

**REPORT AUDIT TRAIL****CONSULTATION**

<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Comments in para:</b>
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy	23/10/25	25/10/25	Approved
<i>Andrew Bramidge</i>	Regeneration and Environment	27/10/25	29/10/25	Approved
<i>Chloe Parker, Finance</i>	Finance and Customer Services	17/10/25	21/10/25	6.2
<i>Stuart Fletcher, Legal Services</i>	Legal Services	17/10/25	24/10/25	7.1 and 7.2
<i>Helen Rowe, Human Resources</i>	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	17/10/25	21/10/25	8.1
<i>Karen Middlebrook, Procurement</i>	Finance and Customer Services	17/10/25	20/10/25	6.1
Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	20/10/25	24/10/25	10.1
<i>Rob Mahon</i>	Assistant Director Financial Services	24/10/25	05/10/25	6.2

<b><u>REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING</u></b>			
<b>Equalities</b>	<b>Initial Screening completed and included with report</b>	YES	24/10/2025
	<b>Full Assessment completed and included with report</b>	NO	
<b>Carbon Impact Assessments</b>	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	YES	24/10/2025
<b>Background information</b>	<a href="#">June 2023 Finance Update to Cabinet</a> Minute number 2.6		
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 Climate Impact Assessment Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment		
<b>Cabinet Member Approval</b>	YES	25/10/25	
<b>Report Authorised by Strategic Director</b>	YES	29/10/25	
<b>Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 07 November 2025

**Report Title**

Feasibility Fund Allocation: Regeneration Resourcing and Appointment of Consultants & Contractors for Gateway Full Business Case Preparation

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration  
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) have allocated £3m revenue to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as a 'Feasibility Fund'. This report seeks to exercise delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Assistant Director Financial Services to allocate £400,000 of this fund to facilitate the appointment of a multi-disciplinary team and specialist contractor support to drive preparatory work for a Full Business Case in respect of the Rotherham Gateway Project.

**Recommendations**

1. Allocate £400,000 of the Feasibility Fund for activity described in Section 2 of this report.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Climate Impact Assessment  
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment

**Background Papers**

[June 2023 Finance Update to Cabinet](#)

Minute number 2.6

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Feasibility Fund Allocation: Regeneration Resourcing and Appointment of Consultants & Contractors for Gateway Full Business Case Preparation**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) have allocated £3m of revenue funding to the Council as a 'Feasibility Fund'.
- 1.2 In December 2022 the grant was accepted by the Council and the funding agreement signed. Further, in June 2023 Cabinet approved the allocation of the Feasibility Fund via officer delegation to the Strategic Director for Regeneration & Environment in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Assistant Director Financial Services.
- 1.3 To date £2.25m has been allocated to contribute toward resourcing, property management costs, consultation, marketing and communications, development of town centre projects, the development of a feasibility study for a new Business Centre at Rotherham Gateway and a Business Plan for Rotherham Civic Theatre.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Rotherham Gateway provides a generational opportunity to bring direct mainline rail connectivity to Rotherham. With support for the Outline Business Case progressing, the Council wishes to maintain momentum and begin work on the preparation of the Full Business Case (FBC).
- 2.2 To prepare for the development of the FBC a range of specialist and project management support is required. A proposal is made to allocate £400,000 of the Feasibility Fund to facilitate:
  - the appointment of a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to progress preparatory works for the Full Business Case including developing strategies to guide the FBC development and supporting the Council to manage engagement with partners such as Network Rail. These workstreams are outlined in 2.3 below.
  - the continued support of a rail specialist contractor to provide technical knowledge to the in-house team;
  - the temporary appointment of a Programme Director to oversee the delivery of the programme up to and through FBC.
- 2.3 **Appointment of a Multi-Disciplinary Team of Consultants: Allocation £200,000**

This will be a technical and specialist service and therefore requires a consultant with the necessary rail expertise and experience. A Procurement Business Case and brief are being developed. The workstreams required include:

  - **Developing a funding strategy for the wider scheme:** The scheme Funding Strategy needs reviewing and updating. The consultants will need to provide an iterative approach for regular review to account for increasing levels of detail and certainty as the scheme progresses.

Work is also required to determine potential funding programmes and to secure entry into these programmes.

- **Review and update the consenting strategy for the station:** A high-level Consenting Strategy was prepared for the Outline Business Case. This will need reviewing and consideration given to the various approaches that could be taken.
- **Assist in the undertaking of a project governance review:** The Council requires assistance in establishing the project structure. The consultants will need to begin the specification of detailed FBC requirements and develop procurement options/strategy. This will include drafting the scope.
- **Develop station access strategy:** The Council has identified the need to develop an integrated station access strategy. This will be crucial to ensure that the regenerative benefits of the project are fully realised; encouraging access by sustainable modes, driving station patronage, and addressing key links to the Town Centre.
- **Design and Contracting Structure:** Support will be required to formulate an engagement plan and undertake high level engagement with Network Rail to set the framework for successful scheme delivery, including defining this in writing, and embedding this within the project governance.

It is envisaged that the contract will last 6 to 9 months, starting in February 2026.

#### 2.4 **Continued support of a rail specialist contractor to provide technical knowledge to the in-house team: Allocation £80,000**

The current contractor embedded within the Regeneration Team provides expertise and specialist rail knowledge. This post has previously been supported by allocations from Feasibility Funding and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements funding via the Transport team. There are no further funds available through this fund. The appointment was made via the contract RMBC has with Reed Talent Solutions. The contract includes all categories of staff including interim professionals. It is essential that this support is continued to ensure the Council is an 'intelligent client', particularly when monitoring the outputs of the multi-disciplinary contract. This tranche of funding will support the post until the end of September 2026, enabling the set up of the Full Business Case in summer 2026.

