



WELCOME TO
STOCKSBRIDGE

Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan

Summary Document

January 2021





Foreword

The Towns Fund offers a once in a generation opportunity for our community here in Stocksbridge. The projects outlined in our TIP will transform the fortunes of our town and build a sustainable future for residents and businesses. From the outset we have been keen to identify projects that seek not only to improve the fabric and facilities of the town, but also to be bold and to create the conditions for further investment. We believe that catalysing economic growth is the cornerstone of a robust plan for the future.

Historically, Stocksbridge has been an entrepreneurial town, home to the famous Samuel Fox steelworks, which once created employment for almost all local families. The town has of course had to adapt and change to its circumstances and the steelworks now employs a small fraction of local residents. Stocksbridge has endured decades of under-investment and the town has been left behind in an economic sense, but also in terms of the opportunities available to our community. The lack of productive and skilled jobs is one of the key areas that our TIP seeks to address, combining training and education for the local population with the creation of the economic 'ecosystem' needed to grow high skilled, well-paid jobs in Stocksbridge.

The development of the Fox Valley shopping centre in 2016 created a new vibrancy and commercial activity in the area, but much more needs to be done across the town, to improve connectivity and opportunities, ensure that this is an attractive place to invest, live and work, and restore the entrepreneurial spirit and ambitions of the past. Our proposals to transform the high street on Manchester Road will attract new businesses to the town and restore a sense of aspiration. We know that the Towns Fund offers much more than economic renewal, and our TIP also looks to invest in the social infrastructure of Stocksbridge, providing new educational opportunities for people of all ages, prioritising health and well-being and leaving a legacy for future generations. Key to this legacy are our proposals for a further education centre, adult education provision and youth and sport facilities that will transform outcomes across the community.

Stocksbridge's relative geographic isolation in the Sheffield area and its strong local identity have given the community a resilience that is one of the town's greatest assets. We have sought to harness that ambition and resilience in our TIP, building on the community spirit and 'connectedness' that has been demonstrated so strongly during the pandemic. In recent years, poor public transport links have disadvantaged so many people in Stocksbridge, so our plans for a unique community bus network and innovative funicular railway, combined with proposals for e-cycling and new train services, will ensure Stocksbridge becomes a well-connected town.

These projects and the others that we have proposed in this bid represent the culmination of months of hard work by the dedicated team that makes up our Towns Fund Board. We would like to thank each of the Board members who have given their time, expertise and great local knowledge alongside a team of professionals from Sheffield City Council and the hundreds of local residents who have shared their insights and ideas. Through the most difficult of years they have worked together to engage with our community, identify the challenges our town faces and the many opportunities which a post-COVID world will bring to our resilient community.

Working together with the support of MHCLG and our Local Authority we are confident that the Towns Fund will not only help to drive long term sustainable economic growth for Stocksbridge but will also leave a legacy for future generations in terms of new opportunities and better infrastructure. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership to deliver a truly transformative project for our town.

Mark Dransfield DL
Miriam Cates MP
Joint Chairs Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board





A Message from the Leader of Sheffield City Council

As leader of Sheffield City Council I am proud to commend and endorse the Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan.

I would like to thank all the community representatives, business leaders, local councillors and the many members of the public who have worked alongside the council's officers to help to shape this excellent bid into the vision for Stocksbridge which is within these pages. This will deliver sustainable growth, as well as creating new jobs and opportunities with the health and wellbeing of the community at its heart.

Over the last 12 months the community here in Stocksbridge and across the whole city has faced many challenges. With this bid Stocksbridge has a bright and exciting future in its grasp, we look forward to continuing to work on this excellent project.

Cllr Bob Johnson
Leader
Sheffield City Council





Introduction to the Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan

The Towns Fund is a funding scheme launched by the Government in September 2019 to help towns across the UK improve their local economy.

Stocksbridge is one of the towns selected and invited to bid for a share of the £3.6bn funding which is available and throughout 2020 has developed proposals for a Town Deal.

The Government want to see proposals which will drive long term economic growth through sustainable investment in connectivity, land use, economic assets and skills and enterprise infrastructure.

