

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 7th August 2025

Title of report: Update re: Budget Reallocation

Purpose of report: Provide an update to the Board regarding progress on the Plan to reallocate Town Deal Grant.

Officer recommendations and reasons:

- Board to note the contents of this Report.
- Board to approve the recommendations to reallocate Town Fund grant to support the Arcade project.

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.

To maximise the full grant awarded by Ministry Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in line with the programme end point it is proposed that Town Fund Grant is reallocated from the following Town Deal projects –

- Building Grant Revival Scheme
- Creative Cultural Programme
- Sustainable Transport Modes

It is proposed that the unspent Town Fund Grant from these projects is reallocated to support the Dewsbury Arcade as a priority. The Dewsbury Arcade scheme is in construction and requires additional funds due to multiple

unforeseen issues related to the historic fabric of the building. Any remaining unspent grant is proposed to be held to support the delivery of the Dewsbury Market scheme, which has completed RIBA stage 4 design and is ready for tender.

The proposal to reallocate funding is in line with the MHCLG guidance issued August 2024. The guidance states that funding cannot be used to support new projects brought into the programme during the delivery stage, but funding can be reallocated to ensure the successful delivery of existing Town Deal projects.

2. Information required to take a decision

Reallocation of unspent Town Deal Grant

The Dewsbury Arcade project commenced works in May 2024 after securing planning, funding and a construction partner. The project has been subject to cost and time overrun due to unforeseen issues (lack of foundations, roof timber and metal work deterioration) that have been discovered during the construction phase. A forecast of £1,299,081 of additional spend is required to meet the costs based on a worst-case scenario.

The additional budget required to deliver the project will be met by reallocating the unspent Town Deal grant and Council match funding from other projects within the Town Deal Programme. These projects have either been paused or have completed under budget.

Table 1 below outlines the available unspent Town Fund grant.

Table 1. Source of Grant Underspend for Reallocation

Grant Reallocation	
Creative Culture	£313,407
Sustainable Transport	£271,850
Dewsbury Revival Grant Scheme	£1,765,593
Total	£2,350,850

It is recommended that £1,299,081 of the unspent Town Deal grant of £2,350,850 is reallocated to the Dewsbury Arcade. The remaining £1,051,768 will be held for use within the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme, with the detail of any reallocation shared at the November 2025 Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.

Table 2. Distribution of Reallocated Grant Funds

Grant Recipient	
Dewsbury Arcade	£1,299,081
Dewsbury Market and Town Park	£1,051,768

Council Match Funding

The underspend of Council matched funding will be reallocated in line with financial procedure rules and applied within the Town Deal Programme where required.

3. Implications

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

4. Options

It is recommended that £1,299,081 of the unallocated Town Deal grant spend of £2,350,850 is reallocated to the Dewsbury Arcade scheme and the remaining

£1,051,768 held to support the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme as outlined in section 2.

5. Contact Officer

Andy Raleigh, Strategic Partnership Lead (Interim), Town Centres Regeneration.

6. Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development