Public Document Pack

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

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Wednesday 23 April 2025

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

The **Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board** will meet in the **Council Chamber , Town Hall, Dewsbury** at **4.00 pm** on **Thursday 1 May 2025.**

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

Keith Ramsay
Chair

The Dewsbury Town Board members are:-

Member	Responsible For:	
Keith Ramsay	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS	Chair
Councillor Graham Turner	Cabinet Member - Finance and Regeneration	Local Authority
Councillor Nosheen Dad		Local Authority
Chief Supt Jim Griffiths	West Yorkshire Police	Central Government
Paul Burnett	Empire House – Targetfollow	Business Sector
Fara Butt	Shire Beds Ltd	Business Sector
Anis Dadu	Managing Partner, XYZ Law	Business Sector
Charlie Dunn	Director - Charles Neil Advisory Ltd	Business Sector
Natalie Liddle	Steering Group Member, The Arcade	Business Sector
Martin Walsh	Martin Walsh Associates	Business Sector
Sam Heaton	Charity Representative, Outlookers	Community Sector
Sophie Johnson	Director, Northfield Consulting	Community Sector & Deputy Chair
Anum Rehman	Youth Voice Champions Group	Community Sector
Peter Mason	Managing Director, Mood Developments	Developer Sector
Helen Rose	Director of External Relations, Kirklees College	Education Sector
Palvinder Singh	Principal and Chief Executive, Kirklees College	Education Sector
Iqbal Mohamed		Central Government

Agenda
Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

To receive apologies for absence from Board Members who are unable to attend this meeting.

2: Declaration of Interests

1 - 2

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

3 - 14

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 6th February 2025 and 26th March 2025.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Board.

5: Public Question Time

The meeting will hear any questions from the general public.

Questions should be emailed to executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 5:00pm Monday 28th April 2025.

Members of the public can ask questions relating to the work of the Town/Plan for Neighbourhoods Board or issues set out on this

agenda.

6: Deputations/Petitions

The Board will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

7: Chairs Update

Keith Ramsay – Chair of Board

8: Response to questions and suggestions from Town Board Members regarding Dewsbury Sports Centre

15 - 20

To receive a response to questions and suggestions from Town Board Members regarding Dewsbury Sports Centre.

Contact: Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development.

9: Footfall Data, Dewsbury Town Centre report

21 - 34

To receive the Footfall data, Dewsbury Town Centre Report.

Contact: James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration.

10: Plan for Neighbourhoods Update

35 - 40

To receive the Plan for Neighbourhood update.

Contact: David Wildman, Head of Town Centre Regeneration (Interim).

11: Capacity Funding for Engagement

41 - 46

To consider the Capacity Funding for Engagement Report.

Contact: James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration.

12: Town Deal Project Update

47 - 62

To receive the Dewsbury Town Deal Project Update report.

Contact: Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer, Town Centres Regeneration.

13: Communication Update

To receive a verbal Communication Update.

Contact: Helen Jakes, Communication Business Partner, Place.

14: AOB

15: Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th August 2025
Location: Dewsbury Town Hall

For Terms of Reference please visit

https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/regeneration-and-development/pdf/dewsbury-town-board-terms-of-reference.pdf

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Dewsbury Town Board

Name of Board Member

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (e.g. a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: ..... **Dated:** .....

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

Dewsbury Town Board

Thursday 6th February 2025

Present:	Keith Ramsay (Chair) Iqbal Mohamed (MP) Councillor Graham Turner Chief Supt Jim Griffiths Paul Burnett Fara Butt Charlie Dunn Martin Walsh Sophie Johnson Anum Rehman Peter Mason Helen Rose Christine Fox Iqbal Mohamed Rosalind Arden Sam Heaton (Virtual) Palvinder Singh (Virtual)
In attendance:	Joanne Bartholomew, Kirklees Council David Wildman, Kirklees Council Thomas Fish, Kirklees Council James Blamires, Kirklees Council Andy Raleigh, Kirklees Council Helen Jakes, Kirklees Council Joanne Tansley, Kirklees Council Martin Wood, Kirklees Council Elisa Fielding, Kirklees Council Michelle Illingworth, Kirklees Council
Apologies:	Anis Dadu Sue Baker

1 Membership of Dewsbury Town Board

Apologies were received on behalf of Sue Baker. Rosalind Arden substituted on behalf of Anis Dadu.

2 Declaration of Interests
No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting
RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

4 Admission of the Public
All items were considered in public.

5 Public Question Time
Question from Gill Young:

1) I have raised before my personally perceived impact of the closing of the Leisure Centre on the level of footfall in the town. With more empty retail and business units now than at the start of the town improvement plan, could we have the base footfall data for 2021/22, at the start of the plan when the Leisure Centre was open, the regular 6 monthly assessments of progress against this base, with a review of the current measured position of the town's footfall after the interventions already committed and made under our town investment plan.

RESOLVED –

A response was provided by the Chair.

6 Deputations/Petitions
No deputations or petitions were received.

7 Chairs Update
The Chair provided an update on the following:

- A Strategy Day for Board Members to attend was being planned for March.
- Martin Wood, Head of Public Protection, was present to observe issues of safety and security in the centre of Dewsbury.
- A recent visit had been undertaken by Board Members to the Construction Skills Village, who commented on the positivity, commitment and enthusiasm of course tutors. Board Members had observed that the modular build was effective and that there had not been an overspend. It was noted that, given more resources, there could be opportunity to expand the project, to meet local need for the training provided.
- A visit for Board Members was to be arranged, to visit the Arcade which was nearing completion. The Board acknowledged that this was one of the first projects delivered by the Town Board.

RESOLVED –

That the Chair's Update be noted.

8 Board Member Update

The Board was advised that Councillor Cathy Scott had resigned from Dewsbury Town Board at the end of 2024. The Chair thanked Councillor Cathy Scott for the various roles she had undertaken, and the support she had given to the Board, and wished her well in her future endeavours. A replacement for Councillor Scott would be nominated by the Council and announced at the next Board meeting.

During discussion the Board considered comments made by Iqbal Mohamed (MP) as below:

- There were suggestions from the community that the impact of the closure of the Dewsbury Sports Centre should be considered in the Long-Term Plan.
- Mr Mohamed supported a proposal put forward by his constituents, that up to 30% of the Town Investment Plan funding could be repurposed for projects and activities which could include Dewsbury Sports Centre.
- Mr Mohamed had written to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, The Chancellor, and the Prime Minister, to ask for the funds to reopen Dewsbury Sports Centre.
- If funding was not provided by Central Government, Dewsbury Town Board should consider at least funding £400,000 capital costs to reopen the dry side, and that the £1.13 million revenue costs may potentially be covered by membership fees and ad hoc user fees, depending on how those costs were calculated.
- Mr Mohamed advised that he may submit a proposal or motion to the Board to explore the funding around Dewsbury Sports Centre further.

It was agreed that Joanne Bartholemew, Kirklees Council, would provide the Board with a report outlining the reasons why Town Board funding could not be allocated to the reopening of Dewsbury Sports Centre, which would be shared with Board Members and the public. The Board was advised that Richard Thorpe from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had provided an update on how the funding could be allocated at the November meeting, and that the Kirklees Council Cabinet decision and Cabinet papers for Dewsbury Sports Centre were available on the Kirklees Council website and included details of all costs involved in reopening the dry side. The Board noted that the decision to close the Sports Centre had been taken by Kirklees Council, and that there was no capacity within the forthcoming budget to provide revenue or capital costs required for a re-opening. The Chair suggested that the matter could be discussed at the strategy meeting in March and Members of the Board were offered a Teams meeting with officers to understand the technicalities of the Dewsbury Sports Centre building.

The Board noted that the closure of Dewsbury Sports Centre could impact footfall in the Town Centre and agreed that measures to bring people into Dewsbury for leisure activity should be a topic for discussion at the strategy meeting, which was to include the possibility of repurposing existing buildings.

RESOLVED –

That the Board Member Update be noted.

9 Communication Update

The Board received an update from the Communications Working Group as below:

- Counter Context had been working on a schedule of social media posts for publication on a variety of social media platforms. Board Members were asked to share these posts on their social media.
- The Board were asked for feedback on what information they would like to see shared on social media, and a monthly request would be sent by Counter Context to prompt this feedback.
- James Blamires, Project Officer, had provided text for the frequently asked questions (FAQs) and facts page for the Dewsbury Town Board website, which had been reviewed by the working group.
- The working group had met with officers to review a number of options on how to spend the budget allocated at the last meeting of the Board, including how to best reach residents of Dewsbury and update them on the work of the Dewsbury Town Board.
- The working group's preferred options were advertisements on buses and bus stops, window vinyls, billboards and local radio, to reach as wide an audience as possible.
- Further costings on these options were to be provided at the next meeting of the working group.
- One third of the £12,500 budget for communications activity would be saved for later in the year.
- Translation costs of communications into community languages had been considered, as well as how to reach residents who did not access digital technology. These communication activities were being prioritised.

During discussion the Board noted that information regarding the Board's position on the Dewsbury Sports Centre would be provided on the Dewsbury Town Board website, and that the website would clarify how the public could ask further questions and engage with the work of Dewsbury Town Board. It was noted that there was the potential to use of WhatsApp as a channel of communication, however it was deemed to be unsuitable due to issues of data protection. The Communications Team invited further ideas from the Board on how to reach out to different groups within the community.

RESOLVED –

That the Communication Update be noted.

10 Long Term Plan Update

The Board received an update on the Long-Term Plan by David Wildman, Strategic Partnership Lead, which included the following key information:

The updated guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had not yet been published but was expected to be received by the end of the financial year. The guidance was expected to set out details of the following:

- The name of the plan, as it was unlikely to remain as the Long-Term Plan
- Funding, including values, timescale and capacity funding for 2025/26
- Priorities and Investment themes
- Requirements of the submission and content
- Timescales for submission

The Board were reminded of the five key areas identified for the Long-Term Plan during the engagement phase of 2023/24, which were:

- Bringing empty buildings and derelict spaces back into use including new homes
- Improving safety & security to tackle current issues and enable longer-term prevention
- Making the town more attractive
- Supporting businesses
- Providing more things to do including events, cultural programmes and sports for younger people

The Board were advised that £200,000 capacity funding was expected to be available for 2024/25, which would be allocated by Government to prepare for the delivery of capital and revenue interventions in 2025/26.

The Board recognised that more could be done with the funding. A number of Board Members and Council officers who worked in Dewsbury had completed a survey to identify priorities for this funding, and commonality had been found in the results of the two groups. Four of the top five priorities in both groups were:

- A Multi-disciplinary Safety and Security team
- Events
- Housing and Economic Action Plan
- Meanwhile-use Strategy

It was proposed that a plan for the capacity funding would be drawn up, for discussion at the next meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the Long-Term Plan Update be noted.

11 Project Update

Thomas Fish, Acting Head of Housing Growth at Kirklees Council, provided the Board with a presentation on the Dewsbury Living Town (Daisy Hill development).

This included a retrospective look at the project, and the future of housing in and around Dewsbury Town Centre.

