

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 7th of August 2025

Title of report: Dewsbury Town Deal, Project Update

Purpose of report: To update the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board on the current position of the Dewsbury projects outlined in the Town Investment Plan (TIP).

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

Dewsbury was one of 101 places to be invited to develop proposals for a new generation of multi-million-pound Town Deals. The town was eligible for support from the £3.6 billion Towns Fund and was able to access £24.8m. A Town Investment Plan (TIP) was submitted in January 2021. This followed agreement from Cabinet. The Dewsbury Town Deal Board (DTDB) also endorsed the plan for submission.

On 8th June 2021 the Council received confirmation that the TIP had been accepted, and the Council was awarded £24.8m to deliver the plan; subject to signing of Heads of Terms (HoT). HoT were signed at the end of June 2021.

This report offers information on progress made to date and will highlight any key risks and opportunities on the seven TIP projects which have yet to reach completion, both the Creative Culture Project – Taking a Lead and Fibre Capability have completed and will not be included in this report. The seven projects this report will refer to include: -

- 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

2. Information to consider

The Arcade

- 2.1 The Arcade is currently in delivery; William Birch contractors commenced works in April 2024, over the last 15 months Birch have undertaken extensive works to the fabric of the building. Due to the age of the building the construction has experienced several complexities linked to lack of foundations and roof timber and cast-iron truss deterioration.
- 2.2 The project has therefore been subject to delays which have resulted in the spend forecast exceeding the current funding. The Council will seek to reallocate unspent funds from the Town Deal programme to ensure successful delivery of the scheme.
- 2.3 William Birch have made good progress with key achievements detailed in Appendix A.

Civic Spaces and Memorial Gardens

- 2.4 The Civic project continues to progress with Phase 2.1 paving replacement works ongoing on the Town Hall Apron. Three of the 6 trees have now been planted just outside the reception entrance to the town hall. Phase 2.1 was due to complete June but due to some delays associated with ground conditions the new completion date is proposed for the end of August.
- 2.5 Phase 2.2 has started with works underway to create central steps up to the memorial area. Proposed completion date currently is mid-August for the central steps and team will then move onto works for to the side steps once granite delivery is complete. As part of Phase 2.2 the construction team will move ahead to carry out preparation works for Phase 3 which will include the creation of the tree pits on Longcauseway, ramp and curb construction.
- 2.6 Phase 3 which will be the final stage to the project will see the creation of a curved seating space, additional tree planting and improvements to the existing flower beds to Longcauseway as well as the installation of lighting. This Phase will commence construction in Autumn with completion Winter 2025.

Constructions Skills Village

- 2.7 Kirklees College continue to explore the option for Springfield site campus to be considered to house a Skills Operator Hub which would see the virtual reality plant machinery being housed at Springfield College.

Building Grant Revival Scheme

- 2.8 Kirklees Council legal team have now completed the purchase of 27 Market Place. As agreed at the extraordinary meeting held on the 26th of March the Building Grant Revival Scheme grant will be supporting the capital costs associated with refurbishment and purchase of the property.

Sustainable Transport

- 2.9 Contractors Hinko have completed works on Bond Street and the Traffic Regulation Order is now complete and the road is open for access.
- 2.10 Experimental Traffic Road Order (ETRO) now in place at the bottom of Bond Street and will be in situ for up to 18 months. This forms part of the Dewsbury Movement and Accessibility Framework. The impacts of the no left hand turn out of Corporation Street into Northgate is being monitored and assessed to determine if this will become a permanent scheme.

Dewsbury Market and Market Public Realm (former Town Park)

- 2.12 The Market scheme has completed RIBA stage 4 design and is ready for tender. The Pre-Tender Estimate has been completed which indicates the scheme is deliverable with some reallocation of Town Deal Grant. Kirklees Council expect to undertake a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) with MHCLG to seek the reallocation of grants once the final scheme costs are known.
- 2.13 The temporary market HVM Residual Risk Review meeting has been completed, and design has been approved. Stage 2 Drawings have been completed for the Cliffe Street Storage unit.
- 2.14 The main scheme and temporary market planning applications have both been approved.

Daisy Hill Neighbourhood

- 2.15 Following the presentation given at Board on the 6th of February where members were notified of the plans to dispose of Neil Jordan House, recent marketing to promote the sale of the property has generated 3 interested parties.
- 2.16 Field House building works are continuing on track for completion in November 2025. There is plenty of interest in the flats and a show flat should be ready by the end of August 2025.

