

---

# Report to Board

## Stockbridge Towns Fund - Delivery

---



Report prepared by  
Michelle O'Neill, Acting Programme Manager  
November 2024



---

## **Contents**

1. Executive Summary
2. Roles and Responsibilities
3. Programme Summary/ Phasing
4. Projects – Capital Delivery
5. Property Acquisition Status
6. Programme Outputs – Status
7. Consultation
8. Budget Summary
9. Appendices



## 1. Stocksbridge Towns Fund Inception

In September 2019, the Government invited 100 towns to develop proposals for a Town Deal, as part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund. Stocksbridge was among the 100 towns selected and a Towns Fund Board (also known as The Town Deal Board) was formed in January 2020 to define the vision and strategy of the Town Deal and develop the Town Investment Plan (TIP). Ten projects were identified, which have since been reduced to eight projects in response to considerable inflationary pressures that have been experienced. The key projects respond to local consultation and focus on regenerating the town-centre – Stocksbridge’s traditional retail core - and creating jobs and new opportunities for local people.

£25m was sought. Stocksbridge received £24.1m through the Town Deal, with further funding being sought from the SYMCA to deliver these investments in the town.

This report sets out an update on the delivery status of the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Programme for the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board. It will review each of the projects endorsed by the Board in May 2024 to move forward to the delivery. It will also provide an update on the status of the wider programme along with updates on future communication activities and budgets.

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

Delivery of the Stocksbridge Towns Fund programme is a collaboration between the Towns Fund Board and Sheffield City Council. The respective roles are detailed below

Delivering the Towns Fund Programme – Governance & Roles	
<b>Stocksbridge Towns Board – Commissioning &amp; Monitoring &amp; Communications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for defining and commissioning the vision of the Towns Deal and assisting in the implementation of the agree programme of projects</li> <li>Manage the outcomes and benefits of the programme ensuring all activity aligns to the programme’s priorities and vision</li> <li>Endorse all business cases and submissions to DELUC</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement and management</li> </ul>	<b>Sheffield City Council – Delivery &amp; Accountable Body</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide governance and assurance of the programme and Towns Deal ensuring governance standards and policies of the Towns Board are adhered to</li> <li>Ensure that decisions are made in line with agreed governance principles in line with DELUC guidance</li> <li>Carry out assessment and approval via existing assurance processes including SCC sign off</li> <li>Ensure appropriate contracts / delivery agreements are in place. Manage each project</li> </ul>
<b>Towns fund Board Sponsors role (A critical friend not decision-maker)</b> SCC Client Officers/ Project Managers will meet with a named TF Board member who act as a conduit to the Board and the Community in the role as critical friend to the project environment.	
<b>Towns fund meeting frequency</b> - The Towns Fund Board meet on a Bi-monthly basis but may hold further formal Board meetings or project workshop during the interim month as required. Project Champion meetings with Project Officers take place monthly.	
<b>Project Delivery Routes/ Partners</b> <b>SCC (CDS/ RLB)</b> High Street Projects Sports Hub projects Oxley Park Deliver Community Interest Company	<b>Third Party</b> Grant to Northern College (Post 16 hub) Grant fund Bus Operator (Bus project ) Tender for Managed Work-Space Provider (Community Hub) Grant fund Yorkshire Water

---

### 3. Programme Summary Phasing

The Town Fund projects are being delivered in two phases to maximise delivery certainty of the Board's investment priorities.

Phase 1, consisting of:

Hopper Bus Service Implementation  
Manchester Road Community Hub (519)  
Manchester Road Placemaking Scheme  
Manchester Road Shopfronts Improvements  
Manchester Road Wayfinding and Accessibility  
Oxley Park Phase 2 inc. Skatepark  
Sports Hubs Grants

Phase 2 is to be defined, and will commence subject to the funding implications of delivering Phase 1.

#### Phase 1 Projects

##### 1. Hopper Bus Service Implementation Board Representative: Marie Tidball Scheduled delivery: Early 2025

This project aims to transform local connectivity by providing a new hopper-style community bus service in Stocksbridge. This service should link the residential areas with the town's key facilities and link with the wider network into Sheffield and Barnsley and other key regional locations. Deemed a critical project during consultation.