The presentation covered the following key points:

- The Dewsbury Blueprint outlined the ambition for greater numbers of people living in Dewsbury Town Centre to promote an associated increase in footfall and investment.
- The Daisy Hill Neighbourhood Project was one of nine projects funded by the Dewsbury Town Investment plan, to provide first steps towards creating 200 quality homes, attracting occupiers with disposable incomes to help support the town centre economy.
- A map of the Daisy Hill Neighbourhood showed the buildings owned and in the process of being acquired by Kirklees Council. It was a long-term strategy due to the process of acquiring a critical mass of properties.
- Fieldhouse Station apartments, opposite the Station, had now been redeveloped and was a catalyst project, setting a precedent in terms of high-quality apartments.
- Neil Jordan House was the next building to be sold as a residential development.
- Developers had indicated that Daisy Hill Neighbourhood was not a big enough site for investment.
- The Local Plan update provided further opportunities for wider town centre living opportunities.
- Riverside Strategic Housing Site was a larger scale investment opportunity, already in the Local Plan as a new community of 4,000 homes. south of Thornhill Lees / Ravensthorpe.
- A new Ravensthorpe train station was being built on the site as part of Trans-Pennine Route upgrade.
- A funding bid of £53 million to Homes England Brownfield Infrastructure Land Fund had been submitted, for the Riverside site, to fill the funding gap and create the infrastructure to open up the site.
- It was hoped that the site would go to market to secure a master developer, and an update on this to be brought to the Board in July.

Timescales for next steps were outlined:

During discussion the Board noted that the Council was looking for land for industrial or housing development to include in the Local Plan.

The Board raised the issue of communication about the long-term plans with owners of properties in the town centre so that they were fully informed. The Board was advised that this would part of the overall communications by Dewsbury Town Board as outlined in the Communications Update.

The Board questioned the amount of social and affordable housing that would be made available in the new developments and were advised that the baseline would be to meet the Local Plan targets for at least 20% affordable housing, and the planning process would support this.

In response to a question about the potential strain on infrastructure caused by extra homes, especially traffic on Huddersfield Road, the Board were advised that when the site was allocated for housing in 2019, evidence that had informed the Local Plan was used to assess the traffic impact across the whole district. West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and Homes England funding had since been used to update that evidence. A requirement for significant investment in transport was expected, and this was being considered during conversations with WYCA about future strategic transport investment.

The Board discussed concerns over the Daisy Hill Neighbourhood whilst the process of building acquisition took place in terms of public health and safety. It was agreed that this would be a topic for discussion at the Strategy Day in March.

RESOLVED –

That the Project Update be noted.

12 AOB

The Board was advised that the Old Police Station in Dewsbury Town Centre would become vacant by the end of the year and would be put on the market. A discussion too place regarding ways in which this could create an opportunity for the key outcomes that the Town Board wanted to deliver. The Board noted the suggestion that a case be made around how differing decisions on the future building's use would impact on the outcomes for Dewsbury's economy and residents.

The Board discussed empty buildings in the Town Centre, particularly the Old Post Office, and it was suggested a position statement be provided on the ability of the Council to take action on derelict buildings. The Chair suggested that funding for enforcement could be considered by the Board.

RESOLVED –

That Any Other Business items be noted.

13 Date of Next Meeting

1st May 2025
Location: Dewsbury Town Hall

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Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

Dewsbury Town Board

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Present:	Keith Ramsay (Chair) Councillor Graham Turner Anis Dadu Martin Walsh Anum Rehman Peter Mason Helen Rose Palvinder Singh Christine Fox Paul Burnett (Virtual) Jackie Ransden (Substitute for Natalie Liddle)
In attendance:	Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development David Wildman, Acting Head of Town Centres Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer Andy Raleigh, Economic Resilience Project Manager Helen Jakes, Communications Business Partner
Apologies:	Chief Supt Jim Griffiths Fara Butt Charlie Dunn Sam Heaton Sophie Johnson Iqbal Mohamed Natalie Liddle

1 Membership of Dewsbury Town Board

Apologies were received on behalf of James Griffiths, Fara Butt, Charlie Dunn, Sam Heaton, Sophie Johnson, Iqbal Mohamed and Natalie Liddle.

Jackie Ramsden substituted on behalf of Natalie Liddle.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting dated 6th February 2025 were not approved at this meeting.

3 Declaration of Interests

RESOLVED-Keith Ramsay, Martin Walsh, Peter Mason, Jackie Ramsay and Anis Dadu declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda item 12 would be considered in private session.

5 Public Question Time

No Public Questions were considered at this meeting.

6 Deputations/Petitions

No Deputations or Petitions were received.

7 Acquisition of strategic property

The Board received a report regarding the purchase of a strategic property in Dewsbury using Building Grant Revival Scheme funding. It was noted that this was the best option to help safeguard investment in the town.

As discussed at a previous Board Meeting, a request was made to enter discussions regarding the acquisition and repair of the building with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, who confirmed this was within scope of the Building Grant Revival Scheme as funds were intended to support the reinstatement of shop fronts to support wider regeneration and improve the image and appearance of the town centre.

Negotiations with the owner had taken place and a purchase price had been agreed.

RESOLVED-

1) That the report be noted
2) That, utilising the Building Grant Revival Scheme funds as part of the Town Deal allocation, approval be given to the acquisition and subsequent repairs to the strategi property as outlined in the private appendix
3) That, subject to the Plan for Neighbourhoods being approved by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, a recommendation be made to Kirklees Council as the accountable body, to:-
   (i) Utilise the revenue funds from the Plan for Neighbourhoods for the annual holding costs of the property
   (ii) Agree to further investment in the strategic property as part of the Regeneration Plan, in order to facilitate the renovation and sale or lease of the property in the future.

8 Plan for Neighbourhoods

The Board received a report on Plan for Neighbourhoods. On 4th March 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed further investment of up to £20m in Dewsbury as part of their Plan for Neighbourhoods. The Board, working with the Local Authority, would be responsible for producing a 10-year regeneration plan, setting out the activity that would be pursued to achieve the three strategic objectives of the programme which were:

- Thriving places
- Stronger Communities
- Taking back control

The Board noted that Kirklees Council had to confirm the Neighbourhood Board Membership and place boundaries by 22nd April 2025.

The Board was informed that priorities for capacity funding were identified using feedback from a survey completed by Board Members and Council Officers which included establishing a multi-disciplinary safety and security team, developing and delivering a programme of events, engaging with businesses and developing housing and economic plans.

During discussion, the Board suggested that green space in relation to Caulms Wood be included in the boundary. It was noted that this would need to be agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Authority.

RESOLVED-

1) That a report be referred to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government with a recommendation that:-
   (i) current Board Members be retained for the Neighbourhood Board
   (ii) the default geographical Boundary as defined by the Office for National Statistics be used for the Plan for Neighbourhood.

9 AOB

The Board was updated on the resignation of Sue Baker, The Chair thanked Sue for her input in improving Dewsbury Town Centre over the time she had been a Board Member**.**

The Chair advised the Board that Iqbal Mohamed (MP) had requested an extraordinary meeting of the Board to discuss Dewsbury Sports Centre. The Chair confirmed that he had requested a report be submitted to the next Board Meeting on the reasons to why the sports centre could not be refurbished**,** along with details on the piece of work that had been commissioned on Health and Wellbeing of people in Dewsbury.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 1st May
Location: Dewsbury Town Hall

11 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the pubic be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Park 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned minutes.

12 Acquisition of Strategic property

RESOLVED- That the Committee noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to agenda item 7.

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 1st May 2025

Title of report: Response to questions and suggestions from Town Board members regarding Dewsbury Sports Centre

Purpose of report: To respond and update members on matters regarding Dewsbury Sports Centre

Officer recommendations and reasons: Board Members note the update

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes no issues

1. **Summary**

Background

On the 5th November 2024 Kirklees cabinet received a report regarding the condition of Dewsbury Sports centre, which closed in September 2023 due to health and safety concerns owing to the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). Prior to its closure, the centre had been loss making, (c £1.113m per annum and required significant investment for repairs.
In December 2023, Cabinet came to a decision to reduce the leisure centre offer to eight centres throughout Kirklees, which did not include DSC. An Integrated Impact Assessment was conducted at that time to evaluate the implications of the closure. The assessment underscored the necessity of identifying a solution to aid the local community in enhancing health & wellbeing outcomes. As it was apparent that while some individuals utilised the facilities within DSC to improve their health and wellbeing, a sports centre is not the preferred option for everyone

At the 5th of November 2024 Cabinet meeting it was resolved: -

1)That approval be given to permanently close Dewsbury Sports Centre and declare the existing buildings surplus to the Council's requirements.

2) That, subject to the approval of capital funding in the Council's revised Capital Plan at Council on 5th March 2025, approval be given to demolish the wet side facility

.
3) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place to initiate negotiations with the Landlord of the dry side building regarding the existing lease and the potential future redevelopment of the building and wider site.

4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into and execute any necessary documentation or instruments in relation to the above matters.

5) That authority be given to write off KAL's outstanding borrowing costs of £126k for 2024/25 and a total cost of £697k until 2035 and that the adjustment be made to the Treasury Management budget to accommodate the change.

6) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources to: -

(i) work with partners, including funders such as Sport England and sporting governing bodies, to secure external investment enabling a programme of physical activity opportunities to be delivered in Dewsbury, and
(ii) begin a promotional campaign to highlight existing activities in the area, with proposals aiming to deliver a new style of provision to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes.

7) That authority be given to commission a strategic needs assessment to explore approaches to effectively address the health, well-being and social needs of the Dewsbury population.

8) That the Integrated Impact Assessment which was appended to the considered report be noted.

Response to Town Board questions, suggestions and requests for update.

1. The MP Mr Mohamed indicated there were suggestions from the community that the impact of the closure of the Dewsbury Sports Centre should be considered in the Long-Term Plan.
   Response
   - On the 28th Nov 2024 the board recognised that funding secured by the Town Deal, could not be used to fund the re-opening of Dewsbury Sports Centre and any future funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Funding would be far short of the funds needed. It also recognised the centre was a matter for the Council to respond to. It stated that the focus of Dewsbury Town Board remained the delivery of committed projects to support regeneration and on a programme of interventions to be brought forward through a long-term plan to support economic growth.
   - At the same November meeting of the Board Richard Thorpe from the then Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities at the November meeting explained how the funding could be spent. The council has written to MHCLG to request confirmation of the funding parameters in writing ahead of the May board.

2. Mr Mohamed supported a proposal put forward by his constituents, that up to 30% of the Town Investment Plan funding could be repurposed for projects and activities which could include Dewsbury Sports Centre.
   Response
   - Notwithstanding the position on the funding and the focus of the Board in the previous answer the revenue and capital costs required to bring DSC back into use exceed the funding streams available.
   - Kirklees Council Cabinet decision and Cabinet papers for Dewsbury Sports Centre are available on the Kirklees Council website and include details of all costs.

3. Mr Mohamed suggested that if funding was not provided by Central Government, Dewsbury Town Board should consider at least funding £400,000 capital costs to reopen the dry side.
   Response

   - Notwithstanding the position on the funding and the focus of the Board officers don't recognise the £400k capital costs quoted above, whilst a formal estimate has not been prepared for dry side opening on its own. The report to cabinet contained the following information.
     In order to explore the option of re-opening the dry side of DSC, the following assumptions were made:
     - A new main entrance would be required (to replace the existing main entrance that is attached to the wet side building), with subsequent remodelling of parts of DSC to accommodate the new build
     - As the building has been closed for a significant period of time, necessary health and safety works would be required including fire safety issues, works to the sports hall floor and the re-commissioning of all services required to operate the building
     - To prevent the need for a future closure of the building once re-opened and to undertake major condition works, all major fabric, mechanical and electrical works that would be required over the next 5-10 years would be undertaken prior to re-opening. Therefore, guaranteeing the building an extended life of 25 years plus. The technical study concluded that the cost of re-opening the dry side of DSC in line with the above assumptions would be £5.713m.

