

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

12th February 2026

Title of report: Pride in Place, Dewsbury Regeneration Plan update

Purpose of report:

To update the Board on the latest position of the Pride in Place programme for Dewsbury and to outline progress in establishing Working Groups that will lead the next phase of community led programme development.

Officer recommendation and reasons:

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the progress on the Regeneration Plan submission and the expected approval timeline.
2. Note the establishment of Working Groups as core delivery mechanisms.
3. Recognise that Board member participation will be required to support and lead these workstreams.

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. Subsequently in September 2025 MHCLG have introduced their Pride in Place Strategy where this programme 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 worked with communities and Kirklees Council to co-produce:

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

2.2 Submission Progress and MHCLG Response

Since the last Board meeting Dewsbury's Regeneration plan was formally submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on **27 November 2025**, following Board approval, consistent with the timeline set out in the previous board paper.

- **Receipt Acknowledged:** MHCLG confirmed receipt of the submission shortly after submission.
- **Initial Triage Passed:** A follow up email confirmed that the plan had successfully passed the government's initial triage stage, indicating no disqualifying issues and that the submission met baseline requirements.
- **Clarification Stage:** In early January 2026, officers received a clarification request from MHCLG. All requested information and updates were submitted promptly.
- **Final Decision:** A final approval outcome is **expected by the end of February 2026**.

2.3 Readiness for Mobilisation

In anticipation of approval, intervention development, monitoring frameworks, and evaluation models are being drafted, ensuring that once funding is released in April 2026, project activity can commence as soon as possible.

3. Working Groups – Establishment and Purpose

3.1 Context and Rationale

To ensure the Pride in Place programme remains community led, and consistent with earlier engagement and Board led thematic development, a refreshed set of Working Groups have been established. This directly builds on the approach outlined in the 4-year Investment Plan, which emphasised Board led thematic working groups shaping local priorities.

These groups will:

- Lead the next phase of detailed intervention design
- Shape delivery plans and identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and success measures
- Ensure continued alignment with community priorities and feedback

Each working group will be chaired by a Board member and supported by a range of key stakeholders drawn from a range of expertise, experience and community insight.

3.2 Working Group Priorities

Based on community engagement, the yet to be approved interventions, working groups will lead early programme activity.

3.3 Safety & Security Working Group

Purpose:

To develop coordinated projects that reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and perceptions of disorder by responding to community-identified priorities. The group will shape the detailed approach through collaborative work on enforcement, environmental improvements, safety focussed business support, and preventative initiatives.

3.4 Place (Redeveloping Underused Sites)

Purpose:

To guide major physical regeneration activity by using community feedback to identify priorities for unlocking underused or derelict sites. The group will work through the details of how best to strengthen and enhance the overall town centre environment.

3.5 Creativity & Cultural Events / Creative Economy

Purpose:

To strengthen Dewsbury's cultural identity and creative economy by developing a community-informed, evidence-led 4-year strategy. The group will shape project details collaboratively to ensure cultural activity reflects local priorities.

3.6 Business Support Working Group

Purpose:

To enhance the resilience and growth of local businesses by developing projects informed by business and community priorities. The group will work through the detailed actions needed to provide coordinated support, resources, and opportunities for the town's business community.

4. Implications

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

5 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. Ongoing engagement with communities and members of the public continue with additional lines of communication open through open question time before board meetings.

5) Options

N/A

6) Contact officer

James Blamires, Project Officer, Town Centre Regeneration.

7) 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>

8) Appendices: N/A

9) Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development