

Rotherham Town Board

Microsoft Teams

7 August 2024, 8:45 - 10am

Attended By:

Neil Baxter (Chair) – NB
Phil Batchford, Rotherham Minster – PB
Helen Littlewood, Clifton Learning Partnership – HL
Jamie Noble, RUFC / RUCT – JN
Sarah McLeod, Wentworth Woodhouse – SMC
Chris Hamby, Hamby's Properties / Gullivers – CH
David Plumtree, VAR – DP
David Trevis-Smith, WW – DTS
Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP
Kate Davis – KD
Paul Harper, DWP – PH
Deborah Bullivant, Grimm and Co – DB
Sam Townsend, BIES / CLGU – ST
Andrew Gilhooley, Guild of Games – AG
Alex Clegg, BIES / CLGU – AC
Carrie Sudbury, BRCC – CS
Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ
James Bolton – JB

Cllr Robert Taylor – RT
Simon Moss, RMBC – Smo
Leanne Buchan, RMBC – LB
Megan Hinchliff, RIDO RMBC – MH
Maria Smith, RIDO RMBC – MS
Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP
Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD
Joel Hamer, RIDO RMBC – JoH
Farai Karigambe, RIDO RMBC – FK
Tanya Schvab, RIDO RMBC – TS

Apologies:

Steve Morris, Signs Express (Vice-Chair) – StM
Sarah Champion MP – SC
Jacquie Falvey, Sarah Champion's office – JF
Jake Richards MP – JR
John Healey MP – JHe
Greg Kuczmaida, John Healey's office – GK
Matthew Stephens, BRCC – MS
Ray Kinsella, Great Places – RK
Ryan Shepherd, SYMCA – RS
Kevin Bradley, South Yorkshire Police – KB
Sue Wynne, Rotherham Rise – SW
David Sutton, Maltby Academy – DS
Andrew Bramidge, RMBC – AB
Kevin Tomlinson, Magna – KT
Nazim Shabir – NS
Abi Cobb, RMBC – AC
Julie Dalton, Gullivers – JD
Rachael Ellis, RMBC – RE
Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV
Andy Boulton, Neighbourhoods RMBC – Abo
Tracey Mace-Akroyd, RNN – TMA

Action Points:

JoH to email round those who are yet to complete a Declaration of Interest form to ensure all have been received.

**All members requested to nominate themselves for one of the Long Term Plan working groups.
JoH to circulate the themes with the minutes.**

39/24	<p>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder</p> <p>Apologies listed above.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings.</p> <p>JoH to email round those who are yet to complete a Declaration of Interest form to ensure all have been received.</p> <p>NB stated that any members who have not returned DOIs prior to the next meeting will not be allowed to attend as this is mandatory.</p>	JoH
40/24	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2024</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record, and actions from the previous meeting were accepted as complete.</p>	
41/24	<p>Long Term Plan for Towns</p> <p>MH stated that the plan was ready to be sent to government but prior to the submission date MHCLG advised that there was a delay and would inform the board when to submit.</p> <p>ST stated that the 1st August was suspended due to the election period and confirmation of timescales is still awaited. ST will chase and will pass on any information as soon as received.</p> <p>NB emailed for an update last week but has not received a response.</p> <p>MH requested that members sign up to the themed working groups by emailing JoH or MH. JoH to circulate the themes with the minutes.</p>	All
42/24	<p>Project Updates Key Issues Only</p> <p>MH stated that lots of good progress has been made since the last board with cabinet showing appreciation in July of the work that has been done.</p> <p>Rother Valley</p> <p>Looking to start on site in September this year with plans not having changed.</p> <p>Thrybergh</p> <p>Plans have been amended to support full plans for Rother Valley. This amendment was approved at Cabinet in July to refurbish the existing café and make better use of the space. There will be additional seating in the new landscaped area and a ramp. Costs are looking promising, but we are awaiting final costs. Looking to commence in Spring 2025 with a shorter construction period compared to Rother Valley.</p>	