4. The chair asked Officers to provide an update on resolution 7- "That authority be given to commission a strategic needs assessment to explore approaches to effectively address the health, well-being and social needs of the Dewsbury population" be provided to the Board

   - On the 7 April 2025 the council put out a request for tender for a specialist consultation partner to engage with local people and groups over the coming months to get detailed views from residents about the ways they want to improve their health, wellbeing and connections with

their community. The results of the engagement, along with data on local health outcomes, will be used by the council to plan sports and health provision in the town for the future and make sure any new services can make the biggest impact on local people's health.

- As part of the consultation, which is expected to start in May, the council will talk to residents, councillors, community groups and healthcare partners online and face-to-face to identify gaps in provision and get a full picture of the needs of the community. This will give the Council the best possible platform to make decisions on how to increase provision and reduce health inequalities
- The tender is expected to close on 22 April 2025 a verbal update can be provided on the tender progress at the May board meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

N/a

3. Implications for the Plan for Neighbourhoods

3.1 Working with People

This report provides an update to Board regarding the council's engagement with residents in Dewsbury and the surrounding area and the intention to use that engagement to understand how to support residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Town board should note the council's intention to engage a partner to undertake the consultation. The council will ensure the board receives feedback on the consultation.

3.3 Place Based Working

Dewsbury Sports Centre sits within the area for the Plan for Neighbourhoods; however, the board recognises that provision of sports and Leisure sits with the council.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

n/a

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

It is noted that engagement with residents will include children and young people and ensure their voice is heard.

3.6 Other (eg Legal, Finance, Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

n/a

4. Consultation/Engagement

None on the report, however the report updates on the council engagement with residents on health and wellbeing.

5. Options

That the board note the information within the report.

6. Next steps and timelines

n/a

7. Contact officer

Joanne Bartholomew Service Director for Development

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Board Minutes from 28th Nov 2025

Council Cabinet 5th November 2025

9. Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew Service Director for Development

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Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 1st May 2025

Title of report: Footfall Data, Dewsbury Town Centre

Purpose of report: To provide an update on footfall data in Dewsbury Town Centre.

Officer recommendations and reasons:

- Board to note the contents of this report.
- Board to agree to update their website to include footfall data and for information to be shared twice a year to ensure visibility of available data

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

A summary of pedestrian footfall data is presented in Appendix A to show the changes in levels over time and it is proposed that in the future a summary of footfall data is provided on the Board's website to increase visibility of the data.

2. Information required to take a decision

Dewsbury footfall has been in decline for many decades, outlined and evidenced in the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan (TIP). Key TIP projects are currently underway / under development and will help to increase footfall – and the ten-year Regeneration Plan will help to identify projects that can support increased activity in the town centre.

The Council has invested in a number of pedestrian footfall counters around Dewsbury and has been collecting full-year data since 2022. These cameras capture the total number of trips i.e. if someone walks past a camera 4 times, they will be counted 4 times - to provide an overview of total activity in the town and how that has changed over time and is affected by events. Appendix A summarises the pedestrian footfall data which demonstrates the fluctuation in footfall and the positive impact events can have.

It is recommended that for transparency, footfall data should be shared at least twice a year on the Board's website. This data will demonstrate how footfall is changing and can capture the impact of specific events in the town such as the Dewsbury 10k run or Food festival. A commitment to continually report back on movement figures for Dewsbury on both board platforms and appropriate reports, will ensure that communities are kept informed and updated.

3. Implications

3.1 Working with People

As part of the consultation for the former long-term plan for Dewsbury, a comprehensive engagement with the various communities in Dewsbury was undertaken. This included in person engagement activities, such as family fun days, shopping centres, directly engaging with businesses, religious organisations, schools, colleges and drop-in sessions at the Town Hall.

These engagement activities were planned to be as inclusive as possible and working with people as much as possible, listening, and ensuring those conversations were feeding into shaping the priority interventions that will eventually inform the regeneration plan.

For future engagement events in the town the footfall data can be analysed to assess the impact of selected events.

3.2 Working with Partners

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board includes a wide of stakeholders from across the Dewsbury area including community, education, business, and development sectors as well as the Council and the local Member of Parliament.

3.3 Place Based Working

The Dewsbury Blueprint is based on the idea of working with local people and businesses to improve the town centre and this has been taken forward in subsequent projects. The Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd of January 2019 draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was also a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place on having an attractive and vibrant town centre. The consultation carried out by the consultants 'Social' for the Dewsbury Town Deal in late 2020 provides further support to these conclusions.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has adopted a 'net zero' carbon emissions target for 2038. As part of developing the Plan for Neighbourhoods, projects will ensure that they are contributing positively to tackle Climate Change & Air Quality and will feed into any design and development as these progress.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The regeneration of Dewsbury, particularly the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis. The stakeholder engagement has reconfirmed this. The projects reflect the need to encourage families back into the town. Projects such as the Town Park, and the Market have a significant focus on improving outcomes for children.

2.1 Other (e.g Legal, Finance, Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

The Council is currently responsible and accountable for the cameras and has allocated funds to ensure they remain in place for at least another 12-months. If changes are proposed, the Council will explore options and will communicate this to the Board.

4. Consultation/Engagement

Feedback from the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation, and the engagement undertaken during 2024 as part of the Long-term Plan has highlighted a desire to see increased levels of activity in the town centre. At the Neighbourhood Board in February 2025, a member of the public raised a question regarding footfall data and the Chair requested that a summary was provided at the Board meeting on 1st May 2025.

5. **Options**

It is recommended that a summary of footfall data (and other data as available) is summarised and uploaded to the Board website twice a year.

Alternative options would involve either presenting this data once a year or more regularly throughout the, however, these are not recommended as it is considered that sharing data twice a year provides a sufficient timeframe to analyse change and observe trends.

6. **Next steps and timelines**

Data to be published on Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board website in May/June 2025.

7. Contact officer

James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration

8. Appendices (If applicable)

See Appendix A

9. Service Director responsible

Joanne Bartholomew - Service Director, Development

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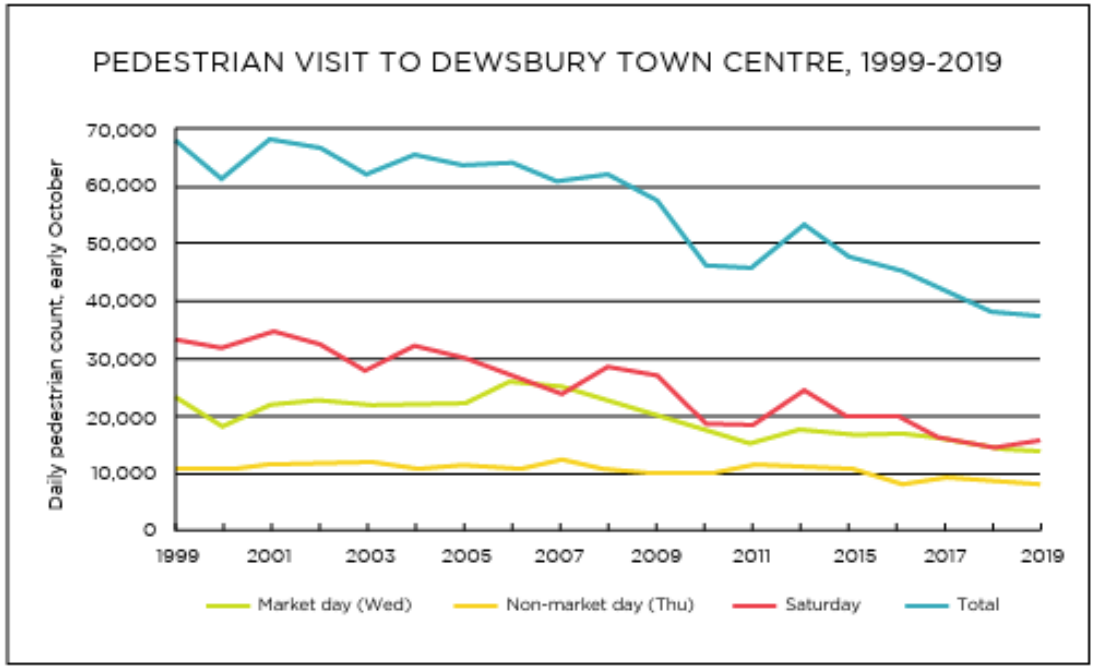
Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board
1st May 2025
Footfall Data
Appendix A

Pedestrian footfall (1999 – 2019)

- The graph shows a summary of pedestrian footfall presented in the Town Investment Plan.
- Demonstrates that footfall in Dewsbury declined over a 20-year period to 2019.
- This shows that in 2019 the daily pedestrian count had dropped to approximately 40,000.



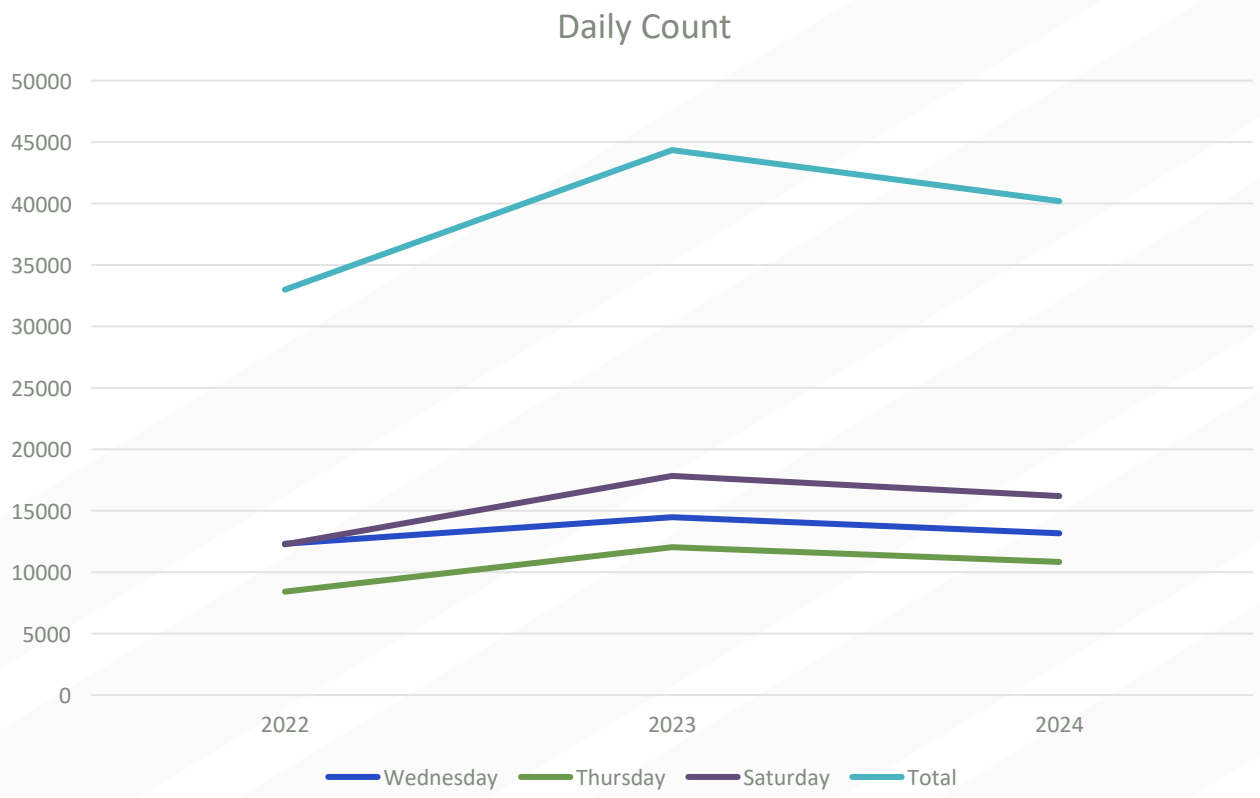
The graph shows how footfall has decreased from nearly 70,000 in 1999 to less than 40,000 in 2019.

