

ROTHERHAM TOWN DEAL BOARD
Wednesday 4 March 2026

1 **NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROTHERHAM TOWN BOARD HELD
ON 4TH MARCH, 2026**

Rotherham Town Board
Microsoft Teams
04/03/2026, 08:45 – 10:00 am

Attended By: Neil Baxter (Chair) - NB Megan Hinchliff - MH Reeham Abozaid – RA Andrew Boulton – AB Catherine Davis – CD Chloe Parker – CP Chris Hamby – CH Helen Jones – HJ Helen Littlewood – HL Hetty Oldfield – HO Justine Smith – JS Kate Davis – KD Lisa Pogson – LP Matthew Stephens – MS Nicholas Maddocks – NM Simon Powell – SP Town Austen – TA Tracey Mace-Akroyd – TMA Daniel Richardson – DR Apologies: David Plumtree – DP Maria Coyne – MC Lorna Vertigan – LV		
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> The minutes of the previous meeting were noted. No matters arising	
3	<u>Project Updates (By Exception)</u> <i>Presented by MH</i> Dinnington High Street & Building 3 - Burnt-out building demolished in approx. 4 days - The design team advised that a full rebuild of Building 3 is more viable than refurbishment due to the extent of structural issues and the scale of work required to bring the building up to modern standards. - Tender for the main contract expected imminently. - Planning application for the new build option was submitted this week - Project progressing well and at pace. Snail Yard (Public Realm) - Snail Yard is now open to the public.	

	• Positive early use noted, benches were fully occupied during peak times. • Minor snagging works to be completed while site remains open. Templeborough Business Park • Update shared during meeting: Magna Trustees have now <i>agreed in principle</i> to proceed with contract signing, pending final confirmation from the final stakeholder. • Planning permission expires November 2026 therefore works will need to commence beforehand or new permission may be required • Henry Boot prepared to start works in June 2026 if contract is signed in March. Action: NC to circulate a written update to Board confirming the final stakeholder position once received. Rother Valley Country Park • Final fit-out and landscaping works are underway ahead of the April opening. • Staff are being trained and preparations for opening are in progress. • The Firbeck Sailing Club storage facility is fully operational. Thrybergh Country Park • The site is open to the public • Public feedback shows some minor teething issues, but overall reception is positive. • The project has now handed over, meaning it will move into the closeout stage. • A completion report will be prepared and brought to a future Board meeting. ACTION: Prepare and bring a project close-out report (final costs, outputs, lessons learned) back to the Board for formal closure. Gateway Station • NC provided a short update confirming that activity on the programme is continuing across several strands. • Further detail will be brought to the Board once the next set of programme information is available. Wath Library • It is expected that the project will be over budget, but the extent of this is still being determined. • Depending on the cost position, a decision may be needed between: ○ waiting until the next Board meeting, or ○ arranging an interim update/meeting via email or separately.	NC NC
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	- Some activity on site has commenced, including hoardings going up and asbestos removal. - Action: follow up on budget position Riverside Gardens / Corporation Street - Site clearance works have taken place, and the area is beginning to look more like a future park space. - Decision on Domine Lane works is still outstanding. Significant concerns were raised about the impact of ongoing works on nearby small businesses, particularly in the Corporation Street / Imperial Buildings area (access restrictions, reduced footfall, customer confusion). ACTION: Provide update on Domine Lane works RRQ Enabling - Mobilisation for the next phase is planned for April–May, which includes works to open the riverside path and install lighting. - Repairs to the collapsed river wall will be delivered separately, as this is outside the main contract. - Permissions associated with opening the riverside path are still being worked through. Health Hub - Phase 1 works have started: mobilisation took place in January and hoardings were erected in February. - Ongoing coordination is taking place with the pharmacy regarding opening arrangements. - A site visit to Warrington is being undertaken to view a similar facility and inform potential Phase 2 feasibility work. Upper Corporation Street - The project remains awaiting client agreement on the final amendments required for Legal to proceed with acquisition. ACTION: LV (Lorna Vertigan) to provide an up-to-date position on the acquisition (client agreement/legal next steps) to the Board. Markets & Library - The temporary market is expected to open in May, with small-scale opening activities planned around that time. - Larger-scale events will take place once the main Library building and Market Hall open later in the programme. - Significant visible progress continues on site, and work is ongoing at a strong pace. Town Centre Music Venue - Conversations are ongoing with the potential operator. - Concerns on progress noted by the Board. - ACTION: Update on progress required at next Board meeting.	NC LV NC
4	Finance Update (Presented by SP)	

	- Q3 spend updated: actual spend c. £4m, higher than the previously forecast £3m due to final contractor claims (e.g., Riverside Gardens, public realm). - Forecast spend for year-end remains stable. - Major spend uplift expected in 2026/27 as Wath and Dinnington enter delivery phase. £2.25m "Pathfinder contingency" held from underspends across completed schemes. - A full programme review is underway to rebalance underspends/overspends across Local Regeneration Fund programme. - Current secured match funding: £50m (excluding DfT FBC funds) £60m (including DfT) - Updated match funding reporting to be presented at next Board.	
5	6. Communications & Consultation (Presented by: DR) - Safety/ASB communications campaign underway, featuring Street Safe team & police operations. "This is Rotherham" brand continues to expand across campaigns and partner organisations. - Major marketing push planned for opening of new covered market (May–June), including digital, print, DAX and billboard advertising. - Increasing positive national media coverage, including recent One Show feature on the new Library development. - Continuing partnership with Yorkshire Post and Rotherham Advertiser.	
6	Pride in Place (Presented by: MH) - Recruitment open for Central Area Neighbourhood Board Chair and members (closing 17 March). - Similar process for Maltby East Area Board to follow shortly. - Strong emphasis on resident-led governance. - Regeneration Plan positively received by MP Sarah Champion and MHCLG.	
	Any Other Business - Work underway to clarify remits and reduce overlap across Town Board, neighbourhood boards, and project boards. - Board to help shape the new Town Centre Masterplan (2026). - Proposed in-person workshop at Rother Valley event space (May/June). - Board members invited to propose agenda items for future meetings to open the forum for collaboration.	

	Email reeham.abozaid@rotherham.gov.uk with any items.	
7	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 08:45	