

# Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Nicola Sylvester

Email: [nicola.sylvester@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.sylvester@kirklees.gov.uk)

Wednesday 29 October 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 6 November 2025**.

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



**Sophie Johnson**  
Chair

## The Dewsbury Town Board members are:-

<b>Member</b>	<b>Responsible For:</b>	
Sophie Johnson	Director, Northfield Consulting	Community Sector
Councillor Graham Turner	Cabinet Member - Finance and Regeneration	Local Authority
Councillor Nosheen Dad	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and Corporate	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
Martin Walsh	Martin Walsh Associates	Business Sector
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
Christine Fox	Director of Customer and Community Service, Connect Housing	Housing 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 and action tracker of Previous Meeting**

3 - 14

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 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](mailto:executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk) no later than 5:00pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 .

Members of the public can ask questions relating to the work of the Town 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**

To receive a verbal update from Sophie Johnson – Chair of Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.

---

## **8: Verbal Update from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**

To receive a verbal updated from Thomas Speed, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

---

## **9: Dewsbury Regeneration Plan**

15 - 46

To consider the Dewsbury Regeneration Plan report.

Contact: Thomas Fish, Acting Head of Town Centre Regeneration.

---

## **10: Town Deal Project Update**

47 - 52

To receive an update on the Town Deal Projects.

Contact: Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer.

---

**11: Board Member update**

To receive updates from Board Members of Dewsbury Town Board.

---

**12: Future meeting dates**

To agree 2026 meeting dates of Dewsbury Nighbourhood Board.

Contact: Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer.

---

**13: Acquisition of Strategic Property**

53 - 56

To consider the Acquisition of Strategic Property report.

Contact: Thomas Fish, Acting Head of Town Centres Regeneration.

---

**14: AOB**

To consider any other business.

---

**15: Exclusion of the Public**

To resolve that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

---

**16. Acquisition of Strategic Property**

57 - 58

To consider exempt information in relation to Agenda item 13.

This page is intentionally left blank

**KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Dewsbury Neighbourhood 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 7th August 2025**

Present: Keith Ramsay (Chair)  
Councillor Graham Turner  
Councillor Nosheen Dad  
Chief Supt Jim Griffiths  
Anis Dadu  
Martin Walsh  
Sophie Johnson  
Anum Rehman  
Peter Mason  
Helen Rose (Virtual)  
Christine Fox  
Iqbal Mohamed

In attendance: Helen Jakes, Senior Communications Officer  
Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer, Dewsbury Town Investment Plan  
Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director, Development  
David Wildman, Service Director, Skills & Regeneration  
Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime  
Isabel Whitworth, Interim Town Centre Strategic Lead

Observers: Richard Butterfield, Historic England  
Andi Eccles

Apologies: Paul Burnett  
Fara Butt  
Charlie Dunn  
Palvinder Singh

- 1 Membership of Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board**  
Apologies were received on behalf of Paul Burnett, Fara Butt, Charlie Dunn and Palvinder Singh.

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

### 2 Declaration of Interests

Keith Ramsay, Sophie Johnson, and Martin Walsh declared an interest as a shareholder of the Arcade.

Anis Dadu and Peter Mason declared an interest as a director of the Arcade in item 12 and refrained from voting.

### 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Iqbal Mohammed, Member of Parliament, requested information as to when public questions and answers would be uploaded onto the frequently asked question page on Dewsbury Neighbourhoods Website.

It was noted that the footfall data was still in progress and would be added to the Dewsbury Neighbourhood website by the end of September 2025, officers suggested that an action tracker be created and updated after each Board meeting.

### 4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public.

### 5 Public Question Time

Question from Gill Young:

“The Town Board’s own Terms of Reference refer to the requirements that the Board will plan ‘ongoing opportunities for engagement with the community to ensure communities are involved’ and ‘being mindful of different views. Will the Board publish its plans for meeting these requirements in its Terms of Reference, its monitoring procedure, and its process for assessing performance.”

A response was provided by the Chair.

Question from Bruce Bird

“Given that the majority of the community is confused about the role of the Board will the Chair arrange for Section 7 of the new Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Board reflect the government's intentions and provide a short, succinct answer to the public's question of: What does the Board do?”

And will the Chair ensure that his answer is accurately recorded in the minutes?”

A response was provided by the Chair.

Question from Bruce Bird

“How does the Chair intent to mark the performance after 4 years of Chair on community engagement which has limited and prevented procedures by the government causing confusion to the community and conflicts with the Board. “

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

A response to be provided in writing by the Chair.

### 6 **Deputations/Petitions**

The Board received a deputation from Mr Bruce Bird, on behalf of the community, in regard to public questions and answers being recorded in full in minutes.

A response was provided by the Chair.

### 7 **Chairs Update**

The Chair advised the Board that Sophie Johnson had been appointed as Chair of the Board, both Keith and Sophie would spend some time together whilst handing over and will attend briefings from Officers.

The Chair explained that in the four years he had chaired the Board, he had worked with a number of experienced people with great skills and was pleased to see the many projects were coming to fruition. The Chair personally thanked Board Members, Kirklees Officers including the Governance Officers and Regeneration Officers for the great work they had undertaken.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Dad, who was appointed as a Board Member at the last meeting and proposed to appoint Jackie Ramsay and Andi Eccles as Board Members.

Councillor Graham Turner thanked the Chair for his commitment to the Board over the last four years and wished him all the best for the future.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chairs update be noted.

### 8 **Terms of Reference**

The Board received the updated Terms of Reference which reflected the plan for Neighbourhood guidance. David Wildman, Service Director for Skills and Regeneration advised that the Terms of Reference would be further updated in line with the regeneration plan.

During discussion, community engagement was raised as a concern as it was felt the Terms of reference did not capture this. The Board noted that the Terms of Reference was a work in progress and that there would be an opportunity at a future strategy day in the Autumn to work in a positive way to input on how the Board could communicate effectively with the community. All Board members were encouraged to attend the strategy day.

**RESOLVED-** That the Terms of Reference be agreed.

### 9 **Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime update**

The Board received a verbal update from Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime outlining the strategic priorities of the combined authority and thriving places in Dewsbury.

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

Ms Lowe advised that Tracy Brabin was the Mayor of West Yorkshire Combined Authority who was the legal Police and Crime Commissioner responsible for policing and crime who was able to delegate some legal responsibilities to Ms Lowe who undertook 95% of the role. Ms Lowe in her devolved role was responsible for community engagement, commissioning services and held the police fund. Ms Lowe also had a national role in the association of police and crime commissioners leading on race disparities, equality, and human rights, along with transparency and integrity.

For the strategic priorities of the Mayor of West Yorkshire, there was a legal plan developed to deliver real change no later than 2040 which included five missions. There were three key areas of focus the public asked to be prioritised with one being thriving places. Ms Lowe advised the Board that government policies were aligned with West Yorkshires with an uplift of neighbourhood policing which meant that a named police officer would be in place in all areas due to recruitment of one hundred police officers and forty-five specials. From 1<sup>st</sup> July to end September 2025 resources had been asked to focus on various town streets, with dedicated resources and initiatives working with local police and businesses around retail crime. The Board noted that out of the crime areas in Dewsbury, many areas had seen a reduction in crime within the last 12 months.

During discussion, the Board asked what message could be put out to the community due to recent murders in Dewsbury. Ms Lowe advised that it was rare a homicide happened in West Yorkshire and requested that residents lived their life as normal. The mayor had just launched her serious violence consultation and requested that residents were encouraged to complete to understand how serious violence affected the community. One life lost was one too many, by completing the consultation it would help shape the serious violence strategy that will work. With regards to drugs, the biggest threat in West Yorkshire was cannabis and cocaine with an increase in ketamine. Communicating with parents and education providers was key, as part of the solution was to give health education to youngsters whilst recognising vulnerability being part in organised criminal activity.

The Board requested that the crime figures for the last 12 months be shared with Board Members.

**RESOLVED-** That the update from the Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime be noted.

### 10 **Plan for Neighbourhoods**

The Board received an update regarding the progress on the Plan for Neighbourhoods and outlined the timeline in the run up to submission to Government.

David Wildman, Service Director, Skills, and Regeneration advised the Board that in September 2023 the UK Government launched the Long- term plan for Towns naming Dewsbury as one of the towns to receive funding. Due to a number of changes in central government, in March 2025 the programme was re-branded as the Plan for Neighbourhoods with updated guidance issued.

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

£200k had been received in June 2025 following a submission to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of Board confirmation and Boundary. The Board had agreed to allocate £66k of this funding to support engagement led events, setting up a business network, communications and Planning and resourcing for events. Engagement led events had started to be delivered with the Food Festival event being successful. The Arcade Group were planning their first opening event in early September 25, with an externally appointed position now in post supporting engagement led events.

The Board noted that workshops would take place between August and November 2025 with 6<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November scheduled to finalise plans. A number of working groups had been created to develop interventions, Board Members were encouraged to engage in the working groups.

During discussion, it was requested that the outcomes of the working groups be shared with Board Members.

**RESOLVED-** That the update regarding the progress on the Plan for Neighbourhoods be noted.

### 11 **Active Travel Update**

The Board received a verbal update on active travel across Dewsbury. David Wildman, Service Director, Skills, and Regeneration advised that at the last Board meeting, information was requested on active travel. Active travel was an effective transport movement around the district and sat alongside the investment of public transport. Specific schemes involved Bond Street and a trial traffic order on corporation street.

The following items were expected in the near future:

- Transforming cities funding,
- Dewsbury Town Centre Cycling schemes
- Link between Dewsbury-Batley-Chidswell corridor.

Kirklees Communications team had created a connecting Kirklees page with all details on the Kirklees Councils website.

A transport strategy was currently in development with active travel being at the heart of that strategy, this strategy was to go to Kirklees Cabinet in September 25 for approval.

**RESOLVED-** That the Active Travel update be noted.

### 12 **Project Budget Reallocation**

The Board received a report which provided an update regarding progress on the plan to reallocate Town Deal Grant.

Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer, Dewsbury Town Investment Plan advised the Board that to maximise the full grant awarded to Dewsbury Town Deal Board by Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) in line with the programme end point, it was proposed that £1,299,081 of the unspent Town Fund

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

Grant be reallocated from three Town deal projects which were, Building Grant Revival Scheme, Creative Cultural Programme and Sustainable Transport Modes to support the Dewsbury Arcade, as a priority. The Dewsbury Arcade scheme was in construction and required additional funds due to multiple unforeseen issues to the historic fabric of the building. Any remaining unspent grant was proposed to be held to support the delivery of the Dewsbury Market and Town Park Scheme. The proposal to reallocate funding was in line with the MHCLG guidance issued in August 2024.

During discussion, the Board raised concern around the overspend and asked if there were any reasons why this was not uncovered in the survey. It was noted that due diligence had been done when the project first started, however, when the construction took place things uncovered were a lack of foundations and issues with the metal work in the roof. It was noted that £1,299,081 was the worst-case scenario for additional funds and had been set to ensure the Board was not asked for further funding. High level costs of the Arcade were requested to be shared with Board Members.

**RESOLVED** – That £1,299,081 of the unspent Town Fund Grant from the following projects be agreed to be reallocated to the Dewsbury Arcade Scheme.

- a) Building Grant Revival Scheme
- b) Creative Cultural Programme
- c) Sustainable Transport modes

Iqbal Mohammed, Member of Parliament requested that his decision to vote against this proposal be recorded.

### 13 Dewsbury Town Deal Project Updates

The Board received a report updating the current position of the following Dewsbury projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan.

- 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

During discussion, the economic benefit of the paving being replaced in the public realm was questioned. It was recognised that the public requested good areas that they could sit and use, with the use of yorkshire stone which was durable and part of the design that Board had approved. Officers were asked to present costings of all projects on one page which was easily digested to the public.

**RESOLVED-** That the Dewsbury Town Deal Project update be noted.

### 14 AOB

The Board was advised that there was a Dewsbury Business Network to bring in business and investment to Dewsbury taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> September, all Board Members were invited to attend.

## Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board - 7 August 2025

**RESOLVED** – That the Dewsbury Business Network date be noted.

- 15**     **Date of Next Meeting**  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Dewsbury Town Hall

This page is intentionally left blank

### Dewsbury Town Board - Action Tracker

Action	Info	Deadline	Completed
To set up strategy day for Board members	External facilitator - minimum Council officers, venue Kirklees	Feb-25	Completed
Update for Residential/Daisy Hill from Housing Growth	Bring update to next board to provide update on project and wider	Feb-25	Completed
To provide report on closure of DSC following question from MP in Feb	This was brought to later board to answer question raised.	May-25	Completed
Public Q&A to be published on DNB website	CC updated website to include this	Sep-25	Completed
Publish footfall data on DNB website	DNB website updated with this info	Sep-25	Completed
Outcomes of Working Group Interventions to be shared collectively	Reviews on interventions to be shared with all working group leads and wider board members - to inform collective feedback of intervention	Oct-25	Completed
Public questions to be published on DNB website following new Chair first Board	Public Questions and Reponses by Chair to be put on DNB platform website with Counter Context /	Nov-25	Completed
Crime figures to be shared with Board	Following last board update, board have asked for came figures to be shared which they have recived and	Nov-25	Completed
Set up strategy meeting January in either Connect or College building - All Board members to attend	Chair requested new strategy day mid Jan: Officers awaiting dates from Sophie to progress booking in date	Nov-25	Started
KC Officer to provide an update to board - reallocation of grant funding at future board meeting	PAR request required for Market - KC Officer to provide update at next board	Feb-26	Pending

This page is intentionally left blank

# Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Title of report: Update: Dewsbury Regeneration Plan**

**Purpose of report:**

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's formal approval of the Regeneration Plan, which is a critical step in enabling its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

**Officer recommendation and reasons:**

**Recommendation:** Board to approve the Regeneration Plan for submission to MHCLG by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**Reasons:** This approval will confirm the plan's status as a community-led initiative that responds directly to local priorities. Once endorsed, the plan can be submitted for final approval by MHCLG, unlocking essential grant funding to deliver targeted interventions that will drive positive change and long-term benefits for Dewsbury.

- Board to note they have been involved in agreeing interventions through thematic working groups, reviews, and strategy meetings which have shaped the plan.
- Board to note involvement in approving draft content for the regeneration plan, which can be finalised into the public facing document by Board following approval.

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## 2. Information required to take a decision

### 2.1 Background

In September 2023, the UK government launched the *Long-term Plan for Towns*, naming Dewsbury as one of the towns to receive £20 million over ten years. Following the release of initial guidance in December 2023, Dewsbury's Town Deal Board evolved into a new Town Board, which began community engagement to shape investment priorities.

Progress paused during the 2024 general election and spending review, but the Budget confirmed the programme's continuation. In March 2025, it was rebranded as the *Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN)*, with updated guidance issued. In September 2025 MHCLG introduced the Pride in Place Strategy which this funding programme now falls within.

The government required the creation of a *Neighbourhood Board*, which had evolved from Dewsbury Town Board to the Neighbourhood Board in April 2025, and has continued to work with communities and Kirklees Council to co-produce:

- **A 10-year Regeneration Plan**
- **A 4-year Investment Plan**

These are both in alignment with the PfN's three strategic objectives:

- **Thriving Places**
- **Stronger Communities**
- **Taking Back Control.**

Further guidance and pre-approved interventions are provided by the government at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-pre-approved-intervention>

## 2.2: 10-year Regeneration Plan

A 10-year regeneration plan for Dewsbury has been developed to guide long-term investment and transformation across the town. The plan addresses key areas including local context, spatial targeting, a shared vision for the future, and a strong strategic case for change.

It also outlines how the programme aligns with other initiatives, sets out funding and investment strategies, and embeds community engagement, governance, and assurance mechanisms. Each of these elements is explored in depth in the appendix document, which provides the full rationale, evidence base, and delivery framework for Dewsbury's regeneration journey.

## 2.3: 4-year investment plan

### Approach to Developing a Four-Year Investment Plan for Dewsbury

The four-year investment plan for Dewsbury has been developed through a structured, Board-led process, supported by thematic working groups that have helped shape and prioritise interventions, in alignment with MHCLG Pride in Place objectives. These groups have drawn on local insight, stakeholder engagement, and strategic analysis to ensure the plan is both responsive to current challenges and forward-looking in its vision.

This prioritisation has guided the sequencing of projects, enabling early delivery of high-impact initiatives while laying the groundwork for sustained transformation.

The interventions within the plan are organised under six strategic themes, each designed to address key areas of opportunity and challenge across the town and reflect community engagement priorities:

1. **Improving Safety & Security**
2. **Supporting Businesses**
3. **Growth Plans**
4. **Redevelop Underused Sites**
5. **Creative & Cultural Events**
6. **Streets for Everyone**

Each intervention has been planned against realistic timelines to ensure a coordinated implementation and has the most impact. This approach ensures that resources are deployed effectively, interventions complement one another. The plan positions Dewsbury to attract further investment, tackle the issues what the community have prioritised, and deliver positive change.

#### 1. Safety & Security:

A dedicated Dewsbury team to tackle key issues in the town centre, including crime, anti-social behaviour, poor housing conditions, street cleanliness, fly-tipping, and policing. The team also supports local businesses with training on crime prevention.

#### 2. Supporting Businesses

This intervention allows for a dedicated resource for Dewsbury's businesses and plans include grants to support local businesses and improve the town centre's appearance. These grants help protect properties from vandalism and theft, improve neglected spaces and building frontages, and encourage creative, community-led projects to make streets more welcoming.

Businesses also receive advice, training, and support to help them grow, with a focus on building strong relationships and continuing existing work. Financial support would be available for new and existing businesses to help with start-up costs, expansions, and making commercial spaces usable.

#### 3. Growth Plans

This intervention focuses on the development and delivery of essential masterplans that are critical to Dewsbury's long-term regeneration. It includes the creation of an Economic Growth Strategy, Urban Living Framework, and Design Guide, which are all designed to attract investment, bring empty buildings back into use, and support new town centre living. These plans are not optional; they are required to provide clear direction, shape future development, and ensure all regeneration activity is coherent and impactful.

A dedicated resource is built into this intervention to oversee the coordination, implementation, and monitoring of all related projects. This role is vital to ensure delivery stays on track and aligns with other interventions.

#### 4. Redevelop Underused Sites

This intervention focuses on acquiring, demolishing, and redeveloping key sites to create new homes, commercial spaces, and business hubs in Dewsbury. It uses public funding to address market failure and unlock private investment, helping to bring underused or derelict land and buildings back into productive use and tackling the highest priority from community engagement.

#### 5. Creative & Cultural Events

This intervention is designed to enable a wider and more varied programme of events in Dewsbury, including cultural, creative, wellbeing, and family-friendly activities. By supporting a professionally planned calendar, it will give people more reasons to visit the town, not just during the day, but also in the evenings, helping to create a more vibrant and welcoming atmosphere and giving people more reasons to visit Dewsbury.

#### 6. Streets For Everyone

This intervention focuses on making Dewsbury town centre safer and easier to access for everyone, whether walking, cycling, driving, or using public transport. It includes improvements like slower traffic speeds, better walking and cycling routes, clearer signage, upgraded community spaces, and improved car parking. These changes will help create a more welcoming and connected town centre.

### 2.4 Programme Timeline

- **6 November 2025**  
DNB signs off Regeneration Plan  
*Approval of the regeneration plan by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.*
- **6-28<sup>th</sup> November**  
Completing final remaining technical detail on MHCLG portal
- **28 November 2025**  
**Final Submission of Regeneration Plan**  
*Official submission of the approved regeneration plan to MHCLG.*
- **28<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
S151 Officer sign off
- **December 2025 – Feb 2026**  
Expected decision from MHCLG
- **December 2025 – March 2026**  
Intervention, monitoring and evaluation development
- **April 2026 – First instalment of funding from MHCLG**  
Project commencement

### 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 that are to be delivered are being designed to reflect local priorities and create positive change for local people, including voices which are known to be harder to reach, such as young people, businesses and South Asian communities.