Pedestrian footfall (counter locations)

N.B. The footfall cameras will pick people up however many times they walk past a camera, it does not pick you up once upon entering the town and then track you. If you walk past a camera 4 times, you will be counted 4 times.

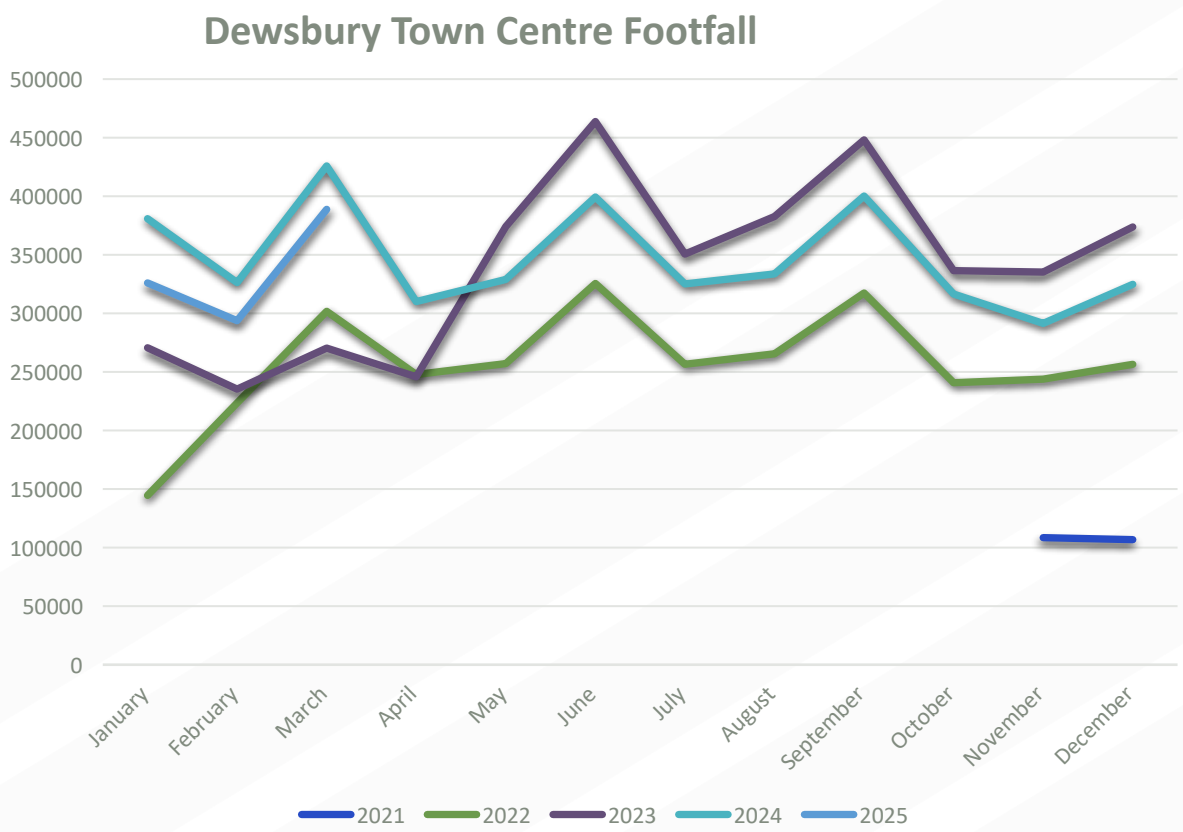
Pedestrian footfall (2022-2024)

- Shows that footfall levels have fluctuated but remained broadly similar since 2019 albeit with a gradual reduction on market days



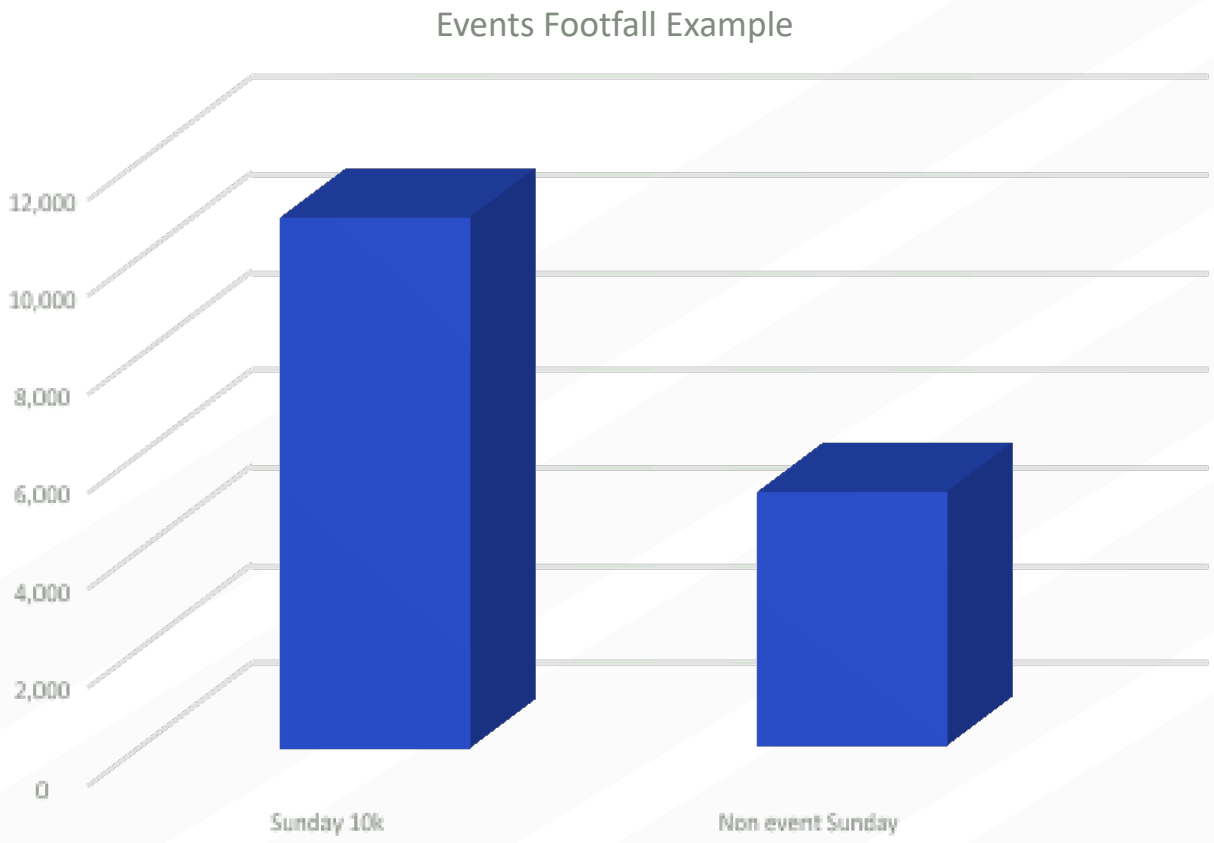
Pedestrian footfall (2022 – to date)

- This data starts in November 2021, post-Covid, as restrictions were lifted.
- Shows fluctuations in footfall throughout the year.
- Fluctuations have been exacerbated by changes in shopping habits, Covid, working from home, and cost of living crisis as seen in many other towns across the UK.



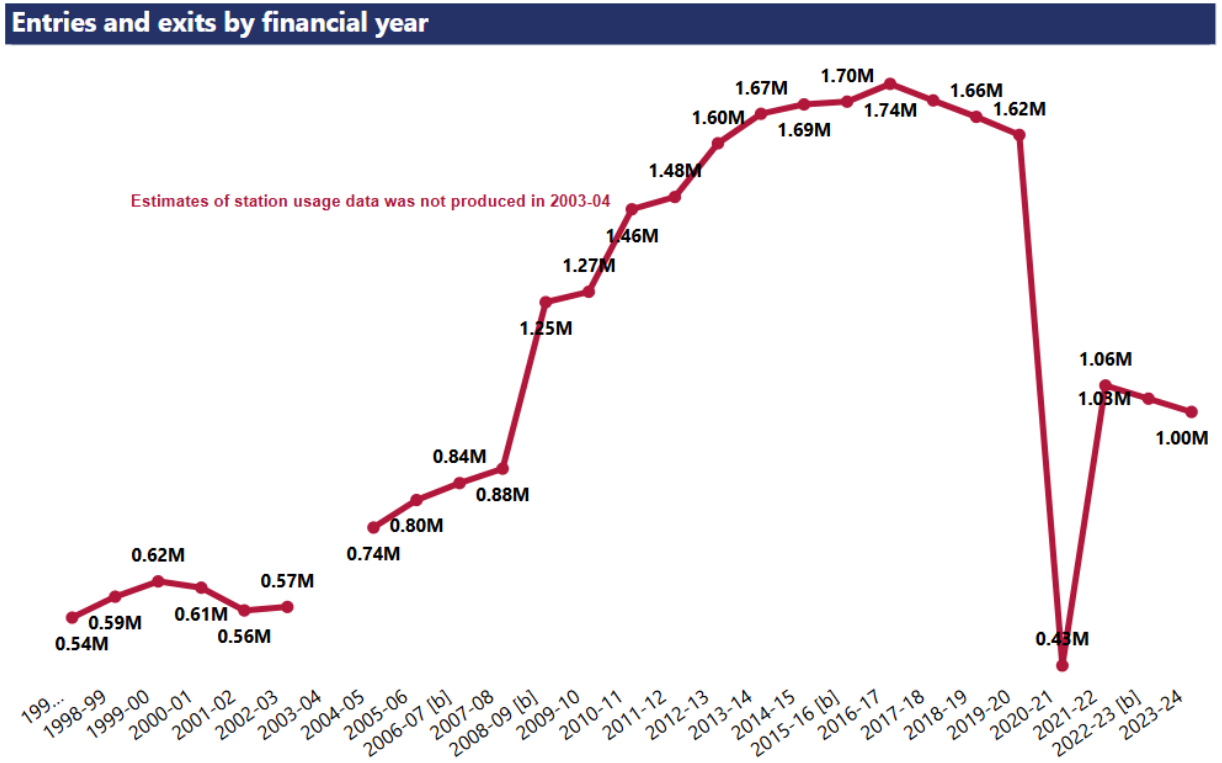
Pedestrian footfall (impact of events)