The Town Board is made up of representatives from local businesses, community groups and Sheffield City Council as well as Stocksbridge Town Council and other organisations including the Mayoral Combined Authority. It is chaired by the MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge, Miriam Cates and Managing Director of Dransfield Properties, Mark Dransfield.

Sub committees representing a wide range of local groups and organisations have also worked on aspects of the bid, looking at everything from Health and Leisure, Regeneration, Sustainability, Industry and Skills and Infrastructure.

The bid has been guided and informed by engagement with local groups as well as the wider community in Stocksbridge. This has helped to identify the key issues and develop the proposals responding to those issues in the Town Investment Plan.

The Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan will play a major role in the future development and prosperity of the town.

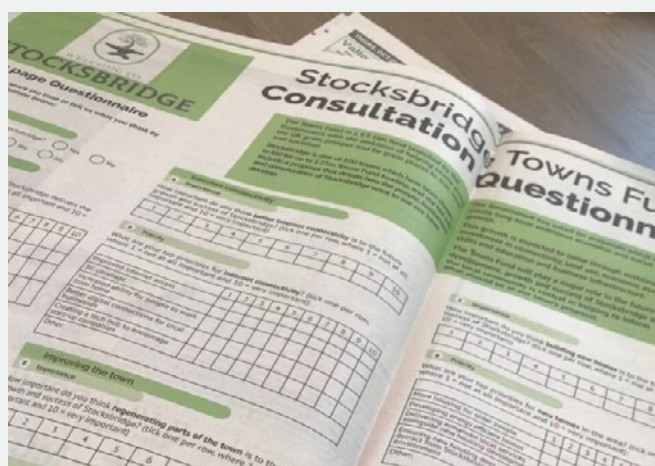


Engaging Local People in Developing Our Plan

The development of the TIP has been informed by engagement with stakeholders and the local community. A number of consultations have been undertaken in Stocksbridge recently. Analysis of the feedback gave the Board an indication of local priorities (including local transport, improving the shopping centre, and facilities for young people) and helped shape thinking on priorities for the Towns Fund.

The Board required more comprehensive engagement with the local community, to shape the Vision, strategic objectives and proposed programme.

A major consultation exercise was undertaken during October and November 2020. Questionnaires were sent to every local household through Look Local, Stocksbridge's local paper, with an online survey promoted on social media, through local forums and community and residents' groups. This was also shared through the dedicated website www.welcometostocksbridge.co.uk.



Over 570 responses were received from Stocksbridge residents, shoppers, and from 35 local businesses, providing detailed information on local priorities. The feedback from the consultation has been used to select the projects included in the Plan.

The Town Council was consulted on the proposed programme, and specific project ideas have been tested with the Friends of Oxley Park, sports clubs and bus users, as well as stakeholders including Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Water, the Regional Schools Commissioner, SCR Mayoral Combined Authority and SYPT, to ensure that they are in line with local and stakeholder aspirations.

Following submission of the TIP, consultation with the community, business and stakeholders will continue as we take forward our proposals.



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What are your top 3 priorities to improve Stocksbridge?



Source: Towns Fund Consultation, n = 522



Challenges and Opportunities for Stocksbridge

Responding to the Impact of Covid-19

The challenge: Like many towns, Stocksbridge is coping with the impacts of Covid-19. Young people have been particularly hard hit by rising unemployment. There are concerns about the viability of existing bus services, once emergency funding is withdrawn. And there is a risk that more local services will be lost as businesses struggle with on-going restrictions.

The opportunity: The pandemic also provides opportunities for Stocksbridge. The town could be a great place to live if you work from home – with the right skills and better digital connectivity. The growth in staycations and increased popularity of walking and cycling create an opportunity to strengthen Stocksbridge's role as a visitor hub and the northern gateway to the Peak District.

Adapting to a Changing Economy

The challenge: Stocksbridge's economy is at risk of being left behind. Employment is still concentrated in manufacturing, which provides high quality jobs but is vulnerable to the effects of global competition, Brexit and the impact of Covid-19 on the aerospace sector. Recent jobs growth has been in lower paid sectors such as retail and social care. Stocksbridge needs to create and attract jobs in higher value sectors to ensure long-term, sustainable economic growth.

