

# Rotherham Town Deal Board

Microsoft Teams Meeting

20 September 2023, 8.45am-10.00am

<p><b>Attended By:</b>  Neil Baxter, NB (Chair)  Carrie Sudbury, BRCC – CS  Paul Harper, DWP – Pha**  Jacquie Falvey, Sarah Champion’s office – JF*  Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP  Tracey Mace-Akroyd, RNN Group -TMA  Raife Gaile, Muse Developments – RF  Chris Wood, OVO Spaces – CW  Keely Beighton, Never Average Marketing – KB  Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ  Jackie Sharpe, Turner Townsend – JS  Paul Woodcock, RMBC – PW  Simon Moss, RMBC – Smo  Rachel Ellis, Comms RMBC – RE  Dejan Ajzenkol, RMBC – DA  Simeon Leach, RIDO RMBC – SL  Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV  Megan Hinchcliff, RIDO RMBC- MH  Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD  Maria Smith, RIDO RMBC – MS  Eleanor Bainbridge, RIDO, RMBC – EB  Nicola Glynne-Jones, RIDO RMBC - NGJ  Vicki Norman, RIDO RMBC – VN</p>	<p><b>Apologies:</b>  Sarah Champion MP – SC*  Councillor Denise Lelliott – DL  Ray Kinsella, Great Places – RK  Steve Morris, Signs Express – StM  Ryan Shepherd, SCR – RS  Deborah Bullivant, Grimm &amp; Co – DB  Lizzie Dealey, CRT – LD  Stuart Kerr, Wilmott Dixon – SK  Peter Hill , HMP Bespoke Construction – Phi  Gary Chow, Turner Townsend – GC  Joe Mothersole, Turner Townsend – JM  Justin Homer, BIES/CLGU – JH  Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC – LM  Tim O’Connell, RIDO RMBC – TOC  Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP  Rory Batty, RIDO RMBC – RB  Andy Boulton, Neighbourhoods, RMBC – AB  Lauren Roe, RMBC – LR  Behzad Hadavand, RMBC – BH</p> <p><b>Observer(s):</b>  Sam Townsend, BIES/CLGU – ST</p>
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<p><b>Action Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Board agreed to pursue the Cutlers/Alma option and also look at the empty units in the town centre – ALL</li> <li>- Details of the Vacant Unit event in October to be shared with this Board – CD/CW</li> <li>- Anyone interested in being involved with the above event to speak to CD/CW - ALL</li> </ul>
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38/23	<p><b>Apologies for Absence, Introductions, Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Reminder</b></p> <p>Apologies listed above.</p> <p>Nicola Glynne-Jones of RIDO was welcomed to the Board as a new member.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings.</p>	
39/23	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2023</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the agenda.</p>	
40/23	<p><b>Pathfinder:</b></p> <p>LV confirmed the investment plan has been submitted and all queries have been answered. Rotherham was the first of the 10 Authorities to submit a plan. Now awaiting the grant agreement. The next meeting will have an updated format with new projects added to the agenda and new members.</p>	

	<p>ST confirmed the plan is ready to be signed off, there are no issues with Rotherham.</p> <p>NB thanked LV and the team for their excellent work on Pathfinder.</p>	
41/23	<p><b>Project Updates:</b></p> <p><b>Riverside Residential Quarter</b> JS updated on this project saying the tender was submitted on time, we will have the final contract sum in the next couple of weeks. There will be a slight delay on planning. Discussions with utilities companies are progressing. Confirmation received that the works to the Wilmott Dixon site will be included in the scheme.</p> <p><b>Leisure &amp; Cultural Quarter</b> LV confirmed that Riverside Gardens are out to tender again. A company is interested in tendering, which is positive. Will be 6-month design and 12 months construction, with an August 2024 start which is achievable with Pathfinder.</p> <p>PW added that this tender was unsuccessful and is worth millions, smaller tenders worth thousands have also been unsuccessful, it is a very difficult market. We need to adapt to deliver schemes.</p> <p>LP said it is really difficult for businesses to get projects over the line, they have contracts to complete with prices pre inflation rises. Also, having to refuse tenders as not got staff or the funding, this is across all sectors.</p> <p>NB said it would be interesting to know Contractors views on why they are not tendering. PW confirmed the Council is looking to get this information from businesses we work with. Companies are busy, books are full, along with increased cash risks. Some construction companies going out of business.</p> <p><b>3-7 Corporation Street (burnt out buildings)</b> MS shared some slides with the Board highlighting the updated programme of works. If the objections are removed, we can self-confined CPO. Procurement and Demolition business cases being prepared.</p> <p>NB queried the different dates on the programme milestones document previously circulated. MS confirmed this document is out of date and will be updated. LV to check milestones dates in relation to programme and Pathfinder.</p> <p><b>Templeborough</b> EB confirmed the design had been submitted for planning July 2023 and the team are now answering queries. Henry Boot confirmed as contractor and currently working on RIBA Stage 4 design and undertaking detailed surveys. Initial contract sum due mid-October, start on site Jan/Feb 2024. Site investigations biggest risk - results due next week. NB again queried dates on milestones document as different from this. LV confirmed the reporting cycles of the projects and this meeting do not match, this will be rectified for the next Board.</p> <p><b>Essoldo Chambers</b> An Operator is still interested but not sure if it is the right building and is considering if this is the appropriate location.</p>	

Officers now asking Board members if they have any suggestions for alternative buildings for this scheme?