### 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, to be identified within the Plan, 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 active.

## 4 Consultation/Engagement

Feedback from the Dewsbury Blueprint consultation, and the engagement undertaken during 2024 as part of the then 'Long-term Plan' has been reviewed, and additional engagement has taken place as part of developing the Regeneration Plan. Engagement is continual through DNB social platforms including its website and direct inbox.

## 5) Options

N/A

## 6 Next steps and timelines

The next steps and timelines are outlined at a high-level in Section 2.4. Completing a draft of the regeneration plan alongside the updated data pack from MHCLG will be undertaken and reviewed by Board members to ensure timely delivery of submission plan.

7 Contact officer: Thomas Fish, Acting Head of Town Centre Regeneration.

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions (If applicable) Dewsbury Town Board  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s63448/Plan%20for%20Neighbourhood%20update%20-%20010525.pdf>

9 Appendices:

Appendix A: Dewsbury 10-year Regeneration Plan PDF.

Appendix B: Dewsbury 4-year Regeneration Plan PDF.

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

# Appendix A – Dewsbury 10 Year Regeneration Plan

## Our Future Dewsbury – 10 Year Vision

### Foreword

*Photo – Sophie Johnson, Chair of Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board*

Together, we can make a difference to the people of Dewsbury.

As Chair of the Neighbourhood Board, I am proud to present our Regeneration Plan, a bold and ambitious vision for Dewsbury's future. Over the next decade, we will build on our town's strengths in partnership with our communities, and shape a Dewsbury that is confident, connected and inclusive. This Plan is not just about new buildings or infrastructure. It is about creating a town that people are proud to call home: a place for enterprise and opportunity, a place that values heritage while embracing innovation, and a place where communities thrive together.

Our vision looks ahead with optimism. By working in partnership with local people, businesses and regional partners, we will create a Dewsbury that is vibrant, attractive and welcoming for everyone.

Together, we have the opportunity to make a lasting difference and to secure a future for Dewsbury that generations to come will be proud of.

*Photo – Cllr Graham Turner, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration*

This Regeneration Plan comes at a moment of real momentum for Dewsbury. After years of groundwork, we are beginning to see major projects move from plans into delivery - the revival of the Arcade, the renewal of Dewsbury Market, new homes at Station Apartments and the creation of a new town park. Work has begun on a modernised bus station, backed by West Yorkshire Combined Authority, demonstrating regional confidence in our town's future.

Our vision for Dewsbury is clear - we want to build good quality, affordable homes, create a thriving town centre, and help to open up more employment opportunities. These investments are the first steps in realising the long-term vision set out by Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board. They show that change is not just promised, it is happening. The coming years will bring more opportunities, stronger connections, and a re-energised town centre that attracts people to live, work, learn, and visit.

Dewsbury's moment has arrived. This Plan ensures we capitalise on it, unlocking new growth and delivering the vibrant, successful town our communities deserve.

*Image of Dewsbury with a quote over the top*

"Dewsbury is an ambitious place at the start of a spectacular transformation. Through #OurFutureDewsbury we are working hard to regenerate parts of our town and help deliver more jobs, more homes and a more varied offer for everyone to enjoy."

Cllr Carole Pattison, Leader of Kirklees Council

## 1. Local context

Dewsbury is a historic market town in West Yorkshire, home to around 64,000 people. Situated within Kirklees, the town has a rich industrial heritage rooted in textiles, which has shaped its identity, architecture, and character. It is a diverse and multicultural community, with over a third of residents under 25, bringing a wealth of culture, energy, and creativity that continues to define the town's spirit and ambition. Dewsbury sits at the heart of North Kirklees, well connected to Leeds, Huddersfield and Wakefield, and plays an important role in the wider West Yorkshire economy.

However, Dewsbury also faces significant and deep-rooted challenges. More than half of its neighbourhoods (LSOAs) rank among the 20% most deprived nationally. Child poverty is a particular concern, with over half of under-16s living in low-income households, compared to a fifth nationally. Educational attainment lags behind the England average, with too many adults having low or no qualifications, limiting access to better-paid work and restricting social mobility. Local jobs tend to pay less than elsewhere, unemployment is higher, and economic inactivity is widespread all of which affects residents' confidence and wellbeing. These challenges underline the importance of sustained local investment and partnership working to create fairer opportunities for all residents.

Safety is a major issue. In 2023, the recorded crime rate was 158.2 per 1000 population, compared to 92.8 nationally and residents consistently report feeling less safe than people in other towns. Tackling antisocial behaviour and restoring confidence in public spaces remain urgent priorities.

The town centre illustrates both challenges and opportunity. Dewsbury boasts an exceptional collection of historic buildings and civic spaces, yet too many shops stand vacant, footfall has declined, and the high street offer does not fully meet community needs. There is significant potential to bring new life into the centre, repurposing vacant spaces, attracting investment, and creating a town centre that reflects the diversity and ambition of its people. Recent projects such as the Arcade restoration and Town Park design have begun to build confidence and attract new interest.

Housing and health present further concerns. Homes are relatively affordable but often of poor quality, 23% of local homes fail to meet decent standards, compared to 21% regionally and 15% nationally. Health outcomes are below the national average: life expectancy is shorter, long-term illness more common, and demand on GP services above average. Residents spend more years living in poor health, highlighting the need for healthier neighbourhoods with improved access to green spaces, safe walking routes, and preventative services.

Despite these challenges, Dewsbury's strengths are clear. It has a resilient and committed population, a rich cultural mix, and unique heritage assets. Recent community initiatives and investment are beginning to shift momentum, and there is a strong appetite locally for change. With targeted support in skills, jobs, housing, health, safety, and town centre regeneration, Dewsbury has the opportunity to overcome entrenched disadvantage and unlock the potential of its young and diverse population, building a safer, fairer, and more vibrant future.

This forms the foundation for a long-term plan to re-establish Dewsbury as a thriving and inclusive town at the heart of West Yorkshire

## 2. Spatial targeting

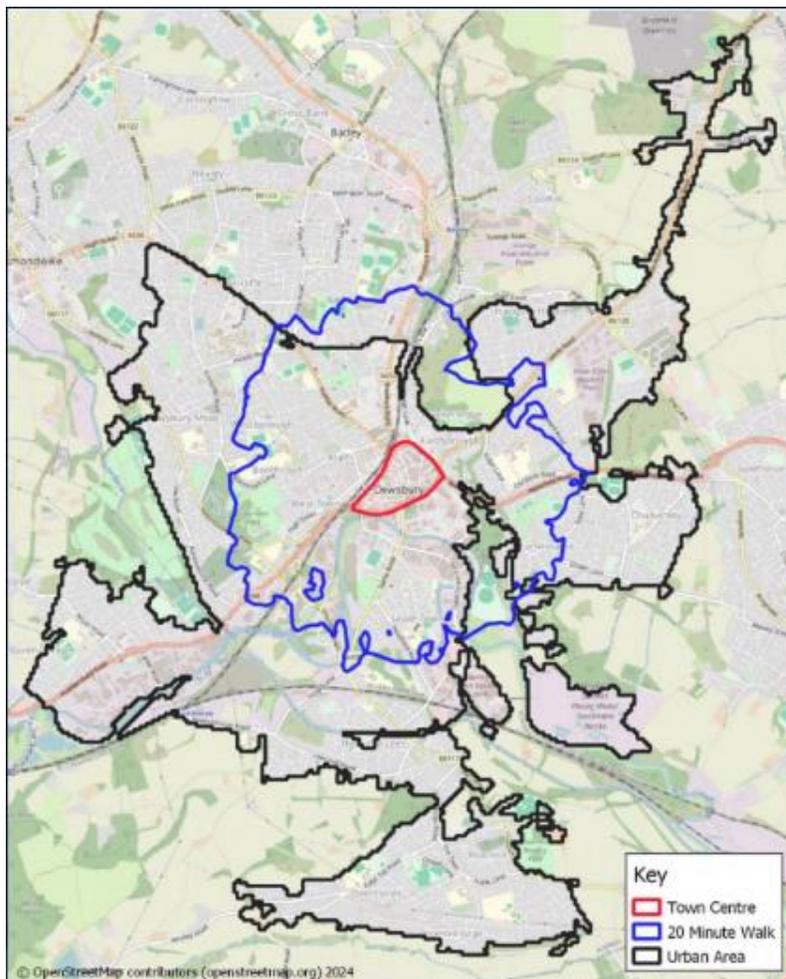
The focus of intervention for the Regeneration Plan is Dewsbury Town Centre. This area represents the functional heart of the local economy, housing the highest concentration of shops, services, community facilities, and transport connections. While wider neighbourhoods face disadvantage, the town centre is where the challenges of economic decline, market failure, and civic disengagement are most visible and where targeted investment can generate transformational change. The area includes key destinations such as Dewsbury Market, the Arcade, Town Park, and the rail and bus stations.

Focussing on the town centre provides the opportunity to achieve the strategic aims of the funding received, responds to the views of the people of Dewsbury, and builds on existing projects within the town centre. Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board will continue to work with partners, and ensure the wider areas of Dewsbury are connected, contribute to, and benefit from the regeneration of Dewsbury.

### Plan of Dewsbury Town Centre

The Place boundary is the Office for National Statistics Built-Up Area (BUA) for Dewsbury is as below.

### Figure



Engagement through **#OurFutureDewsbury** involved surveys, workshops, and targeted outreach to residents, businesses, and community groups. Over 70% of participants described the town centre as “tired” or “neglected,” highlighting safety, cleanliness, and accessibility as top priorities.

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board has carefully reviewed this feedback alongside socio-economic data, including vacancy rates, footfall trends, and underutilised assets. Through structured prioritisation exercises, the Board concluded that interventions in the town centre would deliver the greatest visibility, reach the largest number of residents, and act as a catalyst for wider regeneration. For example, analysis of mobility and retail data confirms that over 80% of trips to Dewsbury’s urban area begin or end within the ring road, reinforcing the town centre’s strategic importance.