The opportunity: There is an opportunity to capitalise on Stocksbridge's attractiveness as a place to live to create a more dynamic and resilient economy, attract businesses and create jobs in high value sectors, including digital, tech, creative, clean growth, professional, scientific and technical sectors. The town needs to offer an attractive business environment, with high quality, flexible and digitally enabled workspace, and a skilled workforce to fill the new roles.

Raising Skills and Aspirations

The challenge: Many local residents do not have the basic qualifications required to succeed in the modern labour market, and there is currently no post-16 or adult education provision in Stocksbridge, with the exception of Liberty Steel's highly regarded apprenticeship programme. Stocksbridge High School students face long journey times by public transport to access post-16 education in Penistone or Hillsborough.

The opportunity: There are a number of opportunities to raise skills and aspirations and ensure that all local people can benefit from the higher skilled employment that the Towns Fund will create. Outreach provision delivered in the town by an FE College can stimulate interest in education and engage potential learners who would not travel outside the town to learn, and linking up with other schools in north Sheffield provides an opportunity to deliver post-16 education in the town.

Housing and Population Growth

The challenge: There has been little new housing in Stocksbridge in recent years, limiting population growth, and leading to an ageing population. Ensuring that new housing does not detract from Stocksbridge's natural environment is an important priority for local people, as well as making sure that enhanced local services are provided alongside new housing development.

The opportunity: New housing could be accommodated in Stocksbridge without impacting on the countryside, by re-developing former industrial sites and creating housing on Manchester Road. Two major brownfield sites are already being brought forward for housing at Deepcar and at Oughtibridge Mill. The increased local population could result in increased footfall in Stocksbridge, leading to a more vibrant town and increased local spending.



A Better Connected Town

The challenge: Journeys to Sheffield city centre and Barnsley town centre by public transport are slow. Reaching other destinations, including hospitals and education providers, can require multiple connections, making public transport less attractive than travelling by car. Stocksbridge's hills mean many local people depend on cars (and the provision of parking spaces) to access retail and services in the valley bottom and on Manchester Road. Getting back up the hill with shopping is particularly challenging for the town's older residents.

The opportunity: Connections to Sheffield could be transformed through the reinstatement of a commuter rail service along the Don Valley Railway line to Stocksbridge, with a bid soon to be made to the Government's Restoring Your Railways fund. Better local bus services within Stocksbridge and to the outlying villages would reduce reliance on the car and could integrate with existing bus links and any future train service to ensure maximum benefit. Stocksbridge could develop a greener, more sustainable transport system which supports walking and cycling, linking to investment being made to improve the Upper Don Trail and around the reservoirs. Stocksbridge provides an ideal location to promote the use of e-bikes, both by locals and visitors, for leisure and commuting.

Promoting Sustainability and Wellbeing







The challenge: Good health goes hand in hand with a strong economy, but health conditions including coronary heart disease, hypertension and diabetes are more common in Stocksbridge than across Sheffield as a whole. Green spaces and nature have beneficial effects on health and wellbeing but despite the beautiful countryside, much of the open space within Stocksbridge does not meet quality standards and the key environmental asset within the town – the Little Don river – has been much altered by industry, reducing its value for people and wildlife.

The opportunity: Stocksbridge has many opportunities to strengthen future economic prosperity through investing in the environment and in wellbeing. Work has begun to improve Oxley Park, using Towns Fund accelerated funding. Providing better facilities for community sport would enable more local people to be physically active, as well as retaining spend within the town. Investing in Stocksbridge's natural environment could also improve wellbeing and sustainability.



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Summary of Challenges and Opportunities

| Issues | Challenges | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|
|  COVID 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising unemployment • Risk to retail and hospitality jobs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocksbridge as a homeworking hub • Staycations / increased tourism |
|  Changing economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant local employer vulnerable to global downturn; few jobs in growth sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong appetite for diversification and SME growth in high value sectors |
|  Skills and aspirations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local over 16 education • Few STEM employment opportunities for town inhabitants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New business community being created on Manchester Rd • Space available at Stocksbridge High School |
|  Housing and population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little new housing development in recent years • Limited population growth and ageing population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield sites identified for future housing development • Properties for downsizers and extra care provision |
|  Physical Connectivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topography constrains walking and cycling • Limited bus provision • High car dependence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter train link • Better buses • Improved cycle provision |
|  Environment and Wellbeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality open space and limited sports facilities • River affected by industrial development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong demand for local sports and leisure facilities • Wellbeing benefits of green and blue space well-recognised |



