

# Rotherham Town Board

## Microsoft Teams

**23 October 2024, 8:45 - 10am**

<b>Attended By:</b>		<b>Apologies:</b>
Neil Baxter (Chair) – NB		
Chris Hamby, Hamby’s Properties / Gullivers – CH	Helen Littlewood, Clifton Learning Partnership – HB	
David Trevis-Smith, WW – DTS		
Lisa Pogson, Airmaster – LP	Sue Wynne, Rotherham Rise– SW	
Kate Davis, Crossroad Care – KD	Dave Sutton, Maltby Academy – DS	
Sam Townsend, BIES / CLGU – ST	Tom Austen, Rothbiz – TA	
Tracey Mace-Ackroyd, RNN – TMC	Sarah McLeod, Wentworth Woodhouse – SM	
Alex Clegg – AC		
Carrie Sudbury, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce – CS		
Nick Maddocks, South Yorkshire Police – NM		
Lizzie Dealey, Canal and Rivers Trust – LD		
Paul Harper, Department of Work and Pensions- PH		
Andrew Bramidge, RMBC - ABr		
Simon Moss, RMBC – Smo		
Andrew Boulton, RMBC - AB		
Lorna Vertigan, RIDO RMBC – LV		
Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC – LM		
Rory Battye, RIDO RMBC - RB		
Simon Powell, RIDO RMBC – SP		
Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD		
Farai Karigambe, RIDO RMBC – FK		
<b>Action Points:</b>		
LV will share pictures of the completed Eldon Road project with members.		
FK will email the Board about all upcoming events.		
CD will meet with TMC to discuss involving students in the mural designs for the Mecca Bingo site.		
<b>54/24</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder.</b>  Apologies listed above.  Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings	
<b>55/24</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>	

	n/a	
57/24	<p><b>Project Updates Key Issues Only</b></p> <p><b>Riverside Gardens &amp; Corp St.</b></p> <p>RB is reviewing the costs submitted by CR Reynolds. The scope of works has been expanded to include works to Ship Hill, additional funding may be brought in from elsewhere in the Council.</p> <p>Further consultations with crucial stakeholders led to design alterations, with the highways team reinstating the footpath.</p> <p>Due to design delays, works will commence in January 2025. The program now has a revised 12-month schedule.</p> <p><b>Thrybergh Country Park</b></p> <p>The Regen team has internally challenged the designs to ensure the original objectives are met, and the facility is fully operational. This led to slight amendments in the café layout.</p> <p>The project's scheduled start and finish date is now the end of 2025, but the team continue to challenge the program to bring it forward to April 2025. The Council estimates work will take 3–4 months to complete.</p> <p>The most significant risk to the project is the procurement process. Higher bids from contractors may increase costs. The project is progressing well, and the procurement business case is nearly signed off.</p> <p><b>Templeborough</b></p> <p>Magna's legal team now has the legal documents to review. The Regeneration team is meeting with Magna to address any queries.</p> <p>Magna has been supportive and plans to take the legal documents to their next board meeting on November 28th. Henry Boot Construction (HBC) may start setting up the site at the end of the calendar year.</p> <p><b>RRQ Enabling</b></p> <p>Yorkshire Water is on-site to rectify a collapsed sewer; work is progressing well.</p> <p>RB confirmed that the planning application for the land swap deal with Royal Mail is moving forward. Approval for the land swap is scheduled for November 2024.</p>	

Work is currently underway to prepare the drainage and groundwork. Piling work is due to start on 28 October 2024 for 8 weeks, and river wall repairs are being made. The project is estimated to finish by July 2025.

### **3-7 Corporation Street**

The second phase of demolition is taking place. The contractor is confident that work will be completed by the end of the week. The Openreach cable was temporarily relocated to allow for demolition works.

Asbestos was found on site; however, this will not delay the programme. A slight increase in costs will occur to follow the appropriate disposal procedures.

The Council is working with party wall surveyors to discuss the repairs and the extent of work needed following demolition works. RMBC has appointed external solicitors to complete the vesting of the rights that we acquired through the CPO Process.

### **Eldon Road**

The project is now complete, and all outputs have been delivered. The development will officially open on the 12th November, 2024.

LV will share pictures of the completed Eldon Road project with members.

### **Markets & Library.**

Historic value engineering requires a resubmission to Planning.

