

## Genr8 strikes development deal for £150m Rochdale scheme

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By James Graham - Deputy Editor, North West



L-R: Rochdale council deputy leader Peter Williams; Genr8 partner Mike Smith and council leader Colin Lambert

GENR8 Developments and Rochdale Council have signed the development agreement for a £150m supermarket-led regeneration scheme in the town.

Work will start on the site, next to the new bus and tram interchange, once the old bus station is demolished, along with the old council offices and a multi-storey car park.

This work is expected to start in November and take nine months.

Mike Smith, partner at Genr8 Developments, said: "We are now in a position to talk to potential occupiers with real confidence about the development timetable.

"This is a prime site right in the heart of the town centre and immediately next to a new bus station and the Metrolink terminus, the iconic new council offices and library. We are really exciting about this opportunity and believe others will be as well."

Genr8 expects to submit plans next year for retail, leisure and car parking. Its funding partner is Kajima Partnerships, part of the Japanese civil engineering group the Kajima Corporation.

The scheme is part of a wider £250m redevelopment of the town which includes new offices and a £2m revamp of the Rochdale Pioneers Museum.