

Agenda

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board

Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 10.00 am
At This meeting will be held online.

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair will welcome attendees to the meeting and make opening remarks.

2 Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

3 Minutes and Action Log

7 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 Nov 2023 as a correct record.

4 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from board members relating to any item on the agenda.

5 Governance

To receive an update on:

- Board Membership
- Scrutiny



6 **Project Reporting** 15 - 84

To receive an update on project progress and monitoring information for the period of Oct – Dec 2023.

Project Updates:

- Canal Network Connectivity
- Satellite Education Hub
- Britannia Park
- Blackheath Bus Interchange/Rowley Regis Connected

7 **Forward Plans** 85 - 86

To receive an update on the forward plans.

8 **Any other Business**

To receive any other business raised by members for discussion.

9 **Closing Remarks**

The Chair will make closing remarks and close the meeting.

Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

A Eggington (Chair)

J Thompson, Cllr K Carmichael, Cllr P Hughes, Cllr D Millard, Cllr L Ashman, Cllr J Webb, Cllr V Smith, J Morris MP, S Shingadia, S Griffiths, A Sheridan, D Harrold, L Bird, M Wildman, M Asif, S Partridge, S Rutter and S Howells.

Contact: town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk

Information about meetings in Sandwell



If you are attending the meeting and require assistance to access the venue, please contact Democratic Services (democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk).



If the fire alarm sounds, please follow the instructions of the officers present and leave the building by the nearest exit.



Only people invited to speak at a meeting may do so. Everyone at the meeting is expected to be respectful and listen to the discussion.



Agendas with reports with exempt information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that any such reports are kept secure. After the meeting confidential papers should be disposed of in a secure way.



This meeting may be recorded and broadcast on the Internet. If this is the case, it will be confirmed at the meeting and further information will be provided.



You are allowed to use devices for the purposes of recording or reporting during the public session of the meeting. When using your devices they must not disrupt the meeting – please ensure they are set to silent.



Members who cannot attend the meeting should submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



All agenda, reports, minutes for Sandwell Council's meetings, councillor details and more are available from our [website](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes of Rowley Regis Town Deal Board

Thursday, 23 November 2023 at 1.00 pm
at This meeting will be held online.

Present: A Eggington (Chair), J Thompson (Vice-Chair), Cllr K Carmichael, L Bird, J Morris MP, Cllr P Hughes and S Griffiths,

Also Present: A Miller, C Smallman, E Parkes, K Richards, J Langford, M Farid, M Wragg, R Prashar, R Rahim and T McGovern.

1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Board Members to the meeting before outlining the agenda items for discussion. The meeting was quorate.

2 Apologies

Apologies were noted for the following:

- Cllr Vicki Smith
- Cllr Julie Webb
- Jasdeep Dolphin - DLUHC
- Sandeep Shingadia - TfWM
- Aaron Pugh - WMP
- Cllr Danny Millard
- Deborah Harrold - SMBC
- Mohammed Asif

3 Minutes from the last Local Board and Action Log

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by board members. See attached action log for updates.

4 Declarations of Interest



None were forthcoming.

5 Project Reporting

Board members received Item 5a - Rowley Regis Town Deal Board Reporting July - September 2023 prior to the board meeting. This appendix was shared on screen to provide an update on project progress. This included: -

- There is a requirement for Town Deals to submit Monitoring and Evaluation Returns for the period of April - September 2023 to DLUHC by 4 December 2023.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Reports are required to be signed off by the Chair of the Town Deal Board and the councils Section 151 Officer prior to submission to DLUHC
- DLUHC monitor project spend performance and there is a threshold of 40% slippage for towns. Rowley Regis slippage is 17% against the last return to DLUHC.

Britannia Park Greenspace and Community Hub

Board members were informed of the RAG Rating against the project spend, delivery, risk, outputs and outcomes. Board members received details of the progress made in the last three to six months, including the approval of the planning application for new changing rooms, procurement activities and work undertaken to deliver the new skate park, play area and allotments.

Board members were informed the number of allotments delivered through the project would need to reduce following the receipt of survey and design works. The project initially forecasted the delivery of 15 allotments, however the project are now looking to deliver 10/11 plots. A Project Adjustment Request is required to notify DLUHC of this reduction.

