

Minutes of the Rise Board meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at Royal Quays Business Centre and via Teams

PRESENT

Steven Bell (SB)	Trustee
Joanne Cairns (JC)	Trustee
Matthew Cormack (MC)	Trustee
Graeme Nash (GN)	Trustee
Karen Pearce (KP)	Trustee
Adam Pilkington (APilk)	Trustee
Anoop Puri (APuri)	Trustee
Katy Storie (KS)	Trustee (Nominated Chair)
Clare Morley (CM)	Chief Executive Officer
David Marrin (DM)	Chief Operating Officer
Suzanne McDermott (SMc)	Infrastructure & Environment Strategic Lead
Kaye Scott (KSc)	Finance and Business Support Manager

APOLOGIES

Nic Erevik (NE)	Trustee
Simon Gordon (SG)	Chair
Debbie Henderson (DH)	Senior Independent Trustee & Vice Chair

Item	Discussion	Action
1.0	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest	
1.1	CM welcomed trustees to the meeting and explained the apologies from SG and DH resulting in KS being nominated Chair for this meeting by the trustees.	
1.2	Apologies were received and noted. There were no new declarations of interest.	
2.0	Connecting to the Purpose	
2.1	Suzanne McDermott, Infrastructure & Environment Strategic Lead was in attendance and gave a presentation on her workstream. A copy will be circulated with these minutes. The following points were noted.	CM
2.2	In connection to Urban Planning Degree Training, SMc will email KS with further information.	SMc
2.3	KP offered to connect SMc with a colleague in Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust who has been working on the green spaces at hospital sites. KP will forward the details.	KP
2.4	KS thanked SMc for attending the meeting and, on the behalf of the Trustees, expressed appreciation for the continued work of her team.	
3.0	Previous Minutes and Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Board Meeting (January)</u> The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record. The following updates on outstanding actions were noted.	
3.2	CM reminded Trustees that the mandatory Safeguarding training is due. This must be completed by all Trustees by 30 th June 2026.	ALL

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3.3	CM highlighted the success of the Physical Activity Clinical Champions (PACC) project at the recent Education North Awards where, alongside Newcastle University Medical School, Rise won the Community Engagement Award (University Sector). Further detail is included in the CEO update report.	
3.4	CM to email KS regarding publicity issued about the success of the project and how this can be further elevated within the Uni.	CM/KS
3.5	KS/KP/CM to meet outside of this meeting to discuss further the next steps and other potential opportunities for Rise linked to the work with the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Charity and Newcastle Uni.	KS/KP/ CM
4.0	Previous Sub Committee Minutes	
4.1	<u>Audit Committee – March 2026</u> The minutes from the Audit Committee were noted.	
4.2	DM reported that the Audit Committee had discussed the Terms of Reference for the group and recommended that trustee membership be increased to four (from three). The Board agreed that membership of all sub-committees should be four trustees. Once a new Chair is in place, membership of all sub-committees will be reviewed.	CM
4.3	KS asked, from a governance perspective, whether the option of including non-board expertise on sub-committees could be explored. CM advised that the Terms of Reference for sub-committees already include the option to bring external expertise into a sub-committee meeting. MC added that some form of Non-Disclosure Agreement would be needed for any experts brought into sub-committees.	
4.4	<u>EDI Sub-Committee – January 2026</u> The minutes from the Nom & Rem Committee were noted.	
5.0	CEO Strategic Update	
5.1	CM presented the report circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted.	
5.2	<u>Sport England funding post 2027</u> Unfortunately, no update has been received since the report was circulated. On 2 nd June Sport England will hold their next Change Board meeting, and Active Partnership CEOs are pushing for a decision on whether “roll-over funding” for a further year is on or off the table at that meeting. The Active Partnership Network is due to meet at the end of June when the Chair of Sport England will be in attendance and should have more updates on at least the timetable for investment. CM expressed confidence that investment will be secured, however, the timescale and what this will look like remain unclear. CM noted concern	

