

Rotherham Town Board

Microsoft Teams

9th April 2025, 8:45 - 10am

Attended By:

Neil Baxter (Chair) – NB
Phil Batchford, Rotherham Minster – PB
Andrew Gilhooley, Guild of Games – AG
Steve Coakley on behalf of Paul Douglas, RUFC – PD
Lisa Pogson – LP
Steve Morris – SM
Chris Hamby – CH
David Plumtree – DP
David Trevis-Smith – DTS
Greg Kuczmaida – GK
Kate Davis – KD
Lizzie Dealey – LD
Matthew Stephens – MS
Nazim Shabir – NS
Raife Gaile – RG
Ray Kinsella – RK
Tracey-Mae-Akroyd – TMA
Helen Jones, Clifton Learning Partnership – H J
Jake Richards MP – JR

Apologies:

David Sutton – DS
Simon Moss, RMBC – Smo

RMBC Staff

Andrew Bramidge, RMBC - ABr
Andrew Boulton, RMBC - AB
Lucy Mitchell, RIDO RMBC – LM
Andrea Brough, RIDO RMBC – AB
Catherine Davis, RIDO RMBC – CD
Simon Powell, RMBC – SP
Ciara Jenkinson, RMBC – CJ
Chloe Parker RMBC – CP
Daniel Richardson – DR
Lorna Vertigan – LV
Megan Hinchliff – MH

Action Points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion related to the future of the Board and making the best use of participants skills. NB & LV to discuss and bring back to the next Board. 		
01/25	<p><u>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder.</u></p> <p>Apologies listed above.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the confidentiality of the information discussed at these meetings.</p> <p>New attendees:</p> <p>Daniel Richardson - RMBC Marketing and Comms</p> <p>Steve Coakley standing in for Paul Douglas (RUFC)</p>	
08/25	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th January 2025</u></p> <p>To be covered within agenda items</p>	
09/25	<p><u>Rotherham's Growth Story</u></p> <p>Presentation delivered by LV covering the formation of the Board, its purpose and what has been achieved so far throughout the Borough. Details provided in the slide pack prior to the meeting.</p> <p>MH presented information regarding the emerging Town Centre Strategy, during which attendees were invited to comment on what they believe to be unique about Rotherham.</p>	
10/25	<p><u>Plan for Neighbourhoods</u></p> <p>This Government funding was announced in March 2025, with Rotherham being one of 75 places to receive £20 million to invest over 10 years. This will replace the Long Term Plan for Towns initiative proposed by the previous government administration.</p> <p>Rotherham is required to submit details of its Board membership and place boundary by the 22nd April.</p> <p>Jake Richards MP queried part of the place boundary and agreed to follow up by email after the meeting.</p>	
11/25	<p><u>Future of the Board and Membership</u></p> <p>NB presented on the future of the board as it is set to change direction to steer the development of the Plan for Neighbourhoods. It was agreed that the Board should continue to</p>	

	<p>meet every 6 weeks for the time being while work on the plan is accelerated.</p> <p>Action: NB requested that Board members contact him and LV if they feel that now is a good time for them to step away as the Board changes direction towards more of a neighbourhood focus.</p> <p>LP offered to recommence the networking sessions that had previously been on hold.</p>	
12/25	<p><u>Project Updates by exception</u></p> <p>LM and AB Presented</p> <p>Thrybergh</p> <p>Procurement exercise underway.</p> <p>Progressing as it should and hoping to start on site end of July.</p> <p>Templeborough</p> <p>Final legal agreements to be agreed between parties in the coming months.</p> <p>Positive interactions with contractors reported.</p> <p>Mainline Station</p> <p>Retitled as Rotherham Gateway to encompass the wider ambitions.</p> <p>Masterplan complete and to go to cabinet in July for approval.</p> <p>OBC completed and submitted to SYMCA, and assurance completed with no difficulty and all clarifications actioned.</p> <p>SYMCA board meeting is in June.</p> <p>Initial feasibility exercise for business centre completed.</p> <p>One land acquisition completed in March 2025.</p> <p>Negotiations progressing and continue for the remaining parcels.</p> <p>3-7 Corp St.</p> <p>All demolished and party wall works being done and close to completion.</p> <p>Ready for re-development.</p> <p>Riverside Gardens</p> <p>Aiming to enter into contact this month.</p> <p>Start on site is then expected in May.</p>	

	<p>Positive communications with contractor reported.</p> <p>RRQ Enabling</p> <p>Pilling complete.</p> <p>Land exchange is ongoing.</p> <p>All progressing in line with revised programme and contract.</p> <p>Snail Yard</p> <p>Revised programme completed and should begin to progress.</p> <p>Country Parks</p> <p>Progressing well and as planned.</p> <p>Planning application on behalf of Firbeck sailing club submitted.</p> <p>Markets and Library</p> <p>Progressing well.</p> <p>Demolition element now complete.</p> <p>On programme to be complete by May 2027.</p> <p>Upper Corporation Street</p> <p>Progressing with the purchase.</p> <p>Negotiations are continuing.</p>	
13/25	<p><u>Finance Update</u></p> <p><u>SP Presented</u></p> <p>SP confirmed that we are at the end of FY and started a new FY.</p> <p>Report on spend is approx £19.5 million to the end of this FY.</p> <p>In total we are just under £45 million spent of the pathfinder allocation.</p> <p>This includes Mainline station allocation of £1.4million.</p> <p>Completed spend on pathfinder allocation for markets.</p> <p>Some projects had a slight delay in spend due to programme delays.</p> <p>Some timing issues with the contractual projects i.e. riverside enabling projects.</p> <p>Overall, the projects we have in contract are in spend.</p>	

	<p>Year ahead- reflects the expected spend.</p> <p>Aim to profile some spend into 26/27 financial year in line with pathfinder allowance.</p>	
14/25	<p><u>Comms & Consultations</u></p> <p>DR presented an update on comms, marketing and consultations which included:</p> <p>DR introduced himself as the Comms & Marketing lead for Regeneration & Environment as he is new to the board.</p> <p>Consultation team have recruited to increase resource, and they are planning to launch a comms and marketing campaign in May with the town centre as the subject.</p> <p>DR discussed all the independent and unique businesses we have in Rotherham that should be celebrated.</p> <p>New brand being developed for the market, Forge Island and town centre including new wayfinding and signage.</p> <p>Thrybergh country park signage to be installed and heras fencing to provide details and visuals for scheme.</p> <p>Templeborough comms plan currently being drafted.</p>	
15/25	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>SC explained that on 27th May it was RUFC's 100th year anniversary and that celebrations are being planned. Anyone who wants to get involved should get in touch.</p>	
	Date of next meeting: 14th May 2025	