

**Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) meeting**  
**5.30-7.30pm, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**Voluntary Action Rotherham, The Spectrum, Rotherham**

**Draft notes and action points**

**Attendees:**

Akhtar, Azizzum  
Bloomer, Julia  
Bussey, Nick  
Dexter, Adrian  
Freeborn, Jackie  
Hoddinott, Cllr Emma  
Kemp, Sharon  
Kenny, Cmmr Julie  
Kitlowski, Dr Julie  
Lal, Shokat  
Odell, Rob  
Oldfield, Margaret  
Pogson, Lisa  
Read, Cllr Chris  
Roche, Cllr David  
Scothern, Charlotte  
Willis, Ruth

**Sector/Organisation:**

Voluntary, Community & Faith Sectors (VCF)  
Interim Chair, Business Growth Board  
VCF Sector Representative  
VCF Sector Representative  
Business Representative  
Chair, Safer Rotherham Partnership  
Chief Executive, RMBC  
Commissioner, Lead for Partnerships  
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group  
Assistant Chief Executive, RMBC  
South Yorkshire Police  
Voluntary Action Rotherham  
Business Representative  
Leader, RMBC (Chair)  
Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board  
Business Representative  
VCF Sector Representative

**Supporting officers:**

Akhtar, Waheed	RMBC
Bell, Tom	RMBC
Burton, Clare	RMBC, Children & Young People
Hussain, Shafiq	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Parry, Steve	RMBC,

**Apologies:**

Connolly, John  
Cowles, Cllr Allen  
Carlin, Tony  
Havenhand, Martin  
Mallinder, Cllr Jeanette  
Niedzwiedz, Marek  
Pater, Lawson  
Roberts, Steve

**Sector/Organisation:**

Further Education  
Leader of the Opposition Group, RMBC  
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue  
Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust  
RMBC  
Business Representative  
Rotherham, Donc & S Humber NHS Trust  
Chair, Business Growth Board

Swales, Mark

Sheffield Hallam University

**Rotherham Partnership:**

Haywood, Carole

Partnership Manager, RMBC

Holmes, Michael

Assistant Partnership Manager, RMBC

Rodgers, Kellie

Partnership Officer, RMBC

	Agenda item	Action
1.	<b>Opening, welcome and introductions</b> Cllr Chris Read opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.  Apologies were noted as above.	
2.	<b>Notes and actions from the previous meeting and declarations of interest</b> Margaret Oldfield declared an interest in the small grants programme under agenda item 6.  The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.  <b>Matters arising</b> <b>RTP member biographies</b> Almost all biographies have now been received and will be added to the website as soon as possible.  <b>Destination Poland</b> The fundraising amount is currently at 34% of the £9000 target.  <b>Rotherham Plan</b> On today's agenda.  <b>Additional resources for special constables in the town centre</b> Rob Odell informed the RTP that an additional 117 patrol hours were secured over the Christmas period for the town centre, and this additional support will be sustained going forward.  <b>Communications update</b> Elena Hodgson has met with theme boards' communications	Elena Hodgson

	<p>leads and a mechanism for sharing and promoting good news stories has been agreed. The comms leads are to further investigate the feasibility of a separate hard copy newsletter insert in a local paper.</p> <p>Steve Parry confirmed that SRP will have a communications representative (from SY Police) going forward.</p> <p>Cmmr Kenny commented that a big 'sea change' in how RTP communicates with the public was required.</p> <p><b>Voluntary Action Rotherham Christmas appeal</b></p> <p>Margaret Oldfield informed the RTP that there was no shortage of food at any Food in Crisis provider over the Christmas period. In addition, over 1000 donated gifts were distributed across the borough.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Theme board spotlight: Strategic Housing presentation</b></p> <p>Tom Bell, Assistant Director – Housing and Neighbourhood Services delivered the presentation, which provided a summary of housing priorities and current initiatives, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial benefits of building good quality, affordable housing</li> <li>• The challenge faced in delivering 900 new homes every year</li> <li>• The potential for a significant number (1000) of new homes in the town centre</li> <li>• Meeting the needs of both an expanding older population and young care leavers by building more specialist housing</li> <li>• Ensuring that the correct supporting infrastructure is in place</li> <li>• An outline of some of the resources available to deliver new homes, including details of the new SCR Social and Affordable Housing Compact.</li> </ul> <p>Questions/comments followed.</p> <p>Azizzum Akhtar commented that more people living in the town centre would be crucial to its regeneration and asked how many homes were currently located in the town centre? Tom responded that there were approximately 500 homes in the town centre at present.</p> <p>Julia Bloomer asked if the new town centre homes will be targeted at single people or families. Tom responded that the aim is to build new, mixed urban communities so the</p>	