Action: PMO to circulate draft plans on the reduced number of allotments to board members.

Sandwell College: Cradley Heath Skills Centre

Board members were informed of the RAG Rating against the project spend, delivery, risk, outputs and outcomes. Delays have occurred against the original delivery programme since planning permission was granted in June, this is due to an extended period to finalise the land transaction. Design works have been undertaken and the procurement for a stage 1 contractor.

Board members were informed resource to deliver the project has been impacted due to staff illness and were notified of changes being made to the delivery team in the upcoming months.

Details were shared with board members around planning of curriculum and the timescales associated with this.

The project lead was asked to confirm all activities undertaken between June and September. Confirmation of activities were provided.

A question was raised if the build would be a modular or a traditional build. Board members were informed both options are being considered and confirmation of the approach would be concluded during/ following the Stage 2 tender process.

Canal Network Connectivity

Board members were informed of the RAG Rating against the project spend, delivery, risk, outputs and outcomes. The project is ahead of the delivery programme. As discussed at the previous Town Deal Board Meeting, the project has pushed underspend into future financial years with the ambition to deliver additional outputs, increasing the benefits outlined to the project business case. Footfall monitoring has begun and reports will be provided to Town Deal Board members.

Action: PMO to request footfall surveys from CRT and circulate this with board members.

Rowley Regis Connected

Board members were informed of the RAG Rating against the project spend, delivery, risk, outputs and outcomes. An update was provided on the prioritisation of delivering the three schemes that sit within the project and confirmed on-site works will commence in the new year.

6 Blackheath Bus Interchange

Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm

At the Town Deal Board held in August 2023, board members were informed that a petition had been received from key stakeholders, expressing their concerns about the design of the scheme.

Since the last meeting, discussions have taken place between Vice-Chair, Jude Thompson and some key stakeholders to understand their concerns to help assist the project team to develop a fit-for-purpose design. Feedback was reported to the council's project team who then proceeded to look at the project design, to mitigate concerns raised.

The project team and councils Highways Team have developed a draft proposal for the key stakeholders to consider before detailed design works proceed. A meeting has been scheduled for week commencing 27 November to discuss the original proposal, the concerns raised and how the new draft proposal has considered concerns raised.

A timeline of activities was shared with board members to confirm the process should key stakeholders support the draft proposal. This included: -
Meeting with key stakeholders to present a draft proposal following receipt of their concerns on the initial design (w/c 27 November)

Works required by the project team, subject to approval of the draft proposal, including cost valuation, further tracking works, design works, discussions with other key stakeholders e.g. Bus providers

Formal consultation on the scheme in early 2024

Board members were advised if key stakeholders who raised concerns initially do not support the draft proposal, the project team, Programme Management Team and Town Deal Board would need to consider the future of this project and if funds should be allocated elsewhere (i.e. existing projects or new project).

Board members were reminded of the guidance submitted by DLUHC in June 2023 advising the submission of new projects is no longer accepted, however discussions are

held regularly with DLUHC advisor and the accountable body have collated details of development ready projects should an alternative project be accepted.

A discussion took place regarding the details of the draft proposal, including information on bus routes, pedestrian crossings, loading bays, parking bays, traffic calming and material used for road/ pavements.

Board members discussed the original business case put forward and the benefits outlined. A question was raised if the outputs would be impacted moving forward. Board members were informed the business case would need to be reviewed and a full BCR is required, however benefits would remain as originally planned.

The Chair asked board members if they agree for the meeting to proceed between the Vice-Chair, project team and key stakeholders, week commencing 27 November 2023, to discuss the draft proposal and feedback to the Town Deal Board. No board member objected to this approach.

7 Forward Plans

Board members received the Press/ Media Forward Plan for the Rowley Regis Town Deal. Board members noted the schedule and no comments were raised.

8 Any other Business

February 2024 Board Meeting

It was agreed for the following project leads to attend to provide a detailed update: -

- Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm Project
- Sandwell College: Cradley Heath Skills Centre project

It was agreed for the February meeting to be extended by 30 minutes, resulting in the duration of the Town Deal Board being 2 hours.

