

**ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD**  
**Tuesday 26 March 2024**

- 1 NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD  
HELD ON 26TH MARCH, 2024**

## Rotherham Town Deal Board

Via Microsoft Teams

**26 March 2024, 8.45am-10.00am**

### Attended By:

Neil Baxter, NB (Chair)  
 Councillor Denise Lelliott – DL  
 Steve Morris, Signs Express – StM  
 Tracey Mace-Akroyd, RNN Group - TMA  
 Sarah McLeod, WW – SMc  
 David Plumtree, VAR – DP  
 Kate Davis, Crossroads Care – KD  
 David Trevis-Smith, WW – DTS  
 Carrie Sudbury, BRCC – CS  
 Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP  
 Kevin Tomlinson, Magna – KT  
 Deborah Bullivant, Grimm & Co – DB  
 Paul Woodcock, RMBC – PW  
 Simon Moss, RMBC – SMO  
 Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV  
 Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP  
 Joel Hamer, RIDO RMBC – JoH  
 Rachael Ellis, RMBC – RE

### Observer (s):

Justin Homer, BIES/CLGU – JH

### Not Required for this Meeting:

Maria Smith, RIDO RMBC – MS  
 Nicola Glynne-Jones, RIDO RMBC – NGJ  
 James Green, RIDO RMBC – JG  
 Rory Batty, RMBC - RB  
 Dejan Ajzenkol, RMBC – DA  
 Megan Hinchliff, RIDO RMBC- MH  
 Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC – LM

### Project Officers Attended:

Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD

### Apologies:

Sarah Champion MP – SC  
 Jacquie Falvey, Sarah Champion’s office – JF  
 John Healey MP – JHe  
 Greg Kuczmaida, John Healey’s office - GK  
 Alexander Stafford MP – AS  
 Sophie Dack, Alexander Stafford’s office - SD  
 Stuart Kerr, Wilmott Dixon – SK  
 Peter Hill , HMP Bespoke Construction – Phi  
 Simeon Leach, RIDO RMBC – SL  
 Raife Gaile, Muse Developments – RF  
 Keely Beighton, Never Average Marketing – KB  
 Lizzie Dealey, CRT – LD  
 Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ  
 Sam Townsend, BIES/CLGU – ST  
 Julie Dalton, Gullivers – JD  
 Ryan Shepherd, SYMCA – RS  
 David Sutton, Maltby Academy - DS  
 Andy Boulton, Neighbourhoods, RMBC – AB  
 Tim O’Connell, RIDO RMBC – TOC  
 Ray Kinsella, Great Places – RK  
 Paul Harper, DWP – Pha

### Action Points:

- NB asked JoH to circulate the Long-Term Plan for Towns map to the board.
- NB re-emphasised if people could contact him or JoH if they want to be part of the Long-Term Plan for Towns sub-group.

18/24	<p><b>Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Reminder</b></p> <p>Apologies listed above.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings.</p> <p>Members were asked to declare any interests.</p> <p>StM declared an interest in signage.</p>	
19/24	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 January 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record, and actions from previous meeting were accepted as complete.</p>	
20/24	<p><b>Long Term Plans for Towns</b></p> <p>LV stated that the first stage submission is due in on 28<sup>th</sup> March including an engagement plan and a governance checklist regarding changes to the Town board going forward. A pack was circulated to the board prior to the meeting with the checklist included.</p> <p>The engagement plan is still high level at this stage but looks at consultation with the community and usage of current information to inform that consultation. It also looks at the methodology for this, and how we will use the next tranche of money to appoint consultants to create workshops and to support those workshops.</p> <p>LV met with JH yesterday to discuss where plans were up to, and there was consensus that there is already a lot of data that should be used as a baseline for the engagement. Some other authorities are looking to go earlier with their plan, whereas we will be looking to submit towards the end of the deadline (August) due to election period and a desire to not rush development of the plans.</p> <p>There is further information in the pack about extending the membership of the board and using this as an opportunity to have a reset. This will mean only going through projects by exception as this board was created to look at long-term strategy. This will also mean that every other meeting of the board will be a more strategic discussion.</p> <p>Letters will be circulated to new board members. LV asked everyone to look at this and see if there is anyone else that members would like to add for consideration.</p> <p>JH mentioned that due to Pathfinder, the operation of the board has already changed Across the country, town deal boards are quite different to the long term plan boards that are being created due to the geographies that have been outlined.</p>	