This decision reflects a community-led and evidence-based approach: the proposed interventions directly respond to the issues identified by residents while supporting broader strategic objectives of the Government’s funding programme. While the town centre is the initial focus, complementary programmes in surrounding neighbourhoods will extend benefits across Dewsbury, ensuring that the wider community experiences positive impact.

### **Target Areas and Rationale**

Dewsbury town centre faces acute challenges:

- **Vacancy and underused assets:** approximately 21% of commercial premises are vacant, with many historic buildings underutilised.
- **Declining footfall and retail offer:** the centre no longer meets the needs of a diverse, youthful population.
- **Safety and perception:** residents frequently report feeling unsafe, particularly in public spaces, undermining confidence and civic pride.

At the same time, the town centre holds Dewsbury’s greatest assets: historic architecture, underused public spaces, and strong transport links. Revitalising the centre can create visible improvements that ripple into surrounding neighbourhoods, attract investment, and restore civic pride. This investment will consolidate fragmented activity into a coherent place strategy that connects people, enterprise, and heritage.

### **Strategic Objectives**

Focusing interventions in the town centre aligns with the Pride of Place - Long Term Plan for Towns framework:

- **Thriving Places:** Revitalisation through business support, public realm improvements, and reuse of heritage buildings will restore the town centre’s vibrancy and economic activity.
- **Stronger Communities:** A safer, cleaner, and more inclusive centre provides spaces for residents from all backgrounds to connect through markets, cultural events, and everyday activity.
- **Taking Back Control:** Local decision-making via the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, grants programme, and collaborative enforcement ensures the community shapes investment and place management.

By focusing on the town centre, Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board will deliver strategic, community-based interventions with the potential to transform perceptions and

outcomes. Over the next decade, the centre will become a thriving hub for residents, businesses, and visitors, a foundation for wider regeneration, economic vitality, and civic pride across Dewsbury.

Concentrating resources here allows investment to achieve visible, high impact results, building confidence for private sector involvement and future co-investment. Improvements to safety, accessibility, and the local environment will benefit residents across the wider Dewsbury area by strengthening connections to jobs, culture, and essential services. Complementary housing, health, and skills programmes elsewhere in Dewsbury will further extend these benefits.

### 3. Vision for the future (≤250 words)

#### **Vision for Dewsbury Town Centre**

Dewsbury town centre will be a safe, vibrant and welcoming place where communities of all ages and backgrounds can live, work and connect. Guided by the priorities identified through #OurFutureDewsbury, the town centre will reflect the diversity, energy and creativity of its residents.

Building on work already done, historic buildings and underused spaces, like the Arcade, will be revitalised into affordable homes, community hubs, and spaces for businesses and start-ups, bringing life back to the heart of the town. Streets, parks, and public spaces will feel safer, cleaner, and more inviting, encouraging people to spend time, socialise, and enjoy the centre day and night.

Residents will have more reasons to visit and stay in Dewsbury town centre. Local businesses, market stalls and independent traders will be supported to thrive, while new enterprises see Dewsbury as a place of opportunity, innovation and growth. Building on the success of events like the Food and Drink Festival, a rich programme of events will celebrate the town's diversity and culture, providing something for everyone, every day.

By 2036, success will be seen in increased footfall day & night, seeing business setting up and staying open longer and thriving community activity. Residents will continue to shape the town's future, ensuring that everyone has a voice in the town centre's evolution. Over the next decade, Dewsbury town centre will become a place of pride, energy and possibility, where heritage and modern life can come together, and where people choose to live, visit and invest.

---

## 4. Strategic case for change

### Context and Need for Change

Dewsbury is a proud market town with a rich industrial and cultural heritage, positioned at the heart of North Kirklees. For generations it has served as the commercial and civic centre for surrounding communities, a place of exchange, identity and shared belonging. Yet over recent decades, Dewsbury has experienced sustained economic and social decline, reflected most visibly in its town centre.

The following case for change outlines the underlying evidence of need, the priorities identified by local people, and the rationale for focusing interventions in the town centre as the catalyst for long-term renewal under the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

### Evidence of Need

Dewsbury faces a complex set of interrelated challenges shaped by long-term structural changes in the economy, patterns of retail decline, and persistent deprivation in surrounding neighbourhoods. The town includes several communities ranked amongst the 10% most deprived in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019), with areas such as Dewsbury Moor and Moorside sitting within the most disadvantaged nationally. Income and employment deprivation are particularly acute with around one in three households experience some form of income poverty, and unemployment rates are almost twice the Kirklees average.

Social challenges mirror economic ones. Central Dewsbury's crime rate (135.4 per 1000 residents) remain significantly higher than both the district and national averages and the LSOA covering parts of Dewsbury Moor was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> worst in England for recorded crime, while measures of social trust are notably low, with net social trust at -19% compared to -8% for Kirklees and -3% nationally.

Health outcomes show similar inequalities with life expectancy in parts of Dewsbury being around three years below England's average, with higher rates of respiratory illness and obesity than wider Kirklees. These indicators underscore the need to build stronger communities through better health, opportunity and public confidence.

### Economic and Market Conditions

The town's economy has struggled to adapt to changing patterns of retail and service use following the rise of online shopping. Vacancy rates in the town centre are approximately 21%, considerably higher than the national average of 13%, and a significant number of heritage and upper-floor spaces remain underused. Footfall data and business engagement suggest a 25% decline in visitors since 2017, with many local traders reporting reduced turnover and a perception of limited daytime and evening activity. Dewsbury's footfall index (151.5) compared to England's average of 100 for similar towns, highlights continued volatility in visitor patterns.

The local property market has been unable to respond effectively. Low rental values, high renovation costs and the complexity of bringing historic assets back into use have deterred private investment. Without public intervention, this market failure will persist, further undermining confidence and accelerating physical decline.

Public investment here represents value for money by unlocking stalled assets and attracting sustainable private co-investment.

## Community Priorities

Community engagement through the Long-Term Plan and **#OurFutureDewsbury** revealed strong consensus about priorities.

- 72% of residents described the town as “run-down”, “neglected” or “tired”.
  - 68% reported feeling unsafe after dark.
  - 54% rated cleanliness as poor or very poor.
- When asked about improvements, residents prioritised:
- Cleaner streets (77%),
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour (74%), and
  - Support for local businesses (69%).

Businesses cited vandalism, fly-tipping, and low footfall as major barriers. Yet despite concerns, engagement revealed strong civic pride and a determination to see change. Local people want a town that feels safe, clean and confident again, reflecting Dewsbury’s identity and community spirit.

These findings directly inform the Board’s investment priorities and underpin the strategic case for town centre renewal.

## Rationale for Town Centre Focus

While deprivation is evident across the wider Dewsbury area, focusing investment in the town centre is both deliberate and evidence-based. The centre remains the economic and social heart of Dewsbury, accommodating around 40% of all local businesses and serving as the key interchange for rail, bus and walking routes across North Kirklees.

It is also where decline is most visible with empty shops, heritage buildings at risk, and streets that no longer feel safe or welcoming. Targeting this area provides the greatest potential for transformational change. A revitalised town centre will attract visitors, restore business confidence and create a visible symbol of progress that benefits communities across Dewsbury.

The commercial vacancy rate in Dewsbury’s town centre is approximately 21.1% compared to England’s average of 10.4% and Footfall data (April 2022-2023) shows Dewsbury at an index of 151.5 where 100 denotes England’s average for similarly sized built-up areas. Public investment here will help correct long-term market failure by de-risking private investment, supporting heritage reuse and improving the quality of public spaces. Concentrating resources in this way ensures value for money and delivers early, visible results, helping to rebuild trust and civic pride further building on the positive impact the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan has had.

## Alignment with Programme Objectives

Focusing on the town centre directly supports the three national objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods:

- **Thriving Places:** Investment in business support, heritage re-use, and public realm improvements will revitalise Dewsbury’s economic core, creating a more vibrant, attractive and prosperous town centre that draws residents and visitors back.

- **Stronger Communities:** A safer, cleaner, and more inclusive centre will encourage participation in civic life, local events, and community-led initiatives, helping to rebuild pride and shared ownership of place.
- **Taking Back Control:** Through the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, residents, businesses and community organisations will shape local decisions on funding, enforcement and place management, ensuring that regeneration reflects local priorities and values.

## **Use of Powers and Long-term Approach**

Over the next decade, the long-term plan in Dewsbury will combine strategic investment, local partnership, and community stewardship to deliver visible, lasting change. It will draw on available powers to:

1. Acquire and bring key vacant or derelict buildings back into productive use.
2. Coordinate enforcement, cleansing and maintenance activity to improve the local environment.
3. Deliver targeted business and community grants to support local enterprise and visible improvements.
4. Adopt local design and investment frameworks to guide development.
5. Explore the establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) to sustain momentum and long-term stewardship.

## **Priority Themes and Interventions**

### **1. Safety & Security**

Creating a town centre that feels safe, clean and welcoming through a visible, coordinated task force model.

#### **Key issues:**

- 42% of residents identify crime and anti-social behaviour as their top deterrent to visiting the centre. The recorded crime rate (135.4 per 1,000 residents) is nearly 1.5 times the Kirklees average.
- Businesses cite vandalism, theft and fly-tipping as persistent issues.

**Intervention focus:** A multi-agency presence to tackle ASB, environmental crime and hotspot policing, alongside improved lighting, CCTV and cleansing operations.

**Expected outcomes:** Reduced crime and ASB, visibly cleaner public spaces, and increased public confidence in the safety of the town centre.

### **2. High Street, Heritage & Regeneration**

Driving economic renewal and place identity through business growth, cultural vibrancy and heritage-led investment.

#### **Key issues:**

- Commercial vacancy rates are double the national average (21.1% vs 10.4%).
- Over 60% of heritage buildings in the central core are classed as 'at risk' or in poor condition.

- Footfall has fallen by over 50% since its 1990s peak.

**Intervention focus:** Bringing underused heritage buildings back into active use, supporting small and independent businesses, delivering workspace and housing above shops, and improving the look and feel of key public spaces.

**Expected outcomes:** Reduced vacancy rates, increased business density, a stronger local economy and renewed town identity with longer dwell times and higher visitor spend.

