

Rotherham Town Board
Microsoft Teams
04/03/2026, 08:45 – 10:00 am

<p style="text-align: center;">Attended By:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Neil Baxter (Chair) - NB Megan Hinchliff - MH Reeham Abozaid – RA Andrew Boulton – AB Catherine Davis – CD Chloe Parker – CP Chris Hamby – CH Helen Jones – HJ Helen Littlewood – HL Hetty Oldfield – HO Justine Smith – JS Kate Davis – KD Lisa Pogson – LP Matthew Stephens – MS Nicholas Maddocks – NM Simon Powell – SP Town Austen – TA Tracey Mace-Akroyd – TMA Daniel Richardson – DR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Apologies:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">David Plumtree – DP Maria Coyne – MC Lorna Vertigan – LV</p>
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1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder</u> Apologies listed above.</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No declarations raised. 	
2	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting</u> The minutes of the previous meeting were noted. No matters arising</p>	
3	<p><u>Project Updates (By Exception)</u> <i>Presented by MH</i> Dinnington High Street & Building 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt-out building demolished in approx. 4 days • The design team advised that a full rebuild of Building 3 is more viable than refurbishment due to the extent of structural issues and the scale of work required to bring the building up to modern standards. • Tender for the main contract expected imminently. • Planning application for the new build option was submitted this week • Project progressing well and at pace. <p>Snail Yard (Public Realm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snail Yard is now open to the public. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive early use noted, benches were fully occupied during peak times. • Minor snagging works to be completed while site remains open. <p>Templeborough Business Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update shared during meeting: Magna Trustees have now <i>agreed in principle</i> to proceed with contract signing, pending final confirmation from the final stakeholder. • Planning permission expires November 2026 therefore works will need to commence beforehand or new permission may be required • Henry Boot prepared to start works in June 2026 if contract is signed in March. <p>Action: NC to circulate a written update to Board confirming the final stakeholder position once received.</p> <p>Rother Valley Country Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final fit-out and landscaping works are underway ahead of the April opening. • Staff are being trained and preparations for opening are in progress. • The Firbeck Sailing Club storage facility is fully operational. <p>Thrybergh Country Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is open to the public • Public feedback shows some minor teething issues, but overall reception is positive. • The project has now handed over, meaning it will move into the closeout stage. • A completion report will be prepared and brought to a future Board meeting. <p>ACTION: Prepare and bring a project close-out report (final costs, outputs, lessons learned) back to the Board for formal closure.</p> <p>Gateway Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC provided a short update confirming that activity on the programme is continuing across several strands. • Further detail will be brought to the Board once the next set of programme information is available. <p>Wath Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that the project will be over budget, but the extent of this is still being determined. • Depending on the cost position, a decision may be needed between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ waiting until the next Board meeting, or ○ arranging an interim update/meeting via email or separately. 	<p>NC</p> <p>NC</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some activity on site has commenced, including hoardings going up and asbestos removal. • Action: follow up on budget position <p>Riverside Gardens / Corporation Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site clearance works have taken place, and the area is beginning to look more like a future park space. • Decision on Domine Lane works is still outstanding Significant concerns were raised about the impact of ongoing works on nearby small businesses, particularly in the Corporation Street / Imperial Buildings area (access restrictions, reduced footfall, customer confusion). <p>ACTION: Provide update on Domine Lane works</p> <p>RRQ Enabling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation for the next phase is planned for April–May, which includes works to open the riverside path and install lighting. • Repairs to the collapsed river wall will be delivered separately, as this is outside the main contract. • Permissions associated with opening the riverside path are still being worked through. <p>Health Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 works have started: mobilisation took place in January and hoardings were erected in February. • Ongoing coordination is taking place with the pharmacy regarding opening arrangements. • A site visit to Warrington is being undertaken to view a similar facility and inform potential Phase 2 feasibility work. <p>Upper Corporation Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project remains awaiting client agreement on the final amendments required for Legal to proceed with acquisition. <p>ACTION: LV (Lorna Vertigan) to provide an up-to-date position on the acquisition (client agreement/legal next steps) to the Board.</p> <p>Markets & Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temporary market is expected to open in May, with small-scale opening activities planned around that time. • Larger-scale events will take place once the main Library building and Market Hall open later in the programme. • Significant visible progress continues on site, and work is ongoing at a strong pace. <p>Town Centre Music Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations are ongoing with the potential operator. • Concerns on progress noted by the Board. • ACTION: Update on progress required at next Board meeting. 	<p>NC</p> <p>LV</p> <p>NC</p>
4	Finance Update (Presented by SP)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 spend updated: actual spend c. £4m, higher than the previously forecast £3m due to final contractor claims (e.g., Riverside Gardens, public realm). • Forecast spend for year-end remains stable. • Major spend uplift expected in 2026/27 as Wath and Dinnington enter delivery phase. • £2.25m “Pathfinder contingency” held from underspends across completed schemes. • A full programme review is underway to rebalance underspends/overspends across Local Regeneration Fund programme. • Current secured match funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £50m (excluding DfT FBC funds) • £60m (including DfT) • Updated match funding reporting to be presented at next Board. 	
5	<p>6. Communications & Consultation (Presented by: DR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety/ASB communications campaign underway, featuring Street Safe team & police operations. • "This is Rotherham" brand continues to expand across campaigns and partner organisations. • Major marketing push planned for opening of new covered market (May–June), including digital, print, DAX and billboard advertising. • Increasing positive national media coverage, including recent One Show feature on the new Library development. • Continuing partnership with Yorkshire Post and Rotherham Advertiser. 	
6	<p>Pride in Place (Presented by: MH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment open for Central Area Neighbourhood Board Chair and members (closing 17 March). • Similar process for Maltby East Area Board to follow shortly. • Strong emphasis on resident-led governance. • Regeneration Plan positively received by MP Sarah Champion and MHCLG. 	
	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway to clarify remits and reduce overlap across Town Board, neighbourhood boards, and project boards. • Board to help shape the new Town Centre Masterplan (2026). • Proposed in-person workshop at Rother Valley event space (May/June). • Board members invited to propose agenda items for future meetings to open the forum for collaboration. 	

	Email reeham.abozaid@rotherham.gov.uk with any items.	
7	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 08:45	