Rotherham Town Deal Board

Microsoft Teams Meeting 17th August 2022, 9.00am-10.15am

Attended By:
Neil Baxter, Engie – NB (Chair)
Andrew Denniff, BRCC – AD
Deborah Bullivant, Grimm & Co – DB
Steve Morris, Signs Express – StM
Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP
Tracey Mace-Akroyd, RNN Group -TMA
Lizzie Dealey, CRT – LD
Ray Kinsella, Great Places – RK
Raife Gaile, Muse Developments – RF
Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ
Tim O'Connell, RIDO RMBC – TOC
Joe Mothersole, T&T – JM
Ryan Shepherd, SCR – RS
Paul Woodcock, RMBC – PW
Simeon Leach, RIDO RMBC – SL
Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV
Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP
Vicki Norman, RIDO RMBC – VN

Maria Smith, RIDO RMBC - MS

Apologies: Sarah Champion MP - SC* Councillor Denise Lelliott - DL Jacquie Falvey, Sarah Champion's office - JF* Peter Hill, HMP Bespoke Construction - PHi Phil Hayes, Roth Conf. of Communities - PH Stuart Kerr, Wilmott Dixon - SK Paul Harper, DWP - Pha Mike Smith, NHS - MS Jason Austion, RNN Group - JA Helen Revitt, AHR - HR Lara Thornton, Counter Context - LT Harriet Knowles, Counter Context - HK Simon Moss, RMBC - Smo Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC - LM Mark Dempsey, RMBC - MD Justin Homer, BIES/CLGU – JH

Observer(s):

Matt Blackburn, BIES/CLGU – MB Sam Townsend, BIES/CLGU - ST

Guests:

Rachael Ellis, Comms RMBC - RE

Action Points:

- The Board endorse moving forward with negotiations with the major landowner at Riverside - All
- It was agreed that the project team present to the Board how the proposed designs for Corporation Street have been arrived at – Project Team
- Lots of new houses/flats being built in the town centre, how is it all going/progressing, update from Housing to be requested – VN
- This meeting's Team's Chat to be shared with the Board along with the minutes VN

52/22	Apologies for Absence/Introductions and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies listed above. StM declared an interest in signage.	
	NB thanked Mike Smith for his time on the Board, he has stepped down from his role at the NHS and will, therefore, be stepping down from this Board.	
53/22	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 20 July 2022	
	There were no outstanding actions, and the minutes were accepted as a true record.	

54/22

Project Updates:

<u>Riverside</u> Have agreed sale with major landowner, which is a huge step forward for the scheme. LV asked the Board to endorse moving forward with the negotiations. *The Board agreed they are happy to proceed.*

ΑII

The team are meeting with Engineers, on the Levelling Up infrastructure work i.e., the bridge and riverside walk looking at preparation/remediation, the underground works.

<u>Leisure and Cultural Quarter</u> The Ring Shop is currently going through probate due to the death of the owner. A dilapidation claim on former Wilkinson's building, should know by early September if they have accepted offer, but looking positive. Currently investigating possible uses for this building. Riverside Gardens are progressing.

<u>3-7 Corporation Street</u> MS showed illustrative images of the proposed scheme, following consultation with amongst others Planning and Historic England, taking on board their comments/input. Full planning application is required, and the team are currently working up all surveys, for submission at the end of September. We have Solicitors engaged for the CPO process, but there is still a chance of negotiation as the owner has also engaged their own Solicitor, but we are ready to progress CPO if needed. Looking at options for either sale of site or procuring a developer.

StM said he felt the design of the proposed buildings looks quite "bricky" and asked if the finish can be reconsidered. MS explained the Architects have picked the features that the Planners and Historic England have recommended. It was agreed that the project team come back to the Board and explain how these designs have been arrived at.

Project Team

LP said there are lots of new houses/flats being built in the town centre and is great to see these being finished, but are we able to sell/let them all, can the Board have an update on how it is progressing? TOC confirmed this information can be pulled together for the Board, he added there is positive interest being received by Housing colleagues.

VN

<u>Templeborough</u> Progressing well to move to tender by end of year. A tenant not on a short-term lease could remain in situ until April 2025, discussing early release terms, still feel we can progress and work around them if they do not move.