#### 2.5 **Temporary appointment of a Programme Director to oversee the delivery of the programme up to and through FBC: Allocation £120,000**

While this role is still being scoped in detail an interim specialist contractor is required to drive the project. For the initial appointment the contractor will report to the Head of Regeneration. This role will oversee the delivery of the wider station programme including setting up the Full Business Case, alongside other aspects of the scheme such as the Masterplan, which supports wider regeneration around the Station site. This requires an

individual with experience across transport and regeneration, and it is envisaged that this appointment will be made via the Reed Talent Solutions contract that RMBC has in place to source specialist resource that does not fit within the Council structure.

- 2.6 The Outline Business Case is now awaiting final sign off from Ministers and Treasury in order to draw down the £11.35 million for the Full Business Case. It is likely to be spring 2026 before this funding can be accessed via SYMCA, and it is envisaged that the Full Business Case will commence in summer 2025.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Funding could be sought from alternative sources including Council revenue. This will impact on the wider Council revenue budget. **This option is not recommended.**
- 3.2 The Feasibility Fund is specifically designed for the purposes proposed here and has been approved by the MCA and is therefore considered the best source for this requirement. **This option is recommended.**
- 3.3 Alternatively, this additional resource could not be taken forward and the Mainline Station delivery programme impacted accordingly, either ceasing or significantly delaying the progression of the FBC and its associated funding. This option is not recommended in line with the Council's ambitions for Borough-wide regeneration. **This option is not recommended.**

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 Engagement on Rotherham Gateway has taken place with local and regional stakeholders including representatives of local businesses, education and community partners, via internal and external boards. The Town Deal Board has been updated regularly on the project and is supportive of the scheme.
- 4.2 Events such as the Rotherham Show have provided a platform for sharing plans and obtaining public feedback. The scheme was recently 'launched' at the Rotherham Show and at the Rotherham Together Partnership event in September 2025. A 'pledge page' has been launched and the number of signatures now stands at just below 500.
- 4.3 Ongoing engagement activities are focused on securing buy-in from residents and young people, who will be key future users of the station. In the immediate term the station proposition will be promoted at the LEAF (Local Employment and Advisory Forum) event to highlight the long-term benefits of the station, particularly in relation to future career opportunities and improved connectivity.
- 4.4 As well as targeted outreach in the Eastwood area, including dedicated engagement with local schools and the mosque, to ensure inclusive

participation and to build awareness of the station's potential to positively impact the local community.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Appointment of a multi-disciplinary team of consultants is scheduled for February 2026 following the due procurement process.
- 5.2 FBC preparatory work is estimated to take 16 weeks from consultant appointment and is scheduled for completion in June 2026.
- 5.3 Options for the appointment of a Programme Director are being explored, noting this is a very specialist role. Appointment will be undertaken as soon as possible and will be reviewed at the point work on the FBC begins.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 All activity to engage third party organisations to undertake consultancy works are described in the main body of this report must be undertaken in compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (dependent on the route to market identified) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. It will be essential for the Service to prioritise this activity through their requests for procurement support to ensure the timelines detailed in this report are achieved.
- 6.2 The Council has been awarded £3m of Feasibility Fund revenue grant funding from SYMCA. To date £2.25m has been allocated from this funding through ODRs, leaving £0.75m unallocated. If this request to allocate a further £0.4m is approved, this will leave a balance of £0.35m unallocated. There is no deadline from SYMCA as to when the funding has to be spent by. There is a risk around spend at risk as the funding for the work to create the FBC has not yet been approved by Government however in order for the Council to keep pace on the scheme it is necessary to incur these costs.

## **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 The use of the Feasibility Fund as set out in the report is consistent with the terms of the funding from SYMCA. Further, the proposed allocation of funds is consistent with previously stated policies and decisions of the Council as referred to within the body of the report and the recommendation is therefore reasonable in the context of overarching public law principles.
- 7.2 As stated above the procurement of any external agencies will need to be carried out in accordance with the relevant procurement legislation and appropriate contractual arrangements put in place with the provider.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the recommendations outlined in this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 No implications

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 There are no direct equalities implications. In the longer term, the Full Business Case will support the delivery of the Rotherham Gateway. Rotherham Gateway will increase growth and economic opportunities and takes into account equality across the borough. Rotherham Gateway is also a part of the wider Masterplan. The opportunities that could be provided by this scheme will have a positive impact on communities, groups and service users.

10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 This assessment supports the Officer Decision Report to apply for funding from the Feasibility Funding to support the Full Business Case for Rotherham Gateway. There are very minimal, possible emissions, if the contractors identify that they will need to make site visits, this has been outlined in the above table.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 Partners and stakeholders, Rotherham Together Partnership and SYMCA have been engaged in the development of the station up to the preparation for the FBC. They are supportive of the Station scheme and the wider Masterplan. There are no specific implications at this stage of the scheme.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 **Risk:** Delay in the progression of the FBC.

**Mitigation:** Use of this fund to appoint specialist consultants and contractors to progress the preparatory work will ensure the FBC is progressed in a timely fashion.

13.2 **Risk:** Suitability of consultants and contractors

**Mitigation:** The technical and specialist nature of this project require specialist support. The appointment of a multi-disciplinary team will be undertaken through a competitive procurement process with a clearly defined brief to ensure the right capabilities and expertise are brought on board. Similarly, the appointment of the Programme Director will be undertaken with the support of the Council's recruitment partners.

## **14. Accountable Officers**

Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration  
Simon Moss, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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