9 Closing Remarks

The Chair informed board members of Tony's departure from Sandwell Council and the Chair and Board Members thanked Tony for his support to deliver the Towns Fund Programme and wished Tony the very best of luck for future endeavours.

The Chair closed the meeting at 14:30.

10 Rowley Regis Town Deal Action Log

A record of open and closed actions agreed during Rowley Regis Town Deal Board meetings.

Meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Contact: town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board Action Log

Open Actions

Date	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
23.11.23	PMO to circulate draft plans on the reduced number of allotments to Board Members.	PMO	
23.11.23	PMO to request footfall surveys from CRT and circulate this with Board Members.	PMO	
23.02.23	PMO to progress fixed exhibitions further.	PMO	Ongoing Publicity for projects

Closed Actions

Date Opened	Date Closed	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
31.08.23	23.11.23	Simon Griffiths to confirm the what proportion of funding is central government vs WMCA funding and report this back to board members.	Simon Griffiths	Complete.
31.08.23	23.11.23	PMO to schedule October 2023 Board Meeting to focus on Blackheath Bus Interchange Project.	Rina Rahim	Complete.
25.05.23	31.08.23	PMO to set up introduction meeting between Chair and newly elected members	PMO	Complete.
25.05.23	31.08.23	PMO to invite new board members to future meetings.	PMO	Complete.
25.05.23	31.08.23	PMO to share Satellite Hub papers to MP J Morris in the next 2 weeks.	PMO	Complete
23.02.23	31.08.23	PMO to circulate material/reports from Public Health in relation to benefits of cycling when available.	PMO	Complete
23.02.23	25.05.23	PMO to circulate feedback from consultations.	PMO	Complete
23.02.23	25.05.23	Keep Youngs Persons representative as an Agenda item for the next board meeting	PMO	Complete Shape conference in June and PMO will be attending. Will update at next meeting
24.11.22	23.02.23	Kelly Thomas to liaise with Chair of Young Leavers Programme and explore interests from Sandwell Council apprentices to see if they wish to join the Town Deal Board for Rowley Regis, West Bromwich and Smethwick.	Kelly Thomas	Complete

Closed Actions

Date Opened	Date Closed	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
24.11.22	23.02.23	Board members to contact the Programme Management Office with details of incentives on offer to help create a package for young people to encourage their commitment to the Town Deal Board. (town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk)	All Board Members	Complete
08.07.22	24.11.22	PMO to contact board members to confirm their interest to continue as a board member.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete
08.07.22	24.11.22	Terms of Reference to be updated to include 50% attendance annually is mandatory and would trigger individual board member review.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete
08.07.22	24.11.22	Jude Thompson to contact relevant individuals at BCC to explore potential membership suggestions.	J Thompson	Complete
08.07.22	24.11.22	Debbie Downs to also review from a WMP perspective to understand whether they have any local contacts.	D Downs	Complete
08.07.22	24.11.22	PMO to circulate short survey to capture board member preference on board meeting day/ time.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board Membership

V6 February 2024

Name	Representing/ Organisation	Membership review
Adrian Eggington	Chair of Rowley Regis Town Deal Board/BCHG	
Jude Thompson	Vice Chair of Rowley Regis Town Deal Board	
Cllr Danny Millard	SMBC Cabinet Member	
Cllr Lorraine Ashman	SMBC Rowley Regis Town Lead	
Deborah Harrold	Agewell	
Leona Bird	SCVO	
Mohammed Asif	Cradley Heath Central Mosque	
Cllr Kerrie Carmichael	SMBC Leader	
Cllr Peter Hughes	SMBC Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth	
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands	
Steve Howells	Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG	Will like to remain but diary often has clashes
James Morris	MP Halesowen and Rowley Constituency	
Samantha Partridge	West Midlands Police (<i>A no. of reps in line with rest days</i>)	No response
Simon Griffiths	Sandwell College	
Mark Wildman	Sandwell Leisure Trust	No response
Cllr Vicki Smith	Cradley Heath and Old Hill Ward Member	
Cllr Julie Webb	Rowley Regis Town Lead	
SMBC Officer Representatives		
Shokat Lal	Chief Executive	
Tammy Stokes	Assistant Director, Regeneration and Growth	
Ramesh Prashar	S151 Officer/ Director of Finance	
Kelly Thomas	Employment and Skills	
Jenna Langford	Regeneration Manager	
Rina Rahim	Towns Fund Programme Manager	
Emma Parkes	Towns Fund Programme Officer	
Maaria Farid	Regeneration Programme Support Officer	
Alan Reynolds	Senior Planner	

This page is intentionally left blank

Rowley Regis Town Deal Board 22nd February 2024

Subject:	Project Reporting
Contact Officer:	Rina Rahim, Towns Fund Programme Manager

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To receive an update on project progress and monitoring information for the period of October to December 2023.

