

# Rotherham Town Board

## Microsoft Teams

21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, 08:45 – 10:00 am

### Attended By:

Neil Baxter (Chair) - NB  
Megan Hinchliff - MH  
Matthew Stephens - MS  
Catherine Davis – CD  
Reeham Abozaid - RA  
Lorna Vertigan - LV  
Andrew Gilhooley - AG  
Helen Jones – HJ  
Helen Littlewood – HL  
Kate Davis - KD  
Steve Morris – SMO  
Karen Church – KC  
Sue Wynne - SW  
Simon Moss – SM  
Maria Coyne - MC  
Lisa Pogson – LP  
Raymond Kinsella – RK  
Tom Austen – TA  
Nicholas Maddocks – NM  
Chloe Parker - CP

### Apologies:

Andrew Boulton – AB  
Dan Richardson – DR  
David Plumtree - DP

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder</u></b> Apologies listed above.</p> <p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No declarations raised.</li></ul>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting</u></b> Previous minutes were accepted without comment. Matters arising to be covered within project updates.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Project Updates (By Exception)</u></b> <i>Presented by LV</i> <b>Riverside Gardens &amp; Corporation Street</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works progressing.</li><li>• Risk of developer site traffic crossing planned upgrade area on Domine Lane.</li><li>• Meeting scheduled this month to understand developer’s timelines to avoid damage to upgraded carriageway.</li><li>• Potential outcomes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pause RMBC works until developer finishes</li><li>○ Bring contractor off-site and return later</li></ul></li><li>• Delay from EA licence has created <i>potential budget pressure</i> (being assessed).</li></ul>	

<p><b>Wath Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 3 design complete, contractor appointed.</li> <li>• Stage 4 design now being developed with contractor</li> <li>• Asbestos demolition expected to commence in February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ And main demolition in June</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back on cost increase and mitigation options.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dinnington</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrusive surveys showed the retained block is in worse condition than expected.</li> <li>• Recommendation: Full demolition and rebuild, rather than partial retain/refurbish.</li> <li>• Does not delay programme, tenants can still move into new rear units first.</li> <li>• New design will be pitched roof, matching adjacent buildings.</li> <li>• Planning resubmission required. Tender expected within the month.</li> </ul> <p><b>Snail Yard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could not open before Christmas due to trip hazards left by paving subcontractor.</li> <li>• Outstanding works mainly turf/planting (seasonally restricted).</li> <li>• Completion still expected January.</li> </ul> <p><b>Riverside Path &amp; Royal Mail Land Swap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor returning next month to install path lighting.</li> <li>• Plan to open path sooner with temporary access measures.</li> <li>• Royal Mail land swap: all queries resolved, just awaiting final signature.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rotherham Gateway Station <i>Presented by MC</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major milestone: Ministers have approved the Outline Business Case, releasing £11.35m to progress the Full Business Case.</li> <li>• Game-changer funding for masterplan interventions (Effingham St route, station anchor building, public realm).</li> <li>• Draft Programme Business Case submitted to SYMCA and the feedback received and currently being addressed.</li> <li>• Work underway on governance integration with Northern Powerhouse Rail.</li> <li>• Procurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expressions of interest for multidisciplinary pre-FBC team close today (21/01/2026).</li> <li>○ Full tender documents to follow within weeks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Land acquisition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing discussions with Bailey Family regarding holdings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>LV</p>
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	<p><b>Health Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phase 1 now on site</b></li> <li>• Target completion: late May Bank Holiday weekend for pharmacy relocation.</li> <li>• <b>Phase 2 feasibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with Connect Healthcare GP Federation on design.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Board agreed to continue receiving updates even though Phase 2 is not strictly Town Deal funded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Templeborough</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second stakeholder has now engaged with solicitors (progress).</li> <li>• RMBC preparing internally so the project can quickly once approvals secured.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Finance Update (Presented by SP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Regeneration Fund (combined former Pathfinder + CRP) now totals: <b>£104m</b>.</li> <li>• Spend to date (end of Q2 24/25): <b>£55m</b>.</li> <li>• Forecasts spend per quarter: <b>£3.6–3.7m</b>.</li> <li>• Some December figures still being reconciled.</li> <li>• Chair requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearer visibility of gaps between funding and forecast costs, especially for high-risk schemes.</li> <li>• Understanding of required match funding before schemes progress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Actions:</b> SP to explore adding match-funding columns to financial reporting.</li> </ul>	SP
5	<p><b>6. Communications &amp; Consultation (Presented by: CD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong results from Christmas campaign.</li> <li>• Media tour of new market scheduled end of January.</li> <li>• RMBC featured on BBC One Show visiting Stockport libraries project.</li> <li>• Planned public engagement uplift for Gateway Station.</li> <li>• Social media videos underway for town centre public realm progress.</li> <li>• Branding agency appointed for new markets &amp; library.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Pride in Place (Presented by: MH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New prospectus (issued 5 days after submission) significantly changes both Phase 1 &amp; 2.</li> <li>• Key change: Neighbourhood Boards must transition to community-led delivery by Year 3.</li> <li>• This has paused formalisation of board structures and Chair appointment.</li> <li>• Work underway with both MPs to clarify expectations and next steps</li> </ul>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> No other business was raised at the meeting	
<b>7</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>	