<u>Essoldo Chambers</u> The FBC has been completed in a short time scale, following the transfer of funding from G&C, and will shortly be out to the Board for comment. We cannot get into building to carry out surveys until we progress further. Currently concentrating on approval process. Not sure how much surety we can give owner to get into the building, but we believe the project is deliverable.

NB asked can DLUC give a timetable for switch, then we might be able to work with risk? MB answered DLUC are to recommend approval and have highlighted the benefits of the scheme. There is not an exact timescale but should go for Ministerial approval within the next 2 weeks.

<u>Eastwood</u> The FBC will be delayed by a couple of weeks, DLUC aware of this. PW mentioned the article in the Rotherham Advertiser on the delays with

regards to many transport projects, timelines slipping which puts further challenges on all projects including this one. NB asked is the bridge workable without the station?

Mainline Station MS confirmed the strategic outline case was signed off on 3rd August 2022 and we have commissioned a company to work on the masterplan which will be delivered by September 2023. A workshop is to be organised with all partners coming together which will include a site visit. She added we may not have received the full £8m, but we have received £1m to progress the outline business case. Several working groups are to be set up to move forward, and an approach has been made to landowners, which has not received a positive response, so far, but they are engaging. Stakeholder mapping currently being worked on with Counter Context, who have suggested including further afield links towards York and London. It is felt the station has a strong case in its own right.

55/22 Programme

SP provided an update in addition to individual project updates. He said recent correspondence was received from the TD Team at DLUC, as part of a reprofiling exercise over the summer on project spend, to reflect budget constraints. 20% or £500k out of the current year's allocation could go into future years budget, with approval through local delegation. We could apply for Riverside or Eastwood. SP added he is currently waiting for an update on spend profile for Eastwood. Board agreement would be sought before sending to DLUC.

56/22 Full Business Cases

<u>Essoldo Chambers</u> FBC out for internal comment, will be sent to Board for comment shortly.

Mainline Station FBC now signed off waiting to go.

Eastwood FBC delayed, going to request an extension to September 2022.

NB congratulated the Project Team on meeting the tight deadlines.

57/22 Comms & Consultation

RE showed proposed images/wording, to the group for the Forge Island website which is currently being developed. Over time the website will transform from a regeneration/development site to a marketing website including offers/what's on at the cinema etc.

StM said it is interesting to see the website, he asked are we able to measure how many visit the website receives and any feedback? RE replied not on the Forge Island website currently but added that on the TC website we have pushed the site to be on the first page of google search, and we are still pushing including social media/newsletters linking back to the website. Partners can help by promoting too.

StM said he felt we must focus the message as widely as possible and strongly refute any negative messages. Rotherham's Wikipedia page was mentioned, RE said unfortunately we have tried to update this but are unable. She added it is about getting the balance right, not talking about things to soon, getting

the timing just right. She said she has spoken to colleagues at Barnsley Council with regards to their journey with the town centre, they said they had a tough time with marketing, but the project is a real success now. Once the works start, we will find positive input from the public, there will be a better balance. RE added that her team come from a corporate comms aspect. AD asked who is going to promote Rotherham? Is this a role for the Pioneers and Ambition Rotherham Rotherham Board, resources/funding being put into it, they could start the general promotion? NB said that branding/marketing has been picked up at the Board Chairs meeting. LP mentioned the TC becoming a hidden gem and said that links are being forged in the background as comms is constantly discussed at each of the Boards. RE said the umbrella term of *Transforming Rotherham* is being used for all the projects to make them more noticeable to the public and are currently looking at brand going forward. RE played the meeting a housing video entitled "Town Centre Living". StM said it was a great video, with a lovely personal touch, more of this please! RE confirmed they are to use more of this sort of tone for future videos, it is very important to get the right people on the video. AD said through the Rotherham Business Growth Board a meeting was set up with senior officers at SY Police to discuss town centre issues; ASB, graffiti etc., were discussed. AD and LP/StM attended, it was agreed that this be a regular meeting of relevant stakeholders. AD said he wanted to make this Board aware of the meeting. LP added that the TC is considered a neighbourhood, there is positivity coming through with the support of SY Police. 58/22 **Any Other Business** VN This meeting's Team's Chat to be shared with the Board along with the minutes.

Date of next meeting:

12th October 2022.