

Summary Report: Towns Fund Revised Monitoring Framework

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1. Background

1.1 The UK Government has launched a three-phase plan to simplify the funding landscape for local authorities, aiming to reduce bureaucracy, improve delivery efficiency, and empower local decision-making. Phase One focuses on immediate changes to existing funds, including the **Towns Fund**, **Levelling Up Fund**, and **Future High Streets Fund**. In September 2025, we brought a report to the KLN Board with a summary of these changes which related to;

- Local authorities can manage this funding **flexibly across projects**.
- **No need for central approval** for changes within certain limits.
- Councils can adjust, cancel, or create new projects without needing permission from central government, as long as:
 - Projects still support government missions (especially economic growth).
 - Value for money is confirmed by the local **S.151 Officer**.
 - Funding is spent by **March 2028**.
- Simplified Monitoring and Reporting - only one monitoring return every six months.
- Fewer metrics to report.
- First combined return due in **April 2026** via the DELTA platform.

1.2 In light of the new guidance, the programme team and project leads have reviewed the previous Monitoring & Evaluation plans for each project that were approved as part of each business case during 2021-22. MHCLG has significantly reduced the number of indicators to be reported against, down to 45 which reflect the indicators needed to measure against the [government's missions](#).

1.3 Appendix 1 identifies the new indicators to be monitored and reported back to government for each project from April 2026. For completeness, the spreadsheet also identifies the previous Towns Fund indicators that were included in the business case M&E plans that are no longer required for MHCLG reporting purposes. However, the KLN Board may determine if there are key indicators it would like to see continued to be measured.

1.4 For Towns Fund projects, the outputs and outcomes will require monitoring 3 years post programme completion (up to 2031).

1.5 Methodology and units of measurements for outputs/outcomes have not yet been provided by MHCLG – this is anticipated when the monitoring return is issued by the government portal. Therefore, some outputs and outcomes identified for reporting may be subject to change depending on whether the measurement required can be obtained.

2. Decisions Required

2.1 KLNБ are asked to consider options for 6 monthly monitoring and reporting going forwards;

1. New indicators only as required by government
2. New indicators for government reporting plus previous Towns Fund indicators – for KLNБ monitoring purposes.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Framework Spreadsheet.