers, thank you to these Board members, and are currently working through these and will be in touch shortly.

We have also spoken to VCS and the Youth Cabinet to provide support/input on specific themes

6/22 Communications and Consultation Plan

LV said comms is an issue, and we know we need to do more. We have a draft strategy which needs to be approved internally behind it would be:

- A new website including an interactive map
- Specific comms around each project similar to the E: Village Hall
- Speaking to very specific groups in particular, young people as they will be the ones to use what we develop

Looking at possible help from a Consultant going forward.

SMo said that it is important that we keep the Boards up to date, such as through the Rotherham Pioneers and positive messaging. There is more we can do, considering the massive funding around regeneration/flooding/transport, need to balance the context of the TD amongst all this and it is right that we should be challenged. It is a case of getting the balance right, decisions around how much to communicate, taking on board any issues, need to be made.

TMA asked how much do we want to share? We should share the broader concepts rather than sharing specific images. RNN can reach 10k young people through their social media system and this could be used to test the projects. Guest and Chrimes - the bar or dry bar were mentioned as an example, measuring what young people want. SL to speak to TMA regarding taking this forward outside this meeting.

SL TMA

StM said that Rotherham has an image problem both locally and nationally, there is so much good stuff already happened and is to happen, but we don't seem to capitalise on it. Example was the innovation that is Moorgate Crofts Business Centre which was on a TV programme but stated was in Sheffield, Rotherham did not do anything to change this. We need to push positive stories of the Borough as a whole to attract potential investors/businesses.

LP said we could do with seeing a rough and ready map/plan to get others involved – but we need to be involved going forward to carry on with the positive messages, again comms is key!

LV asked do we need a comms sub group meeting? Not just TD but the wider picture? PW agreed and said we need to get internal comms team involved to pick up the baton and move forward. PW/LV to speak to comms teams.

PW/LV

NB said comms is an ongoing issue everywhere not just in Rotherham.

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7/22	Levelling Up Fund (LUF)	
	NB said that this Board is to have an overseeing role on other projects such as the LUF where it ties in with the TD projects such as at Riverside LUF TC projects to be looked at as intrinsically linked with TD. The Leisure and Culture side of the LUF is to be overseen by the Ambition Board.	
8/22	Any Other Business NB said that StM has agreed to step up to be the Vice Chair of this Board following Julia Bloomer's departure. Details to be finalised.	
	Date of next meeting: 23 rd February 2022 (9.00-10.15am)	