Status: A preferred bidder is in place. A Grant Funding Agreement is agreed in principle, with full details to be worked through. On agreement, capital approval will be required for the grant to be confirmed and provided.

Timescales for delivery are also dependent on service registration (possible 100 days lead time although this is being challenged) and vehicle availability. Preferred bidder has flagged supply-chain issues are likely.

Next key milestones: Award contract.

##### 2. Manchester Road Community Hub - 519 - New library/ work & skills hub. Board Representative: Ian Sanderson Delivery timescale: Start on site June 2025

The key Town Deal project and the anchor project for the new town centre and its regeneration. This project will bring a new library for the town as well as a managed workspace, a learning hub, café, and community space. Part of the site is occupied by the current library as well as St Lukes charity shop and a separate business premises above, as well as the Bridge Charity Shop. During the build period the library will be temporarily housed in the IKON Church building on Manchester Rd. Planning has been approved and a first stage contract awarded for detailed design. See **Appendix 1** for detailed update.

---

Information on the proposed library provision in their temporary home in Ikon Church is provided in Appendix 3.

Note that fit out works will be required as part of the project. This may mean that opening is timed to be past project completion of the base building.

**Next key milestones:** Detailed Design. Full contract award spring 2025. Start on site summer 2025.

### **3. Skills and Education Hub**

**Board Representative: VACANT**

**Delivery time scale: Project will be delivered as part of Stocksbridge 519**

This project is part of Stocksbridge 519 and is being delivered in partnership with Northern College to bring skills and learning opportunities to the town centre. Northern College will occupy two learning suites on the top floor. This project follows an earlier project to bring a Post 16 hub to the Stocksbridge High School, but the Minerva Trust decided not to proceed with this, so this is an alternative approach to delivering post-16 and adult learning opportunities in the town. This is a grant funded activity and delivery will commence from Summer 2025.

**Next key milestones:** Preferred provider developing course offer in 2025

### **4. Manchester Road Placemaking Scheme**

**Board Representative: John Crawshaw**

**Delivery timescale: Work to start Autumn 2025**

This project aims to transform Manchester Road in Stocksbridge as part of the wider vision to improve the traditional retail area of the town centre. This includes a brand-new Town Square and Shop Front Improvements as well as wider and better paving and landscaping – the shop front improvements are treated as a sub project and have their own champion (see below). Please see **Appendix 1** for a detailed update.

Preapp feedback has been newly received – an update will be provided at the board meeting.

**Next key milestones:** Detailed Design. Local engagement/TRO advertising.

#### **4a. Manchester Road Shopfronts Improvements**

**Board Representative: Gail Larking and Kathryn Giles Bowman**

**Delivery timescale: TBC**

This will deliver improvements to the shopfronts, initially in the precinct area of the town centre. Improvements to the paving and public realm will also be a key part of the project. This will involve liaising on designs with tenants and property owners in the precinct area. Crucial will be achieving agreement with owners regarding the works and the corresponding liabilities. Legal agreements are being developed which owners need to sign for the project to go ahead. If there is residual funding then the Board holds the ambition to provide shop front grants to the north side of the street, to those properties most in-need of refurbishment. Please see **Appendix 1** for a detailed update.

---

**Next key milestones:** Liaison through an engagement event with the shop owners and tenants.

#### **4b. Connecting Our Town - Wayfinding and Accessibility**

**Board Representative: Sean Mclean**

**Delivery timescale: TBC**

Connecting the town – this project aims to create better links between the different parts of the town creating a well-connected more cohesive central area as well as better pedestrian links between Fox Valley and the Manchester Road to encourage more linked trips. Improved car and cycle parking provision and clear links through to the new crossover hub and continuity of signposting for car parking and key facilities across the town centre will also be delivered. Please see Appendix 1 for a detailed update.

**Next key milestones:** Tied in with the placemaking project delivery.

#### **5. Oxley Park Improvement Project**

**Board Representative: Cllr Julie Grocutt**

**Delivery timescale: Complete**

This project is replacing and upgrading the current outdated skatepark facility at Oxley Park with a new and modern all-wheel park. Footpaths are also being improved in this area.

This project builds on a first phase of improvements which were delivered through the accelerated funding project in 2021 (the new children's park and zipwire in the park at the side of the Leisure Centre). Please see Appendix 1 for a detailed update.

