

# ADEPT President's Awards 2026

Entry form

## Award category

Delivering Sustainable Growth

## Project Title

Our Cultural Heart (Huddersfield Blueprint)

## Local authority

Kirklees Council

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Major regeneration driven by the Place Directorate, reshaping Huddersfield with new cultural, leisure and economic assets.

## **Delivering Sustainable Growth: How is this project delivering sustainable growth – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and futureproofing growth? (150 words max)**

This programme delivers sustainable growth by progressing the Place Directorate's major regeneration of Huddersfield, reshaping the town with new cultural, leisure and economic assets. Phase 1 construction—including the new library hub, food hall and public square—is already well underway, creating high-quality public realm and establishing the foundations for long-term footfall and investment. Building on this momentum, the approved next stages (Sept 2025) move Phase 2 into delivery, bringing forward the new museum, gallery and further public-realm improvements.

Together, Phases 1 and 2 drive catalytic economic uplift: hundreds of jobs, increased town-centre activity and significant private-sector investment. The project futureproofs growth through climate-friendly design, active-travel and accessibility upgrades, and the creation of a new urban park that enhances biodiversity and climate resilience. By integrating sustainable place improvements across all phases, the programme protects the natural environment while enabling inclusive, ambitious and resilient economic growth for Huddersfield.

## **Delivering Sustainable Growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean and green growth? (150 words max)**

This project delivers long-lasting clean and green growth by working collaboratively across organisational, geographic and sector boundaries. The Place Directorate leads a coordinated regeneration programme involving Council services, West Yorkshire partners, local cultural institutions and national funding bodies to ensure investment is aligned and environmentally responsible. Collaboration with transport, highways and active-travel teams enables integrated low-carbon mobility—linking new public spaces with wider cycling and walking networks. Partnerships with heritage, cultural and education stakeholders support the delivery of the museum, gallery and library hub, embedding sustainability principles into design, operations and long-term maintenance. Engagement with private-sector investors ensures new commercial and leisure developments meet clean-growth objectives, including energy-efficient construction and greener supply chains. Community groups, accessibility advocates and environmental organisations also shape plans, ensuring biodiverse public realm, inclusive design and climate-resilient landscaping. Together, these partnerships maximise impact and futureproof sustainable town-centre regeneration.

## **Delivering Sustainable Growth: How is this project proactively engaging with businesses and communities to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)**

This project proactively engages businesses and communities to tackle challenges and co-design solutions that support clean and green growth. Regular business forums, town-centre workshops and

trader walkabouts help identify barriers to footfall, accessibility and energy efficiency, enabling tailored responses such as improved active-travel routes, greener loading arrangements and support for low-carbon building upgrades. Engagement with cultural, leisure and hospitality operators ensures new public spaces, the food hall and cultural venues are designed to boost commercial activity while meeting sustainability standards.

Community design panels, youth groups and accessibility advocates help shape the new museum, gallery and urban park, ensuring inclusive, climate-resilient spaces that reflect local priorities. The project also partners with local SMEs and the clean-growth sector—such as green-construction suppliers, landscaping firms and active-travel specialists—stimulating demand for low-carbon products and services. This collaborative approach builds shared ownership and drives long-lasting, environmentally responsible town-centre regeneration.

**Delivering Sustainable Growth: How is this project going beyond the 3–5-year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)**

This project looks beyond the 3–5-year budget cycle by planning regeneration and clean-growth outcomes over a 15–20-year horizon. The sequencing of Phases 1 and 2 has been designed to unlock future development plots, reduce lifecycle costs and create assets—such as the library hub, food hall, museum and new public realm—that generate long-term revenue to reinvest in the town centre. The project is also exploring innovative funding approaches, including mixed-model financing for cultural venues, potential heat-network and renewable-energy investment partnerships, and opportunities for private-sector co-funding linked to increased footfall and land value uplift. Early engagement with pension funds, institutional investors and the clean-growth supply chain ensures the programme can leverage long-term capital to support low-carbon infrastructure. By aligning delivery with future transport, climate-adaptation and economic-growth strategies, the project is preparing Huddersfield for emerging challenges while reducing reliance on short-term public budgets.