- Dewsbury 10k run (2nd Feb 2025) demonstrates that events bring in significant footfall compared to the same day in a different week with no event.
- Events play a key role in drawing in footfall to Dewsbury Centre, where community feedback demonstrated more of this is needed



Pedestrian footfall (rail entries & exits)

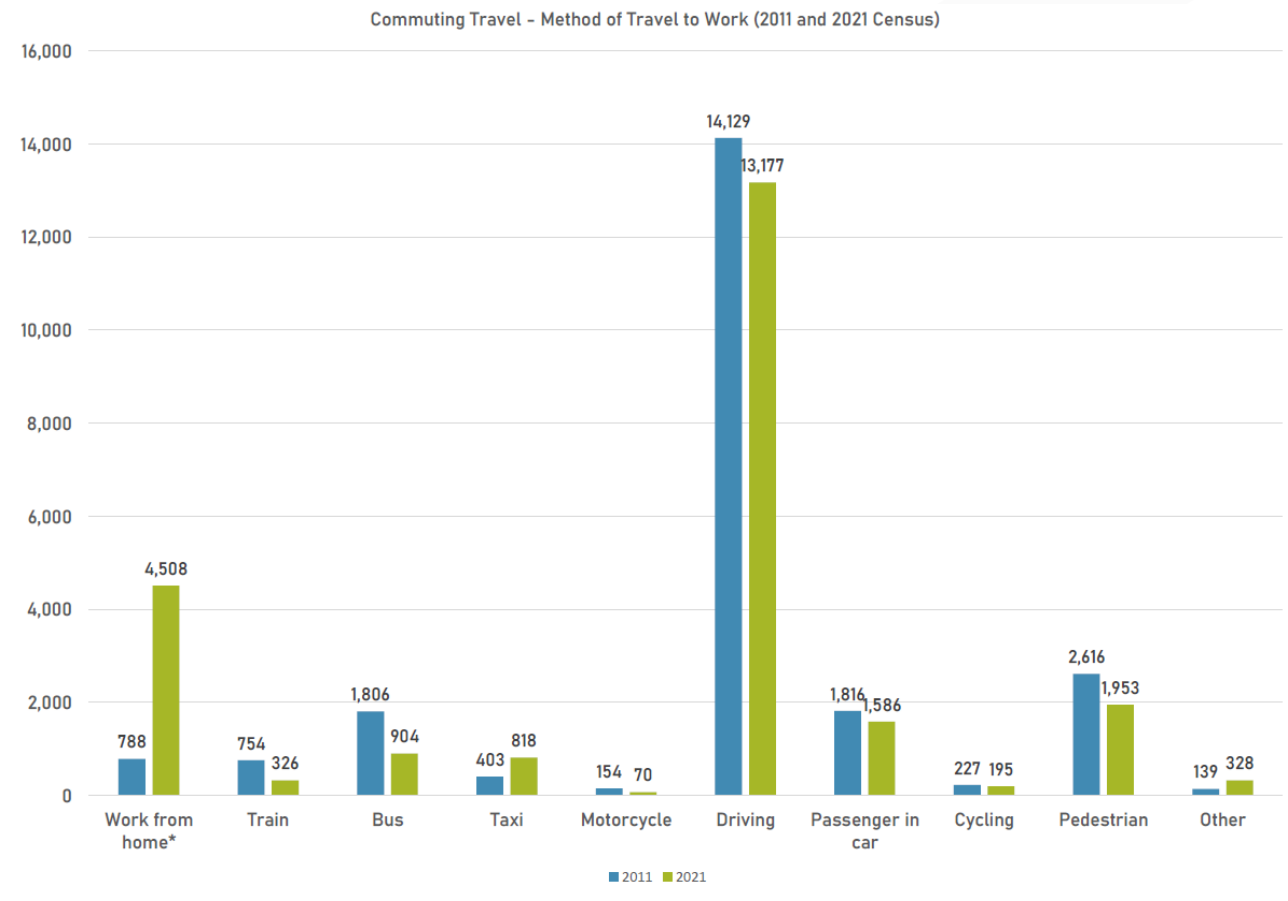
- The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) provide annual estimates of the number of entries/exits and interchanges at each station in Great Britain. These estimates are based primarily on ticket sales.
- The data for Dewsbury station demonstrates a significant reduction post-Covid



The data contained in this dashboard can be found in Table 1410 and Table 1415. Further detail on quality limitations, including the impact of methodology changes on station usage estimates can also be found in Table 1410 and in the quality & methodology report.

Pedestrian footfall (journeys to work)

- Graph shows the outputs from the ‘method of travel to work’ question from the 2011 and 2021 Census for Dewsbury.
- The 2021 results were skewed by the impact of Covid lockdown, however, the data demonstrates that driving is the primary mode choice and that levels of walking and cycling for work have decreased since 2011.



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Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 1st May 2025

Title of report: Update re: Plan for Neighbourhoods

Purpose of report: Provide an update to the Board regarding progress on the Plan for Neighbourhoods since the meeting on 26th March 2025, and set out a high-level programme to submission.

Officer recommendations and reasons:

- Board to note the contents of this Report.
- Board to agree that the current Terms of Reference will undergo a review and are updated / amended as necessary during the development of the Regeneration Plan (May to December 2025).
- Board to commit to attending meetings and workshops to support the development of the Regeneration Plan.
- Board to approve the high-level programme for the draft Regeneration Plan to be reviewed at the November Board ahead of submission in December 2025.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

In March 2025 government confirmed the programme previously known as the Long-Term Plan would now be known as the Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) and new guidance was released. As part of the new guidance, the government wish to see the establishment of Neighbourhood Boards to help shape a ten year 'Regeneration Plan' and a four year 'Investment Plan'. The deadline for submission of the Regeneration Plan is Winter 2025.

An initial deadline of 22nd April 2025 was set by government for Boards to confirm members and boundary arrangements – as agreed at the Board on 26th March 2025, this has been done. However, it is recommended that a more detailed review of the current Terms of Reference takes place in the coming months and is updated as necessary.

To maximise the benefit of engagement it is proposed that development work now commences with a target for a draft Regeneration Plan to be discussed and approved at the November Board ahead of submission in December 2025.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Background

In September 2023, the then Prime Minister launched the Long-term Plan for Towns programme. This identified Dewsbury as one of the towns to benefit from a £20m ten-year plan of investment. In December 2023, the government issued guidance for the Long-term Plan for Towns.

Significant work was undertaken throughout 2024 to evolve the 'Town Deal Board' into the Town Board; and to engage communities & stakeholders to identify priorities for investment. Work was paused as a result of the general election and subsequent spending review.

The Budget 2024 confirmed the Long-term Plan programme would remain and in March 2025 government confirmed this programme would be known as the Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) and new guidance was released.

As part of the new guidance, the government wish to see the establishment of Neighbourhood Boards. Each board will work in partnership with the community and local authority to develop a 'Regeneration Plan' setting out a vision for the next decade alongside a more detailed four year 'Investment Plan'.

The deadline for submission of the Regeneration Plan is Winter 2025, and will need to set out the activities to be delivered to achieve the 3 strategic objectives of the PfN programme, which are:

- thriving places
- stronger communities
- taking back control

Further details on these objectives and the programme more generally can be found online:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus#fund-objectives

The government has provided a list of pre-approved interventions that local authorities and Neighbourhood Boards can use for the programme. Details of these interventions can be found online:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-pre-approved-interventions

To support the development of the Regeneration Plans, an additional £200,000 capacity funding will be released in the 2025/26 financial year. This funding will only be made once Board members and boundary arrangements have been agreed by MHCLG. Government set a deadline of 22nd April 2025 to confirm / reconfirm Neighbourhood Board membership and boundary.

2.2 Membership and boundary confirmation for 22nd April 2025

The Board meeting on 26th March 2025 confirmed the following:

- current Board Members be retained for the Neighbourhood Board; and

- the default geographical Boundary as defined by the Office for National Statistics be used for the Plan for Neighbourhood.

On 22nd April 2025, Kirklees Council officers submitted this information to the government's online Delta system. Once feedback has been received this will be shared with the Board.

2.3 Governance for the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

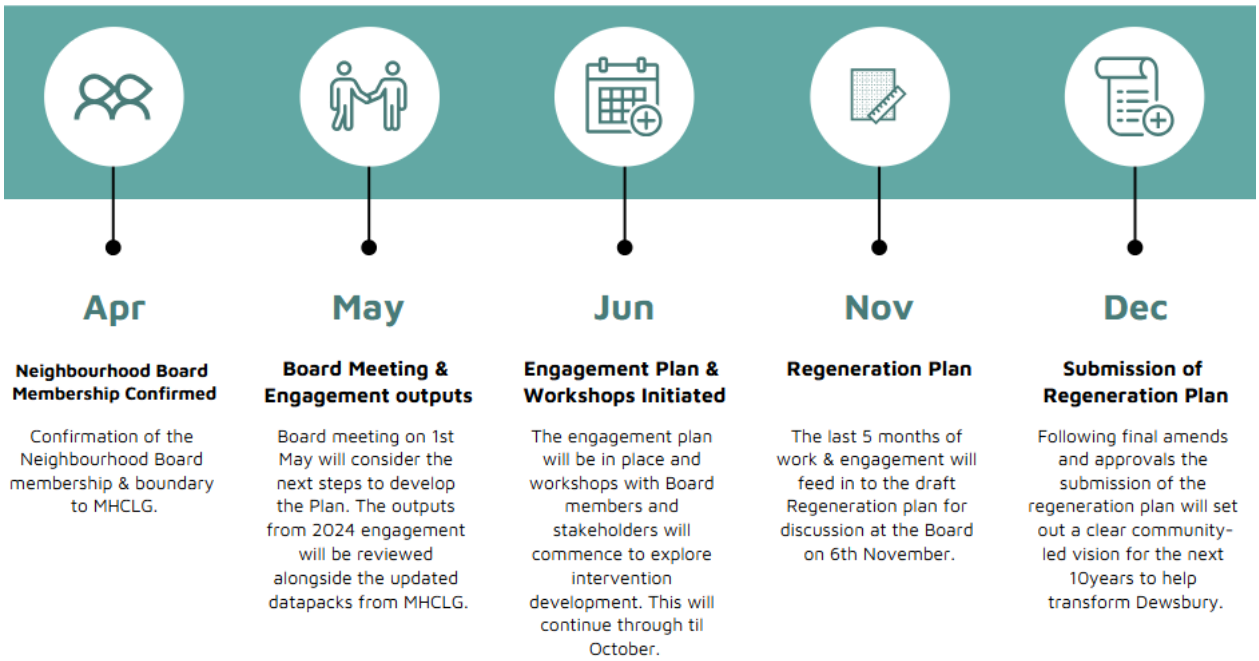
The existing Terms of Reference, developed and agreed for the Town Board (in March 2024) will remain (although the document has been updated to refer to the Neighbourhood Board, and Regeneration Plan). However, during the development of the Regeneration Plan it is proposed that the Terms of Reference undergo a review and are updated / amended as necessary.

2.4 High-level programme to develop the Regeneration Plan

The deadline for submission of the Plan to MHCLG is Winter 2025 – following approval the first programme delivery funding payment will be made to the local authority to enable delivery to commence.