	<p>two weeks' time with an event on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Landscaping is currently going on, the feastery is in place, and there have been a few events that have taken place throughout the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NB stated that he has been twice and that it is a magical experience and encouraged everyone to visit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rotherham Markets &amp; Library</b></p> <p>LV shared that the final contract price was approved at cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> March with the main works contract being signed on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. The enabling works has gone well, and completion will be December 2026.</p> <p><b>Country Parks</b></p> <p>LV stated that costs have been returned on both projects, with the Rother Valley costs being considerably over budget despite significant value engineering. There are various options that have been discussed with leader and CEX; some further information is required before sharing a preferred option with the board. There is still a hope that something significant will be delivered at Rother Valley given that it is the bigger park and larger tourist attraction.</p>	
<p><b>22/24</b></p>	<p><b>Project Updates by Exception:</b></p> <p><b>30 – 36 Corporation Street</b></p> <p>LV reminded the board of the previous discussions that had taken place at the board and the agreement to give the owners a short timescale to provide a plan. The owners have said they would consider selling the property; there is a requirement from the council side to look inside the building which is being arranged by RB with the council assets team. Until this takes place, we cannot make any commitment.</p> <p>LV raised that with the board's approval, the council would look to make an offer based on the outcome of surveys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board was in agreement to explore the opportunity to acquire the asset provided it is not in too poor a condition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Templeborough</b></p> <p>LV stated that the costs have been returned on Templeborough. Additional funding is being sought for this. There is work going on between solicitors at this moment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KT stated that the work is with legal, and he is trying to push this forward as quickly as possible due to it being a change of use to asset</li> </ul>	

	<p>and a requirement for stakeholder approval to progress. KT stated that they are happy with plans and looking to progress this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LV stated that this is unlikely to be signed until May meaning this won't go to site until June time. There will also be some work around marketing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eldon Road Playing Fields</b></p> <p>LV stated that the project is looking to provide a park but having gone to tender there were no interested parties. The earliest that construction could happen on this now is September 2024. LV requested any information from board members as to why there has not been any interest in this project from contractors.</p> <p><b>Pocket Park/Snail Yard</b></p> <p>LV shared that the final drawings have been returned this week. These are now sufficient for highways to review – this will take roughly 4 to 5 weeks. Start on site is looking to be summertime. There are some internal discussions to be had regarding costs. LV stated that she hopes to be able to report start on site at the next meeting. There will be comms with various businesses on the high street regarding the disruption.</p>	
22/24	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <p>SP stated that the spend remains broadly consistent with the pathfinder investment plan profile. There has been a prioritisation of spend against time-pressed match funding. At present the anticipated spend will be roughly £1.5million down on where it was predicted to be.</p>	
23/24	<p><b>Town Centre Regeneration Promotion</b></p> <p>RE stated that there has been good work by partners to promote their schemes. Magna, Wentworth, and Grimm have all been developing good promotion.</p> <p>The pre-election period for Rotherham Council starts today. Partners can continue to promote their work, but Rotherham council won't be able to share this during the pre-election period.</p> <p>CD shared a presentation outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Term Plan for Towns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The council have taken on counter-context for long term plan for towns to create the in-depth consultation and engagement plan. Workshops, focus groups, roadshows, and online consultation will be developed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forge Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cinema topping out – January</li> <li>○ Recruitment event took place in February</li> <li>○ Time capsule buried in association with a local school</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An otter's holt to be designed</li> <li>● Markets             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New signage in place and additional signage for the town centre to make people aware of where the entrances are.</li> <li>○ Promotion on social media and adverts in local papers for older demographic.</li> <li>○ Working on the designs for market hoardings that will be on Drummond street.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Corporation Street             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meetings with Rotherham Sight and Sound and Older People's Forum</li> <li>○ Designs for hoardings surround burnt out buildings being worked up</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>LP raised that businesses are asking what they can share during pre-election period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CD stated that she will send round a presentation without sensitive information on that can be shared. Town Centre newsletter can also be shared.</li> <li>● RE stated that most information is in the public domain.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>24/24</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>CS raised that there is a huge appetite for doing place marketing and that she hosted a meeting for Rotherham promotion recently, a fuller update will be provided at the following meeting.</p> <p>NB wished all the best to PW who is leaving Rotherham Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 15th May 2024 – 9:30 to 11:30 @ Magna</p>	