

# Invest in Kirklees

At the heart of the  
Northern Powerhouse



**Business  
Kirklees**



# The Northern Powerhouse

NEWCASTLE



LEEDS



HULL



HUDDERSFIELD



LIVERPOOL



MANCHESTER



SHEFFIELD



# Contents

- 4** Perfectly placed
- 6** Why Kirklees?
- 10** Huddersfield Blueprint
- 12** The Cultural Heart
- 14** Dewsbury Blueprint
- 16** Major infrastructure projects
- 19** Contact our team



# Perfectly placed

Perfectly placed in the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, Kirklees sits at the centre of the Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield City Region triangle, making it an exceptional place to invest and do business.

We have an annual economy worth around £7.6bn, access to a market of over seven million people within an hour's drive, and almost 40,000 highly skilled university students graduating from the region's universities each year.

Locating your business in Kirklees means millions of customers, suppliers, and employees right on your doorstep.

Kirklees also offers a great quality of life to those who build their lives here. Our impressive industrial heritage, quality schools and colleges complement a unique mix of thriving town centres, picturesque countryside and iconic villages – including Slaithwaite, judged 'Best Place to Live' in the North & Northeast by the Sunday Times, partly due to the local entrepreneurial spirit.

Kirklees is a borough that doesn't stand still. Home to the globally respected University of Huddersfield, we are constantly evolving with business, entrepreneurship and innovation at our core. Already world renowned for our

strengths in advanced manufacturing, textiles and precision engineering, Kirklees is now also emerging as a location for pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, health and wellbeing, and creative and digital industries.

We are rich in culture and heritage, and with the launch of the Huddersfield and Dewsbury 'Blueprints' the council have set out ambitious new plans which could see more than £500m invested over the next 10 years, transforming the district's two key urban centres. And with a further £70m already being invested into Gigabit Fibre infrastructure across the district, Kirklees is building for the future.

All factors considered, there has never been a more exciting time to live, work and invest in Kirklees.

**Business Kirklees is here to support businesses looking to make our district their home, and to help existing local businesses grow and thrive.**

# Why Kirklees?

Kirklees is perfectly placed at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse.

Excellent transport links to the rest of the country as well as further afield make Kirklees an ideal location for business. Bordered by the M62 to the north and the M1 to the east, Kirklees is at the centre of the Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield City Regions, with easy access to the North's major cities, airports and ports.



Meanwhile, London Kings Cross is just over two and a half hours away via a fast rail connection to Leeds, and direct trains connect Huddersfield and Dewsbury to Manchester airport giving access to over 200 destinations worldwide. With Network Rail's multibillion-pound Transpennine Route Upgrade supporting faster, more frequent trains between York and Manchester via Leeds and Huddersfield, these links are about to become even better.

## As part of the largest regional economy outside London, Kirklees is a thriving business location.

We are home to almost 16,000 businesses, operating across a huge range of sectors – including advanced manufacturing and precision engineering, textiles, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies, and creative and digital industries.

We were recently named the second best place in the UK to set up and run a business by Leeds City Region LEP.

Among our leading creative agencies and digital companies are businesses forging new ground in cyber security, gaming, and software development. And as one of the largest concentrations of high value manufacturing in the UK, Kirklees employs 24,000 people – more than twice the national average.

We have built a worldwide reputation for technical and scientific capabilities in metrology, textiles, and the digitalisation of manufacturing, playing host to leading centres of excellence including the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre, and the National Physics Laboratory.



## A skilled and confident workforce

Our region is home to some of the best universities, schools and colleges in England providing access to a ready-made pool of dynamic, rounded and digitally skilled individuals.

Huddersfield New College is rated Outstanding by Ofsted and is ranked number one in England for Equality & Diversity by the National Centre for Diversity; Greenhead College has the best designated sixth form college A-level results in Yorkshire; and Kirklees College has 18,000 students, links to 1,000 businesses, and is ranked in the top ten in England for apprenticeships.

We are part of the largest higher education cluster outside of London - nine universities (including Huddersfield) producing world-class research and nearly 40,000 skilled graduates every year. The University of Huddersfield has nearly 20,000 students, excels in innovation, and won the first Global Teaching Excellence Award in 2017.

World-class academic centres of excellence at the University of Huddersfield and leading Innovation and training assets include the Textiles Centre of Excellence, the University's 3M Buckley Innovation Centre, and the Kirklees College Process Manufacturing Centre which supports industry needs directly.

Further investment is now coming forward, with the University of Huddersfield committed to bringing forward a new £250m Health Innovation Campus in the heart of Huddersfield town centre.

## Low cost, high value

Kirklees offers a highly competitive cost base, with operating costs considerably lower than many other UK towns and cities. Being so close to Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds, Kirklees has big city advantages but without the big city price tag.

## Gigabit towns of the future

£70m has been invested in digital infrastructure, making Kirklees one of the best connected districts in the UK, and one of the best sites to locate and grow a business dependent on access to high-bandwidth services.