	<p>aim will be to build a combination of starter homes and town houses, and also some specialist housing.</p> <p>Adrian Dexter asked if provision will be made for homeless and vulnerable people. Tom confirmed that a small pot of money is available for a project to engage with rough sleepers in the town.</p> <p>Cllr Emma Hoddinott commented that anti-social behaviour was a key Safer Rotherham Partnership target, and asked whether the design for new properties will take ASB into consideration. Tom responded that he will be looking to engage the best architects and developers to ensure high standards are met, and to increase investor confidence to make additional schemes viable.</p> <p>Rob Odell asked whether the 'Secured by Design' standards will be met, and offered the assistance of South Yorkshire Polices' trained Architectural Liaison Officers when required. Tom confirmed that sites should begin to come forward within the next 12-18 months.</p> <p>Julie Kitlowski asked that partners should be made fully aware of future developments, so that the correct infrastructure can be put in place to service the needs of the new communities (particularly health). Julie asked what is meant by 'neighbourhoods' and whether this takes into consideration the practice of integrated working – Julie asked if partners could agree to consistent language around this work. Tom confirmed that in this instance he was referring to geographical neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Sharon Kemp commented that it looks like there is a lot of funding available to deliver new homes, but in reality it isn't a great deal – there is a need to create a market so that private developers are on board and want to invest.</p> <p>Cllr David Roche stressed the need for good architects and planners (who are able to transform old buildings and make them vibrant) particularly in light of the poor health metrics within the town centre. He asked that things such as trim trails, green space and separating cars from housing be considered as part of any developments.</p> <p>Charlotte Scothern informed the RTP that residents in the town centre Old Market building were provided with a guide of what to do in Rotherham when they moved in.</p> <p>Azizzum Akhtar asked what measures would be put in place to reassure existing residents that new housing is not only for asylum seekers or migrants – would developers have a</p>	
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	<p>communications strategy in place to be able to deliver consistent and correct messages to the public?</p> <p>Cllr Chris Read commented that it is important to set a sense of expectation and aspiration, and carefully plan out a communications strategy.</p> <p>Rob Odell asked if pressure on other services had been profiled at this stage. Tom responded that not as yet, because the pace of construction will be modest in the first instance, so there is plenty of time to plan for this and develop key milestones.</p> <p>Sharon Kemp commented that the localities events planned for February and March should allow agencies to get to know our communities better and how they want to live.</p> <p>Tom Bell responded that continual market research is taking place to evidence the housing strategy.</p> <p>Adrian Dexter asked if there was any potential for student housing in the town centre. Tom responded that there was limited demand for student housing, however key worker accommodation was required.</p> <p>Cllr Chris Read thanked Tom for his presentation, and agreed to consider if there were any gaps in RTP membership, given the priorities identified by Theme Boards and the new Rotherham Plan.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Rotherham Compact sign off</b></p> <p>Waheed Akhtar (RMBC) and Shafiq Hussain (VAR) introduced the paper which sets out the Rotherham Compact which is a framework for working between the public sector/statutory partners and the VCS. It outlines an approach to partnership working which enables partners to work better together. It contains a reviewed and simplified dispute resolution process. The document has been subject to substantial consultation and has already been through the governance structures of some statutory partners. The Compact will be launched alongside the new Rotherham Plan in March. The next steps include the formation of a Compact leads group, and for the document to be taken through the remaining partner governance processes.</p> <p>Questions/comments followed.</p> <p>Cllr David Roche commented that some of the language used in section 3.1 was quite negative, and asked whether the conflict resolution section needed to be included within the main document, or if it could be appended. Shafiq</p>	

<p><b><u>Noted</u></b> <b><u>Agreed</u></b> <b><u>Noted</u></b> <b><u>Noted</u></b></p>	<p>Hussain responded that the Compact is not a legal document, and the conflict resolution could potentially be contained within an appendix.</p> <p>Sharon Kemp informed the RTP that the Compact builds on national standards and is driven in a certain direction. Having the framework is helpful, and the partnership should look to adopt it much wider than at present e.g. by the Business Growth Board.</p> <p>Waheed Akhtar informed the RTP that the conflict resolution process is now reduced from a 5 stage process to 3 stages.</p> <p>Azizzum Akhtar commented that if the language appears negative that's because it reflects some of the experiences of the VCS (in terms of size/scale/power) and a key plank of the document is independence.</p> <p>Nick Bussey commented that the conflict resolution process has not been implemented before as relationships are traditionally strong in Rotherham between the VCS and statutory partners.</p> <p>Shokat Lal stressed the need for partners to work with their employees in order for them to gain an understanding of the Compact.</p> <p>Cllr Emma Hoddinott asked how partners ensure social value when allocating their funding. Shafiq responded that the Compact Leads Group will be looking at this in more detail.</p> <p>The RTP <b><u>noted</u></b> the outcome of the consultation.</p> <p>The RTP <b><u>agreed</u></b> to endorse the revised Compact.</p> <p>The RTP <b><u>noted</u></b> the establishment of a Compact Leads Group.</p> <p>The RTP <b><u>noted</u></b> the arrangements for the formal launch of the Rotherham Compact alongside the new Rotherham Plan on the 29<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Rotherham Plan</b></p> <p>Michael Holmes introduced the item. The designed document had been circulated to the RTP, with a new title of the 'Rotherham Plan'. The plan will complement the place shaping work and the story book. Michael informed the RTP that the plan was now centred around 5 key game changers. More work is required to refine the milestones and high level indicators which are drawn from theme board priorities to ensure that they are connected. The plan has also been circulated to theme boards for comment, with</p>	

