

Rotherham Town Board

Microsoft Teams

18 September 2024, 8:45 - 10am

Attended By:		Apologies:
Neil Baxter (Chair) – NB		
Phil Batchford, Rotherham Minster – PB		Andy Boulton, RMBC – AB
Chris Hamby, Hamby’s Properties / Gullivers – CH		Dave Sutton, Maltby Academy – DS
David Plumtree, VAR – DP		Nichola Jones, AMRC – NJ
David Trevis-Smith, WW – DTS		Raymond Kinsella – KS
Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP		Cllr Robert Taylor – RT
Kate Davis, Crossroad Care – KD		
Deborah Bullivant, Grimm and Co – DB		
Sam Townsend, BIES / CLGU – ST		
Andrew Gilhooley, Guild of Games – AG		
Nikki Jones, AMRC – NJ		
James Bolton – JB		
Tracey Mace-Ackroyd, RNN – TMC		
Mark Gallagher, Arc Cinema – MG		
Matthew Stephens, Rotherham Titans - MSt		
Simon Moss, RMBC – Smo		
Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC - LV		
Maria Smith, RIDO RMBC – MSm		
Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP		
Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD		
Farai Karigambe, RIDO RMBC – FK		
Action Points:		
FK to email members who haven’t submitted DoI.		
DB to give an update following the working group's initial meeting.		
47/24	Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder.	
	Apologies listed above.	
	Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings	
48/24	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th August 2024	

	<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> <p>FK to email members who haven't submitted DoI</p> <p>Paused nomination of working groups due to uncertainty of funding.</p> <p>Minutes accepted.</p>	<p>FK</p>
<p>49/24</p>	<p>Long Term Plan for Towns</p> <p>The program was paused due to the national elections, with the chancellor now in position, a full review of government funded projects will take place, the budget will be revealed on the 30th October.</p> <p>ST understands the uncertainty that this process may bring, reassured the group that the capacity funding is still available for the Board and Council to use in the meantime.</p>	
<p>50/24</p>	<p>Project Updates Key Issues Only</p> <p>Town Centre Music Venue</p> <p>The Council is developing the concepts for the Alma music venue and reviewing different capacities to determine what would operate effectively and have the desired economic impact in the town centre.</p> <p>LV and the team are also investigating revenue modelling and lease arrangements.</p> <p>LV to update board with more information.</p> <p>Riverside Gardens & Corp St.</p> <p>The projects have been delayed due to additional investigative ground works. Thus, Contractors have taken longer to fully cost the scheme.</p> <p>The Council has spoken with the contractor to see if we can do anything to move the scheme forward.</p> <p>CD has started consulting with key stakeholders within the areas; these conversations have led to changes to the plans.</p> <p>The constructor aims to start construction in January 2025 and complete it by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>Rother Valley Country Park</p> <p>Construction will start 23rd September.</p>	

Templeborough

The draft legal agreements suite is currently in review with Magna and their solicitors.

The business justification case seeking MCA funding to cover the viability gap has been through the MCA's assurance review and is to be presented to the MCA Programme board, any approval will be subject to internal Council approvals also.

The start on site date is being delayed. HBC have been holding the contract price so far, the Council is engaging with HBC to ensure all parties are up to date on the status of the legal arrangements of the project.

RRQ Enabling

Work has started on site, with the contractor starting excavation work behind the river wall. Everything is progressing well.

The most disruptive part of the project is to begin February 2025.

The team has already started examining the disposability of the land long term.

3-7 Corporation Street

Work on the project has stopped as an internet box that feeds businesses around the area was found on site. We have contacted Open Reach to resolve the issues.

We are currently working with the Council's demolition and design teams to see if we can work around the cables; however, this solution requires gaining permission from Open Reach.

The Council is actively looking at alternative resolutions to continue work.

Eldon Road

The Regen team is looking to complete work earlier than the expected mid-October finish date.

The Council has been working closely with local schools, and the project will be a welcomed addition to the town.

General Discussion

TMC asked if the Council is progressing with a project on the Guests and Chrimes plot.

SM confirmed that the Council does not have an active project on the site; however, discussions have been had with the landowner, Rotherham Football Club, on what they would like to deliver on-site and the safety of the building.

Mst asked if the Council had partnered with Homes England or other funders on housing developments across the Borough. LV highlighted how the town

	<p>centre housing projects was proposed to both Homes England and the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) as a catalyst project.</p>	
51/24	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>At the end of Q1, SP reprofiled what the Council estimated to spend.</p> <p>The forecasted spending was £7.17 million; the revised actual spend will be £4.46 million.</p> <p>The Markets & Library project spending is outpacing what the Council initially estimated.</p> <p>The Templeborough and Riverside projects are slightly behind predictions; spending has been pushed back to Q3.</p> <p>The Council is on target to meet its spending targets, with actual and forecasted nearly the same.</p> <p>Though some projects need to catch up to the estimated spend, SP assured NB that the Council is not in danger of losing its funding.</p>	
52/24	<p>Comms & Consultations</p> <p>CD presented.</p> <p>Forge Island</p> <p>The Forge Island Arc cinema opened a week earlier than expected. The Council has received good feedback from the public.</p> <p>The Council organised a Family fun day at the development to mark the Forge Island grand opening. The event had a great turnout.</p> <p>Window vinyls are to be added to vacant units to promote the development.</p> <p>Social media engagement has been positive, and residents are excited about the developments around the town centre.</p> <p>Rotherham market</p> <p>Promoting markets via newspaper and magazine adverts</p> <p>The designs for the Drummond Street Hoardings have been finalised.</p> <p>3-7 Corporation Street.</p> <p>CD shared the hoarding design with the group.</p> <p>The Hoarding imaginary will showcase upcoming events and support local businesses.</p> <p>Rotherham show</p>	

	<p>The Council received significant positive reviews and excitement from Rotherham Residents, particularly for Forge Island.</p> <p>The Regeneration service undertook a light consultation on the feasibility of a music venue. The public was keen on having more music events in the town centre.</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p>The town centre shoppers survey will commence soon, and more information will follow.</p> <p>The Market redevelopment consultation will take place to understand the public perception and the impact of the current market.</p> <p>The Corporation Street and Riverside Garden consultation is complete.</p> <p>PB praised the Council for its efforts and for communicating the developments across the Borough.</p>	
<p>53/24</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>NB, let members know there is still £175K left of capacity funding. If the programme is given funding following the Chancellor's October budget, there may be a lag in the incoming funds.</p> <p>LV encouraged the group to use the proposed sub-groups to review how funds could be spent and to use their professional networks to diversify the groups and ensure the needs of different communities were met.</p> <p>DP spoke about using the funding to go towards consultations on how the community can re-imagine Rotherham.</p> <p>DB and LP wanted to involve the young people in the consultations and engagements to future-proof plans.</p> <p>The Town Board agreed to continue this work in the background while awaiting a decision regarding the program's funding.</p> <p>TMC, NJ, DB, LP, and DP to create a working group on how to engage young people in Rotherham.</p> <p>DB to give an update following the working group's initial meeting.</p> <p>LV informed members that the Council is limited in the support it can give due to pressure from project delivery. However, it will assist as much as it can.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting: 23rd October 2024</p>	