

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board

Date: 12th February 2026

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 Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme.

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

At the August 2025 Town Board meeting a funding reallocation of £1,299,081 to the Dewsbury Arcade was approved. It was noted that remaining unallocated grant money would be held for use within the Dewsbury Market and Town Park

scheme, with the detail of any reallocation shared at a subsequent Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board.

It is proposed that the unspent Town Fund Grant is reallocated to support the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme. The Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme is in procurement and has forecast spend of £26,161,653 and requires additional funds to be added to the original budget of £22,510,026. The increase in scheme cost is due to inflation and project prolongation.

2. Information required to take a decision

Reallocation of unspent Town Deal Grant

The Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme has secured planning permission and funding and is now out to tender for a construction partner. The project has a pre-tender estimate of £ 25,363,473 in addition to costs for the Decant Market (£656,180) and the storage compound at Cliffe Street (£142,000). A total project estimate of £26,161,653 requires £3,651,627 of additional funding.

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	£307,493
Dewsbury Revival Grant Scheme	£466,418
Total	£1,087,318

It is recommended that all £1,087,318 of the unspent Town Deal grant is reallocated to the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme.

Table 2. Distribution of all Reallocated Grant Funds

Grant Reallocation Recipient	
Dewsbury Arcade (Agreed Aug 2025)	£1,299,081
Dewsbury Market and Town Park	£1,087,318
Total Reallocation	£2,386,399

Council Match Funding

The underspend of Council matched funding will be reallocated to meet the shortfall in the Market and Town Park budget (**Table 3**) in line with financial procedure rules and applied within the Town Deal Programme where required.

Table 3. Market Elements for Funding

Market Elements	
Market Estimate	£25,363,473
Cliffe Street Storage	£142,000
Decant Market	£656,180
Total	£26,161,653

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

- 1) It is recommended that £1,087,318 of the unallocated Town Deal Grant spend is reallocated to support the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme as outlined in section 2.

- 2) If Board chooses not to reallocate the unallocated Town Deal Grant to the Dewsbury Market and Town Park scheme another value engineering exercise will need to be undertaken to bring the project in budget. This will cause delay to delivery and potentially reduce the benefits of the scheme. The unspent funding may also be at risk of being returned to the funder MHCLG.

5. Contact Officer

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

6. Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Joanne Bartholomew, Service Director for Development