Our Vision and Strategy

Vision

The Board has agreed a Vision and strategic objectives for the Town Investment Plan. Underpinning the Vision is a shared commitment to:

- Ensure all local people benefit from the plan;
- Leave a legacy for future generations;
- Deliver improvements in an environmentally sustainable way; and
- Place the health and wellbeing of the community at the heart of our plans.

Our town is changing and diversifying and we intend to build on our historic strength of world class steel production and capitalise on new growth sectors and opportunities. Stocksbridge is expanding with major new housing developments planned or underway. Our local people will benefit from these changes and have agreed a Vision for the future and six strategic priorities to ensure we achieve this.

Our shared Vision for Stocksbridge is that in ten years' time:

"Stocksbridge is strong, vibrant and fit for future generations. Stocksbridge is a great place to live with a healthy and active population, thanks to its strong community spirit and excellent education, sport, leisure, cultural and community facilities. The town is well-connected with a diverse, dynamic economy. Our strong industrial heritage underpins new growth sectors and opportunities, especially in technology, delivering clean growth and driven by creative and enterprising local people. A visitor hub at the gateway to the Peak District, Stocksbridge welcomes visitors attracted by the highly valued natural environment and its vibrant town centre."

Our Strategic Objectives are:

- **SO1: To create a vibrant and attractive town**, which is a great place to live, work, shop and visit, with enhanced local services and leisure opportunities, within a revitalised town centre which is vibrant both day and evening
- **SO2: To develop a strengthened and diversified economy** in a town which is a great location to start and grow a business, provides good business infrastructure for digital, STEM and high value service sectors, and has the highly skilled workforce businesses need; and which makes the most of the economic opportunity provided by our fantastic Outdoor City location at the gateway to the Peak District, becoming a hub for walkers, cyclists and tourists with a hotel and tourist offer
- **SO3: To provide enhanced learning opportunities** at all stages of life so local people can access high paid, high quality productive jobs
- **SO4: To be a more accessible town**, which is easy to get around on foot, by bike and on public transport, easy to get to and well-connected to the wider community and places that local people need to go for work, learning and leisure
- **SO5: To provide first class sport, leisure, cultural and community facilities** in an environment which supports our people to be fit, healthy and active, builds on the success of existing community owned assets and ensures that community infrastructure is accessible and supports local charities and groups
- **SO6: To deliver clean growth**, by valuing Stocksbridge's unique natural environment, striving to be net zero carbon and delivering biodiversity net gain



Our Town Investment Plan

Our plan for Stocksbridge will benefit all parts of our town and all sections of our community. We have put together an ambitious and coherent programme of interventions which respond to the issues and opportunities, and reflect the priorities of local people and businesses.

The £25m which we are requesting from the Towns Fund will have a transformative impact on Stocksbridge. Levering in additional public and private sector funding, the Towns Fund will create a lasting legacy by re-focussing our economy, upgrading the physical fabric of our town, raising the aspirations of adults and young people and improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Towns Fund monies will strengthen existing community assets, encourage clean growth, and deliver new facilities which improve the town as a place to live, work and visit.

The specific benefits to be delivered by the TIP include:

- **Diversification of the economy through the first phase of the regeneration of Manchester Road, providing 4,500m² of co-working / start-up / microbusiness / library / flexible community space**
- **Accommodating c. 200 jobs in key growth sectors including digital, tech, creative, clean growth, professional, scientific and technical sectors**
- **Generating c. £100m of GVA in the town over ten years**
- **An improved environment for investment, with 400m of highways and 0.2 ha public realm improvements at the heart of the town, and a funicular providing a novel and practical solution to strengthening links between the high street and Fox Valley**
- **5.1km of improved cycle and walking trails, from the heart of Stocksbridge to the reservoirs and countryside attractions, as well as direct cycle connections to the city centre, attracting up to 26,000 visitors to the town each year**
- **New local bus services transporting over 150,000 passengers per annum**
- **Local post-16 provision serving 100 students per year, and adult training and education supporting 400 local people to upskill and progress into further training each year**
- **A radical improvement in health, wellbeing and sports facilities for local people**
- **An enhanced natural environment, with increased biodiversity and sustainability built into all Towns Fund investment**