Other Initiatives and opportunities for Dewsbury

- 2.17 **The TransPennine Route Upgrade** is a major multi-billion-pound programme of railway improvements connecting passengers in the North between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York. The programme will transform the main line offering more reliable, faster and greener trains. Works on the Dewsbury to Leeds section of the TRU have reached the halfway mark and will offer up to six fast services and two stopping every hour between Leeds and Manchester and will include Dewsbury Train Station. [Home - Transpennine Route Upgrade](#)
- 2.18 Further opportunities in relation to transport network includes the West Yorkshire Combined Authorities (WYCA) **Mass Transit** tram system connecting Leeds to Bradford with a potential link to Dewsbury.
- 2.19 WYCA'S £23m transformation of **Dewsbury Bus Station** in partnership with Kirklees Council has started with contractors Willmott Dixon starting the first phase of works on the 9th of March. Plans include an improved interior design, better accessibility for all bus users and upgraded public entrances and exists. [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

3. Implications

3.1 Working with People

As part of the Dewsbury Blueprint the Council held town centre consultations and workshops in the town centre during the early part of 2020. This included a town centre presence via a blueprint shop. This work has fed into the preparation of the TIP. During November 2020 specific engagement across Dewsbury was undertaken as part of the TIP preparation. This work was carried out by a consultancy on behalf of the former Dewsbury Town Deal Board to align with Government guidance on the preparation of TIP's.

3.2 Working with Partners

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board includes a wide of stakeholders from across the Dewsbury area including community, education, business, and development sectors as well as the Council and the local Member of Parliament.

3.3 Place Based Working

The Dewsbury Blueprint is based on the idea of working with local people and businesses to improve the town centre and this has been taken forward in the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan. The Strategic Development Framework approved by Cabinet on the 22nd January 2019 draws upon the earlier Strategic Development Framework produced in 2010. This was also a result of extensive public engagement and highlighted the importance local people place

on having an attractive and vibrant town centre. The consultation carried out by the consultants 'Social' for the Dewsbury Town Deal in late 2020 provides further support to these conclusions.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and has adopted a 'net zero' carbon emissions target for 2038. All projects delivered through the Town Investment Plan will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the right principles are applied to ensure they achieve or come as close to this objective as possible. The whole TIP programme has been designed to support clean growth by:

- Encouraging active travel by investing in new cycle ways and footpaths along with new public spaces such as a new town park. These investments will encourage residents to make journeys by foot or bike and which will help to improve air quality.
- Creating a vibrant town centre with a revitalised Market, the Arcade, a new town park and a programme of arts and culture activities will encourage residents to choose to stay local for recreational activities.
- The planned upgrades of many of the historical buildings through projects such as the Arcade, the building revival scheme and Field House will improve the energy efficiency of the buildings and restore and recycle existing assets.
- The TIP is supporting local town centre housing, close to public transport and other amenities. This will be a key feature of sustainable living for the town and is promoted by the TIP.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The regeneration of Dewsbury, particularly the town centre, has always had a family friendly emphasis. The stakeholder engagement has reconfirmed this. The projects reflect the need encouraging families back into the town. Projects such as the Town Park, and the Market have a significant focus on improving outcomes for children.

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

The Council is the "Accountable Body" to MHCLG with responsibility for receiving and managing the grant funding and delivery of the projects. Management, governance and delivery of the TIP will be overseen by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board (DNB) and the Council will be responsible for the delivery of projects in conjunction with the DNB and other partners. Appendix C offers an overview of the Town Fund grant allocation as well as match funding and spend information to date for each of the TIP project.

The risks associated with each project are being monitored and managed, and Appendix D summarises the highest severity risks at present.

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

n/a

6. Next Steps and timelines

An overview of the key milestones is provided in Appendix B.

7. Contact Officer

Michelle Illingworth, Project Officer, Town Centres Regeneration

8 Background papers and History of Decisions

n/a

9 Appendices

Further information on the projects progress, milestones, finance and risks can be found in the following appendices accompanying this report: -

- **Appendix A** – Recent and planned progress including the current RAG status which acts as a scheme confidence based on funding position, ability to achieve planned/based target dates, resource availability, risk and severity issues.
- **Appendix B** – Key Milestones, including project start and completion date
- **Appendix C** – An overview of the Town Fund grant allocation/match funding and spend for each project
- **Appendix D** – High Severity Risks – Open Programme Awareness risk with a severity rating of 15 or above

10 Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development