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5.3	that, if this uncertainty continues without a timeline, there is a risk of losing good staff.	CM
5.4	CM to update the Trustees via email as soon as more information is received from Sport England. <u>4 Day Week</u> CM reported the annual data set that reviews the four day working week. All the metrics were positive.	
5.5	GN commented that in light of previous discussions, withdrawing this benefit at this critical time would be viewed negatively.	
5.6	Trustees agreed to continue with the four day week until 30 th June 2027 to allow for administrative tasks related to this to be completed following the Board's next review process in May 2027.	
5.7	<u>Chair & Trustee Recruitment</u> Applications for the Chair vacancy have now closed, and the recruitment process is moving to the interview stage. CM invited volunteers to join the interview panel as interviews will now need to take place whilst JC is on holiday. MC agreed to join the panel if convenient dates could be found.	
5.8	No applications have yet been received for the legal trustee vacancy. This has been extended by a further two weeks to see if we can attract some interest.	
6.0	Q1-Q4 (YE) – Finance Report & 26/27 Budget	DM
6.1	DM presented the report circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted.	
6.2	CM spoke about the challenging funding landscape for grants and trusts. CM noted that the Grants and Trusts Manager is focusing on developing relationships with funders in order to secure invitations to apply for funding opportunities, as invite-only processes are becoming more common.	
6.3	CM provided background on the Place finances. When the funding application was submitted, budgets were developed based on anticipated levels of need in the target areas. However, following the commencement of work in Gateshead and South Tyneside, the first 6–12 months have focused on mapping activity and stakeholder relationship development rather than service delivery.	
6.4	CM noted that the Place funding is not restricted by specific timescales, allowing expenditure to be carried forward as the programme develops.	
6.5	DM to revisit the budget at mid-year when we should have more information from Sport England on our future core funding.	

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	Trustees approved the budget for 2026/27.	
7.0	Q1-Q4 (YE) Performance Report	
7.1	DM presented the report circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted.	
7.2	Trustees discussed the slight decrease in staff NPS. It was encouraging to see a high survey response rate and that there were no detractors within the team. The reduction in NPS appears to have been driven by a significant increase in the number of respondents scoring the organisation an 8, rather than by an increase in lower scores.	
7.3	Trustees noted that given the uncertainty over Sport England funding, we are likely to see an impact in staff survey scores over the course of the next few months.	
8.0	Safeguarding, EDI, Environmental Sustainability & Data Protection	
8.1	DM presented the report circulated prior to the meeting.	
8.2	Sport Welfare Conference – Saturday 6 th June 2026 – at St Jame's Park. Trustees are welcome to attend.	
8.3	Board approved the final draft of the 2026/27 Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).	
8.4	CM invited any trustees interested in acting as the Board's Sustainability Champion to get in touch, as per the details shared after the March Strategy Day. The role would involve advocating for sustainable practices and supporting Rise to further integrate sustainability across the organisation. It was noted that this opportunity could be considered alongside the wider Board and subcommittee vacancies previously discussed. AP said he would take it on if there was no other interest, but was mindful that he is also already the Board's Safeguarding Champion.	ALL
9.0	Questions on Out of Meeting Agenda Items	
9.1	<u>CEO General Update for Q3</u> The contents of the report were noted.	
9.2	<u>Policies Etc for Approval</u> Trustees approved the following: • Updated Environmental & Sustainability Policy • Updated Business Continuity Plan	
9.3	SB referred to Durham University's Business Continuity Plan, which includes a "grab bag" containing essential resources for use in an emergency. CM noted that Rise has a similar business continuity arrangement, referred to as the "Doomsday" process.	

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9.4	<u>Risk Register & Opportunities Register</u> Trustees noted the contents of the report.	
10.0	Any Others Business and DONM	
10.1	There was no other business to discuss.	

Date and time of the next meeting – 28th July 2026, 10:00am.

Action Record Item	Action	Responsibility
2.1	Presentation circulated with the meeting minutes	CM
2.2	Information on Urban Planning Degree training to KS	SMc
2.3	Forward details of Trust contact working on green spaces to SMc	KP
3.2	Trustees to complete mandatory Safeguarding training by 30 th June 2026.	ALL
3.4	CM to email KS regarding publicity issued about the success of the project and how this can be further elevated within the Uni.	CM
3.5	Meet to discuss potential opportunities linked to success of PACC Project	KS/KP/CM
4.2	Sub-committee Terms of Reference and membership to be reviewed once new Chair in place	CM
5.4	Trustees to be kept informed of Sport England funding updates.	CM
6.6	Revisit the budget mid-year when funding update is received.	CM/DM
8.4	Trustees to contact CM regarding interest in becoming the Sustainability Champion.	ALL