Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

7th August 2025

Title of report: Update: Plan for Neighbourhoods

Purpose of report: Provide an update to the Board regarding progress on the Plan for Neighbourhoods since the meeting 1st May 2025 and outline the timeline in the run up to submission.

Officer recommendations and reasons:

Board to note:

- Intervention workshop reviews led by Board members have now been undertaken.
- Board to commit to attending meetings and reviewing drafts of plans.
- Board to note progress update for capacity funding spend.
- Board to note update on capacity funding and spend.

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.

The government requires the creation of *Neighbourhood Boards*, which will work with communities and councils to produce:

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

These must align 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-neighbourhoodsprospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-pre-approved-intervention

2.2 Capacity Funding

£200k has now been received at the end of June following a submission to MHCLG of Board confirmation and Boundary.

Update on spend:

Board agreed in last meeting to allocate £66k of this funding to support:

- Engagement-Led Events
- Setting Up a Business Network
- Communications
- Planning & resourcing for Events

Engagement Led Events which have been led by The Arcade Group have started to be delivered whilst other events are still being scoped. The Food Festival Event which has had capacity funding to support this has now been successfully delivered with a high turnout of footfall in the town centre. This data set will be reported in the next footfall update, due in 3 months.

Business Network: The Arcade Group are planning their first 'opening event' and is due in early September, with further details on this due by the Arcade Group over the coming weeks.

Planning & resourcing for Events: This externally appointed position is now in post and supporting engagement led events. Extensive stakeholder mapping and engagement has already been undertaken, and an update on outputs will be given at a later board once Programme Manager has embedded into the role.

2.3 Working Groups

Intervention working groups were reestablished in thematic areas led by Board members. Working groups ensured that interventions which were agreed in August 2024, were still in alignment with #OurFutureDewsbury community engagement feedback.

These three groups were:

- Place, led by Sophie Johnson
- Safety & Security, Jim Griffiths
- Events, Engagement and Communications, led by Helen Rose.

A further meeting is due to be held in August with the leads of the groups to collectively agree top priorities for the interventions, which will then inform the next stages of development of the 4-year investment plan as part of the wider regeneration plan development.

2.4 Programme Timeline

- **July 2025**
  Working Group Board-led intervention reviews
  Conduct comprehensive reviews of existing interventions, assess effectiveness, and identify areas for improvement.
- **August 2025**
  Writing and developing the Plan
  Commence drafting of the regeneration plan based on review findings, incorporating strategic goals and stakeholder input.
- **September–October 2025**
  DNB reviewing Plan / Attending meetings
  Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board members to review the draft plan, provide feedback, and participate in key planning meetings (as required).
- **6 November 2025**
  DNB signs off Regeneration Plan
  Approval of the regeneration plan by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.
- **28 November 2025**
  Submission of Regeneration Plan
  Official submission of the approved regeneration plan to MHCLG.

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, 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 will take place as part of developing the Regeneration Plan. As projects progress statutory consultation will take place as required.

5) Options

N/A

6 Next steps and timelines

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 James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration.

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

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

9 Appendices (If applicable)

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