

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

6th November 2025

Title of report: Update: Dewsbury Regeneration Plan

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's formal approval of the Regeneration Plan, which is a critical step in enabling its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Officer recommendation and reasons:

Recommendation: Board to approve the Regeneration Plan for submission to MHCLG by 28th November 2025.

Reasons: This approval will confirm the plan's status as a community-led initiative that responds directly to local priorities. Once endorsed, the plan can be submitted for final approval by MHCLG, unlocking essential grant funding to deliver targeted interventions that will drive positive change and long-term benefits for Dewsbury.

- Board to note they have been involved in agreeing interventions through thematic working groups, reviews, and strategy meetings which have shaped the plan.
- Board to note involvement in approving draft content for the regeneration plan, which can be finalised into the public facing document by Board following approval.

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. In September 2025 MHCLG introduced the Pride in Place Strategy which this funding programme now falls within.

The government required the creation of a *Neighbourhood Board*, which had evolved from Dewsbury Town Board to the Neighbourhood Board in April 2025, and has continued to work with communities and Kirklees Council to co-produce:

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

These are both in alignment 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-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-pre-approved-intervention>

2.2: 10-year Regeneration Plan

A 10-year regeneration plan for Dewsbury has been developed to guide long-term investment and transformation across the town. The plan addresses key areas including local context, spatial targeting, a shared vision for the future, and a strong strategic case for change.

It also outlines how the programme aligns with other initiatives, sets out funding and investment strategies, and embeds community engagement, governance, and assurance mechanisms. Each of these elements is explored in depth in the appendix document, which provides the full rationale, evidence base, and delivery framework for Dewsbury's regeneration journey.

2.3: 4-year investment plan

Approach to Developing a Four-Year Investment Plan for Dewsbury

The four-year investment plan for Dewsbury has been developed through a structured, Board-led process, supported by thematic working groups that have helped shape and prioritise interventions, in alignment with MHCLG Pride in Place objectives. These groups have drawn on local insight, stakeholder engagement, and strategic analysis to ensure the plan is both responsive to current challenges and forward-looking in its vision.

This prioritisation has guided the sequencing of projects, enabling early delivery of high-impact initiatives while laying the groundwork for sustained transformation.

The interventions within the plan are organised under six strategic themes, each designed to address key areas of opportunity and challenge across the town and reflect community engagement priorities:

1. **Improving Safety & Security**
2. **Supporting Businesses**
3. **Growth Plans**
4. **Redevelop Underused Sites**
5. **Creative & Cultural Events**
6. **Streets for Everyone**

Each intervention has been planned against realistic timelines to ensure a coordinated implementation and has the most impact. This approach ensures that resources are deployed effectively, interventions complement one another. The plan positions Dewsbury to attract further investment, tackle the issues what the community have prioritised, and deliver positive change.

1. Safety & Security:

A dedicated Dewsbury team to tackle key issues in the town centre, including crime, anti-social behaviour, poor housing conditions, street cleanliness, fly-tipping, and policing. The team also supports local businesses with training on crime prevention.

2. Supporting Businesses

This intervention allows for a dedicated resource for Dewsbury's businesses and plans include grants to support local businesses and improve the town centre's appearance. These grants help protect properties from vandalism and theft, improve neglected spaces and building frontages, and encourage creative, community-led projects to make streets more welcoming.

Businesses also receive advice, training, and support to help them grow, with a focus on building strong relationships and continuing existing work. Financial support would be available for new and existing businesses to help with start-up costs, expansions, and making commercial spaces usable.

3. Growth Plans

This intervention focuses on the development and delivery of essential masterplans that are critical to Dewsbury's long-term regeneration. It includes the creation of an Economic Growth Strategy, Urban Living Framework, and Design Guide, which are all designed to attract investment, bring empty buildings back into use, and support new town centre living. These plans are not optional; they are required to provide clear direction, shape future development, and ensure all regeneration activity is coherent and impactful.

A dedicated resource is built into this intervention to oversee the coordination, implementation, and monitoring of all related projects. This role is vital to ensure delivery stays on track and aligns with other interventions.

4. Redevelop Underused Sites

This intervention focuses on acquiring, demolishing, and redeveloping key sites to create new homes, commercial spaces, and business hubs in Dewsbury. It uses public funding to address market failure and unlock private investment, helping to bring underused or derelict land and buildings back into productive use and tackling the highest priority from community engagement.

5. Creative & Cultural Events

This intervention is designed to enable a wider and more varied programme of events in Dewsbury, including cultural, creative, wellbeing, and family-friendly activities. By supporting a professionally planned calendar, it will give people more reasons to visit the town, not just during the day, but also in the evenings, helping to create a more vibrant and welcoming atmosphere and giving people more reasons to visit Dewsbury.

6. Streets For Everyone

This intervention focuses on making Dewsbury town centre safer and easier to access for everyone, whether walking, cycling, driving, or using public transport. It includes improvements like slower traffic speeds, better walking and cycling routes, clearer signage, upgraded community spaces, and improved car parking. These changes will help create a more welcoming and connected town centre.

2.4 Programme Timeline

- **6 November 2025**
DNB signs off Regeneration Plan
Approval of the regeneration plan by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.
- **6-28th November**
Completing final remaining technical detail on MHCLG portal
- **28 November 2025**
Final Submission of Regeneration Plan
Official submission of the approved regeneration plan to MHCLG.
- **28th November 2025**
S151 Officer sign off
- **December 2025 – Feb 2026**
Expected decision from MHCLG
- **December 2025 – March 2026**
Intervention, monitoring and evaluation development
- **April 2026 – First instalment of funding from MHCLG**
Project commencement

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 that are to be delivered are being designed to reflect local priorities and create positive change for local people, including voices which are known to be harder to reach, such as young people, businesses and South Asian communities.

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 has taken place as part of developing the Regeneration Plan. Engagement is continual through DNB social platforms including its website and direct inbox.

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: Thomas Fish, Acting Head of 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:

Appendix A: Dewsbury 10-year Regeneration Plan PDF.

Appendix B: Dewsbury 4-year Regeneration Plan PDF.

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