



Rochdale Town Centre Projects

Rochdale's
£250m transformation

2017/18 update

Keep in touch

There will be a number of changes as we work to improve the town centre over the coming months, including road closures and parking changes.

To keep up-to-date with this, as well as other developments, please visit: rochdaletowncentre.com or sign up to our twitter feed @RochdaleCentre

01706 927000

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Rochdale's Transformation

With £170m invested since 2010, the transformation of Rochdale town centre is almost complete.

The huge town centre regeneration programme, which has been headed by the council with support from Rochdale Development Agency and the private sector, has already seen a number of new developments in the town centre, including:

- The newly re-opened River Roch
- Number One Riverside
- New Wheatsheaf Centre entrance
- New Rochdale Sixth Form College
- An extension to Hopwood Hall College and the introduction of the Riverside Salon and restaurant
- The new town centre Metrolink stop and Rochdale Interchange
- The new Rochdale Leisure centre



The newly re-opened River Roch

So, what's happening now?

Rochdale Riverside

Our planned new retail and leisure development, Rochdale Riverside, took a huge step forward earlier this year when the planning application was approved by councillors.

The flagship development in Smith Street will bring around 24 shops, including Next and M&S, to the town centre, as well as restaurants, a six-screen cinema and 340 parking spaces.

Work is expected to start on site in autumn 2017, with completion due in 2019.

Phase 2 of the scheme will be delivered at a later stage, but could include new housing, a hotel, offices as well as additional shops and restaurants.



Market

A brand new Rochdale Market, to be located next to the re-opened river on The Butts, is on the way.

The new market will offer a wider range of stalls, with a focus on high quality products and fresh food.

A new indoor facility will also be provided in the former Santander building next to the site.

The council has appointed market specialists to manage the new market.



New independent businesses

We've seen a number of new businesses coming into Rochdale town centre as a result of our innovative business rates sale.

The scheme offers selected new businesses moving into vacant units an 80 per cent reduction in their first year of trading, as well as 50 per cent off in year two and a further 30 per cent off in year three.

The most recent businesses to have set up in Rochdale town centre as a result of the sale include:

Food and drink

Deli Shop, 3 The Walk
The Laughing Loaf (bakery and lunch sandwiches), 18 The Walk

Shops

Shoes and Handbags, 61 Yorkshire Street
Rochdale Mobility, 140 Yorkshire Street

Hair extensions and products, 18 Yorkshire Street

Simply Special (hairdressers), 7 Baillie Street

Offices

HY Professional Services (legal services), Unit 1, Reed House, Hunters Lane



The Laughing Loaf

New business start-up grant

To provide a further boost to businesses wanting to set up in our town centre we've also set up a new start-up grant scheme in selected areas

Independent retailers looking to occupy vacant units can now apply for match funding of up to £5,000 to help fund building improvements or a new shop front.



Telegraph House demolition

The recent demolition of Telegraph House paves the way for the new Rochdale Riverside scheme and completes the town centre demolition programme.

The programme, which has transformed the town centre, has also seen the removal of the old municipal offices (the black box) and the old bus station.



Public realm improvements

To complement our multi-award winning river re-opening scheme and further boost Rochdale town centre's heritage, we've replaced the paving along lower Yorkshire Street and Baillie Street with traditional natural stone. To make it easier for shoppers to move around the area, the street will be traffic free between 10am and 6pm.

We're also restoring the historic wooden setts in King Street and researching the age of the setts to shed more light on Rochdale's fascinating history.



Fire Station museum

The former Rochdale Fire Station in Maclure Road will be turned into a first class tourist attraction, with plans to hugely expand the Greater Manchester Fire Museum to enable it to open more often and show off more of its fascinating collection.

Under the plans, parts of the art deco style building would be renovated and adapted, enabling the museum to increase its floor space from around 300 to over 1,000 square metres.

The proposals will also see the introduction of interactive displays and new exhibits, as well as a café and dedicated education space.

The council, alongside the Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum Trust, is now working up proposals following a successful round 1 bid from the Heritage Lottery Fund and will submit a second application for a total of £1.7m in late 2017.



Lower Falinge and College Bank Flats

Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) is working with the council and local residents to look at how they can improve the Lower Falinge and College Bank neighbourhood, with the aim of making it a more attractive place to live, with better connections to the town centre.

Consultation with residents, funded by the government's Estates Regeneration Fund, is already taking place, and feedback from this will then help form a masterplan, which will be further consulted on before any final decisions are made.



Gracie Fields statue and trail

The bronze statue was created by sculptor Sean Hedges-Quinn, who has also sculpted other well-known figures including Sir Bobby Robson and Dad's Army character Captain Mainwaring (Arthur Lowe).

Fans can also now follow the Gracie Fields Purple Plaque trail, which marks places of significance in her life in and around the town centre, including the place where she was born and the sites of venues where she performed early in her career. People can follow the trail by picking up a leaflet from Touchstones Rochdale.



Rochdale Town Hall

Rochdale Town Hall now has a stunning new restaurant, the Clock Tower Dining Room, which serves refreshments, lunches and afternoon tea, six days a week.

The restaurant is open on Monday to Friday between 9am and 3.30pm and on Saturday from 9am to 2pm.

Although our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid to restore the town hall was unsuccessful, we are committed to continuing our improvement work and are exploring a number of different options.

In the short-term, we will be improving Town Hall Square, with new paving and landscaping, as well as restoring the lighting columns in the memorial gardens.

We will also install new lighting at Touchstones and the town hall.