2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. As West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Towns Fund Programmes are in Phase 3 – Delivery, monitoring is a key aspect to ensure the Accountable Body and DLUHC track progress of the fund and the projects it is delivering.
- 2.2. To ensure the Accountable Body and Town Deal Boards receive reporting on a regular basis to monitor project progress, expenditure and risks, it is a requirement set by the Programme Management Office that West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis project leads must submit Monitoring, Evaluation and Claim Returns on a quarterly basis, as a minimum.
- 2.3. Report on project performance are submitted to DLUHC on a bi-annual basis due every June and December. The last performance return was submitted on 16 December 2023 and is awaiting approval from DLUHC.
- 2.4. The latest quarterly returns from projects for the period of October 23- December 23, are currently being processed, a detailed report per projects is attached as Appendix A with a summary of project progress to date below:
- **Canal Network Connectivity** – project has been progressing ahead of schedule with the planned works. Works on Weights bridge will commence next financial year.
 - **Cradley Heath Skills Centre** – Delays have occurred due to unexpected staff resource issue which has now been resolved. Preliminary ground site investigations taking place to support the final cost plan. Signing of contract expected in April 24 with construction expected to start in May 24.
 - **Britannia Park Greenspace and Community Hub** – Changing rooms tenders returned are significantly higher than budget. Design review currently taking place. Playground equipment tenders received and approval

to enter into contract with preferred supplier is currently being requested. Allotment works started and due to complete March 24.

- **Blackheath Bus Interchange** – Design changes are challenging and require resolution prior to consultation taking place. Engagement with bus companies for their support is ongoing. Public consultation expected w/c 11th March 24.

Rowley Regis Connected – design works have taken longer than anticipated due to resources issues. A revised programme plan has been provided with expected costs being within budget. Consultation required prior to work due to start in April 24.

2.7 Project slippage and risks

To date, a total amount of £17.6m has been received from DLUHC for Rowley Regis Towns Fund programme. The Q2 return forecasted £3.94m spend by the end of March 2024. The Q3 latest return forecasts the spend at £3.48m which results in a slippage of 12% since last report. This is within the 40% threshold set by DLUHC who are regularly informed of the delays and the reasons for slippages where applicable. Ongoing review will continue to take place to ensure slippage does not increase above 40%.

The forecast for the next financial year is £7.3m, with the remaining amount of £8.2m forecasted for 25/26.

A summary of the cost pressures is presented as Appendix B. The red risks and mitigating actions reported from claims are also summarised in Appendix D.

Appendices

Appendix A Rowley Regis Town Deal Reporting October - December 2023 (Private Item)

Appendix B Budget and Cost pressures (Private Item)

Appendix C Programme Forecasted Spend (Private Item)

Appendix D Red risks reported (Private Item)

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Project	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Towns Fund Britannia Park	Herald - Works commence on allotments	Milestone: Works commence on Play Area and Tree Planting	Milestone: Allotments complete	Milestone: Sports drainage works commence					
Towns Fund Canal Network		Milestone: Majority of works complete and paths open to the public		Top dressing will be laid down on pedestrian path					
Towns Fund Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub		PR - Contractor appointed		Milestone - Construction period commences	Milestone - RIBA Stage 4 design complete				
Towns Fund Blackheath Bus Interchange		Milestone: Public Consultation		Milestone: Detailed design works					
Towns Fund Rowley Regis Connected	Milestone: Public Consultation for Oldbury Ringway	Milestone: Phase 1 pre-site works complete and contractor appointed		Milestone: Phase 2 pre-site works complete and contractor appointed		Milestone: Phase 1 works complete			Milestone: Phase 2 works complete

This page is intentionally left blank