

DEWSBURY TOWN DEAL BOARD
16TH NOVEMBER 2023**Long Term Plan for Towns – HM Government Announcement 1st October 2023 – Report overview**

- Prime Minister has announced a £1.1 billion levelling up investment as part of a long-term plan for towns that provide long term investment in towns.
- Dewsbury has been identified as one of 55 town that will benefit from a £20m endowment-style fund over the next 10 years.
- This will be made up of 25% Resource (£5m) and 75% Capital (£15m).

Other towns within Yorkshire and the Humber which will benefit from the announcement include:

- Grimsby
- Castleford
- Doncaster
- Rotherham
- Barnsley
- Scunthorpe
- Keighley
- Scarborough

Some of the key highlights from the prospectus report which need to be taken into consideration include: –

- Towns were allocated funding based on Levelling up Needs Index which cover skills, pay, productivity and health as well as Multiple Deprivation
- **Long Term Plan** needs to be drawn up for each town by a **Town Board** – which will be made up of local community leaders, employers, LA and MP. They will oversee and deliver the **Town Plan**.
- Towns will be required to demonstrate how they have developed plans in **consultation with local people**.
- Funding to be spent on local priorities but in particular:
 - **reviving high streets,**
 - **tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB),**
 - **improving transport and**
 - **growing the local economy.**
- There are 3 key themes which Government expect the plan to identify measures that matter most to people – **Safety and Security, High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration and Transport and Connectivity**
- Areas are expected to bring something to the table – **time & resource, local match funding or properties to include in regeneration projects.**
- Government will set up a **“Task Force”** which reports directly back into the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up – they will support towns on the long-term plan and help to unlock investment and public support. Taskforce will also make it easier for towns to repurpose

empty high street shops by reforming licencing rules and supporting more housing in town centres.

- The report also notes that government want towns to utilise the **additional powers** they have been granted to tackle ASB and diversifying high streets. A toolkit will be provided.
- Will not be subject to onerous reporting requirements plus roll over of funding will be allowed into future years.
- Current Town Board can be repurposed. Capacity funding will be released in Spring 2024 to expand/adapt on existing TB.
- LA named as the accountable body for funding – Section 151 Officer approvals

Expected timescales

- **By April 2024** – local authorities to bring local partners together to form Town Boards, or expand existing Town Deal Boards where these exist, and start the process of setting out a long-term vision based on local priorities.
- **Spring 2024** – Once a Town Board has been set up, capacity funding will be released to support the development of investment plans, including additional community engagement activities. Ongoing engagement will be available from the Towns Taskforce.
- **From Summer 2024** – Submission of Long-Term Plans and release of year one funding.

Officer Notes

1. The report is for information once further information is made available by DHLUC then this will be reported to Board.
2. Officers will start to plan discussions around the main issues over the coming weeks.

Related documents –

[Long-Term Plan for Towns \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Prime Minister puts local people in control of more than £1 billion with long-term plan for left-behind towns - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)