### 3. Transport & Connectivity

Ensuring Dewsbury is accessible, connected and future-ready.

**Key issues:** Congestion, limited safe walking and cycling routes, and car-dominated spaces reduce accessibility and visitor appeal.

**Intervention focus:** Enhanced pedestrian and cycling routes, better lighting, signage and crossings, and improved links between key destinations such as the rail station, the market and retail areas.

**Expected outcomes:** Improved accessibility, a safer, more walkable town centre, and a more sustainable transport network that supports footfall and local business.

#### Long-term Outcomes

Over the next decade, this programme will deliver:

- A thriving and sustainable town centre with significantly reduced vacancy and increased footfall.
- Improved perceptions of safety and cleanliness, with measurable reductions in crime and ASB.
- A stronger, more connected community, actively engaged in local decision-making.
- Renewed pride and confidence, with Dewsbury re-established as a destination for business, culture and community life.

By focusing on the town centre as the heart of the community, the long-term plan investment will deliver visible improvements, renewed confidence and a foundation for inclusive growth. This is a long-term plan to restore Dewsbury's role as a vibrant, welcoming and distinctive town which once again reflects the pride, potential and spirit of the Dewsbury people.

Dewsbury's challenges are significant but not insurmountable. The evidence clearly demonstrates economic need, social disadvantage and market failure but also strong local ambition for change.

## 5. Alignment with other programmes and investments

### Local Context

Dewsbury sits in a prominent location within West Yorkshire, to the north of the Kirklees district. The town is part of West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) southern corridor of opportunities as part of its Local Growth Plan.

The town is also a WYCA Spatial Priority Area and included in the Strategic Place Partnership for West Yorkshire, where Homes England, WYCA, and local councils are working together to unlock housing growth and regeneration.

Strategic transport investment is on-going and in development in and around Dewsbury, including the Tran-Pennine Route Upgrade, bus station regeneration, and feasibility work exploring the opportunities for the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Scheme.

The Kirklees Council Plan sets out shared outcomes which closely align with what the regeneration plan for Dewsbury aims to achieve. These outcomes are:

- [Shaped by People](#) - We make our places what they are.
- [Best Start](#) - Children have the best start in life.
- [Well](#) - People in Kirklees are as well as possible for as long as possible.
- [Independent](#) - People in Kirklees live independently and have control over their lives.
- [Aspire and Achieve](#) - People in Kirklees have aspiration to achieve their ambitions through education, training, employment, and lifelong learning.
- [Sustainable Economy](#) - Kirklees has sustainable economic growth and provides good employment for and with communities and businesses.
- [Safe and Cohesive](#) - People in Kirklees live in cohesive communities, feel safe, and are protected from harm.
- [Clean and Green](#) - People in Kirklees experience a high quality, clean, sustainable, and green environment.

The partnership strategies supporting the Council Plan also provide a framework for how Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, Kirklees Council and other partners can work together to achieve the vision of the regeneration plan.

The partnership strategies are:

- Environment Strategy
- Inclusive Economy Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Inclusive Communities Framework

Kirklees teams that are working to deliver priorities such as the Dewsbury Blueprint and Local Plan will continue to work with the Board to achieve its aims through developing strategies, delivering projects, and securing inward investment.

### Integration with Existing and Planned Investments

The Dewsbury Regeneration Plan is closely integrated with ongoing local, regional and national investment. It complements and amplifies existing programmes by connecting large-scale infrastructure projects with community-level improvements that are visible, immediate and lasting.

Towns Fund (£25m): The Dewsbury TIP identified nine major projects aimed at transforming the town centre through new public spaces, cultural facilities, and business growth. This Plan will complement those schemes through the updated intervention themes and outcomes that will be delivered.

These themes build on the Dewsbury Blueprint, a 10-year masterplan focused on making Dewsbury more attractive, active and accessible through heritage-led regeneration, new housing and public realm improvements.

Historic England: Kirklees Council and Historic England have a well-established partnership that has already delivered significant success through the Dewsbury Heritage Action Zone (HAZ). Dewsbury's Conservation Area remains on the National Heritage at Risk Register, and further collaboration through the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) and Repair Grants for Listed Buildings will help restore vulnerable assets. The focus will not only be on physical restoration but on ensuring that these historic buildings are reanimated with community, cultural and creative uses, bringing them back to life as active parts of the town.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA): From 2026, WYCA's Single Settlement Programme will deliver regional growth funding aligned with the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan. The Dewsbury Regeneration Plan sits firmly within this framework, particularly around inclusive economic growth, skills, housing and connectivity. Dewsbury is also benefitting from the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), including the Cleckheaton Sustainable Travel Corridor (A638), Dewsbury Bus Station transformation and town centre walking and cycling improvements. The Plan will ensure these transport schemes lead directly to higher footfall, better accessibility and increased business activity in the town centre.

West Yorkshire Mass Transit and the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU): will further enhance regional and national connectivity. The Dewsbury Regeneration Plan will help ensure the town is ready to capitalise on these opportunities, with a cleaner, safer and more attractive environment for visitors, workers and investors.

Together, these programmes represent a powerful, interconnected network of investment. The Dewsbury Regeneration Plan provides the local framework that binds them together — ensuring that national and regional funding translates into tangible, visible improvements for local people.

### **Consistency with Masterplans**

The revised regeneration plan for Dewsbury aligns strongly with the objectives of the Dewsbury Blueprint, and Town Investment Plan, building on existing work and taking the regeneration of Dewsbury to the next level.

The Dewsbury Blueprint sets out a long-term vision for transformation across ten themes from housing and transport to heritage, business, creativity and the environment. With over £60 million already secured, the Blueprint has created strong foundations for renewal. The Dewsbury Regeneration Plan builds directly on this momentum, focusing on local delivery and community participation to make these ambitions real at street level.

In practical terms, the Regeneration Plan will deliver the neighbourhood improvements that bring the Blueprint to life, focusing on:

- Cleaner, safer streets that feel cared for and well used;
- A stronger independent retail and business base;
- Cultural and community activities that activate public spaces and celebrate Dewsbury's diversity.

The Dewsbury Town Investment Plan (TIP), developed jointly by Kirklees Council and the then Dewsbury Town Deal Board, secured £24.8 million from the UK Government's Towns Fund, with additional match funding from Kirklees Council and partners, creating a total investment of over £60 million. Many of the TIP projects have been delivered, or are on-going, with those successes being built on by the interventions of the new regeneration plan.

Figure: Dewsbury Blueprint Plan / TIP Plan

## 6. Match funding and leveraged investment

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board recognises that transforming the town centre cannot rely on public funding alone. Our ambition is to create the conditions for sustained private, public, and philanthropic investment building confidence through delivery and showcasing Dewsbury's unique assets. By demonstrating visible success, we will attract new partners and secure the town's position as a place where investment drives community benefit.

### Existing Commitments and Partnerships

Investment in Dewsbury is already gaining momentum. Recent successes, such as the revival of The Arcade supported by over £4m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, demonstrate how clear vision and delivery attract co-investment. Heritage-led regeneration is further strengthened through a strong and active partnership with Historic England, most notably through the Dewsbury Heritage Action Zone. Opportunities exist to extend this collaboration through partnership schemes in conservation areas (PSiCA) and repair grants, ensuring continued investment in Dewsbury's historic core.

In 2026, The Arcade Group will take on the lease for The Arcade, creating the UK's first community-owned shopping centre. This pioneering model reflects Dewsbury's distinctive community spirit, combining enterprise and creativity to sustain local business and cultural activity while signalling long-term investor confidence in the town centre.

Alongside this, local businesses and Kirklees College have committed ongoing revenue support for the future Dewsbury Town Park water feature, setting a precedent for shared responsibility in operating community assets.

Local partners are also stepping forward to share responsibility for the town's future. Kirklees College and local businesses have committed ongoing revenue support for the forthcoming Dewsbury Town Park water feature, setting a valuable precedent for community co-management of public assets.

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board benefits from strong relationships with key anchor institutions, each playing a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable local economy:

- Kirklees College aligning its mission of "*Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives*" with the *Plan for Neighbourhoods* priorities, and supporting skills and employment pathways for young people.

- Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust developing town-centre-based health and wellbeing services, embedding preventative care in accessible community settings.
- West Yorkshire Police and Fire Services working alongside Kirklees Council and the Neighbourhood Board to embed community safety, resilience, and building standards into regeneration projects.

Regionally, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) remains a strategic partner. Its forthcoming Single Settlement programme (from April 2026) will closely align with Dewsbury's priorities for inclusive growth, connectivity, housing, and heritage-led regeneration.

Cultural and creative partnerships also play a crucial role. Collaborations with the Arts Council, Taking the Lead Creative Culture, and Hatch are opening new opportunities for philanthropic and creative sector investment, building on the success of past cultural initiatives and strengthening Dewsbury's creative economy.

### **Strategic Approach to Future Investment**

Looking ahead, the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board will continue to work in close partnership with Kirklees Council to build investor confidence and attract new capital into the town. Dewsbury has already been promoted at UKREiiF, the UK's leading real estate and infrastructure investment forum, alongside Homes England, Network Rail, WYCA, and major developers. The town will again feature prominently in 2026, offering a national platform to showcase progress and secure further institutional and private sector investment.

Our strategy is both collaborative and place-based, ensuring that future investment directly supports local people and businesses. Key actions include:

- Developing a compelling investment prospectus tailored to different investor audiences.
- Aligning Council resources and capital programmes to unlock private and institutional co-investment.
- Engaging proactively with philanthropic foundations, social investors, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.
- Embedding community wealth-building principles to ensure local people benefit from growth through jobs, supply chains, and ownership models.

Through these partnerships and targeted actions, the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board will maximise opportunities for public, private, and philanthropic match funding, ensuring regeneration in Dewsbury is ambitious, inclusive, and financially sustainable for the long term.

## 7. Community and stakeholder engagement

### Overview

Since 2019, the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board (DNB) has been at the heart of the town's long-term renewal, bringing together local voices, public services, and business leaders around a shared ambition to restore pride and purpose. Early engagement through *Our Town Dewsbury (2020)* and the *Town Investment Plan* helped establish strong local foundations.

