Rotherham Town Board
30/09/2026

Attended By:	Apologies:
Steve Morris (Acting Chair) – SMO	Cllr John Williams – CllrJW
Simon Moss – SM	Helen Jones - HJ
Tracey Mace-Akroyd – TMA	
Lisa Pogson – LP	
Natalie Cockrell – NC	
Megan Hinchliffe – MH	
Patricia Salami – PS	
Andrew Boulton – AB	
Phil Batchford – PB	
Nick Maddocks – NM	
Dan Wilson – DW	
Billy Cowley – BC	
Catherine Davis – CD	
Katya Anfilogoff-Clark – KAC	
Chloe Parker – CP	
Raymond Kinsella – RK	
Tom Austen – TA	
Ciara Jenkinson – CJ	
Matthew Stephens – MS	
Chris Hamby – CH	
Reeham Abozaid – RA	

1	**<u>Apologies for Absence and Confidentiality Reminder</u>** The Chair reminded members that confidential matters discussed during the meeting should not be disclosed without permission. **<u>Declarations of Interest</u>** Steve Morris declared an interest relating to signage, graphics and imagery due to being a supplier to RMBC. Matthew Stephens declared his position as Trustee at Magna.	
2	**<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting</u>** ACTION: Concerns raised to Communications team: Completed ACTION: Partnerships Manager attendance at Board: Completed ACTION: Advertisement for Chair role: Completed, update provided later in meeting	
3	**<u>Project Updates (By Exception)</u>** *Presented by Natalie Cockrell*	

	Markets and Libraries • The new Market Hall opened during summer 2026. • Footfall reduced slightly during the college summer break but has later increased. • A programme of trader activities is being developed in the lead up to Christmas. • Henry Boot has taken possession of the former Indoor Market site and survey work is underway. • Drummond Street public realm works are progressing and expected to complete in October. • Library construction is nearing completion. There will be a period between practical completion and public opening while operational preparations are completed. **Health Hub** • Phase 1 is operational with Abbey Pharmacy occupying the building. • Feasibility work continues on Phase 2. • Consultation on concept proposals has concluded. • Work is underway on funding arrangements, and a Cabinet report is anticipated by year-end. **Dinnington** • Tender period extended to allow contractors additional time to review and price works. • Ongoing discussions with utility providers regarding diversion works. • Demolition of the indoor market remains targeted before Christmas. **Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street** NC updated the Board on progress and ongoing business engagement activity. MS raised significant concerns regarding contractor performance and impacts on businesses around Imperial Buildings, noting: • Access restrictions have severely affected businesses. • Some businesses have been unable to trade effectively. • Repeated damage to a water main had also impacted residents. SM acknowledged these concerns and confirmed: • The Council recognised the difficulties businesses had experienced. • Performance of the contractor would be reviewed. • The long-term benefits of the scheme remain significant despite short-term disruption. AB echoed concerns and highlighted plans to support and promote affected businesses once access restrictions are removed.	

4	**Rotherham Together Partnership Update** *(Presented by Katya Anfilogoff-Clark)*
	KAC presented progress on development of the new Rotherham Together Partnership Delivery Plan to March 2028.
	Key points included:
	• The new Rotherham Plan has been adopted by all eight core partners.
	• Work is underway on a delivery plan and long-term success measures.
	• Four "Game Changers" remain the partnership focus:
	  ○ Growing a Fair and Thriving Economy
	  ○ Strong and Proud Communities
	  ○ Unlocking the Full Potential of Rotherham Gateway
	  ○ Creating Vibrant Town Centres
	
	Town Centre Master Plan
	Discussion focused on development of a new Town Centre Master Plan.
	Members commented that:
	• Increasing town centre residential and working populations should remain a priority.
	• Lessons should be drawn from examples such as Barnsley.
	• A clear long-term vision will be essential in attracting investors and partners.	

5	**Communications Update** *(Presented by Daniel Richardson)* <u>Market Hall Opening Campaign Result</u> The communications campaign generated: • 957,000 social media views • 47,600 engagements • 1,000 new Facebook followers • Over 475,000 views of market wayfinding videos • More than 3,000 website visits relating to market content The campaign included: • Social media promotion • Town centre digital screens • Printed media • Bus shelter and billboard advertising • Wayfinding signage • Household leaflet distribution Positive media coverage was secured across local and regional outlets. **Future Activity** • Continued Market Hall promotion through autumn and Christmas campaigns. • Additional trader-focused content creation. • New hoardings and wayfinding signage. • Ongoing support through High Street Advisors.	

	Library Branding Work is underway to develop a new brand and identity for the new Central Library building. **Town of Culture 2028** Members noted Rotherham had been shortlisted as one of 15 places nationally for Town of Culture 2028. It was emphasised the importance of continuing to promote positive stories and capitalising on cultural opportunities to support town centre footfall.	

6	**Town Centre Master Plan and Chair Recruitment**
	<u>Master Plan</u>
	• Consultant procurement is currently underway.
	• Initial stakeholder engagement activity is being progressed throughout Autumn, including:
	  o Rotherham University Centre
	  o Staff networks
	  o Youth Cabinet
	  o Resident workshops
	  o Community Reference Group
	  o Businesses
	Chair Recruitment
	• Recruitment for a permanent independent Chair has been launched.
	• The application process will remain open for one month.
	• An update is expected at the next meeting.	

7	**Any Other Business** <u>Former NatWest Building</u> TA highlighted that the former NatWest building on Corporation Street is due to be auctioned. Discussion noted that: • The building remains strategically important to town centre regeneration. • The Council is aware of the auction and considering its position. • Regardless of ownership outcomes, the site will remain an important component of future town centre plans. LP and MS both stressed the importance of securing a positive future for the site. SM confirmed the building retains significant strategic value and will continue to feature within regeneration planning considerations.	
8	**Date of next meeting:** **Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 08:45 – Microsoft Teams**	