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Proposed Towns Fund Interventions

1. Manchester Rd ph1

Diversification of town economy through provision of co-working / microbusiness / start-up / grow-on space, targeted at key sectors, plus modernised library and education and skills space

2. Town centre place-making

Improved highway and streetscape, new public spaces, town gateways, and visitor car park

10. Little Don River Improvements:

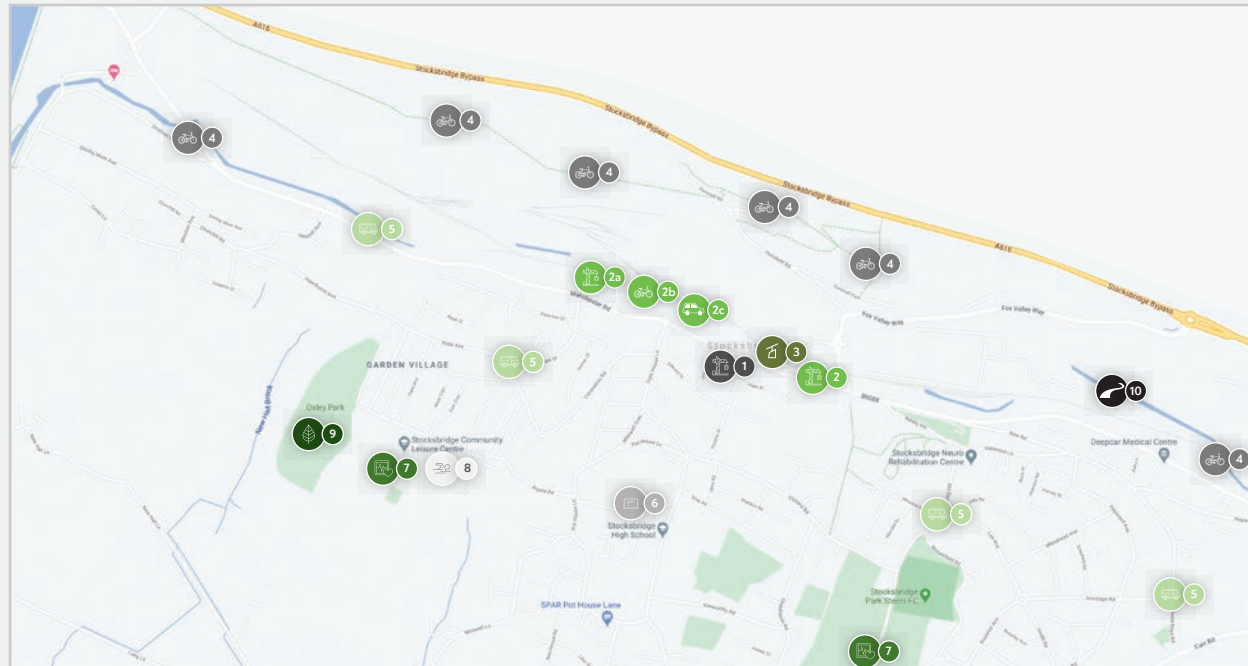
A resilient, biodiverse river at the heart of the town

9. Oxley Park ph2

Including skatepark, improved path network and EV charging points

8. Hydrotherapy wellbeing centre

Enhanced services at Stocksbridge Leisure Centre



3. Funicular town centre link:

New mechanical lift from valley bottom to Manchester Road, carrying bikes, pedestrians, locals and visitors between Fox Valley and the town centre

4. Cycle and walking trails

Improved cycle connections to reservoirs and surrounding countryside; new Underbank off-road loop; and to city centre via Upper Don Trail

5. Improved local bus services

Providing enhanced connections within the town and to existing commercial and tendered bus services

7. Stocksbridge sports hub

Providing high quality 3G facility for local clubs and leisure users plus upgrades to existing pitches and facilities.