**Next key milestones:** Arrange official opening event to celebrate the completion of the project.

#### **6. Sports Hub – Sports Grants**

**Board Representative: Graham Silverwood**

**Delivery timescale: In progress**

The Sports Hub project is also split into sub projects. Some delivered in phase one and others targeted for phase 2. The grants to two local clubs have been delivered in phase 1. These were: Stocksbridge Park Steels, a £120,000 grant to deliver ground improvements which will make the facility much more accessible for wheelchair users and pushchairs.

Stocksbridge Rugby Club, A £100,000 grant to pay for drainage at the club's pitches at Bolsterstone. The waterlogged pitches currently result in many cancelled matches.

**Next key milestones:** Arrange PR for completed projects.

### **Phase 2 Projects**

#### **7a and b . Sports Hub – 3G Pitch and Sports Pavilion.**

**Board Representative: – Graham Silverwood.**

**Delivery timeline – TBC**



---

These two elements of the sports hub project are targeted for delivered in Phase 2.

**7a** - 3G pitch proposed for construction on Bracken Moor on the pitches currently owned by SCC and leased to Stocksbridge Park Steels. Pre-app advice has been sought. The project would take the form of a 1 pitch model with ancillary facilities (this will require further discussion)

Engagement between the Board and the sports clubs earlier in the Summer led to a proposal centring around the Park Steels (potentially in association with the other sports club) acting as operator for this asset. Officers have met with the sports clubs to review some of the technical issues that would need resolution at this site involving the lease, asset ownership and the possible selection of the operator of this asset.

The possibility of securing additional external funding from the Football Foundation was also reviewed. The Football Foundation has also indicated to the Council that there is current a possibility that funding would be available at Bracken Moor. SPSFC have agreed to be the lead applicant for the additional funding required through the Football Foundation application.

The project team is awaiting final projected cost for Phase 1 for STF investment- this will determine funds available for investment into Phase 2 projects.

A briefing paper is prepared and has been provided as Appendix 2.

**Next key milestones:** Provision of business case from Park Steels to enable review. STF Board to determine whether funding will be allocated to attract match funding.

**7b** - The Sports Pavilion project is currently paused however officers are looking to scope out and understand delivery options for a variety of solution that could replace the current pavilion. Working with the ECB and Cricket club, officers will develop options that cost between £100k - £900K so an investment decision can be quickly reached once the Board understanding the costs of phase 1 of this programme.

**Next key milestones:** Provision of Business Case from Park Steels to enable review.

## **8 Tracks and Trails Project with Yorkshire Water.**

**Board Representative: Yuri Matischen and Julie Grocutt.**

**Delivery timeline – TBC**

This project will deliver enhancements and potentially an activities programme at The Underbank Reservoir, with match funding from Yorkshire Water. YW have also agreed to commit contributory funding to the Hopper bus service. The cost planning is currently paused awaiting the delivery of the Phase 1 projects however YW have begun to clear woodland in preparation for the development of accessible walking and cycling trails at Underbank.

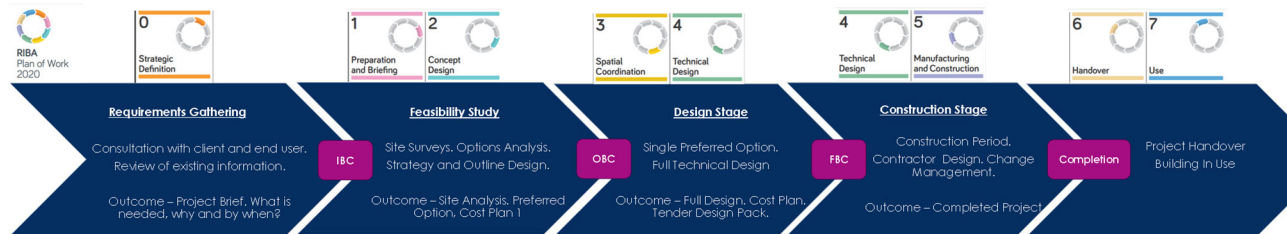
**Next key milestones:** Commencement of project subject to funding being available



## 4. Projects – Capital Delivery

### Capital Projects at Sheffield City Council

Capital projects at Sheffield City Council are delivered by the capital delivery service. Projects follow a clear process and are approved at each stage by the relevant oversight board, and by the Capital Programme Group which allocated and monitors financial expenditure.



