

ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD
Wednesday 21 January 2026

- 1 NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROTHERHAM TOWN BOARD HELD
ON 21ST JANUARY, 2026**

Rotherham Town Board

Microsoft Teams

21st January 2026, 08:45 – 10:00 am

Attended By: Neil Baxter (Chair) - NB Megan Hinchliff - MH Matthew Stephens - MS Catherine Davis – CD Reeham Abozaid - RA Lorna Vertigan - LV Andrew Gilhooley - AG Helen Jones – HJ Helen Littlewood – HL Kate Davis - KD Steve Morris – SMO Karen Church – KC Sue Wynne - SW Simon Moss – SM Maria Coyne - MC Lisa Pogson – LP Raymond Kinsella – RK Tom Austen – TA Nicholas Maddocks – NM Chloe Parker - CP Apologies: Andrew Boulton – AB Dan Richardson – DR David Plumtree - DP		
1	<u>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder</u> Apologies listed above. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> • No declarations raised.	
2	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting</u> Previous minutes were accepted without comment. Matters arising to be covered within project updates.	
3	<u>Project Updates (By Exception)</u> <i>Presented by LV</i> Riverside Gardens & Corporation Street • Works progressing. • Risk of developer site traffic crossing planned upgrade area on Domine Lane. • Meeting scheduled this month to understand developer’s timelines to avoid damage to upgraded carriageway. • Potential outcomes: ○ Pause RMBC works until developer finishes ○ Bring contractor off-site and return later • Delay from EA licence has created <i>potential budget pressure</i> (being assessed).	

	Wath Library • Stage 3 design complete, contractor appointed. • Stage 4 design now being developed with contractor • Asbestos demolition expected to commence in February ◦ And main demolition in June Action: • Report back on cost increase and mitigation options. Dinnington • Intrusive surveys showed the retained block is in worse condition than expected. • Recommendation: Full demolition and rebuild, rather than partial retain/refurbish. • Does not delay programme, tenants can still move into new rear units first. • New design will be pitched roof, matching adjacent buildings. • Planning resubmission required. Tender expected within the month. Snail Yard • Could not open before Christmas due to trip hazards left by paving subcontractor. • Outstanding works mainly turf/planting (seasonally restricted). • Completion still expected January. Riverside Path & Royal Mail Land Swap • Contractor returning next month to install path lighting. • Plan to open path sooner with temporary access measures. • Royal Mail land swap: all queries resolved, just awaiting final signature. Rotherham Gateway Station <i>Presented by MC</i> • Major milestone: Ministers have approved the Outline Business Case, releasing £11.35m to progress the Full Business Case. • Game-changer funding for masterplan interventions (Effingham St route, station anchor building, public realm). • Draft Programme Business Case submitted to SYMCA and the feedback received and currently being addressed. • Work underway on governance integration with Northern Powerhouse Rail. • Procurement: ◦ Expressions of interest for multidisciplinary pre-FBC team close today (21/01/2026). ◦ Full tender documents to follow within weeks. • Land acquisition: ◦ Ongoing discussions with Bailey Family regarding holdings.	LV
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	Health Hub • Phase 1 now on site • Target completion: late May Bank Holiday weekend for pharmacy relocation. • Phase 2 feasibility: ◦ Working with Connect Healthcare GP Federation on design. • Board agreed to continue receiving updates even though Phase 2 is not strictly Town Deal funded. Templeborough • Second stakeholder has now engaged with solicitors (progress). • RMBC preparing internally so the project can quickly once approvals secured.	
4	Finance Update (Presented by SP) • Local Regeneration Fund (combined former Pathfinder + CRP) now totals: £104m. • Spend to date (end of Q2 24/25): £55m. • Forecasts spend per quarter: £3.6–3.7m. • Some December figures still being reconciled. • Chair requested: • Clearer visibility of gaps between funding and forecast costs, especially for high-risk schemes. • Understanding of required match funding before schemes progress. • Actions: SP to explore adding match-funding columns to financial reporting.	SP
5	6. Communications & Consultation (Presented by: CD) • Strong results from Christmas campaign. • Media tour of new market scheduled end of January. • RMBC featured on BBC One Show visiting Stockport libraries project. • Planned public engagement uplift for Gateway Station. • Social media videos underway for town centre public realm progress. • Branding agency appointed for new markets & library.	
6	Pride in Place (Presented by: MH) • New prospectus (issued 5 days after submission) significantly changes both Phase 1 & 2. • Key change: Neighbourhood Boards must transition to community-led delivery by Year 3. • This has paused formalisation of board structures and Chair appointment. • Work underway with both MPs to clarify expectations and next steps	

6	Any Other Business No other business was raised at the meeting	
7	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2026	