There is significant work required to engage the community and to develop the Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan. This will build on all the engagement and intervention development undertaken during 2025.

The image below summarises the high-level programme to ensure the Plan is developed, approved and submitted by Winter 2025. This accounts for the planned Board meetings on 7th August and 6th November – with the intention being that a final draft of the Regeneration Plan will come to the Board on 6th November for approval. It will be important for meetings and workshops with Board members and other key stakeholders to take place between these dates to discuss the potential interventions in more focussed sessions.



3. Implications

3.1 Working with People
Significant engagement has taken place, and further engagement will take place to shape the proposals that will be included in the Regeneration Plan. The projects and interventions to be delivered are being designed to reflect local priorities and create positive change for local people.

3.2 Working with Partners
Collaborative working with partners has formed a key element of development work to date to ensure we are achieving the best outcomes possible; and we will continue to engage with partners going forward.

3.3 Place Based Working
The development of the Regeneration Plan for Dewsbury will build on past engagements and be shaped by the community through further engagement to ensure it reflects local priorities and is tailored to the needs of Dewsbury to achieve the best outcomes for residents.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality
Interventions brought forward within the Plan will consider how they can help to tackle the climate emergency, reduce emissions and improve air quality.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children
The Plan will be part of helping to realise the ambition to improve our towns for all people, including children – and will help to create a long-lasting legacy that benefits the next and future generations.

3.6 Other (e.g Legal, Finance, Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)
The programme will have a risk and opportunity register, which will be actively managed to mitigate potential risks. An Integrated Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the development of the projects if required to consider the potential effects of activities and decisions on people, the environment and Kirklees as a whole.

4 Consultation/Engagement

Feedback from the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation, and the engagement undertaken during 2024 as part of the Long-term Plan will be reviewed, and additional engagement will take place as part of developing the Regeneration Plan. As projects progress statutory consultation will take place as required.

5 Options

The option of accelerating the development of the Plan was considered to enable an earlier submission, however, this is not recommended. The recommendation to target submission in December 2025 will ensure the outputs of community and business engagement over summer and early Autumn help to shape the final proposal.

6 Next steps and timelines

The next steps and timelines are outlined at a high-level in Section 2.4. The initial next step will be to review the available evidence from the 2025 engagement activities and an updated datapack from MHCLG alongside the new guidance, objectives and list of approved interventions. A series of meetings and workshops will then be set up to support the development of the Plan which will continue and be refined over the period June to October to enable a draft version of the Regeneration Plan to be discussed at the November Board meeting ahead of submission in December.

7 Contact officer

David Wildman, Head of Town Centre Regeneration (Interim)

8 **Background Papers and History of Decisions** (If applicable)

Dewsbury Town Board 26th March 2025

9 Appendices (If applicable)

n/a

10 Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development

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Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 1st May 2025

Title of report: Plan for Neighbourhoods: Capacity Funding for Engagement

Purpose of report: This report seeks Board approval to allocate Plan for Neighbourhood capacity funding to support the development and delivery of engagement activities to support the development of the Regeneration Plan.

Officer recommendations and reasons:

- Board notes the content of this report.
- Board approves for a total of £66,000, of the expected £200,000 MHCLG capacity funding (year 2025/26) to be allocated to support engagement activities as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The former Long-term plan was paused following last year's election by the new government. Recent updated guidance has replaced the long-term plan, which is now the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

This guidance has had some priority changes which need to be reflected in the Regeneration Plan, and the funding for delivery has been delayed by a financial year, however £200,000 of capacity funding has been allocated to support development of the Regeneration Plan for Dewsbury in 2025/26.

To enable further engagement to take place this report is seeking approval to utilise approximately one third of the capacity funding for further engagement activities. This will build on the engagement activities undertaken in Summer/Autumn 2024.

2. Information required to take a decision

During 2024 a substantial programme of engagement was undertaken as part of the then Long-term Plan for Towns programme. The new government has now confirmed this programme will be known as the Plan for Neighbourhoods and has shared new guidance.

To ensure we maintain momentum by providing continuous engagement, and ensure engagement reflects the new guidance it is proposed that a programme

of engagement activities are undertaken and funded through the forthcoming capacity funding for 25/26.

Without this plan being agreed, there will be no resourcing to develop a cultural and event- led engagement plan that is essential for Dewsbury's regeneration.

The recommended distribution of funding, summarised below, will enable engagement and communication activities, supported by Kirklees Council consultation team and project officers. Events will be planned and delivered through this allocated resourcing, and promoted through existing Board platforms if the allocation is agreed.

It is proposed that the funding is distributed as follows:

Event-led Engagement
Allocate £10,000 to support a programme of event-led engagement with the community. This would be led by The Arcade Group who have already secured £48,000 UKSPF funding to deliver events in Dewsbury. This allocation will enable events-led engagement and support up to 20 events, differing in scale and offer in Dewsbury Town Centre.

Feedback from the latest consultation *#OurFutureDewsbury*, a diverse offer of events was high on the priorities that communities would like to see in the centre. Supporting this priority and the Arcade Groups work with this additional funding would offer Dewsbury residents other reasons to visit the centre and increase footfall, where we have clear evidence that promoted events significantly increase footfall.

A well-planned programme of events, coordinated and led by the Arcade Group and working closely with the Council and Board will enable engagement opportunities that support the Regeneration Plan. It is anticipated the range of events will include: five larger events, such as the food festival, three smaller events around the town and monthly 'pop-up' events. These will help to increase activity in the town and create the opportunity to engage with the community.

Engaging with communities throughout the development of the Regeneration Plan is something that is required by MHCLG. Events taking place following the submission of the plan, will enable ongoing conversations with Dewsbury residents, developing the relationships between communities and board members; which is an area board members have stated they like to see positively develop.

Progress and updates would be given by The Arcade Group Chair, to both Kirklees Council for UKSPF funding as well as Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board for capacity funding.

Business-engagement
Allocate £20,000 to help establish a business network to support increased engagement with local businesses. It is proposed that the The Arcade Group as

an established entity take responsibility for establishing this group and facilitating engagement.

The potential benefits of establishing a business network that is led by local businesses for Dewsbury would be:

- Engagement-led networking, informing regeneration plan
- Strengthened Collaboration & Communication between businesses
- Stronger Economic Resilience
- Increased Visibility and Footfall
- Upskilling & Innovation
- Attract New Investment
- A strong business network presents a more compelling case to investors

The Chair of the Arcade Group would be accountable to the Neighbourhood Board and provide updates and progress where required.

Communications / Profile

Allocate £13,000 to the Communications Working Group. This will enable a continuation of work that has already started to shape how various communications are needed to support priority messaging of investment projects and local community events.

In addition to physical and digital messaging, this will support an ongoing need and commitment for both Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board social media platforms, and the website.

Communications are required to ensure that messaging is seen in public as well as on the digital platforms, as well as being able to promote events as they are planned and happening. Additionally, the need for these channels to engage with residents and community groups as the Board have committed and would seek to strengthen conversations and engagement throughout project delivery.

Feedback from members of the public has been that there has been a lack of physical communications in the town centre itself, and the working group are currently looking at options to progress this, and a budget position following a decision will inform next steps.

Without this allocation, key messaging in town centre and a continued online presence will be minimal and there is a risk a continued online presence will be weakened over the next financial year, where engagement and promotion of events would be crucial to ensure the Neighbourhood Board are able to promote events they are also supporting.

Events, planning and resourcing

Allocate £23,000 to resource a part-time role for the next 12 months (2-days per week). This role would need to be established to support the events and cultural development of the Plan for Neighbourhoods. This role would work

closely with Council, Board, Dewsbury Arcade Group and other partners to support the cultural activities across Dewsbury in year 1 and provide support for the planning process and longer-term programming.

In summer 2024, thematic working group members led by board members articulated this role was a priority and should be led by someone independent of the Council. It is anticipated this role would be led by the same freelance events and cultural development expert, who also led on the *Taking the Lead* programme. They would create a body of events that delivers to the uniqueness of the cultural infrastructure of Dewsbury through their significant experience and knowledge.

Due to the freelance relationship, they can be employed in a way that best supports the aims of the Neighbourhood Board, supported and managed by Council officers as with Taking the Lead. This role will be vital to develop of the next phase of cultural programming for Dewsbury.

Should this recommendation be agreed, it is anticipated an immediate start can be taken for progressing all these areas to ensure the benefits of these are realised at the earliest opportunity. Once progressed, engagement plans can then be developed as part of the events and networking that can then be fed into regeneration submission timelines.

3. Implications

3.1 Working with People

As part of the consultation for the former long-term plan for Dewsbury, a comprehensive engagement with the various communities in Dewsbury was undertaken. This included in person engagement activities, such as family fun days, shopping centres, directly engaging with businesses, religious organisations, schools, colleges and drop-in sessions at the Town Hall. These engagement activities were planned to be as inclusive as possible, future engagement activities will enable continued engagement with local people to ensure the Regeneration Plan reflects their needs.

3.2 Working with Partners

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board includes a wide of stakeholders from across the Dewsbury area including community, education, business, and development sectors as well as the Council and the local Member of Parliament. Ongoing engagement will continue to engage with key partners in Dewsbury.

3.3 Place Based Working

The Dewsbury Blueprint is based on the idea of working with local people and businesses to improve the town centre and this has been taken forward in subsequent projects. The Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd of January 2019 draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was also a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place on having an attractive and vibrant town centre. The consultation carried out by the

consultants ‘Social’ for the Dewsbury Town Deal in late 2020 provides further support to these conclusions.

The development of the Regeneration Plan for Dewsbury will build on past engagements and be shaped by the community through further engagement to ensure it reflects local priorities and is tailored to the needs of Dewsbury to achieve the best outcomes for residents.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality
The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has adopted a ‘net zero’ carbon emissions target for 2038. As part of developing the Plan for Neighbourhoods, projects will ensure that they are contributing positively to tackle Climate Change & Air Quality and will feed into any design and development as these progress.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children
The regeneration of Dewsbury, particularly the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis. The stakeholder engagement has reconfirmed this. The projects reflect the need to encourage families back into the town. Projects such as the Town Park, and the Market have a significant focus on improving outcomes for children.

3.6 Other (e.g Legal, Finance, Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)
It is important to note that the Council is the “Accountable Body “to MHCLG with responsibility for receiving and managing the grant funding and delivery of the projects. Management, governance and delivery of the PfN will be overseen by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board and the Council will be responsible for the delivery of projects in conjunction with the Board and other partners.

Legal Services will advise on the relevant grant conditions and associated compliance risks including failure to achieve contracted spend and output profiles, procurement will be in line with relevant regulations, failure to comply with branding guidelines etc.

The Council will comply with its Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules; and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and/or the Procurement Act 2023 in relation to Goods, Works and Services and the Subsidy Control Act 2022. The Council must comply with its duty of Best Value under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. The Council must comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010 in relation to projects on a case-by-case basis before making any decisions.

4. Consultation/Engagement
Feedback from the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation, and the engagement undertaken during 2024 as part of the Long-term Plan will be reviewed, and the additional engagement outlined in this report will feed in to the development of the Regeneration Plan.

5. Options

Without this support the engagement activities outlined cannot happen. The recommendation to allocate the funding as described in this report has been discussed and endorsed by the Communication Working Group, which consists of three board members.