The project is reaching a significant milestone with the demolition of the Guardian building. Scaffolding is now in place, and work will take place next week. The outdoor covered market canopy roof will be removed at the end of the year. The revised programme completion date is March 2027.

### **Snail Yard**

The regeneration service is actively liaising with the property arm of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the staircase landing pad encroaching on their land, raising concerns about accessibility for local businesses.

The team hopes to reach an understanding with the chamber of commerce to move forward with legal agreements. Due to the time taken with proceedings, the team had to move off site. The Regen team hopes to get the team back on site this week and claw back the expected 3-month delay.

	<p><b>Mainline Station</b></p> <p>The team has finished the final version of the master plan and is currently reviewing the plans to ensure all is correct.</p> <p>The Council has received Northern Rails' output for the outline business case and is reviewing it. A few points from the output need further clarification, which could impact the business case submission. Upon reflection, the team is in discussions with SYMCA and Dft to reframe the strategic dimension of the business case to reflect the change in government and upcoming spending review. RMBC is proposing delaying the business case submission until February 2025.</p> <p>The team is investigating the feasibility of having a business centre that would be an anchor building; work is progressing well, and the team is currently reviewing shortlisted options before deciding on a preferred choice. In the upcoming weeks, the findings will be shared with the group.</p> <p>NB asked if the spending review was unfavourable to the project. Would the land acquisition pause or continue? LM let the group know that the funding the Council hopes to secure is only for the next stage, which is to develop a business case. The team anticipates the upcoming spending review will not impact the land acquisition and the momentum of the project.</p> <p><b>Town Music Venue</b></p> <p>The team is satisfied that we should continue the project based on market research and the demand for music events. RMBC will continue the project to design stage 3 and work with contractors to determine costs.</p> <p><b>Discussions</b></p> <p>NB wanted the next board meeting to include an item on social value output and what contractors have achieved thus far, which would show the impact of local economy spending and employment opportunities.</p> <p>LP applauded the Council for the work taking place in the Town Centre and the visible changes that the community can see. LP raised concerns about project slippage, as funding was meant to be spent by March 2026.</p> <p>LV informed members that the Council flagged the deadline issues with the MHCLG, who assured the RMBC that they were committed to ensuring the projects were completed.</p>	
58/24	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <p>The budget has been re-adjusted, as the actual spending was just over £5 million, £2 million less than predicted due to the delay in commencing works on Riverside Garden. The estimated spend for 2025 will be £27 million.</p>	

	<p>In Q3 the team is confident £19million will be spent on contracted projects. The spending on uncontracted projects will ramp up by the end of the year as Templeborough and Riverside Garden go into contract.</p> <p>The bulk of acquisition on Mainline station will take place Q2 25/26.</p>	
<b>59/24</b>	<p>Comms &amp; Consultations</p> <p>CD presented.</p> <p><b>Markets/Library</b></p> <p>The Regen team has increased its communication and engagement with market traders to make them aware of the developments and disruptions occurring.</p> <p>The Drummond Street hoarding has been installed. A press release and photo opportunity are being held for the demolition of the former Guardian building.</p> <p><b>Forge Island</b></p> <p>The team continues to look at different ways to market the development, including school holiday half-term activities and Christmas events, including the annual Christmas lights switch-on.</p> <p><b>Corporation Street</b></p> <p>Hoardings have been put up to blend with the surroundings. The Regen team is looking at wrapping up the side of the old Mecca bingo building that faces Forge Island with a Mural.</p> <p><b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b></p> <p>In November, the markets and the Library will receive online surveys and in-person consultations from Market traders and the local community.</p> <p>Our Places fund will receive a borough-wide online survey.</p> <p>The Leaf event will take place in November, giving businesses a platform to engage with students.</p> <p>The Board wanted the consultations and engagement team to email all members about upcoming events. FK will email the Board about all upcoming events.</p>	
<b>60/24</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>PH asked if the vacant units on Forge Island have been let. SM confirmed that a number of operators have signed up and agreed to terms; more information will soon follow.</p>	

	<p>TMC suggested the students be involved in the mural design at Mecca Bingo. CD will meet with TMC to discuss involving students in the mural design for the Mecca Bingo building.</p> <p>The Council is preparing marketing brochures for the Forge Island units. Board members were keen to assist RMBC in any capacity.</p> <p>NB confirmed that Andrew Bramidge has been appointed as the Strategic Director for RMBC's Regeneration and Environment directorate.</p>	
	<p><b>Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b></p>	