6. Post 16 hub

New post-16 provision at Stocksbridge High School, providing local young people with skills for future growth sectors

Our Proposed Projects

Manchester Road Community Crossover Hub – as the first phase of a transformation of our traditional high street, we will create space for entrepreneurs to start and grow the businesses of tomorrow. Encouraging collaboration, the Hub will create an enterprise eco-system where businesses in the digital, tech, creative, clean growth, professional, scientific and technical sectors can create highly productive, high value jobs. Education and skills provision will enable local people to acquire the skills needed for the new growth sectors, and a 21st century library will offer residents the latest in digital connectivity, as well as a modernised library service.



Town centre place-making – transforming Manchester Road and enhancing the experience of all who use it, new public realm and public spaces will create an environment attractive to workers, shoppers and visitors, and stimulate investment along Manchester Road and at key gateways into the town.

Town centre funicular – this project will provide a highly original solution to the topography issues of this steep sided valley, as well as being a tourist attraction in its own right. A funicular railway will link the revitalised high street with thriving Fox Valley, serving a practical purpose and carrying bikes, walkers and shoppers, as well as becoming a great unique selling point for Stocksbridge.



Cycle and walking trails – building on Stocksbridge's position as a gateway to the countryside, we will invest in improving and extending cycle and walking trails, including the Upper Don Trail and a new off-road loop around Underbank reservoir, attracting more visitors and leisure users, and supporting the move to active modes of travel. A new visitor hub and cycle hire facilities will encourage people to start and end their trip in Stocksbridge.



Buses for Stocksbridge – transforming local connectivity, we will focus Towns Fund investment on new bus services connecting the outlying areas and core residential areas within Stocksbridge and Deepcar with key destinations within Stocksbridge. We will seek to ensure that proposals for passenger services on the Don Valley Railway are taken forward through the Restoring Your Railway fund.



Post-16 education hub – this project will transform part of the existing estate at Stocksbridge High School to bring post-16 education to Stocksbridge, raising aspirations amongst young people and parents.

Stocksbridge Sports Hub – working with a consortium of local sports clubs, we will enhance the quality, suitability and sustainability of sport and activity provision within Stocksbridge, including the development of an all-weather 3G pitch and associated infrastructure.



Wellbeing approach and hydrotherapy centre – investment in a facility to improve physical and mental wellbeing, building on the existing facilities at Stocksbridge Leisure Centre, and ensuring maximum wellbeing benefits from all Towns Fund investment.



Oxley Park phase 2 – building on the investment made with accelerated funding, to provide a new skatepark and improved footpath network, connecting the leisure centre to the park.



Little Don river improvements – creating a resilient, biodiverse river with enhanced opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the river, its plants and animals, and its role in the area's industrial heritage.

Our projects will benefit all parts of our town and our community, creating jobs, GVA and social wellbeing. Stocksbridge's Towns Fund partners have a strong track record of delivering transformational projects, and look forward to Government approval of our Town Investment Plan so that we can begin to deliver our bold ambitions for Stocksbridge.

Our other government asks

Alongside the projects prioritised for the Towns Fund, our aspirations for Stocksbridge include the reinstatement of the Don Valley Railway as a passenger link to Sheffield city centre. This project is being taken forward in the third round of the Restoring Your Railway Fund (RYR). Due to the timescales involved in re-opening the railway, we have not included rail-related projects within the TIP, which requires all Towns Fund monies to be fully spent within the next five years. However, this does not indicate a lack of support for the Don Valley Rail project, which would be transformational for Stocksbridge.

The consultation demonstrated a high level of community support for the rail project (or a tram or tram-train link), and a commitment to re-opening the passenger line would act as a major stimulus to investment in Stocksbridge, supporting our ambitions to comprehensively re-develop Manchester Road and attract a wider range of businesses and investors. We urge the Government to provide RYR funding to help us develop a business case for the Don Valley Railway.

Many people in Stocksbridge depend on the existing bus services – including the Supertram link bus and services to Sheffield. These services are under severe pressure given the impact on public transport of the Covid-19 pandemic, and there is a risk that once Government emergency funding is withdrawn, they will no longer be viable. Demand for support through SYPTE's tendered services is expected to increase dramatically, and there will be intense competition for the funding available.