	<p>some feedback received regarding housing, social value and the incorporation of some of the place shaping language and imagery. The plan will be launched on the 29<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Michael is looking into the potential for RCAT students to promote elements of the plan via social media. The RTP are asked to forward any comments to Michael before Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, prior to endorsement by the CEO Group.</p> <p>Questions/comments followed.</p> <p>Cllr Chris Read asked the RTP if the plan was shaping up to look like what people expected.</p> <p>Julia Bloomer asked who was the intended audience for the document? Carole Haywood responded that the Plan is for the community within Rotherham, and is supplemented by the place shaping 'Rotherham story' targeted at engaging with the business community and investors.</p> <p>A number of comments were made around some specific photographs contained within the plan and Michael Holmes confirmed that they would be changed in the final version.</p> <p>Cllr Emma Hoddinott suggested that the 'building stronger communities' work fitted in with the cohesive communities priority under SRP. Cllr Hoddinott offered a review of this by the SRP performance group who could then feedback to SRP and tease out some tangible areas of work under this banner.</p> <p>Carole Haywood confirmed that the Rotherham Plan launch would take place at the New York Stadium on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1.00-4.00pm. Save the date invitations have already been sent. The event will also include the launch of the Compact and the place shaping work.</p>	RTP team- Feedback from Launch
6.	<p><b>Building Stronger Communities</b></p> <p>Cllr Chris Read introduced the item and updated the RTP on discussions held on Monday at a meeting with theme board chairs and VCS representatives. Three main ideas were discussed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prioritise a commitment to bring people together</li> <li>• To establish a 'think tank' involving the universities to drive this work forward</li> <li>• A small grants programme to help bring people together</li> </ul> <p>Questions/comments followed.</p> <p>Adrian Dexter commented that faith groups have a role to play in this work, and should look at some collective activity.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Emma Hoddinott suggested that faith groups could engage more fully in the work that is happening in Eastwood.</p> <p>Azizzum Akhtar confirmed that the Faith Leaders Council had not met for approximately 18 months, although it could be re-established if some co-ordination and infrastructure support was offered.</p> <p>Adrian Dexter agreed to make some initial contact with this group. Sharon Kemp thanked Adrian for this offer.</p> <p>Jackie Freeborn agreed to forward contact details to Carole Haywood for a contact in Doncaster who may be able to assist with this work.</p> <p>Carole Haywood informed the RTP that the criteria for the small grants had yet to be finalised. The fund will consist of £5K funding from RMBC and will be matched by £5K from the RTP core budget. Carole highlighted risks around sustainability of the fund, and the need to measure impacts.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Place shaping update</b></p> <p>Carole Haywood informed the RTP that the place shaping work was progressing well, with two themes and one 'big idea' being developed ready for the launch to the business community on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. A Place Board will be established who will become 'guardians' of the story and an ambassador/champions scheme will be launched.</p> <p>Cmmr Kenny confirmed that this work is complementary to the Rotherham Plan and Compact and will promote Rotherham as a place in order to attract inward investment. Rob Odell commented that he felt that the Partnership was not making the most of positive news stories, and partners should give the media no option but to report positive stories.</p> <p>Jackie Freeborn suggested that partners should be equipped with five or ten key facts about business and the economy. Cllr Read responded that the story that is being created by the place shaping work should form the consistent message that partners use to promote Rotherham.</p> <p>Charlotte Scothern informed the RTP that a video had been created by the town centre team for a recent retail conference and could be used more widely to promote the town via partner websites.</p>	Update at the next RTP meeting
8.	<b>AOB</b>	



	<b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b> The event is taking place in All Saints Square on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 11.00am-12.00pm.	
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Next meeting: Rotherham Plan/Compact/Placeshaping work launch Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, New York Stadium.