South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) have been successful in securing £12 million funding for the refurbishment of Rotherham Interchange. The bus station and associated car park will be improved to create a brighter, more attractive and safer environment. The project is currently at the planning application stage with work hoped to start, subject to planning approval and discharge of conditions, in early 2018. The refurbishment will include the closure of part of the car park and its refurbishment in two phases. Also, the full refurbishment of the bus interchange. The bridge link into the car park has already been upgraded.

In addition to the interchange project a number of other considerations are highlighted in this part of the Town Centre. An existing funding commitment has been secured by RMBC for a highway and public realm improvement scheme between the bus interchange along Chantry Bridge and Bridge Street. This will significantly improve the pedestrian environment and linkages between the bus and rail stations and this investment is a positive first step in terms of public realm. RMBC is also looking to acquire existing vacant and dilapidated / abandoned buildings on Corporation Street. These buildings, a former restaurant and adjacent night club create a very poor impression of the town and undermine confidence in the Town Centre. The Council may require compulsory purchase powers and this is deemed appropriate in this instance so overcome the visual blight caused by the state of these buildings. The masterplan suggests new uses for these buildings.

Lastly in this location, we note Effingham Square which is a very poor space and a wasted opportunity. This grey and unattractive windswept space needs to be enhanced.
1. Potential to improve poor quality entrance to the Interchange and College Walk retail.

2. Poorer quality building interfaces with Effingham Square, this doesn’t form part of the Interchange

3. Potential to improve public realm and links to Rotherham Central rail station and the Town Centre

4. Potential to create a destination through improvement of poorer quality public realm at Effingham Square

5. Potential to improve links through the Interchange to the north of Centenary Way

6. Burnt out derelict buildings on Corporation Street create detractor

7. Vehicular access and egress to and from bus station
Rotherham Markets Area

Rotherham’s indoor and outdoor covered markets are a key part of the Town’s traditional retail offer. They remain well-used for the most part albeit there is a long-standing ambition to improve the markets in terms of footfall and their overall environmental quality.

The indoor market has remained largely unchanged physically for many years. It looks somewhat tired but has a charm associated with this heritage. Improvements to circulation including the installation of a lift were made many years ago. Despite recent works to the adjacent pharmacy the entrances and outward appearance of the market is quite poor.

The outdoor covered market benefited from the installation of the tensile roof structure several years ago to improve the micro-climate. The outdoor market suffers from a poor presence in the Town Centre, being for the most part encircled by windowless buildings. These building which face into the market area are now mostly vacant. The outdoor market has small entrances which are affected by changes in levels.

In 2012 a Market Options Study was undertaken to assess the existing market arrangement and to propose options to improve the markets going forward. A further report was produced by RMBC in 2015 to assess the options for improvement of the indoor market. Neither of these studies provided the answer to the fundamental question about what should be done physically to support the town’s markets.

This masterplan reflects on this earlier work and provides new thinking for the market area.

In addition to the core market structures there is a further area which is important to consider. Effingham Arcade is located to the top of the indoor market and includes a run of retail units and the Council’s Rain Building, which provides space for several charities and voluntary sector organisations. This part of the town does not work well in terms of footfall, presence and a sense of character and quality so has been included with the market redevelopment project.
1. Existing College building to become surplus to requirements following the development at Doncaster Gate

2. Potential to remove low quality arcade structure this would reveal units on eastern side of the market building. This would also offer potential to improve public realm on Eastwood Lane to create ‘College Fields’ and support an urban campus

3. Topography declines along Drummond Street from Eastwood Lane towards Effingham Square creating a change in level across the site; this enables the market to be serviced from Henry Street

4. Potential to improve the public realm and market entrance at Howard Street / Effingham Street

5. Drummond Street Car Park has a strong linkage to the market, supporting pedestrian footfall through the market into the retail core
The topography of Drummond Street rises from north-east to south-west. The existing buildings which front the outdoor market therefore span three storeys across the frontage of the market.

Existing shop units surrounding the indoor market face outwards and form an arcade adjacent to Eastwood Lane.

The gallery first floor of the indoor market sits at the same level as the outdoor market.
The existing Rotherham College Education Hub sits at a higher level than the buildings adjacent to Henry Street.