



Invest in Dewsbury and North Kirklees

Powered by £1.3bn public investment



Contents

Transforming North Kirklees	3
Strategic Location & Connectivity	6
Collaborative Development	8
Live, Work and Play	12
Housing Growth	16
Economic Strengths & Growth Sectors	18
Market Opportunity & Strategic Sites	22
Contact Us	27



£1.3BN PUBLIC

Transforming North Kirklees



Anchored by Dewsbury, the area offers investors a rare opportunity - strategic connectivity, significant market gaps, strong demand, low entry costs, and a public sector committed to de-risking development.

Vacant buildings and underused sites present opportunities for residential, commercial, cultural and mixed-use schemes – supported by grants, partnership models and long-term stewardship – provide a unique opportunity to shape a thriving, sustainable future for the towns of North Kirklees.

Multimillion-pound regeneration, strategic growth sites and a council that backs bold ideas.

We're here to make it happen. Contact us: invest@kirklees.gov.uk



Dewsbury: A town on the rise

Dewsbury is undergoing a bold transformation, guided by the Town Investment Plan, Dewsbury Blueprint, and a 10-year Pride in Place programme.

These strategies are breathing new life into heritage buildings, creating vibrant public spaces, and promoting walkable, low-carbon growth. Major transport upgrades - including the £11bn Transpennine Route Upgrade, future Mass Transit links, a modernised bus station and sustainable travel corridors - are unlocking connectivity and long-term economic potential.

Dewsbury's underlying strength is already clear. Footfall levels outperform comparable towns, reflecting a large daytime population, strong commuter flows and a growing young demographic. The town also attracts regional visitors drawn by its heritage and cultural offer - a solid foundation for future growth and investment.

This momentum is reinforced by the way people use the place today. Over 80% of trips begin or end within the ring road, making the town centre the natural heart of activity and the prime location for new development.

Leisure, culture and welcoming spaces are central to Dewsbury's regeneration, with the revived historic Arcade opening this year, a modernised market and new town park by 2028, and refurbished Town Hall, Memorial Gardens and £1m cultural events programme already delivered.

Civic investment is strong, marked by the new Kirklees District Police Headquarters opening in 2026 and discussions for an NHS women's health facility. Combined with significant town centre living opportunities, Dewsbury is redefining itself as a thriving, connected hub for business and community.



INVESTMENT



Beyond Dewsbury



Place-making blueprints are active across North Kirklees delivering inclusive growth:

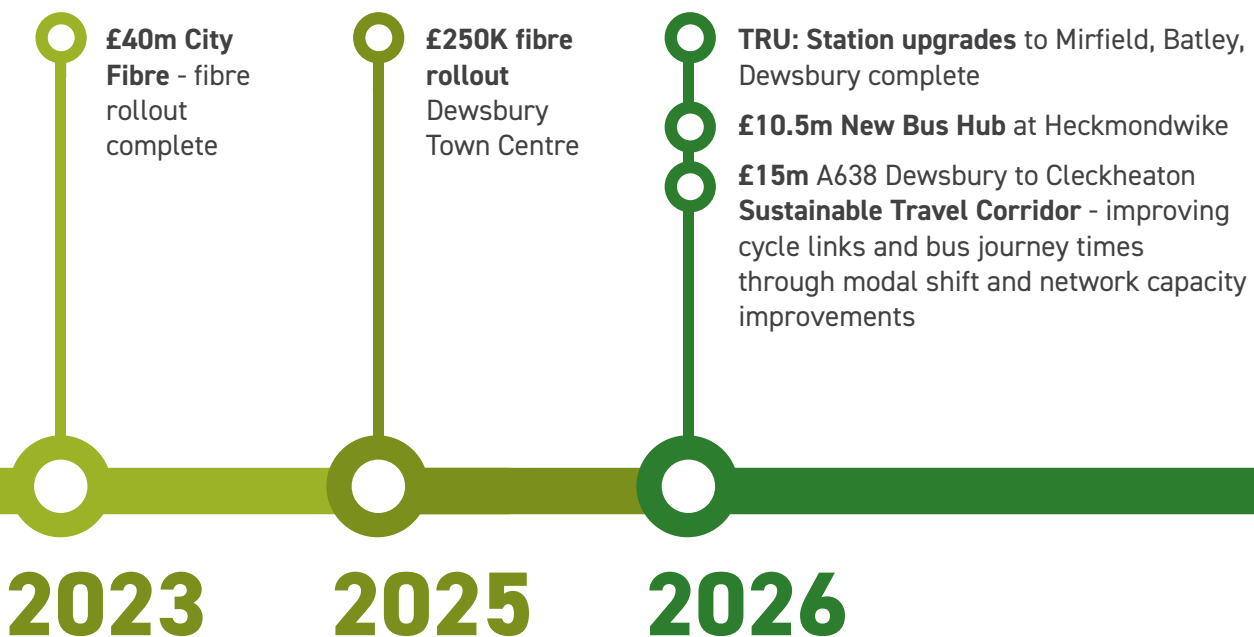
- **Heckmondwike:** Town centre regeneration, greener and better-connected streets, Market Hall repurposing and a multimillion-pound bus-hub upgrade.
- **Batley:** £14.5m transformations to improve accessibility, calm traffic, and create vibrant new public spaces for residents and businesses, with interactive heritage installations and community-event spaces.
- **Cleckheaton:** Community-led plans for Spen Bottoms Park, a greener local centre, market, Savoy Square refurbishment, and connection to the Spen Valley Greenway.

Strategic Growth Sites

Major sites such as Dewsbury Riverside (c.3,000 homes) and Chidswell (c.1,500 homes and in excess of 1.3 million of employment space) expand the region's customer base and provide space for new business operations.

Infrastructure Powering Growth

Strategic investment in transport and connectivity is unlocking new opportunities for businesses, residents, and investors. The £11bn Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU) - including £1.3bn invested directly in North Kirklees - will deliver faster, more frequent services, alongside new sustainable travel corridors and future proposed Mass Transit links to Leeds. Here's what's happening and when:



Strategic location and connectivity

Located on the M62/M1 growth corridor, with exceptional access to regional and international markets and competitive property costs, the area is ideal for logistics, commuting and business expansion.

In a labour catchment of over 2.4 million people and close to seven world-class universities across West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, there's a strong pipeline of talent for growing businesses, and young professionals looking for an excellent quality of life.

Location	By rail
Huddersfield	10 minutes
Leeds	15 minutes
Wakefield	15 minutes
Manchester	35 minutes
Sheffield	45 minutes
London	2 hours



About Kirklees

16 million people within 100km

Diverse and skilled workforce of 275,000



15,000 businesses

Direct rail links

- ◆ Manchester 35mins
- ◆ Leeds 15mins

7 universities, 35,000 postgraduates annually in the region



Key bus hub
Direct routes to Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Halifax



"Best place to live in the Northeast"

Holmfirth and Slaithwaite (Sunday Times)

157 square miles

Strategically located in West Yorkshire



£2bn investment in business, skills and infrastructure



£8.55 billion GVA economy

£160 million West Yorkshire Health Innovation Investment Zone

91% gigabit broadband coverage, and growing



Key industry sectors:

Manufacturing | Advanced Precision Engineering
Creative Industries | Textiles | Health Innovation

Collaborative Development



We offer partnership – not just sites

Dewsbury benefits from a uniquely aligned set of programmes and partners:

- £25m Towns Fund
- West Yorkshire Spatial Priority Area
- Active partnership with Homes England
- Integration with the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan
- Heritage investment through Historic England
- Future funding through WYCA's Single Settlement Programme
- Major rail investment via the Transpennine Route Upgrade
- Feasibility work for West Yorkshire Mass Transit



This alignment creates a stable, supportive environment for private investment – with the public sector ready to co-invest, acquire sites, and unlock stalled assets. Our proactive approach ensures planning support, funding guidance, market insights and tailored solutions to fast-track plans.

Partnership in action



Dewsbury Arcade £11.7m

Heritage restored through public-community partnership

Dewsbury Arcade - a Grade II Victorian arcade closed since 2016 - is being transformed through a pioneering collaboration between Kirklees Council, major funders and the community. The Council purchased the building and secured significant grant funding to tackle the high-risk heritage and structural works upfront, removing the key barriers that made the scheme commercially unviable. Once complete, the Arcade will be operated by Arcade Group, creating the UK's first community-run shopping centre. The partnership de-risks delivery, protects the building's character and attracts quality independent retailers, positioning the Arcade as a new anchor for town-centre vitality and enterprise.

Station Apartments £5m

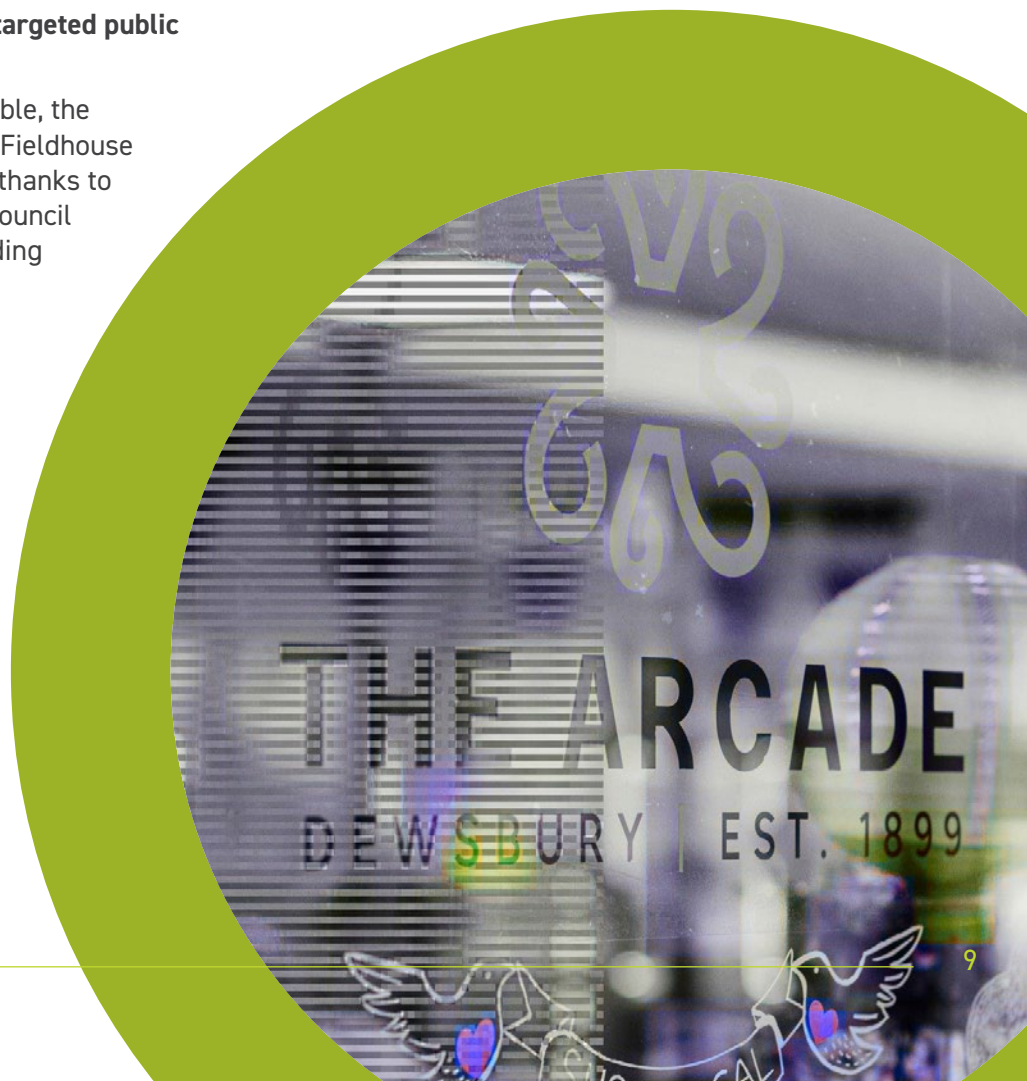
Strategic regeneration unlocked by targeted public investment

Long vacant and commercially unviable, the redevelopment of the Grade II listed Fieldhouse into Station Apartments progressed thanks to coordinated support from Kirklees Council and the Leeds City Region RIF, including £2.8 million of council grant funding and a £2 million development loan. Mood Developments contributed equity, supported by a formal collaboration agreement. The result is 23 stylish apartments with modern amenities and an active ground floor hosting Mungo & Shoddies. As a gateway to the town and the wider Daisy Hill town centre living masterplan, the project demonstrates how collaboration is driving regeneration in Dewsbury.

Soothill £4.59m

Flagship housing development showcasing innovation, pace and partnership

Supported by Homes England and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the scheme is transforming a challenging site into a vibrant new neighbourhood of 300 homes, including 95 affordable units. A £4.59 million Accelerated Construction Grant unlocked the land and enabled the use of hybrid Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), dramatically speeding up delivery to more than five homes per month. This pioneering approach has attracted national recognition, with Soothill named Development of the Year at the 2025 National Building and Construction Awards for excellence in design, delivery and partnership. As a model for future residential development, Soothill demonstrates how strategic funding, strong collaboration and innovative methods can deliver exceptional results in Kirklees - fast.



Masterplans shaped by voices – not just visions

Dewsbury, Batley, Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike

Ambitious masterplans are driving regeneration across North Kirklees, with Dewsbury leading the way. These plans are backed by significant public investment - removing barriers and increasing commercial viability - and shaped by local voices to ensure sustainable, inclusive growth.



Dewsbury Pride in Place

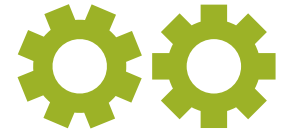
The Dewsbury Pride in Place, supported by the Dewsbury Neighbourhood Board, the council, the Combined Authority, Homes England and local communities, sets out a shared vision for transforming the town by 2036.

The plan aims to create a safe, vibrant and welcoming place where people can live, work and connect with pride. It focuses on strengthening independent business, culture and community life, delivering mixed-use development and new homes, and bringing heritage buildings back into use. High-quality public spaces, green routes and sustainable transport form a core part of the ambition. The programme is expected to receive £20 million in Government funding to accelerate delivery.

Kirklees Build Project

Kirklees College and Kirklees Council have partnered with Construction Industry Training Board and local businesses to create North Kirklees' first Construction Skills Hub. Developed through consultation, the hub addresses a regional skills gap and prepares residents for over 225,000 new UK construction roles forecast by 2027.

Phase one launches at Springfield Sixth Form Centre, offering training in modern, low-carbon techniques. Phase two will move to a live housing site, providing hands-on experience. This project exemplifies regeneration shaped by local voices - delivering skills, jobs, and sustainable growth. It's more than a plan; it's a collaborative blueprint for the future.



Heckmondwike

The **Heckmondwike Blueprint** sets out a 10 to 15-year investment and regeneration strategy for the town centre, with a focus on creating a healthier, greener, safer and better-connected urban environment shaped by extensive public engagement and partnership working. The plan builds on Heckmondwike's heritage assets, parks and its strong connections to the Spen Valley Greenway, creating a more attractive place for residents, visitors and investors alike.

Key projects include the transformation of the former market hall site into a flexible public event and social space, improvements to Market Square and Green Park, enhanced pedestrian and cycling links to the Greenway, upgraded parks including Algernon Firth Park, and transport improvements including a revamped bus hub. Importantly, these are being delivered through a partnership blend of funding, including £1.5 million from Kirklees Council and over £8.6 million from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the bus station, demonstrating strong public sector commitment and co-investment to support future private investment.

This place-based approach is designed to increase footfall, strengthen local commerce, and create a foundation for future mixed-use development, making Heckmondwike an increasingly attractive location for placemaking-led investment within North Kirklees.

Cleckheaton

The **Cleckheaton Blueprint** is a long-term regeneration vision backed by public sector investment, focused on expanding green infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing town centre public spaces. Community input has shaped proposals to extend Spen Bottoms Park, improve access to the Spen Valley Greenway, refurbish the market, and create vibrant new public squares and pedestrian routes that link key destinations in the town centre.

Batley

The **Batley Blueprint** is a £14.5 million, community-shaped regeneration programme transforming Batley town centre into a safer, more accessible, and vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Guided by extensive engagement with residents and businesses, the Blueprint focuses on improving public spaces, enhancing pedestrian and cycling routes, and creating family-friendly environments throughout key areas such as Market Place, Commercial Street, and Brunswick Street.

The final designs which are now in technical delivery stage, include widened pavements, traffic-calming measures, new public realm, landscaped connections, and safer, low-speed streets that encourage social interaction and support local commerce. The project is scheduled for completion by early 2028.

Investment for the Batley Blueprint has been secured through a combination of £12 million from national government, matched by approximately £2.5 million from Kirklees Council's Local Centres investment, alongside support from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, demonstrating strong public-private partnership commitment.

By prioritising people-first design, improved connectivity, and quality urban spaces, the Batley Blueprint strengthens the town's ability to attract footfall, support existing businesses, and anchor future mixed-use development, offering a compelling opportunity for placemaking-led investment in North Kirklees.



Live, Work and Play

North Kirklees combines affordability, urban accessibility and Yorkshire charm. Towns like Dewsbury, Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, and Mirfield offer rich heritage character alongside modern, excellent schools, and green spaces. Cultural attractions, independent retail and vibrant multi-cultural communities make this a great place to live and work.

Retail

Independent retailers are a defining feature of North Kirklees town centres, offering distinctive shopping experiences and local character. This strength will grow further when **Dewsbury Arcade** opens in Spring 2026, creating a dedicated hub for high-quality independent businesses. Alongside these improvements, shoppers can explore discounted designer goods at **The Mill Outlet** in Batley and four floors of contemporary home design at **Redbrick Mill**.

Dewsbury Market is undergoing a major transformation into a modern, vibrant trading space



with a new town park alongside - creating a hub for shopping and leisure. Across North Kirklees, other market destinations are also being revitalised:

- **Batley Market Place:** Upgraded paving, seating, planting, and improved pedestrian access as part of a wider town-centre refresh.
- **Cleckheaton Indoor Market:** Planned refurbishment to enhance its café area and connect more closely to Savoy Square.
- **Heckmondwike's former Market Hall:** Reimagined as New Square - a flexible events space with pop-up market containers and community features.



Live here

- **Affordable homes with character:** Excellent value compared to Leeds and Manchester, with growing opportunities for town-centre living in restored heritage buildings and new developments like Daisy Hill and Dewsbury Riverside.
- **Greener, healthier spaces:** Improved parks, canal-side walks and safe cycling routes, promoting active travel and wellbeing.
- **Community life:** A diverse, youthful population (over one-third under 25) brings energy and cultural richness, supported by events and activities that celebrate local identity.
- **Safe, welcoming spaces:** Investment in lighting, cleanliness, and enforcement is transforming town centres into vibrant, confident destinations where people feel comfortable day and night.
- **Education:** Home to highly regarded secondary schools such as Heckmondwike Grammar School and Batley Girls' High School, alongside strong further education provision at Kirklees College's Pioneer Higher Skills Centre in Dewsbury. Fast rail links give families and students easy access to a wide choice of schools, colleges, and universities across West Yorkshire.

Culture, heritage and attractions

The area's woollen industry heritage - linked to the Brontës, Luddites, and Chartists - shines through our towns in Victorian architecture, historic markets, and restored canals. Alongside this proud history, North Kirklees offers a diverse mix of cultural experiences and family-friendly destinations:

- Explore **Oakwell Hall**, an Elizabethan manor set in 110 acres of award-winning parkland.
- Discover global treasures at Batley's **Bagshaw Museum**.
- Relax at the multi award-winning **Eastthorpe Hall** spa or meet the animals at **Ponderosa Zoo**.
- Enjoy Dewsbury's new **town park**, soon to host festivals, family activities, and leisure events, creating a vibrant hub for community life.

Work here

- **Cost-effective operating environment:** Property prices and commercial rents provide excellent value compared to surrounding major cities.
- **Strategic location:** Fast rail links make North Kirklees ideal for commuters and businesses.
- **Skills pipeline:** Kirklees College and local initiatives provide training in construction, digital, and advanced manufacturing, ensuring access to talent.
- **Supportive environment:** Regeneration plans include workspace above shops, improved public realm, and targeted business support to help businesses to thrive.
- **Socially responsible businesses:** New and established businesses invest heavily in their workforce and local communities.
- **Key sectors:** Advanced Manufacturing and clean growth, Professional and Financial services, Health and Lifesciences, Logistics, Digital and tech.

Case studies

Alfred Bagnall & Sons Ltd – Cleckheaton

Relocating from Bradford to Cleckheaton, Bagnalls chose North Kirklees for its connectivity and strong sense of community. Their Community Paintbrush programme recently restored East Bierley's war memorial railings free of charge, reflecting their commitment to giving back and creating a workplace where staff feel proud.

“Being based in North Kirklees means we can attract and retain talent who appreciate the career opportunities available and strong sense of community.” Ellie Jobs, Group People Director



HSL Chairs – Batley

HSL Chairs is a family business built on more than 50 years of craftsmanship, care and wellbeing. As specialists in supportive seating, HSL's commitment to comfort extends beyond their customers to their colleagues. From wellbeing initiatives such as menopause support and health checks, to family friendly benefits, HSL puts people at the heart of everything they do. Based in Batley, the business benefits from strong local roots, affordability and excellent connectivity, supporting sustainable growth while staying true to its Yorkshire heritage and family first values.

“North Kirklees offers an outstanding environment for our business. Its affordability, strong transport links and access to skilled craftsmanship support our continued growth. As a family business with deep Yorkshire roots, being based here allows us to grow sustainably, stay connected to our customers and communities, and continue delivering the care, quality and comfort HSL is known for.” Ben Waters, CEO & Third Generation Family Member

UK Greetings – Dewsbury

UK Greetings brought their manufacturing back to Dewsbury with a £7m investment, creating 120 jobs and committing to sustainability with fully recyclable roll-wrap. A further £6.5m expansion will add 50 more roles, proving their confidence in North Kirklees' talent and affordability. Dewsbury's connectivity and vibrant community make it the ideal base for growth.

“Investing in Dewsbury was an easy decision. With our three sites it made sense to bring manufacturing back into our Cannon Way facility and we were able to recruit local talent, enhancing job opportunities in the area.” Julie Huntington-Dale, Operations Director





Housing Growth

North Kirklees presents opportunities for housing growth, particularly with two large Local Plan housing allocations at Dewsbury Riverside and Chidswell. The Local Plan update (2024 – 2043) will require 1,873 new homes to be built each year, with diverse housing needs across type, size and tenure. There is a significant need for social rent housing across Kirklees.

There is a strong demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties across North Kirklees, as well as demand for 3 bed and a smaller demand for 4+ bed properties. *Source: "Kirklees 'Affordable Housing & Housing Mix SPD' (Mar 2023), Appendix 2."*

A new Kirklees Strategic Housing Market Assessment is being produced and provides an important piece of evidence setting out housing needs of the district.

Strategic Context

The **Kirklees Local Plan** update (2024 - 2043) will aim to build around 35,000 new homes by 2043, requiring 1,873 new homes per year, with a significant proportion affordable to meet local needs. The draft **Kirklees Housing Strategy 2024 - 2030** will aim to guide delivery to:

- Accelerate housing delivery through strategic sites, regeneration projects and town centre living to increase supply and sustainability
- Deliver more homes, including a significant proportion of affordable and specialist housing via partnerships, innovative construction methods and targeted funding
- Strengthen homelessness prevention and reduce reliance on temporary accommodation

West Yorkshire Combined Authority is driving housing delivery through its **Strategic Place Partnership** with Homes England, unlocking sites and accelerating development across the region. Under the **West Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2040**, the focus is on sustainable, inclusive growth - creating thousands of new homes and supporting regeneration in key locations like Kirklees.



Opportunity Areas

Large scale opportunities exist within North Kirklees, particularly through Dewsbury Riverside, Chidswell and Dewsbury Town Centre Living. Other opportunities also exist throughout North Kirklees and demand is evident across a variety of type, size and tenure.

See page 22 for more information.

Dewsbury Riverside

Dewsbury Riverside is a priority strategic site within the West Yorkshire Spatial Priority Area, allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan to deliver around 3,000 new homes alongside a local centre and community facilities. Benefiting from a prime location between the M62 and M1 and enhanced connectivity via the new Ravensthorpe Railway Station delivered through the Transpennine Route Upgrade, the site offers excellent access to Leeds, Manchester and Huddersfield. Kirklees Council, Homes England and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are jointly progressing delivery options, including the appointment of a master developer and consideration of grant funding to unlock infrastructure. Planning permission for the access road and the first 350 homes, granted in 2023, has already established the principle of development.

Chidswell

Chidswell offers one of the largest residential opportunities in North Kirklees, allocated in the adopted Local Plan (MXS7) for up to 1,535 new homes alongside a local centre, green spaces, and a primary school. The 120-hectare site also includes 35 hectares of high-quality employment land for advanced manufacturing and engineering, creating a mixed-use community with excellent access to the M1 and M62. The site may also benefit from connectivity to the West Yorkshire Mass Transit system in future. This strategic development combines housing delivery with job creation, civic amenities, and sustainable infrastructure - making it a flagship investment location.

Contact Housing Growth

The Council's Housing Brokerage Service helps forge partnerships between landowners and developers, overcoming barriers and accelerating delivery.

Get in touch by emailing
Housing.Regeneration@kirklees.gov.uk

Dewsbury Town Centre Living

Dewsbury Town Centre provides opportunities to increase housing supply in key areas and support town centre regeneration. Facilitating housing in the town centres will increase easily accessible, attractive and high-quality homes within the district – ideal for both those who work locally and commuters – while also increasing footfall and sustaining leisure and retail offers within Dewsbury. These opportunities are primarily residential-led mixed-use with retail/commercial elements, reflecting the town centre's growing appeal and future potential.

Dewsbury Town Centre offers strong potential for developers seeking sustainable, design-led regeneration in a prime location. The heritage led conversion of Field House (23 units) has repurposed a Grade II-listed building opposite the station, setting a benchmark for future residential-led mixed-use developments in Dewsbury.



Economic Strengths and Growth Sectors

North Kirklees combines a strong manufacturing heritage with growing innovation clusters in advanced manufacturing, clean growth and digital technology. Access to a skilled workforce and proximity to seven universities ensures a robust talent pipeline.

Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Growth

North Kirklees is home to one of the UK's most diverse and resilient manufacturing economies, acting as a hub for precision engineering, automation, sustainable textiles and green innovation. The area has a long industrial heritage and today boasts more manufacturing jobs than anywhere else in the North, with established strengths across textiles, chemicals, furniture, food production and advanced engineering. This depth of expertise is now being matched by a new wave of innovation, as local firms adopt Industry 4.0 technologies, robotics and digital integration to boost productivity and sharpen their competitive edge.

Sustainability is also shaping the next chapter of growth. Businesses across North Kirklees are embedding circular-economy principles, investing in low-carbon processes and developing environmentally responsible products that meet the demands of modern markets. This combination of heritage, innovation and clean-growth ambition positions the area as a compelling location for investors seeking a manufacturing base that is both future-ready and rooted in proven industrial capability.



Digital and Tech

North Kirklees is increasingly shaped by the strength of West Yorkshire's digital economy, the fastest growing in the UK outside London. Digital capability is deeply embedded across local industries, powering smart manufacturing, AI driven automation, data analytics and advanced process optimisation. This convergence of digital and industrial strengths is creating a dynamic environment where technology is not a standalone sector but a driver of transformation across the whole economy.

Leeds has strengths in AI, cyber security, SaaS and applied digital technologies, supported by a growing ecosystem of innovators, start ups and established firms. Its proximity to advanced manufacturers and emerging innovation hubs creates significant opportunities for co location, collaboration and commercialisation. For investors, North Kirklees offers a compelling proposition: a place where digital talent, industrial capability and real-world application come together to accelerate growth and unlock new market potential

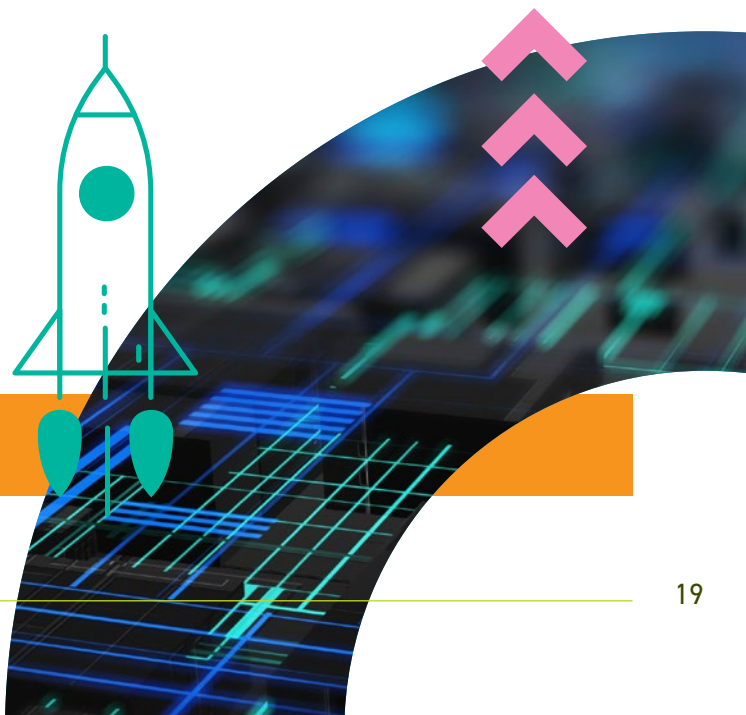


Build. Make. Innovate.

- **John Cotton Group:** A flagship UK manufacturer and long-standing innovator in bedding and mattress components, driving major advances in sustainable production. With industry-leading recycled-content initiatives and a commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2040, the company is demonstrating how heritage manufacturers can lead the transition to low-carbon, circular manufacturing.
- **Heckmondwike FB:** A market-leading producer of fibre-bonded carpets supplying education, commercial and public-sector environments nationwide. Renowned for durability and performance, the company pairs deep manufacturing expertise with strong environmental credentials, including ISO 14001 certification and BRE A+ ratings.
- **UNICAT Catalyst Technologies:** An award-winning manufacturer of high-performance catalysts and advanced materials serving the pharmaceutical, life sciences and clean-energy sectors. Combining specialist R&D capability with global market reach, UNICAT exemplifies the area's growing strengths in precision chemistry, advanced materials engineering and clean-growth innovation.

Business Spotlight

- **PC Specialist:** Europe's leading custom PC and workstation manufacturer, supplying high performance systems across 30+ countries and operating from a major UK base in West Yorkshire. The company is planning investment in new premises, with early proposals indicating a next generation facility designed to incorporate increased automation and AI enabled production processes as part of its future growth strategy.
- **Camira Fabrics:** Global textile innovator, pioneering sustainable fabrics (SEAQUAL® marine plastics) and advanced digital design tools.



Logistics and Strategic Location

North Kirklees offers exceptional connectivity through the M62/M1 corridors and ongoing Transpennine rail upgrades, making it a prime base for logistics, distribution and fast-moving consumer goods operations. The area supports both high-volume manufacturers and supply-chain specialists that rely on rapid, reliable access to regional and national markets.

Business Spotlight

- **Interchange 26:** Flagship logistics park with units up to 230,000 sq ft, BREEAM Very Good rating offering grade-A space for major operators.
- **Fox's Biscuits:** One of the UK's best-known FMCG manufacturers, producing leading biscuit brands from its Batley facility and distributing nationally.
- **Centenary Shipping Services:** Specialist shipping and freight-forwarding provider supporting import/export activity and supply-chain movements.

Health and Life Sciences

The region is a growing centre for pharmaceutical manufacturing, MedTech, and healthcare innovation, supported by the £160m West Yorkshire Health Innovation & Digital Tech Investment Zone and the University of Huddersfield's National Health Innovation Campus.

Business Spotlight

- **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories:** Global pharma manufacturer with API production and export-grade capability.
- **Essential Healthcare:** UK's leading support services specialists, specialising in mattresses for pressure sores and bariatric care.
- **Mid Yorkshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Dewsbury:** Major employer anchoring clinical services and research partnerships.
- **Locala Community Partnerships CIC:** Community healthcare provider supporting integrated care.

Professional and Financial Services

North Kirklees offers a cost-effective, well-connected base for professional and financial services firms, providing significantly lower occupancy costs than Leeds or Manchester while maintaining strong links to regional centres. The area benefits from an established cluster of legal, accounting and advisory practices, supported by excellent transport connections for both clients and employees.

Across West Yorkshire, more than 33,000 people work in professional services, creating a deep talent pool with growing strengths in FinTech and LegalTech. This combination of affordability, skilled labour and expanding digital capability makes North Kirklees an attractive location for firms seeking high-quality space and a supportive professional ecosystem - without the overheads of a major city.

Business Spotlight

- **Howarths UK:** Family-run HR, employment law and health & safety consultancy providing commercially focused legal, compliance and people-management support to help organisations build compliant, high-performing and resilient workplaces.
- **Ramsdens Solicitors:** Award-winning full-service law firm with over 150 years of regional heritage, offering specialist commercial property, corporate and wider business legal support through its Dewsbury office, backed by Legal 500 recognition and extensive sector-leading practice areas.
- **SAS Yorkshire:** Regional accountancy practice providing expert accounting, tax, payroll and advisory services, supporting businesses with compliant, efficient and reliable financial management.

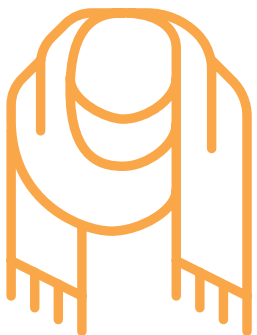


Skills and Talent Pipeline

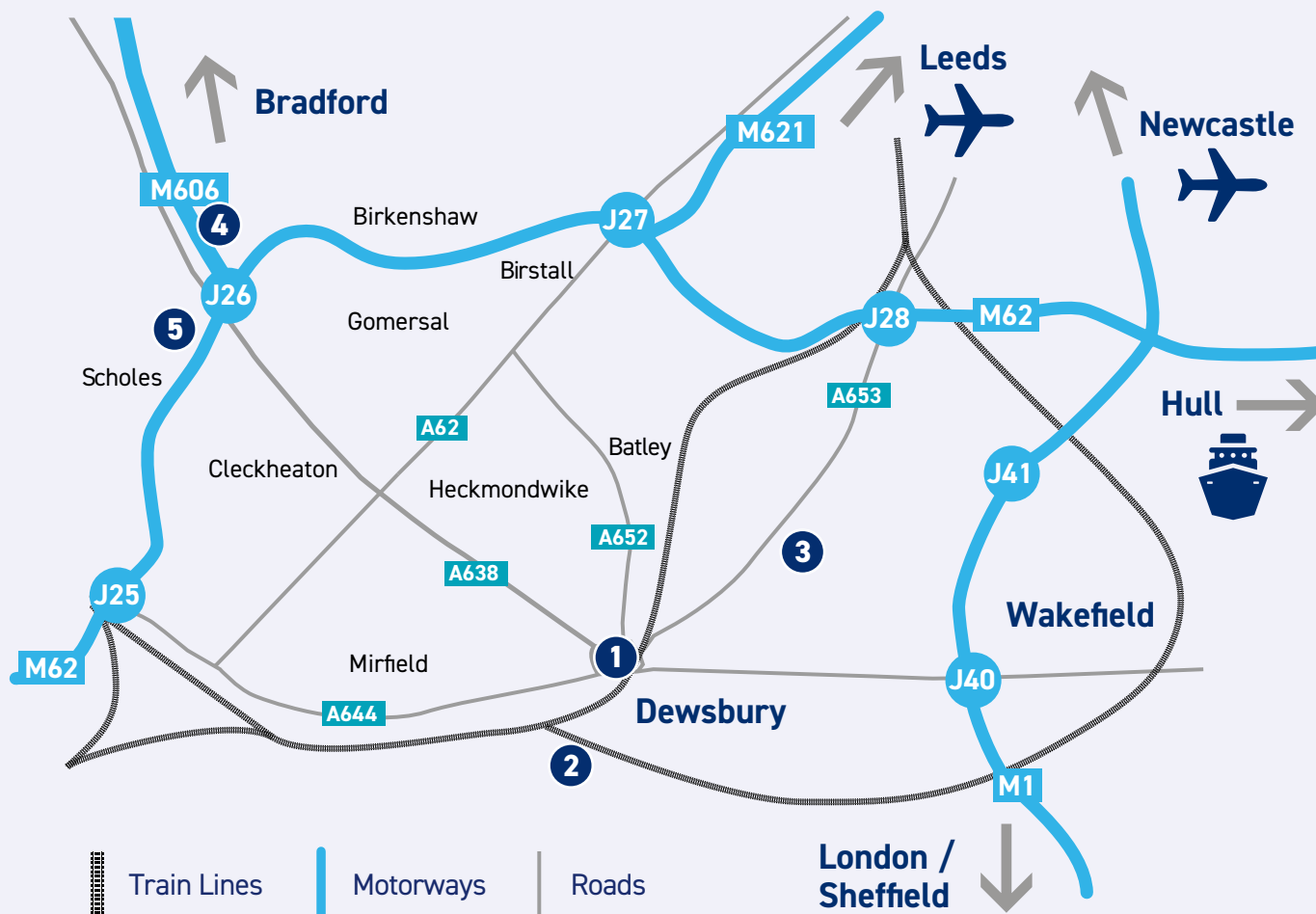
North Kirklees workforce is shaped directly by industry needs. Employers, colleges and universities work in partnership to deliver the skills that power advanced manufacturing, digital innovation, healthcare and construction. This is a place where talent pipelines are built around real business demand - giving investors' confidence that the people they need will be here, trained and ready.

Key education and skills partners

- **Kirklees College:** Specialist training in construction, digital, and advanced manufacturing, pharmacy and science, with strong employer-led apprenticeship pathways.
- **University of Huddersfield:** A leading institution for engineering, health, digital technologies and applied research, supplying high-level skills and innovation support.
- **Textiles Centre of Excellence:** Advanced R&D, technical training and workforce development for sustainable and technical textiles.
- **Employer-led apprenticeships:** Connecting young people with real-world experience in manufacturing, engineering, and healthcare.



Market Opportunity and Strategic Sites



Site	Opportunity	Type	Area
1 Dewsbury Town Centre	Investor / Developer partner	Residential / Commercial / Mixed Use	
2 Dewsbury Riverside	Investor	Residential	395 acres
3 Chidswell	Investor	Residential / Commercial	120 hectares
4 Interchange 26 Phase 2	Investor / Occupier	Commercial - Industrial / Warehousing	32 acres
5 Whitehall Road	Investor / Developer	Industrial	58 acres

Find out more: businesskirklees.com/investment-opportunities

1. Dewsbury Town Centre: Market Opportunity

Dewsbury is entering a new phase of renewal, with major public investment, better connectivity and a growing town-centre population creating the conditions for future development. Heritage assets are being restored, and key destinations such as the Arcade, Market, Town Park and bus station are being revitalised, increasing confidence and strengthening demand for new schemes.

While specific sites are still emerging, strong footfall and rising interest in well-located homes and workspace point to significant potential for residential-led mixed-use development, including opportunities in character buildings and walkable neighbourhoods. An Urban Capacity study is underway, the Council is already working with regeneration specialists to bring forward new possibilities, and the Local Plan call for sites is identifying further opportunities across the town centre.

With support from aligned public-sector partners, including Homes England and the Combined Authority,

investors can shape future sites and co-develop commercially viable, design-led projects in a prime, connected location.

- **Area 1: Town Centre West** – including Neil Jordan House and the wider Daisy Hill area, with potential for around 200 new homes, mixed-use development in heritage buildings (e.g., former swimming baths), and the former police station site.
- **Area 2: Town Centre North** – residential opportunities (e.g., circa 30 new houses at Cliffe Street car park) and commercial development adjacent to the market.
- **Area 3: Town Centre Civic** – vacant heritage buildings with potential for commercial or mixed-use redevelopment, including former HSBC and Barclays banks.
- **Area 4: Town Centre South** – potential for longer-term investment and development.



2. Dewsbury Riverside

Location: Land south of Ravensthorpe Road / Leeds Hall Road, Dewsbury

Opportunity: Investor / Developer

Type: Residential, local centre and community infrastructure

A key site in the West Yorkshire Strategic Place Partnership priorities, the Dewsbury Riverside scheme is allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan and will deliver around 3,000 homes. The site will include the provision of a local centre, community infrastructure and schools. The development is in a prime strategic location within West Yorkshire, equidistant from the M62 and M1 motorways, and new Ravensthorpe Railway Station shortly to be constructed to the west of the site as part of the Transpennine Route Upgrade, providing excellent access to Leeds, Manchester and Huddersfield.

Strategic partners Kirklees Council, Homes England and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are exploring delivery partner options to fulfil the sustainable housing aspirations for this site, including the appointment of a master developer. Grant funding options for the delivery of the required infrastructure are being actively considered, and work is ongoing to engage with various landowners and stakeholders at Dewsbury Riverside. In August 23 planning permission was granted to create the main access road into the site and deliver the first 350 homes, which established the principle of development for the project.



3. Chidswell

Location: Leeds Road, Shawcross, Dewsbury

Developer: Deloitte Real Estate on behalf of the Church Commissioners for England

Opportunity: Housebuilder / Occupier

Type: Residential and commercial (E&B use class)

Total area: 120 hectares (including 35 hectares of employment land)

Chidswell is as a site of strategic importance for employment with a focus on manufacturing and engineering and housing delivery with excellent access to the strategic M1 and M62 highway network. Allocated in the adopted Local Plan, the scheme will comprise:

- Residential development (up to 1,535 dwellings)
- Employment development (up to 35 hectares of E(g) (i) & (iii), B2, B8 uses), indicative capacity of 122,500sqm
- Residential institution (C2) development (up to 1 hectare) - retirement living
- A local centre (comprising A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/D1 uses)
- A 2-form entry primary school including early years provision, green space, access and other associated infrastructure



4. Interchange 26 ph.2

Location: Oakenshaw, Cleckheaton, BD12 7EZ

Presented by: Dove Haigh Philips

Developer: Keyland Developments

Opportunity: Investor / Occupier

Type: Industry and warehousing

Total area: 32 acres (13 hectares)

Keyland Developments Ltd has secured planning permission for a 130,000 ft² industrial / logistics development, adjacent to the existing Interchange 26 industrial park developed in 2023.

Located in a strategic position at the Chain Bar junction of the M62 and M606, this is a prime employment site.

The area around Chain Bar holds strong appeal to regional and national occupiers being close to markets and labour supply at the very heart of the West Yorkshire conurbation.

When combined with the completed Phase 1 development, the full site will deliver just over 550,000 ft² of new industrial and employment space. The scheme has the potential to deliver some 700 new jobs for the region.



5. Whitehall Road

Location: Whitechapel Rd, Cleckheaton, BD19 6HQ

Opportunity: Investor / Developer

Type: Industrial

Total area: 58 acres

- Site of strategic significance on Junction 26 of the M62 and M606 and only a short distance from the intersection of the M1
- Greenfield development site of 58 acres suitable for Advanced Manufacturing

A greenfield site along the M62 corridor and of a scale to be of strategic significance to the wider West Yorkshire Region. Whitehall Road is a prime opportunity to secure the delivery of industrial premises for precision engineering and advanced manufacturing – building upon the strengths of Kirklees and West Yorkshire.

Allocated for an estimated 860,000 ft² plus of employment floorspace (B Use Class operations) in the adopted Local Plan, the site has immediate access to the M62 and M606 via Junction 26.



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