

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN CENTRE

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Friday 7th March 2025 at 8:30am

Online

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Present

Cllr Simon Ward (Chair) (SW)
Olive O’Sullivan (OOS)
Jon Lord (JL)
Naeem Arif (NA)
Keith Neill-Smith (KNS)
John Myatt
Phil Edwards (PE)
Sandeep Shingadia
Liz Parry (LP)

Leader, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)
Chief Executive Officer (RSCTC)
Head of Regeneration & Sustainability (RSCTC)
Royal Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce (CofC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Consultant for Town Council (RSCTC)
Birmingham City Council (BCC)
Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)
FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Trustee (FOLIO)

		Decision/Action	Owner
1	Welcome and Apologies	OOS noted apologies received from David Hemming (DH) and Andrew Tucker (AT).	SW
2	Actions from Previous Meeting (10 th January 2025)	Agreed	All
3	Matters Arising	LP requested whether the Sutton Gateway Presentation delivered at the January Council meeting could be published on the Town Council’s website. JL agreed to investigate. LP sought clarification on the status of the £25m allocated to the Sutton Gateway scheme and its associated delivery timeframe. This was responded to as part of PE’s update in Agenda Item 4. LP requested an update on whether future health provision and a relocated library could be accommodated within the redeveloped Gracechurch Centre. In regards to the library, SW confirmed its future would depend on what happens to the existing Red Rose Centre.	All
4	Sutton Gateway Update	In relation to LP’s concerns regarding the status of the £25m funding allocated to Sutton Gateway, PE confirmed that the allocated £25m was not going to be spent by the original March 2027 deadline. In recognition of this, BCC and WMCA	PE

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		are re-profiling the spend and identifying opportunities for aligning it with the proposed Integrated Settlement funding for the West Midlands which is over a 7-year period. This would ensure expenditure on the Sutton Gateway is protected beyond March 2027. PE stated that this re-profiling is also identifying programmes and projects which could be brought forward for inclusion in a report to WMCA proposed for submission in early May. SS noted this issue is not unique to the West Midlands and is a result of capacity and capability issues impacting on the ability to deliver schemes. The re-profiling of the spend in the way outlined by PE will ensure that the allocated expenditure is retained for Sutton Gateway and not returned to central government. SS emphasised that this should not prevent any CRSTS Phase One projects such as Sutton Gateway being stopped by the government, rather it is extending the timeline for when the funding will be spent. PE confirmed that the Grant & Legal agreements had now been agreed with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) with £750k signed off to proceed with the Outline Business Case. PE stated the next stage would be to procure professional services to progress the work and a decision needs to be made on whether this will be subject to a formal procurement process or utilising an existing framework. In regards to SW questioning how long this will take, PE stated this will depend on which route is taken with a formal new procurement taking longer than the framework route, if it is the latter PE noted it should be completed in a couple of months.	
5	Update on Key Planning Applications / Development Sites	JL provided an update on the current Gracechurch related planning application for the recladding and reconfiguration of the former BHS unit to accommodate Harvey Norman. This application was considered at Tuesday 4th March Planning & Highways Committee where it was supported as delivering much needed investment into the centre and town centre whilst recognising the focus on retrofitting as opposed to demolition/rebuild also delivered environmental benefits. Committee did identify some opportunities to improve elements of the recladding design which have been included in the formal response to the application. These were discussed at a recent meeting with the centre manager which also covered the Gracechurch owner's aspirations for the remaining sections of the centre and how this application aligns with their thinking. It is apparent that there is a lot of	JL & KN-S

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		work being undertaken behind the scenes on the retail core and the southern section of the centre and therefore it was agreed that dialogue with RSCTC will continue over the next few months. In regards to the ALDI proposal, JL confirmed that Planning & Highways committee had reviewed the most recent application for a revised layout and landscaping schemes and submitted an objection based on the introduction of a close boarded boundary fence around Manor Rd/Brassington Avenue and elevational detailing. A series of subsequent revised plans were published which has now removed the fence and clarification is awaited on some inconsistencies identified on the plans. The Town Council remains concerned about the impact on the proposed landscaping strip to the front boundary to Brassington Avenue and the subsequent impact on the width of the footway which could limit aspirations for a combined footway-cycling route as part of the Sutton Gateway scheme. JL noted the Section 106 agreement for the Birmingham Road residential-retail scheme is now signed and consent issued. There is no movement on a detailed application for the former Rosie's scheme and in relation to a question raised by LP regarding the timeline for implementation., JL and KNS confirmed that condition attached to the outline consent required a start commencing in 2026. JL delivered an update on the recent Peddimore related applications and confirmed Planning & Highways Committee had agreed to object to the current BESS application. The Rockwool manufacturing facility application has now been submitted and this will be discussed at the Town Council's Planning & Highways Committee meeting on April 1st. Finally, JL and KNS noted that a meeting will be held with representatives of the Langley Consortium on 17th March to discuss the Town Council's previous objections to the Langley Infrastructure application which focussed around suggestions for reducing the environmental impacts on their transport proposals. LP requested questions are raised at the meeting related to the delivery of wider public services. KNS confirmed that concerns were raised previously in relation to the phasing of services within the Town Council's response. In response to NA raising feedback from recent engagement with Chamber members that town centre regeneration was taking too long to deliver, SW stressed the importance of the Harvey Norman proposal as an example of delivery now	
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		starting to progress in the town centre and offered to deliver an update to the Chamber to ensure they are kept up to date about how investment is continuing. NA agreed to send JL and OOS details of the Chamber's future business day as a potential engagement opportunity.	
6	AOB	LP raised a question regarding the recently confirmed £20m funding for Sutton Coldfield. SW confirmed the Neighbourhood Fund (previously the Town Fund) had been confirmed. RSCTC is in the unique position as being the only Town Council designated as a 'responsible body' to oversee the allocation of the funding which is a massive vote of confidence for both the Town Council and the town. The focus of the funding will be on the town and not just the town centre with an associated Board in the process of being established to agree a plan for its delivery.	All
7	Date of Next Meeting	The date would be issued shortly-it is likely to be either 9 th or 16 th May-online.	All

Meeting closed 9:05am