

## Dewsbury Town Board | Extraordinary Meeting – 26 March 2025

### Plan for Neighbourhoods

#### 1.1 Background

On 4 March 2025 MHCLG confirmed further investment of up to £20m in Dewsbury as part of their Plan for Neighbourhoods, which builds on the previous administration's Long-Term Plan for Towns programme.

The Board, working with the local authority, will be responsible for producing a 10-year Regeneration Plan, setting out the activity that will be pursued to achieve the 3 strategic objectives of this programme, which are:

- thriving places
- stronger communities
- taking back control

Further details can be found here:

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Key points to note include:

- Establishing a new **Neighbourhood Board** (replacing the name for Dewsbury Town Board) by 22 April 2025
- Confirm **geographical boundary** by 22 April 2025
- The Board, working with the local authority, will be responsible for producing a 10-year **Regeneration Plan**, which is to be submitted by winter 2025, ready for agreement and funding to start in April 2026
- Following approval of Neighbourhood Board membership and place boundaries a further **£200,000 of capacity funding** will be released for the 25/26 financial year
- Up to **£20m grant funding** is available. The bulk of funding starting from 2028/2029 and approximately 25% revenue and 75% capital over the ten-year plan.
- There is a significant list of **pre-approved interventions** that can be applied for in regeneration plans, where it is evident they are needed and is a clear priority from the community.
- Further **community engagement** may be required, and previous consultative work should be built upon.

#### 1.2 Neighbourhood Board and Place Boundary

The Council must confirm or reconfirm the Neighbourhood Board membership and place boundaries by 23:59pm on 22 April 2025.

Board members are asked to read the [new guidance on board membership](#) ahead of the board meeting so that any proposed changes can be discussed. The guidance confirms that places with a 'Town Board' set up to deliver the previous administration's Long-Term Plan

for Towns programme can fully retain that board and the agreed governance structure to deliver the new Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.

The default geographic boundary for each place is the built-up area as defined by the Office for National Statistics. This is the agreed geographic boundary as set out in the current Terms of Reference and shown below in Figure 1. Any requests to amend this boundary will need to be submitted to MHCLG. Board members are asked to consider whether they wish to alter the boundary.

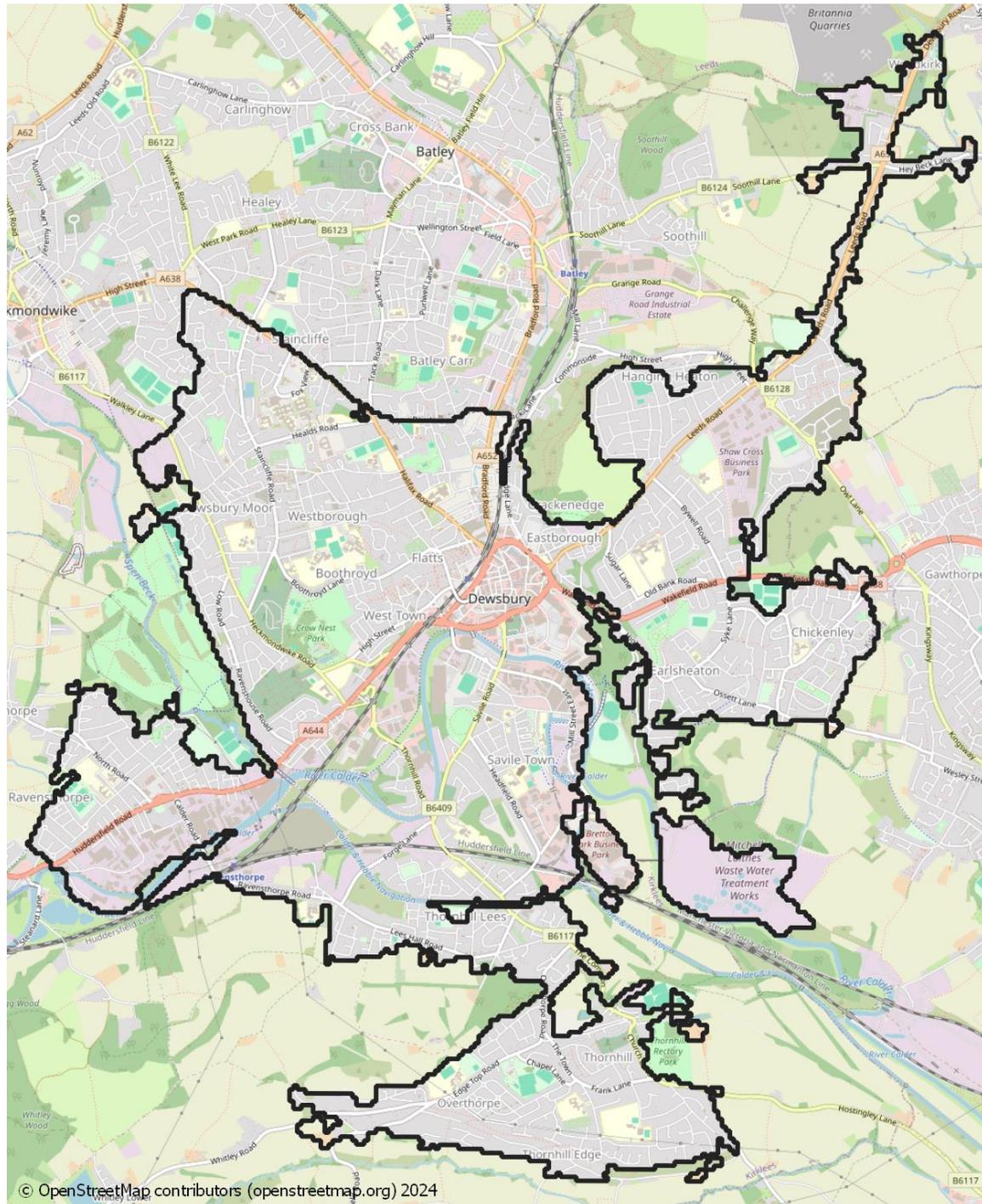


Figure 1: Geographic area for Dewsbury

The submission requirements by 22 April are as follows:

- confirmation of whether MHCLG signed off a previously agreed board and boundary
- board chair and member details (including Deputy and substitute details)
- a nominated contact for the Neighbourhood Board
- confirmation of the proposed geographical boundary
- supplementary documentation (for example, terms of reference and code of conduct)
- outline of capacity funding spends to date and plans for additional spending

### **1.3 Emerging priorities for 25/26 Revenue Funding**

At the Board meeting on 6 February the potential priorities for capacity funding were discussed using feedback from a survey completed by Board members and Council officers. This identified a number of priorities including starting to establish a multi-disciplinary safety & security team; developing & delivering a programme of events; engaging with businesses; and developing housing and economic plans.

These priorities will need to be reviewed against the Plan for Neighbourhood guidance in terms of both the 3 strategic objectives, and the scope of the capacity funding which is intended to support:

- establishing and running the Neighbourhood Board
- performing community engagement
- developing Regeneration Plans
- securing advice and expertise
- ensuring capital and infrastructure interventions can hit the ground running
- any other activity that councils and boards consider will progress their plans

This and the Plan for Neighbourhoods will be discussed in more detail at the 1 May 2025 Board meeting, however, if the Board wish to use funding to support the development and delivery of events as part of community engagement plans, planning for those activities needs to start as soon as possible to ensure successful delivery.

A note related to Events & Engagement will be issued to Board members in advance of the 26 March meeting to enable a discussion to take place so that a decision can be made whether to progress investment in Events as part of a community engagement programme, using capacity funding.