

# News

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## **Unanimous approval for Forge Island as scheme gets the green light**

National urban regenerator, Muse Developments, has received unanimous approval from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council for the game-changing Forge Island scheme, which will repurpose a key area of the heart of the town centre, into an innovative mixed-use destination.

Plans for the scheme include a cinema, food and drink outlets, a hotel, and a car park, with the new leisure facilities set within an attractive public space and a new pedestrian bridge connecting to the wider town centre.

Dan Needham, development director at Muse Developments, said: "It's testament to the hard work of all partners that we've now received unanimous approval from the council to deliver Forge Island. It's the next stage on our journey to deliver this truly special scheme, which will be completed safely and in line with government guidance.

"At Muse, we're working closely with our public-sector partners to support them in the delivery of place-changing regeneration schemes that will drive economic and social prosperity when it's needed most. Forge Island represents what can be achieved when the best of the public and private sector come together with the same vision, drive and goal in mind."

Rotherham Council's cabinet member for jobs and the local economy, Cllr Denise Lelliott, said: "It's fantastic to see the plans for Forge Island approved by the planning board which is particularly important as the town centre begins to find its feet again as lockdown eases a little. We know residents are keen to see the area develop and this is an important milestone towards delivering a scheme which is a catalyst for the wider regeneration of the rest of the town centre.

"A lot of hard work has gone into putting these plans together and we're determined to see Rotherham Town Centre thrive, not just survive."

Following consent and exchange of agreements with the main anchor occupiers, it is anticipated that construction will begin in autumn 2021.