A new generation of affordable gigabit-speed internet services are now available, offering speeds up to 100 times faster than the UK national average and unlocking a host of productivity benefits to businesses.

## A great place to live and work

An impressive industrial heritage, outstanding countryside, affordable homes, and our connections to major cities mean Kirklees offers a great quality of life in a vibrant and varied district. With three national parks on our doorstep, strong sporting heritage and a good leisure offer, Kirklees is widely recognised as a great place to live and work.



## The Huddersfield Blueprint is an ambitious ten-year vision to create a thriving modern-day town centre.

The plan will see over £250m invested into Huddersfield town centre to create a vibrant culture, art, leisure and nightlife offer, help support thriving businesses, and create a great place to live - all with improved access and enhanced public spaces.

The Huddersfield Blueprint focuses on regenerating six key areas of the town: Station Gateway, St Peter's, Kingsgate and King Street, New Street, the Civic Quarter and a new Cultural Heart in the Queensgate and Piazza area. It will create a busy, family-friendly town centre that stays open for longer, with a unique culture, arts and leisure offer generating more footfall for thriving businesses.

Huddersfield's heritage will also be celebrated in attractive, high quality public spaces and we're breathing new life into our historic buildings, all of which will make Huddersfield a great place to live, work and visit.

Vibrant streets, walking and cycling routes, and enhanced public transport will also better connect the town centre. Quality, affordable homes will help build strong communities and bring an energy to the area and further boosting the economy.





# The Huddersfield Blueprint

A decade of ambition

More detailed  
information on the  
Huddersfield Blueprint  
can be found at:  
[www.kirklees.gov.uk/  
huddersfieldblueprint](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/huddersfieldblueprint)

## The Cultural Heart is a game-changing £210m plan which will transform Huddersfield town centre into a vibrant cultural hub of leisure, arts and music.

The proposals will see the library and market buildings retained for new uses and the Piazza Shopping Centre (purchased by the council in 2019) demolished to make way for a new town park.

The plans also include a new entertainment venue with a potential capacity of up to 2,500, an art gallery, a new library, a food hall, a museum and a multi-storey car park.

There will also be potential for additional commercial uses in the future, including a hotel, restaurants, bars, offices and residential buildings.

Links between the University of Huddersfield and the town centre will also be improved with the demolition of the Piazza Shopping Centre and the creation of the new town park, as the park will be perfectly placed to support hosting university activities and have great facilities for outdoor events.



# The Cultural Heart



## The Dewsbury Blueprint sets out our ten-year, £200m vision to create a family-friendly, active, accessible and attractive town centre.

The plans will see new residential and office schemes bring vitality and exciting new spaces able to support a vibrant creative economy. The Blueprint will rejuvenate the public realm, with investment in a major new town park and complimentary pocket parks.

A significant investment is also being made into Dewsbury's famous market and arcade. These beautiful buildings will provide a consolidated retail offer, transforming the area into a flexible space for both shopping and leisure.

The Dewsbury Learning Quarter was completed with the opening of Pioneer Higher Skills Centre in September 2020, bringing thousands of students into the centre of town.

**More detailed information on the Dewsbury Blueprint can be found at: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/dewsburyblueprint](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/dewsburyblueprint)**





# Dewsbury Blueprint

For a town  
with distinction

## Kirklees is ideally located between several of the North's major cities – Leeds, Manchester and the Sheffield City Region.

These geographic benefits are coupled with great access to national transport links including the M1, M62, key rail routes, and several major airports within easy reach.

This positioning makes Kirklees a fantastic strategic location to invest and do business.

While we already have these fantastic transport links across northern England, the rest of the UK and beyond, these connections are set to improve greatly over the coming years.

Projects like the multibillion-pound Transpennine Route Upgrade will bring improved travel time and increased capacity between Manchester and York via Leeds and Huddersfield - including improved rail links between Huddersfield and Dewsbury - and projects to improve road capacity and local sustainable transport options.





# Major infrastructure projects

## Generating growth for existing businesses and attracting new investment

Whether you're looking to make Kirklees your main base of operations or just looking for support growing your business presence in the area, our Business Kirklees team can provide a vast range of support for any business at any stage of development.

We have a strong and established collaboration with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other partners to promote and attract new investment, which mean Kirklees offers a range of opportunities suited to all industries - whether these be residential, large scale industrial, office, leisure, or mixed use.

**Whatever your business needs, we can help.**



**If you are interested in locating your business in Kirklees, please contact a member of the Inward Investment team on 01484 221000 or email [invest@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:invest@kirklees.gov.uk)**

# Contact our team

**Andrew Sharp**

Strategic Partnership Manager  
Inward Investment

[andrew.sharp@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.sharp@kirklees.gov.uk)

**James Barker**

Project Officer  
Inward Investment

[james.barker@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:james.barker@kirklees.gov.uk)

---

 01484 221000

 [invest@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:invest@kirklees.gov.uk)



 Visit [businesskirklees.com](http://businesskirklees.com)