Our local bus service proposal assumes that the existing commercial and tendered services are maintained and we are clear that this is absolutely necessary for Stocksbridge to thrive. Should this prove not to be the case, we would wish to re-visit our transport proposals to ensure the best possible services for local people.



Next Steps

The Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Town's Fund Board await the outcome of the submission and the response from the Government.

Work continues on the development of the projects identified in the bid in preparation for the next phase of the process which is to develop the details business case for the projects. The Towns Fund Board also continues to engage with the community and local businesses on how the funding should be used to benefit the whole community. Construction work has also started on the improvements to the Stocksbridge Leisure Centre and Oxley Park through the accelerated funding project. This work should be completed later in the spring of 2021 as a first phase of the future major improvements across the town that the Towns Fund will deliver.





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Support for the Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan

Our Town Investment Plan has the support of all the key stakeholders who we will work with to create a sustainable and prosperous future for Stocksbridge.

Stocksbridge Town Council

Following the events of 2020 and the impact this will have on our area the prospect of a Towns Deal for Stocksbridge is exciting and encouraging. A Deal will deliver not only a successful and vibrant centre but also bring benefits to the wider Town creating new employment and investment opportunities, access to learning and creating better connectivity alongside improvements to local walking and cycling routes, encouraging tourism. It will also provide enhanced sporting and leisure facilities for the whole Town to enjoy.

A Deal will play a major role in the future development and prosperity of Stocksbridge. There is certainly an abundance of will, determination and enthusiasm in Stocksbridge for such a Deal.

**Sheffield
City Region**
**MAYORAL
COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Lying on the fringe of the Peak District and relatively isolated from major urban centres, Stocksbridge has a strong local identity and the Towns Fund offers a vital opportunity to build on the strong community spirit and ambition of local people. The projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan will transform the fortunes of the town and build a confident, sustainable and resilient future for residents and businesses in a post-Covid world.

The Plan provides a welcome balance of broad interventions, with investment in proposals to boost business and economic growth, active travel transport connectivity, health and wellbeing, skills, education, and youth and sport facilities that will transform outcomes for everyone in the town.

The proposals are aligned with the ambitions and objectives of our newly agreed Strategic Economic Plan. I therefore very strongly support the Town Investment Plan for Stocksbridge and the capital funding being requested from the Towns Fund, and I ask that the Government back the Plan's proposals.



As a major stakeholder and employer in Stocksbridge as well as a significant landowner in the town we write to express our support for the aspirations and ambitions of the Town Investment Plan which is being submitted by the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Board. We are supportive of the aims of the project to increase economic growth in the town.

**Welcome
to Yorkshire**
yorkshire.com

At Welcome to Yorkshire we are passionate about seeing our towns and cities thrive. Stocksbridge is brilliantly connected to so many world class walking and cycling routes like the Trans Pennine trail, and the superb downhill mountain biking in Wharcliffe and Grenoside Woods. The South of the county could benefit considerably from having a focal point to start these outdoor activities and benefit the town in the process.



A new Post-16 hub would raise aspirations and provide the academic foundations that are vital for local young people if they are to access both higher education and skilled, well-paid jobs in a range of sectors. Pending the successful outcome of this bid, we look forward to progressing this project as part of the Stocksbridge Towns Fund.



We are fully supportive of the Stocksbridge Town Investment Plan. Working with the Stocksbridge Town Board, we will align our investment in the Stocksbridge Valley area, including Langsett, Midhope and Underbank reservoirs, with Towns Fund monies to maximise the impact of the investment. We will enhance biodiversity as well as the ability for local communities to gain physical and mental wellbeing benefits from the landscape. We are enthusiastic to support Stocksbridge to develop its role as a hub for visitors, attracted by the cycling and walking offer including a new trail around Underbank reservoir which will open up new opportunities for recreation and wellbeing.



I would like to confirm the support of the Environment Agency for the Little Don Improvement project and the bid for funding from the Towns Improvement Fund. The proposed flood plain connectivity, fish passage and rivers habitat improvements connect closely with the key objectives of the 25 year Environment Plan and the Agency's plans for the River Don catchment.



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www.welcometostocksbridge.com