Building on this, the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme funded "*Our Future Dewsbury*" (2024) a major engagement opportunity which received over 800 responses and reached far and wide, including underrepresented groups through multilingual and face-to-face outreach in schools, mosques, markets and community centres.

The Board made a deliberate effort to engage harder-to-reach groups, recognising that a representative process would lead to more inclusive priorities. This included:

- a youth-voice programme across schools, colleges and universities;
- targeted outreach with South Asian communities through multilingual officers;
- direct conversations with local businesses following low initial response rates.

These additional steps strengthened both the breadth and quality of feedback and now shape how the Board will sustain inclusive engagement throughout delivery.

### Neighbourhood Board Membership and Leadership

The DNB brings together a diverse group of local volunteers, including:

- Local business leaders
- Community representatives
- Councillors
- The local Member of Parliament
- Representatives from the police, education institutions, and health services
- Charities and civil society organisations

The Board is chaired independently, ensuring impartiality and community representation. DNB members uphold the Seven Nolan Principles of public life including integrity, transparency, and accountability and work collectively to deliver outcomes that reflect local priorities.

Over the 10-year period, the Board will review its membership annually to ensure representation reflects Dewsbury's changing demographics. Young leaders and under-represented groups will be actively recruited to strengthen inclusivity and bring new perspectives. Board members are expected to actively participate in shaping and delivering the Regeneration Plan, leveraging their expertise and networks to support interventions and community engagement. Subcommittees and advisory groups may be formed to address specific areas, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to emerging needs.

### Ways of Working & Distinction from the Local Authority

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board operates independently from Kirklees Council, while recognising the Council's role as the accountable body for funding. This separation is deliberate:

- The Board sets the vision and priorities, informed by community engagement and local evidence.
- The Council provides delivery support and technical expertise, ensuring projects are viable, sustainable and compliant.
- The Board acts as a critical friend, challenging and advising the Council to ensure delivery reflects local priorities.

This partnership model has already been tested successfully. Since 2020, the Board has co-developed and overseen delivery of the Town Investment Plan alongside Kirklees Council, while retaining independence. This successful track record underpins confidence in the governance approach ensuring that the regeneration of Dewsbury is guided by local priorities and shaped by those who live and work in the town, rather than being solely driven by local government.

### **Securing Buy-in**

DNB's approach is clear: regeneration must not be done *to* Dewsbury, but *with* and *by* its people. The Board's strategy therefore places community and stakeholder engagement at the centre of delivery, ensuring that actions are rooted in local needs, shaped through collaboration, and sustained for the long term.

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board has established strong partnerships and will build on them through:

- **Business engagement:** A Business Network, launched in 2025 with The Arcade Group, has already convened local entrepreneurs and driven town-centre activity. Following initial low levels of engagement in the "*Our Future Dewsbury*" (2024) engagement programme, over 600 local businesses were directly contacted, with further engagement supported through a well-attended drop-in session at Dewsbury Town Hall. Two outreach teams then visited business premises to listen to issues and ideas directly, shaping priorities for supporting town centre traders. This will now be built on with the Board exploring similar models and new approaches to strengthen business participation and secure local investment.
- **Community engagement:** Outreach in 2024 included mosques, schools, market stalls, and cultural festivals, supported by multilingual staff to ensure inclusivity. Multilingual engagement officers ensured inclusion of Dewsbury's South Asian communities, conducting face-to-face conversations in Urdu, Punjabi and Gujarati, which proved particularly effective in breaking down barriers and improving participation. These methods will be continued and expanded on over the period.
- **Youth participation:** Engagement with Kirklees College and the University of Huddersfield has highlighted the importance of involving young people. Engagement with young people extended to over 100 participants across schools and colleges, including Thornhill Academy, Kirklees College and the local university, ensuring their priorities around safety, opportunity, and civic pride were embedded in the plan. The Board will build on this by creating

clear routes for young people to influence decisions, through representation on subgroups, forums and targeted outreach.

The Board will track participation levels, diversity of representation, partnerships formed, and additional investment leveraged and adjust their engagement methods accordingly.

### **Future Engagement Approach**

Community engagement will remain continuous, iterative, and transparent. The Our future Dewsbury programme (2024) revealed strong community priorities: bringing empty buildings back in use with 45% of respondents prioritising, improving safety and security with 36% of respondents prioritising, and enhancing town-centre attractiveness with 27% of respondents prioritising. This evidence has directly shaped the first phase of interventions included in the 4 year plan.

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board is committed to ongoing dialogue with Dewsbury's communities and that it's not a one-off exercise but a continuous and evolving process.

The Board has commissioned physical communication hub in an engagement container at the Market, where members of the public can find out and talk about various projects in Dewsbury. This hub will be designed to continue reaching the same diverse audiences involved in the initial engagement particularly young people, ethnic minority communities and local traders to ensure continuity of conversation and long-term trust. DNB are working closely with community partners The Arcade Group who are leading and delivering a range of events where Board and Council colleagues can talk to communities. The Board have commissioned a range of digital ways to keep in touch about progress of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme, where online engagement is also forming part of the feedback into the regeneration plan.

Quarterly Board meetings are open to the public and this is shared in advance on DNB platforms to get people physically in the meetings. These meetings provide a forum for residents to ask questions, share concerns, and contribute ideas.

Regular updates are provided through the Board's website and social media channels, ensuring that the public remains informed about progress and upcoming opportunities for involvement. Pop-up consultations are planned at key milestones in the delivery of the Regeneration Plan, allowing the Board to gather feedback and adjust its approach as needed. A full engagement report is scheduled for publication in late 2025, which will summarise the feedback received and outline how it has influenced the development of the Plan. Engagement methods will be iterative and regular review of data will be carried out.

### **Delivering Interventions**

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board have a clear roadmap: the first few years will focus on building community confidence through early wins and widening engagement with underrepresented groups, followed in the long term by embedding legacy and supporting local groups to sustain regeneration beyond funding.

The Board's delivery model builds directly on lessons learned to date. In 2024–25, interventions were shortlisted through Board-led working groups using community engagement data. For example, priorities such as vacant building reuse and safety improvements emerged consistently across consultations. The co-design process used in 2024–25 will be maintained throughout delivery. This approach has already shown the

benefits of embedding diverse voices at the start of project development, from local businesses influencing town-centre safety measures, to young people shaping the vision for public spaces. Embedding co-design ensures interventions are grounded in lived experience and community ownership.

#### Delivery Framework:

- Phased Delivery - Quick wins to build momentum which clearly respond to community engagement feedback, medium-term projects co-designed with stakeholders, and long-term interventions aligned with strategic vision.
- Co-Design + Technical Assurance - Communities shape interventions; Council officers provide feasibility, compliance, and sustainability checks.
- Partnership Model - Delivery in collaboration with businesses, charities, and local groups, with commissioning prioritised locally to create jobs and skills.
- Monitoring & Adaptation - Annual reviews, with interventions adjusted based on feedback and outcomes.
- Resilience & Sustainability - Building local capacity so projects can be owned and managed by the community beyond the 10-year funding period.

#### **Transparency and Accountability**

The DNB is committed to maintaining openness and accountability throughout the life of the programme.

- Open & transparent governance and published minutes of meetings including public accountability with dedicated question time at Board meetings.
- Conflict of interest protocols and FOI compliance.
- Clear KPI's which are reviewed and reported on frequently.
- Annual public reporting on progress and outcomes, aligned to the MHCLG Plan for Neighbourhoods framework.

#### **Future Plans and sustainability**

The Board's early achievements show how regeneration efforts can spark wider investment and participation. Over the next 10 years, these efforts will be scaled and embedded to ensure sustainability.

- Sustained community involvement: Supporting residents, volunteers, and young people to stay actively engaged through training, mentoring, and opportunities to take on roles in shaping, delivering, and sustaining projects. Building on lessons from the 'Our Future Dewsbury' engagement, the Board will develop a rolling programme of participation activity, ensuring continuity with harder-to-reach groups, including young residents, South Asian communities, and independent businesses so their voices continue to shape delivery decisions throughout the decade
- Partnership embedding: Strengthening networks across business, civil society, and public services to ensure collaboration continues beyond the life of the programme.
- Investment leverage: Using the £20m as a catalyst for attracting further private, voluntary, and public sector investment to secure long-term impact.

Ultimately, the vision is for Dewsbury to be a thriving, inclusive, and resilient town - shaped and led by its people and sustained beyond the life of the programme. The

Board has already seen how local energy and collaboration can deliver change, and over the next decade, it will build on this foundation to deliver lasting transformation.

## 8. Governance

A clear and proven governance structure is in place to oversee the Regeneration Plan for Dewsbury. This structure ensures accountability, transparency, value for money, and community leadership, drawing on the existing arrangements developed for the Town Investment Plan and refreshed through the *Dewsbury Town Board Terms of Reference (2025)*.

The DNB is the principal decision-making body for both the Town Investment Plan and the Plan for Neighbourhoods investment programme. It provides leadership, sets strategic priorities, and ensures that regeneration is community-led and evidence-based.

The Board's role includes:

- Setting and reviewing priorities for investment.
- Overseeing delivery performance and risk management.
- Providing assurance to Kirklees Council (as accountable body).
- Ensuring decisions reflect local needs and engagement feedback.

### **Board Membership includes:**

Community Representatives:

- Christine Fox – Connect Housing
- Helen Rose – Kirklees College
- Palvinder Singh – Kirklees College
- Anum Rehman – Local resident and Youth Voice representative
- Chief Superintendent Jim Griffiths – West Yorkshire Police
- Fara Butt – Local business owner
- Martin Walsh – Local business owner
- Paul Burnett – Local business owner
- Jackie Ramsey – Local community member
- Andi Eccles – Local resident and community member
- Peter Mason – Dewsbury business owner

Political Representatives:

- Iqbal Mohammed MP – Member of Parliament for Dewsbury & Batley
- Councillor Graham Turner – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Finance
- Councillor Nosheen Dad – Dewsbury South

Membership will be reviewed regularly to ensure diversity; appropriate representation is present and alignment with community priorities.