6. **Next steps and timelines**

Subject to the recommendations being agreed and capacity funding being released by MHCLG, it is anticipated work can start in May to progress all areas outlined so that engagement can commence as soon as possible and feed into the programme to develop the Regeneration Plan.

7. Contact officer

James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration

8. Appendices (If applicable)

n/a

9. Service Director responsible

Joanne Bartholomew - Service Director, Development

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 1st May 2025

Title of report: Dewsbury Town Deal, Project Update

Purpose of report: To update the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board on the current position of the Dewsbury projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan (TIP).

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

Dewsbury was one of 101 places to be invited to develop proposals for a new generation of multi-million-pound Town Deals. The town was eligible for support from the £3.6 billion Towns Fund and was able to access £24.8m. A Town Investment Plan (TIP) was submitted in January 2021. This followed agreement from Cabinet. The Dewsbury Town Deal Board (DTDB) also endorsed the plan for submission.

On 8th June 2021 the Council received confirmation that the TIP had been accepted, and the Council was awarded £24.8m to deliver the plan; subject to signing of Heads of Terms (HoT).HoT were signed at the end of June 2021.

This report offers information on progress made to date and will highlight any key risks and opportunities on the seven TIP projects which have yet to reach completion, both the Creative Culture Project – Taking a Lead and Fibre Capability have completed and will not be included in this report. The seven projects this report will refer to include: -

- The Arcade
- Civic Spaces and Memorial Gardens
- Construction Skills Village
- Sustainable Transport Modes
- Dewsbury Market and Urban Realm – Former Town Park
- Daisy Hill Neighbourhood
- Building Grant Revival

2. Information to consider

<u>The Arcade</u>

2.1 The Arcade is currently in delivery; William Birch contractors commenced works in April 2024, over the last 11 months Birch have undertaken extensive works to the internal fabric of the building. Due to the nature of the works required the construction phase has experienced several unexpected complexities. Recent construction complications have included timber decay, with the most significant unforeseen issues being around the lack of foundations within some of the units, replacement of structural beams, timber repairs on all floors and replacement of ground floor unit concrete and flooring slabs. The discovery of the original lift mechanism has also caused delay for associated archaeological work.

2.2 Kirklees Council alongside The Arcade Group issued a press statement in March outlining these delays and a new revised completion date of the 8th of October. These updates were noted at the Arcade Group Members and Supporters meeting on the 25th of February. The Arcade Group have moved the opening date to Spring 2026.

2.3 One of the key risks associated with the Arcade project are the unexpected complexities as outlined in section 2.1, these complexities will have a detrimental effect on the overall budget for the project. It is possible that the project may exceed the current funding, therefore the Council are currently undertaking steps to understand this risk and potential budget pressure, and will report back to members in due course.

2.4 Despite the delays noted in 2.1, William Birch have made good progress with key achievements being made. Appendix A outlines the recent key achievements and planned progress for the project.

Civic Spaces and Memorial Gardens

2.5 The Civic project has seen progress with Phase 1 works having been completed to the Wakefield Old Road area. Works include the installation of new paving to pedestrian walkways and parking provision to the side entrance of the Town Hall.

2.6 Phase 2.1 construction works are underway on the Town Hall Apron which will see the removal of the existing paving and replacement with York Stone paving slabs. A total of 6 trees will be planted, 3 of which will be located outside the reception entrance to the town hall. Street furniture including benches and cycle storage will also be installed.

2.7 It is expected that Phase 2.1 will complete late June, however the project has been subject to some delays to the programme due to complexity of the ground conditions. Additional 2 weeks are required to allow construction team to dig the tree pits to the required depth.

2.8 Phase 2.2 will see works being undertaken to create central steps up to the memorial and will see the repaving of the memorial area with York Stone. The

pedestrianisation of the southern part of Town Hall Way will also be undertaken during this phase.

2.9 Phase 3 which will be the final stage to the project will see the creation of a curved seating space, additional tree planting and improvements to the existing flower beds to Longcauseway as well as the installation of lighting. This Phase will commence construction in Summer and is due to complete by the Autumn.

2.11 In order to ensure stakeholders are kept informed, Kirklees Council has issued a press release in March, papers such as the Dewsbury Reporter, Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Live picked up the news story. It also featured in the Kirklees Together platform. The Councils communication team with approval from the Board's Communication Working Group have created an interpretation panel, which is currently sited in Market Place and offers information on the project.

Constructions Skills Village

2.12 Springfield site has seen a busy year will the course being fully subscribed and first year students progressing to complete construction course by July with many moving onto Level 2 in September. Kirklees College have a growing interest for new student intake for the level 1 course for the new academic year.

2.13 Kirklees College, Kirklees Council and Flannery Plant Hire launched the Skills Operator Hub in March at the Engineering Centre in Huddersfield. The Skills hub is a mobile unit that has two virtual reality plant machinery simulators which allows students to gain first hand in plant machine operation and houses classroom facilities for the Skills Bootcamps. The Skills Hub has been able to support the Skills Bootcamps which are short courses aimed 19+ leaners and allows them to develop their skills in specific industries.

2.14 Springfield site campus is now being considered to house a Skills Operator Hub which would see the virtual reality plant machinery being housed either at Springfield College if the site is able to accommodate as there are a number of logistics that have to be factored in to this decision including capacity at the site as well as power and data sources that will be required to operate.

2.15 One of the key risks facing the project is the Chidswell Site which continues to be under judicial review. There is a risk that the project will not meet the Town Deal programme timeline, therefore other considerations are currently being explored by Kirklees College and Kirklees Council for an alternative location for the Skills Hub.

Building Grant Revival Scheme

2.16 The project currently has one live application in the Northgate area. The proposal is to develop the building to create two 2-bedroom residential apartments on the first and second floor, with a commercial offer on the ground floor.

2.17 To progress this application officers are currently awaiting on confirmation of project costs from the project manager and architect to ascertain the possible level of grant funding that could be awarded.

2.18 Key risk associated with this application relates to the grant and planning application approval process that still needs to be undertaken before construction can commence.

2.19 Following on from the extraordinary meeting held on the 26th of March where board approved the purchase of a strategic property in the town, Kirklees Council's legal team have been instructed to complete the purchase utilising funds from the Building Grant Revival Scheme.

Sustainable Transport Modes

2.20 Overall the project is nearing completion having been on site now since, December 2024. Contractors Hinko have completed works on the 11th of April but will need to return to site once the Field House scaffolding has been removed to finish the section from Grove Street to A638 Dewsbury Road.

2.21 In the interim as Hinko are still under contract until the 25th of April operatives are supporting the councils internal labour force with other relevant works.

Dewsbury Market and Market Public Realm (former Town Park)

2.22 As part of the cost analysis the Market and Public Realm scheme has been subject to a value engineering exercise which has now been completed.

2.23 Stage 3a design has now completed and is currently frozen to allow for architectural and structural specialist to undertake a full review of the design ahead of proceeding to Stage 3b. Stage 3b will determine the overall costs, risks and programme for the project and will allow the Council to proceed to agree a Capital Outlay Report (COR) which is required as part of the councils financial procedure rules. Appendix B outlines the current timeline for the project.

2.24 A key risk to the Market project is the Construction Cost estimates, Kirklees Council expect to undertake a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) with MHCLG to seek the reallocation of grants fund once the final scheme costs are known.

2.25 Hostile Vehicle Measures (HVM) have been approved by the Strategic Director which will now form part of the new market design.

2.26 Planning approval has now been approved with conditions. The planning decision notice ref 2021/48/93368/E can be found on the council's website - Planning application details | Kirklees Council

2.27 Stakeholder engagement with market traders and members of the public to take place with the creation of new trader and public information hubs which will be resourced through markets team and will be an opportunity for people to ask questions about the project. There will also be further one to one meeting with traders taking place during the summer period.

Daisy Hill Neighbourhood

2.28 Following the presentation given at Board on the 6th of February where members were notified of the plans to dispose of Neil Jorden House further works have been undertaken to market the building. Cushman and Wakefield have now developed the marketing material, and a sales board has been installed.

2.29 The terms of the sale include the council's intention for the property to be re developed in line with the Daisy Hill Neighbourhood programme and has an asking price of £385,000.

2.30 Field House roof works are now completed, and the building is watertight. The internal sections within the building are taking shape and electrics are now progressing.

Other Initiatives and opportunities for Dewsbury

2.31 **UK REiiF 2025** forum will be taking place from the 20th to the 22nd of May in Leeds and will be attended by real estate, property and infrastructure sectors. Kirklees Council Service Directors and Head of Service will be attending; this will be an opportunity to network and connect with public and private decision makers to highlight investment opportunities for Kirklees. UKREiiF announces fringe event partners for 2025 event

2.32 **The TransPennine Route** Upgrade is a major multi-billion-pound programme of railway improvements connecting passengers in the North between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York. The programme will transform the main line offering more reliable, faster and greener trains. Works on the Dewsbury to Leeds section of the TRU have reached the halfway mark and will offer up to six fast services and two stopping every hour between Leeds and Manchester and will include Dewsbury Train Station. Home - Transpennine Route Upgrade

2.33 Further opportunities in relation to transport network includes the West Yorkshire Combined Authorities (WYCA) **Mass Transit** tram system connecting Leeds to Bradford with a potential link to Dewsbury.

2.34 WYCA'S £23m transformation of **Dewsbury Bus Station** in partnership with Kirklees Council has started with contractors Willmott Dixon starting the first phase of works on the 9th of March. Plans include an improved interior design, better accessibility for all bus users and upgraded public entrances and exists. West Yorkshire Combined Authority

3. Implications

3.1 Working with People

As part of the Dewsbury Blueprint the Council held town centre consultations and workshops in the town centre during the early part of 2020. This included a town centre presence via a blueprint shop. This work has fed into the preparation of the TIP. During November 2020 specific engagement across Dewsbury was undertaken as part of the TIP preparation. This work was carried out by a consultancy on behalf of the former Dewsbury Town Deal Board to align with Government guidance on the preparation of TIP's.

3.2 Working with Partners

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board includes a wide of stakeholders from across the Dewsbury area including community, education, business, and development sectors as well as the Council and the local Member of Parliament.

3.3 Place Based Working

The Dewsbury Blueprint is based on the idea of working with local people and businesses to improve the town centre and this has been taken forward in the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan. The Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd January 2019 draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was also a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place on having an attractive and vibrant town centre. The consultation carried out by the consultants 'Social' for the Dewsbury Town Deal in late 2020 provides further support to these conclusions.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has adopted a 'net zero' carbon emissions target for 2038. All projects delivered through the Town Investment Plan will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the right principles are applied to ensure they achieve or come as to this objective as possible. The whole TIP programme has been designed to support clean growth by:

- Encouraging active travel by investing in new cycle ways and footpaths along with new public spaces such as a new town park. These investments will encourage residents to make journeys by foot or bike and which will help to improve air quality.

- Creating a vibrant town centre with a revitalised Market, the Arcade, a new town park and a programme of arts and culture activities will encourage residents to choose to stay local for recreational activities.

- The planned upgrades of many of the historical buildings through projects such as the Arcade, the building revival scheme and Field House will improve the energy efficiency of the buildings and restore and recycle existing assets.