	<p>Templeborough</p> <p>At the last board we reported an expectation to be on site in July but there is a delay on this since the last report.</p> <p>RRQ Enabling</p> <p>MH stated that this started on the 29th July starting with the removal of Japanese knotweed.</p> <p>JN questioned whether there is a plan for a bridge over towards the stadium. MH confirmed that there is no bridge in the current plans. SMO stated that the original proposal in the Town Investment Plan was to do a project at Guest and Chrimes and to put a bridge between this site and the Riverside Residential Quarter – a decision was taken by the board to move away from this proposal when the Guest and Chrimes project moved on.</p> <p>3-7 Corporation Street</p> <p>MS stated that no. 7 is completely down with the site cleared. Hoarding designs are being ordered and will be installed this month. Party wall issues are being worked through for the 3-5 building aiming for demolition commencing on the 2nd September – this is to avoid nesting birds and bats roosting on premises. The legal team are vesting the rights which is the last step of the compulsory purchase order to register with the land registry.</p> <p>Integrated Station</p> <p>MS stated that the masterplan is still being worked up with a final report having been received and now consultees from various council teams are reviewing. There has been a delay in the outline business case because costs are still awaited from Network Rail – SYMCA and DfT have approved for submission in September. A business centre at the site is being explored through a feasibility study to understand whether this could act as a catalyst. Land negotiations are being progressed.</p> <p>NB questioned whether anything has been picked up regarding infrastructure projects in the chancellor’s speech. SMO stated that no information has been provided that is of concern to the scheme.</p>	
43/24	<p>Children’s Capital of Culture</p> <p>LB presented on the progress with Children’s Capital of Culture. This is a title that was bestowed upon Rotherham by Rotherham’s children and young people through a project run by Grimm and Co. This will be a year of creativity, inspiration, and events.</p>	

	<p>There will be public events, festivals, exhibitions, performances across the whole borough with 75% of activities staying beyond 2025 to ensure a cultural and creative offer is available for young people into the future.</p> <p>Themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills, Talent, and Inclusive Growth • Community Engagement and Coproduction • Creative Programme • Business Engagement and Partnerships <p>DP questioned the 75% figure and asked how long this will last for and how it will be possible. LB stated that there are some key events that are already regular, and what is looking to be achieved is systems change that sees the offer continue. This is done through consultation with young people and coproduction to ensure that what is happening is responding to what is wanted. LB stated that influencing core budgets to ensure they are focussed on young people will be important.</p> <p>DP stated that there needs to be a benchmark for how long these things continue for.</p>	
<p>44/24</p>	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>SP stated that at the end of June, the total pathfinder spend to date was just under £29 million (roughly 35% of the allocation). This means we are still well ahead of other places in terms of spend.</p> <p>The spend forecast has been updated for the remainder of the lifetime of pathfinder. On this basis it is estimated that the total spend for the remainder of this financial year should be roughly £29million with the same amount profiled for the final financial year. Where there have been commencement delays, this has impacted the original profiling and profiling for the integrated station acquisitions has been shifted as well. This makes the forecast conservative at this stage.</p> <p>In Q1 we're around 6.7million down on where we'd expect spend to be, the bulk of that underspend is the reprofiling against the old LUF budget – this was the reprofiling of the country park schemes and the reallocation of the funds from the Eastwood bridge scheme.</p> <p>About £10million will be moved from Town Deal money to reprofile the delivery phase for corporation street as well as the £6million for the station.</p> <p>NB questioned whether money that isn't committed under contract is secure. SP stated that the money is largely secure due to the payment mechanism for the pathfinder programme – funds are given as an annual allocation rather than being reimbursed retrospectively. As such it is unlikely that the money would be clawed back. NB asked for clarification regarding the reprofiled money; SP confirmed that the money to be reprofiled is already with the Council.</p>	

	<p>NB asked whether there needs to be another look at whether we have everyone correct involved at this stage to get ahead on projects. SP stated that there have been legal capacity issues, but finance have been worked with closely – and this forecast is a risk-averse forecast which should provide contingency.</p>	
45/24	<p>Town Centre Regeneration Promotion</p> <p>CD noted that the cinema at forge island will be opening on the 6th September and Travelodge officially opened on the 22nd July. An opening event is being planned for September.</p> <p>Various marketing activities have taken place over the last few months to advertise the indoor market whilst work is taking place.</p> <p>A consultation took place on Tuesday 6th to talk to the public about the proposals for Corporation Street and the Ship Hill junction.</p> <p>CD spoke through UPLIFT and the positive feedback that has been received on the back of this event. Rotherham show is taking place on the 7th and 8th September.</p>	
46/24	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JoH is leaving on the 23rd August and FK will be taking over on administrating the board.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting: 18th September 2024</p>	