### **Accountable Body and Delivery Structure**

Kirklees Council acts as the Accountable Body for the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding. It is responsible for:

- Managing grant funds in line with Managing Public Money and Council financial regulations.
- Providing delivery, technical, legal and procurement support.
- Reporting performance, finance and risk to MHCLG.

### **Thematic Working Groups**

Thematic Working Groups are convened and chaired by members of the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Their primary function is to oversee the delivery of key activities, facilitate prioritisation, support decision-making, and ensure effective reporting mechanisms are in place.

These groups work in partnership with the Board, stakeholders, and Council officers to ensure that project outputs and outcomes are achieved, and that grant funding is utilised efficiently and strategically.

Where thematic groups do not currently exist, they may be established to address emerging priorities, ensuring leadership by Board members and alignment with community needs. Examples include Safety & Security and Place groups, which can draw on both technical expertise and lived experience to inform and shape project delivery.

### **Transparency and Standards**

All activity will be governed by the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life including selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership and by the standards set out in Managing Public Money (regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility).

The DNB operates with full transparency, with:

- Published agendas, minutes and decisions on both the DNB and Kirklees Council websites.
- Quarterly public meetings advertised through local and digital channels, with opportunities for questions.
- Regular communications through social media and newsletters updating the community on decisions and progress.
- Annual reporting against key performance indicators, including financial compliance, community engagement reach, and delivery milestones.

The Board also undertakes governance training and self-assessments to review effectiveness and identify areas for governance improvement.

### **Approving Investments**

All projects within the Dewsbury Regeneration Plan will be managed in line with HM Treasury's Green Book, Managing Public Money, and Kirklees Council's corporate project management framework. This ensures every investment is developed and delivered in a way that is regular, proper, feasible and represents value for money.

Project development will follow a proportionate, multi-stage approach covering:

- Scoping and business case development, aligning proposals with community priorities and the objectives of the Regeneration Plan.

- Appraisal and approval, ensuring independent scrutiny, risk assessment, and compliance with governance requirements.
- Delivery and monitoring, managed largely by the Town Centre Regeneration Team, with regular reporting to the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, Blueprint Board and Cabinet.
- Evaluation and learning, using baseline data and success measures to track progress, capture lessons and inform future investment decisions.

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board will provide local leadership and community assurance, ensuring transparency, inclusivity and alignment with local priorities.

Kirklees Council, as the accountable body, will maintain oversight of financial management, procurement and risk through its established corporate controls. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Kirklees Council ensures that the financial affairs of legal entities and other arrangements for which the Council has responsibility are managed in a secure and effective manner in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and related policies and procedures unless otherwise agreed by the CFO.

All financial transactions of the council are maintained on the Council's Financial Management System (FMS) unless otherwise agreed by the CFO. Transactions are recorded accurately, promptly and fully, and as soon as reasonably practicable. All financial reporting will comply with appropriate accounting standards.

This governance framework builds on tested local arrangements, ensuring:

- Community-led decision-making through the DNB.
- Strong financial and legal assurance through Kirklees Council as the accountable body.
- Clear lines of accountability and communication across all partners.
- Full transparency through open reporting and public access.

Together, these arrangements will ensure that the £20 million investment delivers lasting value, trust, and tangible change for Dewsbury's people and places.

**Governance Structure Organogram to be included**

## 9. Assurance

### Assurance and Standards

Kirklees Council, as the accountable body for the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Programme, will ensure the programme is delivered in line with Best Value standards and the principles of Managing Public Money (regularity, propriety, value for money, and feasibility).

### Assurance Approach

#### Clear Governance:

The Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board provides strategic leadership and decision-making, with financial accountability held by Kirklees Council. Escalations and additional oversight are supported through the Council's internal boards.

**Robust Financial Management:**

All programme funds will be managed through Kirklees Council's established financial systems and monitoring.

**Fraud Risk Management:**

Fraud risk will be assessed as part of procurement processes using governments Grants Functional Standards on Fraud Risk Assessment ensuring standards are being met appropriately to each project.

**Subsidy Control:**

Kirklees Council will ensure that all funding decisions comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 by undertaking proportionate legal and financial assessments, maintaining transparent records, and securing appropriate approvals to demonstrate compliance with statutory requirements

**Best Value Duty:**

The Council will apply its statutory duty to secure continuous improvement, ensuring the programme delivers economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. Investments will be judged not only on financial return but also on their wider community benefit.

**Procurement and Competition:**

All contracts and delivery partners will be procured in line with Kirklees Council's procurement procedure using procurement frameworks, ensuring fair competition, transparency, and the best outcomes for the public.

**Monitoring, Reporting, and Audit:**

Programme delivery will be monitored against agreed milestones and outcomes, with regular reporting to the Neighbourhood Board and Kirklees Council. Internal audit and, where appropriate, external audit. Projects can subject to additional assurance through Scrutiny Management Committee.

**Risk Management:**

Risks to delivery will be actively identified, monitored, and managed through robust programme management, reporting and decision making.

**Transparency and Accountability:**

Key decisions, updates, and progress reports will be shared publicly to maintain confidence and demonstrate accountability.

**Capacity and Capability:**

Kirklees Council has the capacity and expertise to manage large-scale funding programmes, supported by specialist finance, procurement, legal, and programme management teams to ensure effective delivery.

## Appendix – Latest version of Terms of reference

DNB board members? Could pull together a list of images / bios we already have on record for the website and collate as a PDF?

Consultation reports from Counter Context

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/pdf/Annual-Governance-Statement-2024-25.pdf>

Intervention Theme	PfN Objective	Reference Number	Intervention Description	Relevant Pre-approved Interventions	£	Funding Profile		
						2026 - 2030	2030-2036	
<b>Dewsbury Regeneration Plan</b>						C/R	Years 1 -4	Years 5-10
<b>Improving Safety &amp; Security</b>	Thriving Places, Stronger Communities	SS1	Multi-disciplinary enforcement and prevention task teams, that can tackle key issues including crime, anti-social behaviour, poor housing, cleansing, fly-tipping, and policing in the town centre, includes support initiatives such as training for business on crime prevention.	Improved town centre management Interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and minimise reoffending. Co-location of crime reduction services.  Policing interventions to target crime prevention in specific locations, in particular town centres	Rev	£760,000	£1,315,000	
					Cap	£0	£0	
	Taking Back Control, Thriving Places	SS2	Grant funding pot to support businesses and improve the town centre environment.  Grants and support to help businesses protect their property and reduce risks such as vandalism or theft.  Measures to enhance the appearance, safety, and accessibility of underused spaces, alleys, and building frontages.  Encourages creative and community-focused improvements that make streets more welcoming and attractive.	· Interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and minimise reoffending ·Improved town centre management ·Design and oversight of the built and landscaped environment to ‘design out’ crime and encourage positive behaviour	Rev	£0	£0	
					Cap	£440,000	£240,000	

<b>Supporting Businesses</b>	Taking Back Control	HHR1	Dedicated resource to Help businesses develop and providing advice, guidance, and training. Develop relationships & Build on existing work by Business Support Team, greater focus in Dewsbury Town  Help manage grants in HHR2 & SS2	· Developing and expanding existing local business support and networks for smaller businesses and social enterprises · Skills provision tailored to local opportunities and skills gaps, such as those identified in an area's Local Skills Improvement Plan (England only)	Rev	£170,000	£300,000
					Cap	£0	£0
	Taking Back Control, Thriving Places	HHR2	Part of package led by HHR1 - Grants for new/existing businesses - start-up, support, unit improvements.	Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises · Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs	Rev	£0	£0
					Cap	£200,000	£600,000

<b>Growth Plans</b>	Thriving Places	HHR3	Making robust plans to drive new investment into Dewsbury Town Centre, increase town centre living and using/protecting neglected and derelict buildings. Management and delivery of plans	· Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs	Rev	£270,000	£360,000
					Cap	£0	£0
<b>Redevelop Underused sites</b>	Thriving Places, Stronger Communities	HHR4	Redevelop underused sites through acquisition, demolition, and renewal to deliver housing, commercial units, and business incubation, leveraging public grants to attract private investment.	Funding for improvements to town centres, neighbourhoods, and high streets, including capital spend and running costs. -Support wider neighbourhood renewal by improving the attractiveness and liveability of homes and their surroundings - Provide healthy and climate-resilient homes support locally	Rev	£103,000	£316,000
					Cap	£3,521,000	£6,475,000

<b>Creative &amp; Cultural Events</b>	Thriving Places, Stronger Communities	HHR5	Having a range of creative, cultural and fun events for people to come visit Dewsbury for and having a planned professional programme for this. Designated resource to secure additional funding and organise events programme and build network.	Measures to improve community cohesion. -- Funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local place. -- Funding to support the development, improvement, and promotion of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, historical trails, cultural tours, campaigns and other related tourism products.	Rev	£200,000	£360,000
					Cap	£340,000	£0
<b>Streets For Everyone</b>	Thriving Places	TC1	Improvements which focus on making the town centre safer and more accessible by reducing traffic speeds, enhancing walking and cycling routes, upgrading signage, and revitalising green spaces for community use.	Support for active travel enhancements in the local area. - Funding for new, or improvements to local road networks to improve access within and to the town	Rev	£0	£0
					Cap	£805,000	£2,315,000