### Capital Projects with Stocksbridge Towns Fund

Capital Projects with Stocksbridge Towns Fund currently include the following:

- PC06176 STF Manchester Road Community Hub
- PC06162 STF Manchester Road Placemaking
- PC06380 STF Manchester Road Shopfronts
- PC06183 STF Oxley Park Improvements and All Wheels Park

The detailed updates on status can be found in **Appendix 1**

## 5. Property Acquisition Status

Property	Status	Action owner	Resolution
<b>Bargain Booze</b>	Agreed subject to committee approval. Issue: Vacant possession. Risk to start on site.	David Ambrose	
<b>St Luke's Charity Shop</b>	Agreed subject to committee approval. Issue: Vacant possession. Risk to start on site.	David Ambrose	
<b>Flat 5</b>	Agreed subject to committee approval. Issue: Poor communication from solicitor.	Sean Mclean	Ongoing
<b>Charity Shop</b>	Agreed subject to committee approval.	Penny Hellewell	
<b>Charity Shop Tenant</b>	Compensation payment imminent. Notice has been served by the freeholder.	David Ambrose	
<b>Factory Shop</b>	Price previously agreed in principle. Property now remarketed for residential development. Purchase at risk.	David Ambrose	Ongoing
<b>Chemist</b>	Agreement in principle in place.		Tied to factory shop so paused
<b>Pharmacist</b>	Dialogue underway with property rep from Pharmacist group. Calculation of cost being worked through however 30 year lease will be significant.		Tied to factory shop so paused

## 6. Communications & Consultation

### Communications & Consultation

The following future communication activities are planned –

- Press release regarding post-Board meeting update.
- Press release to publicise the completion of Oxley Park.
- Press release to publicise works completed at Stocksbridge Park Steels FC.
- Press release regarding Hopper Bus launch (TBC).
- Press release regarding new Towns Fund Board members (TBC).

Since the last Board meeting, 22 September, the following news updates have been issued:

- Press release regarding new Co-Chair and projects update.
- Press release regarding opportunities to join the Towns Fund Board.
- Press release to publicise Stocksbridge Library relocation to new venue.
- Press release to publicise works completed at Stocksbridge RUFC.

Officers are developing the engagement approach regarding consultation with the shop owners for the shop fronts project once draft legal agreements are settled and pre-app feedback is received. This is expected to take place in early December.

## 7. Budget Summary

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Current approval limit</u>	<u>Actuals to date (October 2024)</u>	<u>Contingent forecast</u>
Phase 1 Projects	Manchester Rd Community Hub	£12,281,326	£899,911	£13,509,459
	Manchester Rd Place Making	£7,447,750	£349,741	£8,192,525
	Manchester Rd shop front arcade	£604,500	£47,008	£1,789,233
	Improved Wayfinding & Accessibility	£350,000	£20,144	£710,089
	Oxley Park Phase 2	£734,500	£683,285	£734,500
	Sports Hub Grant	£229,876	£223,073	£229,876
	Buses for Stocksbridge	£739,350	£13,292	£739,350
	Skills and Education/ Post 16 hub Revenue	£350,000	£3,346	£350,000
	Programme Management	£1,146,330	£731,045	£1,146,330
Phase 2 Projects	Sports Hub - Pavilion	£700,000	£103,535	£103,535
	Sports Hub - 3G Pitch	£38,727	£39,377	£789,377
	Walking and Cycling Trails	£173,249	£136,325	£136,325
Abandoned projects	River Don Improvements	£39,774	£9,774	£9,774
	Hydrotherapy Pool	£44,332	£14,332	£14,332
	Manchester Rd shop Front Grants	£642	£642	£642
		<b>£24,880,356</b>	<b>£3,274,830</b>	<b>£28,455,346</b>
			<b>Total funding available</b>	<b>£27,189,000</b>
			<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>(£1,266,346)</b>

## 8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Detail Capital Delivery Report on High Street Projects

Appendix 2 – Stocksbridge 3G Brief Paper

Appendix 3 – Stocksbridge Library Move – Details of Temporary Offer

