

# Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

**Title of report:** Update re: Plan for Neighbourhoods

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

**Officer recommendations and reasons:**

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

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## 1. Summary

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

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

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

## 2. Information required to take a decision

### 2.1 Background

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

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

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

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

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

- thriving places
- stronger communities
- taking back control

Further details on these objectives and the programme more generally can be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus#fund-objectives>

The government has provided a list of pre-approved interventions that local authorities and Neighbourhood Boards can use for the programme. Details of these interventions can be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-pre-approved-interventions>

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

### 2.2 Membership and boundary confirmation for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

The Board meeting on [26<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#) confirmed the following:

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

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

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

### 2.3 Governance for the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

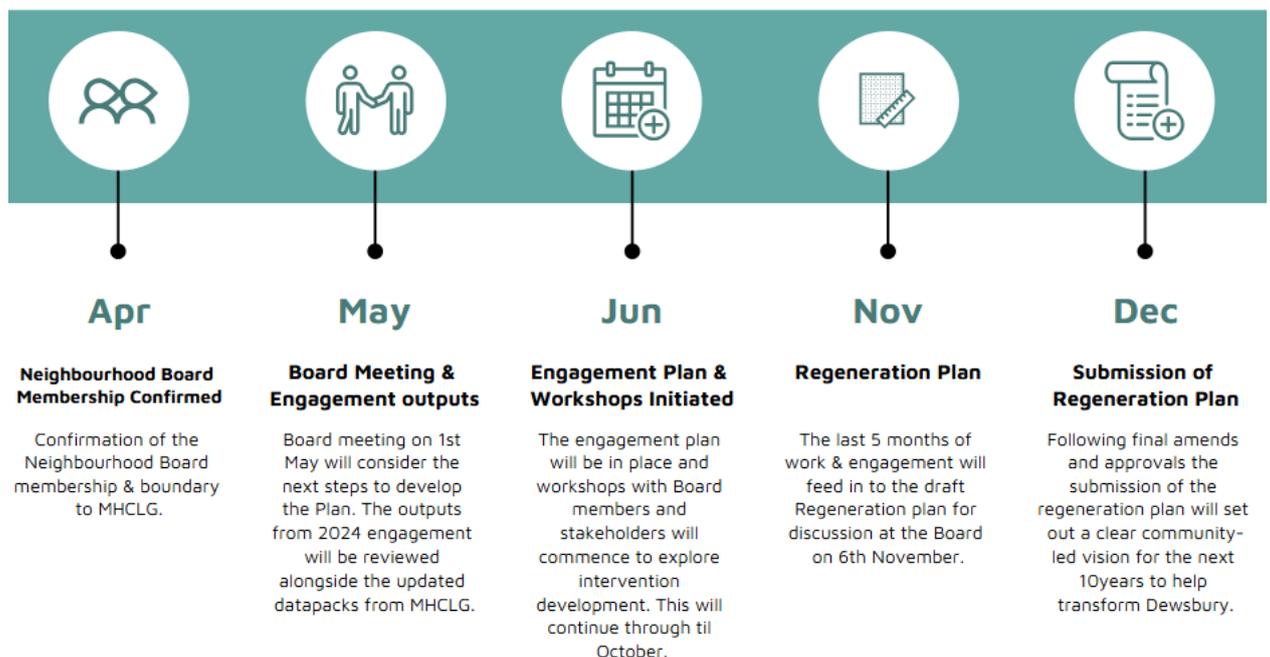
The existing Terms of Reference, developed and agreed for the Town Board (in March 2024) will remain (although the document has been updated to refer to the Neighbourhood Board, and Regeneration Plan). However, during the development of the Regeneration Plan it is proposed that the Terms of Reference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

### 2.4 High-level programme to develop the Regeneration Plan

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

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

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



### **3. Implications**

#### **3.1 Working with People**

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

#### **3.2 Working with Partners**

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

#### **3.3 Place Based Working**

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

#### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

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

#### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

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

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

The programme will have a risk and opportunity register, which will be actively managed to mitigate potential risks. An Integrated Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the development of the projects if required to consider the potential effects of activities and decisions on people, the environment and Kirklees as a whole.

### **4 Consultation/Engagement**

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

### **5 Options**

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

**6 Next steps and timelines**

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

**7 Contact officer**

David Wildman, Head of Town Centre Regeneration (Interim)

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

[Dewsbury Town Board 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#)

**9 Appendices (If applicable)**

n/a

**10 Service Director responsible (If applicable)**

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development