NB said he agreed members need to think of alternatives, we have the funding but not the scheme.

SMo said the scheme started with the Guest and Chrimes building, a heritage asset, there was the link with culture and leisure and a music venue. We already have this based in the town centre, but there are problems with noise issues. But the Council now owns these buildings, the Cutlers and Alma PH on Westgate. The Cutlers is a listed building, with the Alma frontage having the same theme. There is still an option to work with both and pull together a similar scheme, this could be a pragmatic solution, bring the music inside and sound proof the venue, it is a scheme that is possible.

LP said she thought the Cutlers/Alma is a good suggestion as it is a heritage site and a smaller venue. We already have a large venue in Magna on the edge of the town centre. These buildings or something similar such as one of the many empty buildings in the town centre, which are currently being reviewed by the Business Growth Board.

TMA suggested, via the chat, the Howard Building. SMo said this has been looked at previously but there were complex issues.

**The Board agreed to pursue the Cutlers/Alma option and also look at the empty units in the town centre.**

**Eastwood/Parkgate Bridge** DA said the review will be complete this week, no options have changed. Currently working on producing final presentation on buildability of 4 options. There are still concerns around finance but need to meet stakeholders' expectations. He outlined the 4 options been considered, needs to be carried out now rather than later.

Smo confirmed the bridge was originally part of visioning work around connecting Eastwood with the surrounding investment areas and help with connectivity. By liaising with CRT and Network Rail looking at these different options to still achieve this also including connecting to Mainline Station.

**Mainline Station** MS said a useful workshop was held yesterday looking at wider regeneration opportunities in the area and a 15–20 year programme. Further timetabling analysis been carried out showing loops required. Modelling work been carried out. Land acquisition report been approved. All looking very positive. Working with SYMCA on outline business case then the full business case.

PW said that John Healy MP asked to meet with Officers to discuss further. Starting to work with politicians more on this scheme. NB said it is a good idea as all 3 MPs to be invited to these Board meetings going forward.

**Snail Yard/Pocket Park** NGJ showed an image of how the park could look. The planning application had to be resubmitted due to the siting of the staircase. The Highways Delivery team to deliver this project, in a 36 week programme with the detailed programme expected this week. Consultation with High Street businesses also to start this week.

42/23	<p><b>Programme and Finance Update</b></p> <p>LV updated the Board on the TD and LUF forecasts via graphs showing progress to date. The Mainline Station to be taken out of these graphs and put into a separate graph for reporting.</p> <p>The spend profile for investment plans, also including the LUF leisure economy, for Pathfinder intervention schemes, were explained, giving an overview of where the schemes are. Also, a table showing how we report back to Government on grants paid was shown for information.</p>	
43/23	<p><b>Town Centre Regeneration Promotion</b></p> <p>CD updated on the latest comms and marketing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotherham Voice meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 18 businesses attended, 12 partners displayed. Good feedback received from partners.</li> <li>• Forge Island at Rotherham Show - staff spoke to over 1,200 visitors over the weekend about the Forge Island development. There was also a marquee showcasing projects across the borough. Masterplan videos were shown on a loop including the new Forge Island footbridge being installed which was shown to the board.</li> <li>• Muse are working with Rotherham College on a wildlife habitat design competition.</li> <li>• Markets redevelopment – works starting next week, press release and photo call to be held.</li> <li>• CD provided an overview of recent town centre social media posts and their reach.</li> <li>• Exhibiting at the Chamber Means Business event tomorrow at NY Stadium and also at Freshers’ week at Rotherham College – both are a great opportunity to make businesses and students aware of schemes/projects in the town centre.</li> <li>• Upper Millgate public realm consultation coming up shortly.</li> </ul> <p>RG noted that Muse felt the show was a big success, much more positivity this year. He added that Muse will be volunteering to improve the green spaces within Rotherham Hospital.</p> <p>NB said this is great and beyond construction, volunteering at hospital true partnership working!</p> <p>CD provided details of an event currently being organised in October by a working group from the Business Growth Board. The event will aim to link up agents/owners/landlords of vacant town centre properties and showcase the opportunities and making them aware of what is available. The event will be held in the Imperial Buildings and details will be circulated to the Board.</p> <p>CW confirmed the event is to build relationships with agents and help with enquiries they receive and help promote Rotherham, building confidence in people outside of Rotherham. Anyone interested in being involved to speak to CD/CW.</p> <p>RE added some further promotion details; Swinton Civic Hall now open and show home to open end of the month. Wath and Dinnington consultation</p>	<p>CD/CW</p> <p>CD/CW</p>

	<p>and engagement next month. Towns and Villages funds update. Maltby Skills Academy, Leader of Council visit. Thurcroft library to open in October.</p> <p>Announcement at the end of the month a music event in Clifton Park next year.</p>	
44/23	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Board will be face to face and with new members following the reformatting of the Board. Details to follow asap.</p>	
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> November 2023</p>	