- The TIP is supporting local town centre housing, close to public transport and other amenities. This will be a key feature of sustainable living for the town and is promoted by the TIP.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The regeneration of Dewsbury, particularly the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis. The stakeholder engagement has reconfirmed this. The projects reflect the need encouraging families back into the town. Projects such as the Town Park, and the Market have a significant focus on improving outcomes for children.

3.6 Other (e.g Legal, Finance, Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

The Council is the “Accountable Body “to MHCLG with responsibility for receiving and managing the grant funding and delivery of the projects. Management, governance and delivery of the TIP will be overseen by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board (DNB) and the Council will be responsible for the delivery of projects in conjunction with the DNB and other partners.
Appendix C offers an overview of the Town Fund grant allocation as well as match funding and spend information to date for each of the TIP project.

The risks associated with each project are being monitored and managed, and Appendix D summarises the highest severity risks at present.

4 Consultation/Engagement

Feedback from the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation, and the engagement undertaken during 2024 as part of the Long-term Plan will be reviewed, and additional engagement will take place as part of developing the Regeneration Plan. As projects progress statutory consultation will take place as required.

5 Options

n/a

6. Next Steps and timelines

An overview of the key milestones is provided in Appendix B.

7. Contact Officer

Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer, Town Centres Regeneration

8 Background papers and History of Decisions
n/a

9 **Appendices**
Further information on the projects progress, milestones, finance and risks can be found in the following appendices accompanying this report: -

- **Appendix A** – Recent and planned progress including the current RAG status which acts as a scheme confidence based on funding position, ability to achieve planned/based target dates, resource availability, risk and severity issues.
- **Appendix B** – Key Milestones, including project start and completion date
- **Appendix C** – An overview of the Town Fund grant allocation/match funding and spend for each project
- **Appendix D** – High Severity Risks – Open Programme Awareness risk with a severity rating of 15 or above

10 **Service Director responsible** (If applicable)
Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development

Dewsbury Town Deal Project Update Appendices
1st May 2025

Appendix A - Recent and Planned Progress

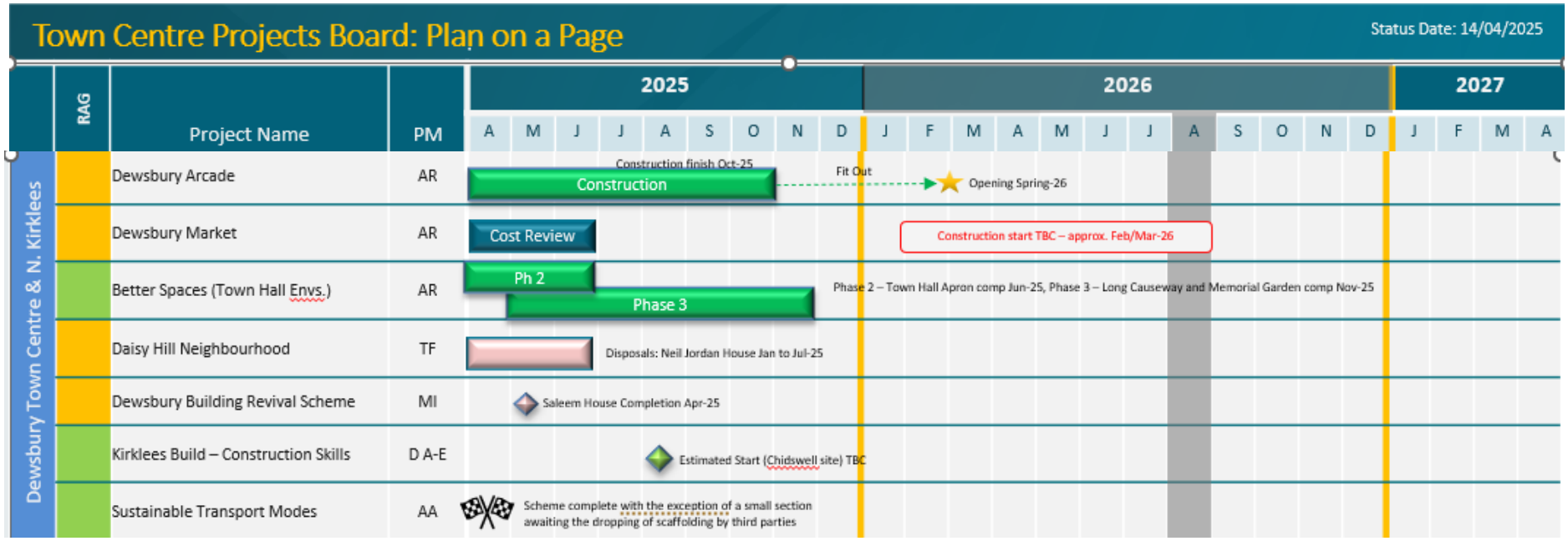
RAG Status Scheme confidence factor, considering funding position, ability to achieve planned/baseline target dates, resource availability, risk and issue severity. May 2025.

Project Name	RAG Status	Reporting period – 6th of February - 1st of May 2025	Activities planned next reporting period August 2025
The Arcade		• Window refurbishment – ongoing • Arcade roof trusses design still under review • Timber roof works nearing completion on Corporation Street. • Steel beams installed in units 18 & 18c • Chimneys rebuild on North elevation completed • 75% slate strip of central Arcade roof • Money pennies concrete floor removal complete	• Review of Market Place roof to ensure Arcade is fully watertight. • Roof trusses design completed, and contractor instructions issued. • Cost & Funding review
Market/Market Public Realm (former Town Park)		• Planning application signed off; decision notice issued with conditions • Stage 3 value engineering exercise now complete • Stage 3a completed, and design frozen • Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) proposal approved by David Shepherd – Service Director • Highways preferred option now completed	• Tender process to commence early 2025 • Trader 1-2-1 engagement session conducted • Stakeholder engagement carried out in the public information hubs • Cost & Funding review

Project Name	RAG Status	Reporting period – 6th of February - 1st of May 2025	Activities planned next reporting period August 2025
		• Temporary Market Budget estimate completed	
Better Spaces (Public Realm) Town Hall		• Granite tender returns received and awarded • Tree pits in construction • HVM works still ongoing with external engineering consultant Thornton Thomasetti • Phase 1 - part completed on Wakefield Old Road • Phase 2.1 Town Hall Apron works have commenced	• Phase 2.1 complete • Phase 2.2 commence on site – Memorial Gardens and Longcauseway works • Tree pits completed • HVM approved by Strategic Director
Construction Skills Village (Kirklees Build)		• Launch of Skills Operator Hub undertaken on the 11th of March at the Engineering Centre in Huddersfield. • Kirklees Council, Kirklees College and Flannery Plant Hire celebrated the launch of the mobile unit that has two virtual reality plant machinery simulators. • Two Skills Boot Camps have been delivered	• Continuing to work with college to explore other opportunities at Springfield site • Virtual Reality Training Facility on stream
Building Revival Grant Scheme		• Project Officers have met with Project Manager to discuss proposal and application • Conservation Architect in the process of being appointed • Project Costs still outstanding from project manager – on going • Planning application still to be submitted	• Completion of final Grant Overview form • Grant agreement in place, Outcome of Planning Application known • Progress acquisition of strategic property in town centre
Daisy Hill Neighbourhood/ Field House		• Field House – works on going, scaffolding due to be removed end of April • Installation of steel beams and columns undertaken • Demolition of internal walls and existing lift shaft also underway • External stone repairs undertaken	• Completion of electrics on Field House

Project Name	RAG Status	Reporting period – 6th of February - 1st of May 2025	Activities planned next reporting period August 2025
		• Daisy Hill - Valuation /Scope potential for acquisition opportunities undertaken by consultants Cushman and Wakefield on going • Neil Jordon House – Marketing material ready with marketing boards now up outside the property promoting the sale for an opportunity to acquire with intention for residential redevelopment.	
Sustainable Transport Modes		• Phase 2 – Union Street Junction to Grove Street completed • Phase 3 currently on hold due to Field House Scaffolding • Experimental Traffic Road Order (ETRO) implemented to the bottom of Bond Street	• Phase 3 completed between Grove Street and Dewsbury A638 • Project close and sign off • Traffic Road Order completed and road open to public access • Outcome of ETRO known as to whether the order becomes permanent.

Appendix B – Key Milestones



Appendix C - Finance

The table offers an overview of the Town Fund grant allocation/match funding and spend for each of the TIP Projects – May 2025. **Projects now merged, but financial figures to still be reported separately**

Project	Town Fund Grant allocation	Match Funding – (secured) KC	Match Funding – (secured) Other	Total Project Budget	Total spend to date	Remaining Budget
The Arcade	**£1.310m** **£1.246m (re allocation Creative Hub)**	£2.565m	£600k Getting Build Fund £4.441m National Heritage Lottery Fund £107k NHLF Other £34k	£10.303m	£4.3m	£6m
Market	**£6.600m ****	£8.400m	£0	£15m	£4.4m	£10.5m
Market Public Realm (former Town Park) includes Better Spaces Public Realm Civic space	**£6.250m ****	£8.130m	£0	£14.38m	£1.5m	£12.8m
Creative Hub (Capital & Rev)	**£1.680m (£1.246m reallocated, £434k remaining includes £50k RDEL)**	£0	£0	£434k	£71k	£363k
Building Revival	**£3.150m**	£1.25m	£268k Private Sector Investment £280k Heritage Action Zone (All allocated)	£4.94m £4.4m (ex-match funding)	£1.23m	£3.17m (ex-private investment)
Daisy Hill Neighbourhood and Field House	**£2.220m** (Daisy Hill Acquisitions £839,654, Field House £1,380,346)	£4.380m	£1.5m Heritage Action Zone, £3.170m Mood Developments/Revolving Investment Fund	£11.27m	£2.17m	£9.1m
Sustainable Transport Modes	**£1.325m**	£0	£0	£1.325m	£718k	£607k
Construction Skills Village	**£1.5m**	£750K	£0	£2.25m	£314k	£1.94m

Fibre Capability	**£250k**	£0	£0	£250k	£250k	£0k
Cultural Events	**£515k**	£26K	£194K Arts Council England, Mayors Fund, Business sponsorship	£735k	£515k (Town Fund Only)	£0

Appendix D – High Severity Risk

Highest Severity Risks Dewsbury & North Kirklees Schemes & Batley LUF Status Date: 24/04/2025

New Risk

			Log Ref	Title	Description	Scheme	Owner	Action Update
4	4	16	MP-Ri-264	Project costs	There is a risk that there will be cost increases that are greater than the contingency/ client project reserve, resulting in the need to find savings or reduce scope.	Dewsbury Arcade	Andy Raleigh	02/04 (AR): It is anticipated that the approved 8% contingency will be exceeded. Underspend from Town Deal monies to be reallocated via Project Adjustment Request (PAR) process once final scheme cost is known.
2	5	10	MP-Ri-142	Cost and budget	There is a risk that the costs will be higher than the budget because of inflation, market forces, delayed implementation and unanticipated project costs, which could result in a reduction in scope and quality of finished product	Dewsbury Market	Andy Raleigh	02/04 (AR) Cost plan meeting will be held on Fri 4th Apr-25 and work continues on pulling together finalised cost in order to establish how the Town Deal underspend will be reallocated. Project Adjustment documents are being drafted and costs will be added once received from Tom Sykes (QS) in May-25.