**Dewsbury Town Deal Project Update Appendices  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

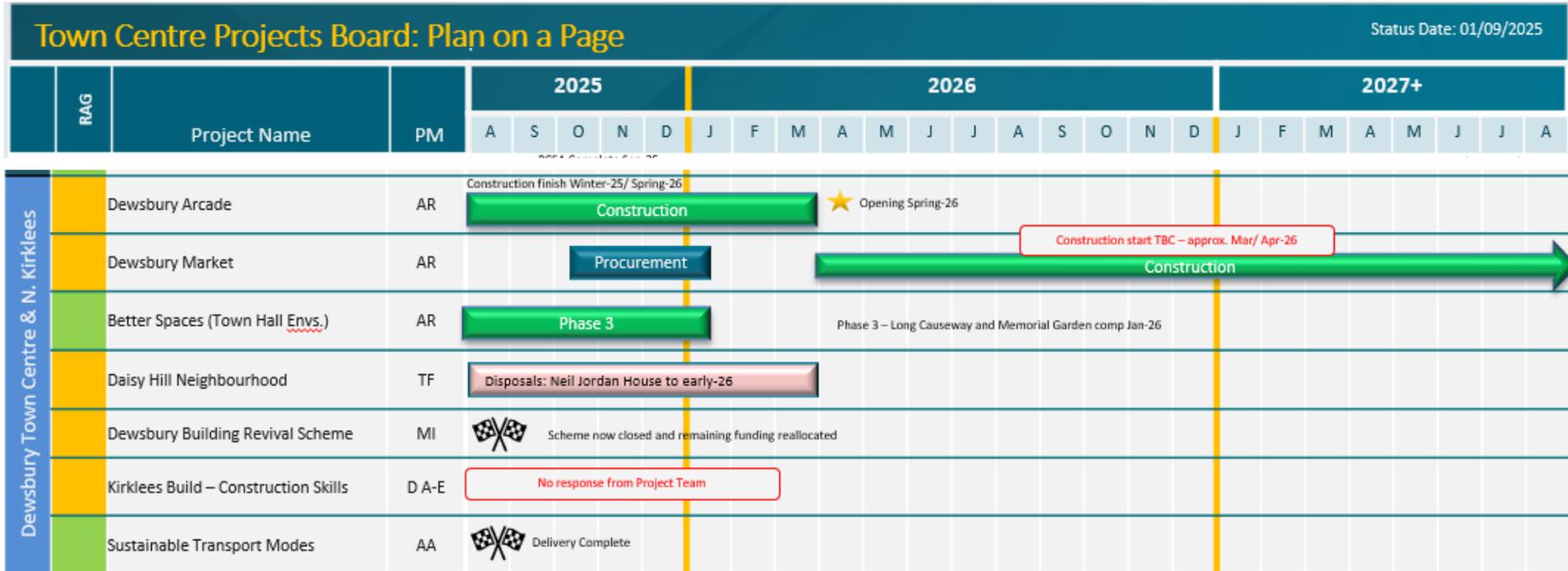
## Appendix A - Recent and Planned Progress

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

Project Name	RAG Status	Reporting period – 7 <sup>th</sup> of August 2025 – 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Activities planned next reporting period February 2026
The Arcade	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work and repairs have continued including roofing works to Marketplace and Corporation Street now complete</li> <li>• Supporting columns have been replaced within Moneypenny’s unit</li> <li>• Installation of steel trusses to the roof and Velux windows</li> <li>• Oak ridges have been approved and installed to the roof trusses</li> <li>• Work has commenced on the first sample shop unit</li> <li>• Iconic stone Arcade lettering installed to replace the “C” and “E”.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New glazed roof to be w/c 10<sup>th</sup> of November</li> <li>• Guttering works to be completed to the roof</li> <li>• Major scaffolding between Foundry and Corporation Street to be removed</li> <li>• Lighting works across Arcade will be installed including temp Christmas Lights</li> <li>• Power connections from Northern Power Grid to the full Arcade to be installed November</li> </ul>
Market/Market Public Realm (former Town Park)	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turner and Townsend have taken on the Project Management role and Quality Surveyors for the scheme</li> <li>• Planning condition discharge documents have been submitted</li> <li>• Market container installed w/c 3rd of November in Market Place which will act as a central communication hub to inform people about the market project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost &amp; Funding review to be undertaken</li> <li>• Preparation of procurement documents</li> <li>• Invitation to tender process in place</li> <li>• Market decants containers made ready prior for installation</li> </ul>
Better Spaces (Public Realm) Town Hall	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 3 preparation works on going within Memorial Gardens.</li> <li>• Scoping works have been undertaken for the creation of the seating area outside the Walsh Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 2.1 outstanding works to commence on Town Hallway - car parking provisions, road surfacing, installation of bollards.</li> </ul>

Project Name	RAG Status	Reporting period – 7 <sup>th</sup> of August 2025 – 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Activities planned next reporting period February 2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HVM bollards and boulders have been installed on Town Hall Apron</li> <li>HVM gate installed on Town Hallway</li> <li>Longcauseway – central steps have been completed</li> <li>Commenced works on the paving area within Memorial Gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining trees to be installed on Town Hall Apron</li> <li>Installation of street furniture including benches, cycle provision storage and information panel</li> <li>Completion of landscaping works and planting to Memorial Gardens</li> </ul>
Construction Skills Village (Kirklees Build)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kirklees Council continuing to work with college to explore opportunities at Springfield site – on going</li> <li>Cost analysis being undertaken to ascertain project cost to develop the Springfield site option - on going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of cost plan for Springfield option</li> </ul>
Building Revival Grant Scheme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Completed</b></li> <li>On going capital works associated with 27 Market Place</li> </ul>	
Daisy Hill Neighbourhood/ Field House		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Field House</b> – Show apartment now ready</li> <li>Windows have all been completed</li> <li>Electrics works on going</li> <li>Plastering works commenced</li> <li>All external scaffolding now off site</li> <li><b>Neil Jordon House</b> – Discussions on going with interested parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field House - Completion due end of January</li> <li>Neil Jordon House – View to a disposal early 2026</li> </ul>
Sustainable Transport Modes -		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Completed</b></li> <li>Outcome of Experimental Traffic Road Order still being analysed to determine if it becomes a permanent change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome of ETRO known as to whether the order becomes permanent.</li> </ul>

## 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 – November 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	<b>£1.310m</b> <b>£1.246m (re allocation Creative Hub)</b> <b>£1.30m (re allocation BGRS)</b>	£2.565m £0.148k (Fibre Capability)	£600k Getting Build Fund £4.441m National Heritage Lottery Fund £107k NHLF Other £34k	£11.75m	£5.99m	£5.76m
Market	<b>£6.600m **</b>	£8.400m	£0	£15m	£4.7m	£10.3m
Market Public Realm (former Town Park) includes Better Spaces Public Realm Civic space	<b>£6.250m **</b>	£8.130m	£0	£14.38m	£2.4m	£11.98m
Creative Hub (Capital & Rev)	<b>£1.680m (£1.246m reallocated, £434k remaining includes £50k RDEL)</b>	£0	£0	£434k	£71k	£363k (£313k CDEL to be reallocated)
Building Revival	<b>£3.150m</b>	£1.25m	£268k Private Sector Investment £280k Heritage Action Zone (All allocated)	£4.94m £4.4m (ex-match funding)	£1.31m	£3.09m
Daisy Hill Neighbourhood and Field House	<b>£2.220m</b> (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	£2.677m	£8.59m

Sustainable Transport Modes	<b>£1.325m</b>	£0	£0	£1.325m	£1.006m	£319k
Construction Skills Village	<b>£1.5m</b>	£750K	£0	£2.25m	£363k	£1.887m
Fibre Capability	<b>£250k</b>	£0	£0	£250k	£250k	£0k
Cultural Events	<b>£515k</b>	£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: 28/10/2025		 New Risk	
Priority	Impact	Severity	Log Ref	Title	Description	Scheme	Owner	Action Update
4	4	16	MP-Ri-264	Compensation Event 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	08/10 (AR) Spend monitoring continues against the additional budget now allocated to the scheme. A £250k contingency is in place for further unknowns.

# Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Title of report: Acquisition of Strategic Property**

**Purpose of report:**

To discuss the principle of the Council pursuing negotiations to potentially acquire a strategic property within Dewsbury town centre on behalf of Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.

**Recommendation:** That Board agrees to the Council negotiating on the potential acquisition of a strategic property within Dewsbury town centre, on behalf of the Board, with the potential use of Regeneration Plan funding.

**Reasons:** Acquisition of the strategic property to further the regeneration aspirations for Dewsbury. This is a public report with a private appendix. Exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It was considered that the disclosure of the information would be contrary to confidential terms and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness and transparency in relation to public expenditure in the Council's decision making.

**Public or private:** Public with private appendix

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

See private appendix

## **3. Implications**

### **3.1 Working with People**

Extensive community engagement has fed into the development of the existing and emerging regeneration plans for Dewsbury. If the principle of the strategic acquisition is

agreed, engagement will be undertaken relating to acquisition and development of the site through the Board in furthering the regeneration aims for Dewsbury town centre.

### 3.2 Working with Partners

Relevant partners have been engaged in developing the existing and emerging regeneration plans for Dewsbury. Acquisition and redevelopment of strategic sites and properties in the town centre will require engagement with key partners which will be facilitated by the Board and relevant council officers.

### 3.3 Place Based Working

Placed based working principles have been embedded within the consultation and engagement that has been recently undertaken to feed into the regeneration plan for Dewsbury, which these proposals have the potential to deliver key outcomes. Placed based working will be embedded within any future redevelopment plans for potential future strategic land acquisition.

### 3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The acquisition and development of key sites within the town centre directly supports the reuse of sites in a well-connected, sustainable location, whilst contribution to the wider regeneration goals for the town.

### 3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The regeneration of Dewsbury, particularly the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis, with projects developed to reflect the need of encouraging families back into the town. The acquisition and redevelopment of key sites in the town centre will support these aims.

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

Subject to Board approval, acquisition would be pursued using appropriate Kirklees Council powers, Cabinet Decisions and Officer Delegations in collaboration with the Board. The Council is the "Accountable Body" to MHCLG with responsibility for receiving and managing the regeneration plan grant funding.

## **4 Consultation/Engagement**

Consultation and engagement has recently been undertaken to feed into the regeneration plan for Dewsbury. These proposals have the potential to deliver key outcomes. Place based working will be embedded within any future redevelopment plans for potential future strategic land acquisition.

## **5 Options**

N/A

**6 Next steps and timelines**

Subject to Board approval, a timetable for negotiation and potential acquisition will be set out in detail.

**7 Contact officer** Thomas Fish, Acting Head of Town Centre Regeneration

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

N/A

**9 Appendices**

Private Appendix

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank