

# King's Lynn Town Board: Plan for Neighbourhoods

20 March 2025

Author: Jemma Curtis, Regeneration Programmes Manager

## 1. Background:

The UK government's **Plan for Neighbourhoods** is a £1.5 billion initiative aimed at revitalising 75 selected communities over the next decade, and replaces the previous programme launched by the conservative government; Long Term Plan for Towns. The programme seeks to empower local residents by providing long-term, flexible funding to invest in their priorities, thereby building thriving places, creating stronger communities, and enabling people to take control of their futures. It will provide identified places with up to £20m to spend from 2026-2036. There are 3 strategic objectives of this programme:

- thriving places
- stronger communities
- taking back control

## 2. Regeneration Plans and Community Engagement

To secure the funding, each selected area must develop a comprehensive 10-year **Regeneration Plan**, outlining specific projects and initiatives tailored to local challenges and opportunities. Community engagement is crucial, with Neighbourhood Boards actively consulting residents to ensure plans reflect the community's aspirations and address their concerns. This funding can be directed towards various regeneration projects, such as, enhancing high streets and public spaces, improving local services, and fostering economic growth. The funding addresses the specific needs and aspirations of its residents, leading to a more vibrant and cohesive community.

## 3. Timeline

- **By 22 April 2025:** Neighbourhood Boards finalise membership and propose boundary adjustments.
- **Spring 2025 to Winter 2025:** Submission and approval of Regeneration Plans, including a 4 year Investment Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG).
- **From April 2026:** Commencement of the delivery phase, with funding released to local authorities to implement approved projects.

## 4. Funding

Each place will receive up to £20m, split 75% capital, 25% revenue across a [funding profile](#) set out for ten years. An initial £200,000 capacity funding will be paid in 2025/26 once the governance return is approved, in addition to the £250,000 previously provided during 2024 (£31,500 of which has been spent to date); this is up front funding taken from the total £20m allocation.

## 5. Interventions

The previous Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTPT) programme focused on 3 priority areas;

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Transport
- Safety & Security

The new Plan for Neighbourhoods fund prospectus sets out a wider set of [pre-approved interventions](#) that can be used, under the headings;

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety & Security
- Education and opportunity

Alongside this is a [List of Powers](#) that places can utilised to support implementation of their places.

### **Neighbourhood Fund Priorities v Town Board Priorities**

The Board previously considered the feedback from the extensive consultation undertaken during 2024 which identified priorities and shaped the revised vision for the Board. The high level alignment of the new interventions against our priorities is shown below. Note: we are not required to deliver/spend against all interventions.

PfN Interventions:	Regeneration , High Streets and Heritage	Housing	Work, Productivity and skills	Cohesion	Health & Well Being	Transport	Safety & Security	Education & Opportunity
<b>Town Board Priorities :</b>								
Improve town centre attractiveness and cultural experience	✓				✓			
Create a successful, modern, mixed-use town centre	✓	✓						
Enhance connectivity and accessibility					✓	✓		
Improve safety, security and community wellbeing				✓	✓		✓	

PfN Interventions:	Regeneration , High Streets and Heritage	Housing	Work, Productivity and skills	Cohesion	Health & Well Being	Transport	Safety & Security	Education & Opportunity
Raise young people's aspirations and support business and skills growth			✓		✓			✓

## 6. Capacity Funding

The remaining capacity funding (£418,500) can be used on;

- establishing and running the Neighbourhood Board, including any process to establish the board as a charity, community interest company, or other bottom-up organisational model, to sustain long-term investment
- community engagement, which could include passporting money directly to voluntary and community groups to assist with engagement
- developing Regeneration Plans
- securing advice and expertise for Neighbourhood Boards for the technical elements of plan development and delivery,
- ensuring capital and infrastructure interventions can hit the ground running, for example, by kickstarting the planning application process, securing architectural plans and obtaining legal advice, or any other activity that councils and boards consider will progress their projects which will be set out in the 4 year investment plan.

The Board also agreed in January 2025 to remove the Devils Alley element of the town deal with a view to prioritise the riverfront under the new programme so the project could progress as rapidly as possible.

It is suggested that we now undertake a review of the consultation undertaken in light of the themes of the revised funding programme and with a view to identify the need, and plan for, more targeted engagement around those themes.

Proposals for use of capacity funding

- a) Identify and undertake further targeted consultation with communities and stakeholders against the wider set of interventions in the prospectus.
- b) Contribution towards the commissioning of the King's Lynn masterplan to provide a spatial plan for the regeneration plan and Town Board vision.
- c) Commission RIBA 3 of Riverfront including Devils Alley and wider area, extent TBA.
- d) Capacity in programme management team where additional skills and resource is required to develop the above.

## 7. Neighbourhood Boards

7.1 Central to the plan's implementation are **Neighbourhood Boards**, consisting of residents, business leaders, and community leaders. The Board and local authority must ensure that residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in

programme design and decision-making to ensure delivery reflects the priorities of local people and helps build capacity within the community.

These boards are empowered to make decisions on funding allocations, ensuring investments align with local priorities and needs. This promotes a bottom-up approach, allowing communities to take charge of their development. The [guidance](#) is clear that it does not expect places to undo what was prepared last year in terms of establishing/repurposing Town Boards in anticipation of LTPT, and Govt. strongly s consistency and continuity of membership between the ‘Town Board’ and the Neighbourhood Board, to build on work already undertaken. The Guidance asks that Boards /Places consider whether refreshing their membership may be appropriate to reflect the skills, knowledge and sector-experience required for the strategic objectives of this programme and the broader scope of activity that can be delivered through the new interventions list.

7.2 Comparing the existing Town Board membership to the [Guidance](#) published on 12 March has identified the following coverage of representation;

<b>Current Town Board Membership</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Board requirements</b>	<b>Compliance: Tick per representative</b>
Independent Chair who hold a prominent role in the community (not an elected representative)	Independent Chair who hold a prominent role in the community (not an elected representative)	✓
Local Councillor representation from each tier of local authorities	Local Councillor representation from each tier of local authorities	✓✓✓✓
Local MP	Local MP	✓
Senior representative from the Police (PCC or local senior rep)	Senior representative from the Police (PCC or local senior rep)	✓✓
Local businesses and social enterprises ( <i>Hawkins Ryan, Mars Foods, KL Magazine, Foster &amp; Gamko, SKF Cooper Roller Bearings, Palm Paper</i> )	Local businesses and social enterprises	✓✓✓✓✓✓
Public agencies and anchor institutions (ie education, health, economic development etc) ( <i>QEH, CWA, NCC</i> )	Public agencies and anchor institutions (ie education, health, economic development etc)	✓✓✓
Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations ( <i>The Garage</i> )	Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations	✓

Current Town Board Membership	Neighbourhood Board requirements	Compliance: Tick per representative
Community Partners (Diocese, Community Action Norfolk)	Community Partners (faith, charities, local groups)	✓✓
Local Organisations (Chamber of Commerce)		✓

7.3 The King's Lynn Town Board approved an update to its membership [and terms of reference](#) in June 2024. The main changes envisaged in order to align with the new guidance are therefore;

- 7.3.1 Renaming of the Board – further guidance is awaited on how explicitly the term 'Neighbourhood Board' should be applied. Consideration to the role and status of the Board in the future context of Devolution and LGR is needed; a strategic body to represent the investment priorities of local stakeholders will be a critical mechanism to align/secure further investment in King's Lynn.
- 7.3.2 Stronger community representation; for example, we are currently missing representation from; neighbourhood/community groups/forums, youth groups, registered housing providers, sports clubs, local heritage groups. To achieve this, it is proposed during 2025/26 to
- a. Replace the representatives from Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and Community Action Norfolk with community representatives, to be recruited through an open recruitment process.
  - b. Work with representatives from the Diocese and Queen Elizabeth Hospital to identify the appropriate representation for health, wellbeing and faith.
- 7.3.3. Consideration to number of local authority representation.
- 7.3.4. Amending the fund boundary to focus on the most deprived areas in line with the new guidance.

## 8. Decisions required for the Town Board;

- i. Review the representation and membership of the Board through conversion of existing board representatives as identified in 7.3.2.
- ii. Commence open recruitment process for 2 community focused representatives with a view to have them in place Autumn 2025.
- iii. Rename to '**King's Lynn Board**' or potentially include 'Investment' or 'Growth' in the name (with a possible additional strapline that can be developed later)
- iv. Update the terms of reference in light of the new guidance and decisions above
- v. Review and agree boundary for the new programme (appendix 1C).
- vi. Agree priorities for use of capacity funding (section 6)

The above is required in order to meet the governance return **submission deadline by 22 April 2025.**

## 9. Next Steps

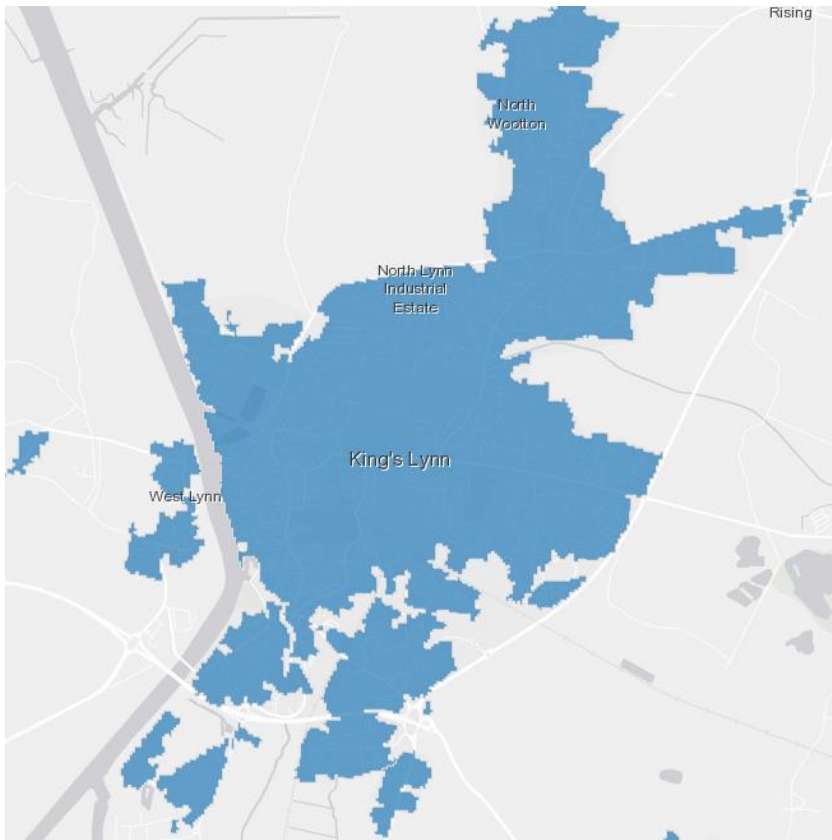
Further technical guidance is awaited on the financial flexibilities of the fund, content required for the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan and the monitoring and evaluation framework (outputs and outcomes).

However, at this stage it is envisaged the following activities would need to be completed to secure the full allocation of the fund;

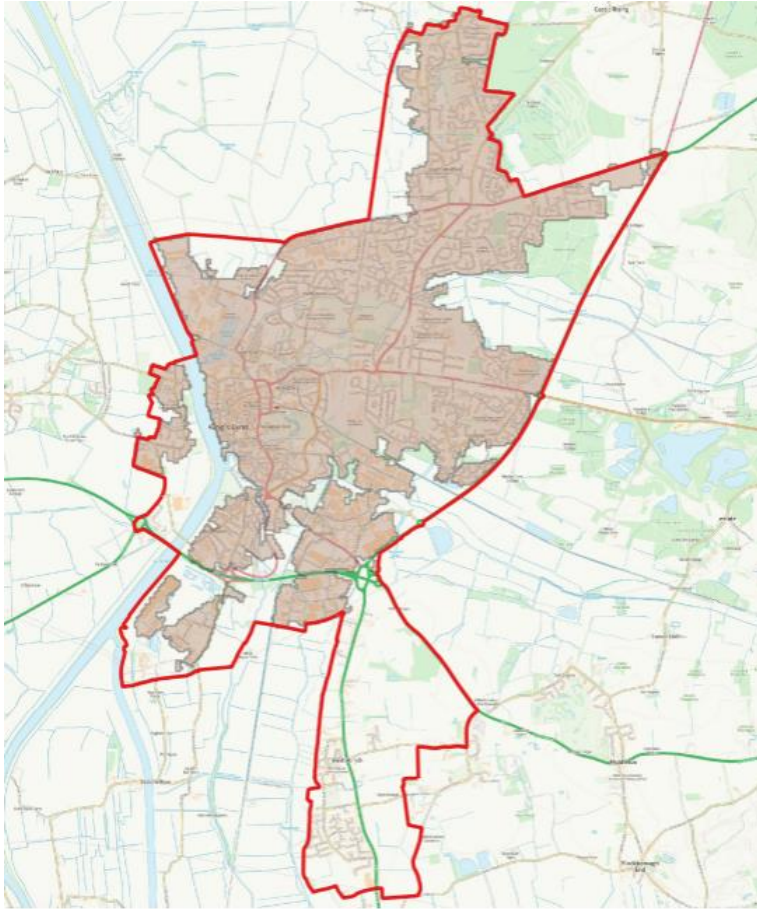
	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov
Governance Return								
Further consultation and engagement								
Update and prioritise investment priorities for the 4 year investment plan								
Developing, consultation and signing off the Regeneration Plan								
Priority projects/programme development in preparation for delivery 26/27 onwards								

**Appendix 1:**

**A: Built Up Area Boundary provided by MHCLG**



**B: Proposed boundary submitted July 2024 (reflecting Town Deal boundary)**



**C: Proposed boundary for submission April 2025:**

