

ADEPT President's Awards 2026

Entry form

Award category

Shaping Places for People

Project Title

Transforming Huddersfield Town Centre through the Station Gateway & Blueprint Connectivity Improvements

Local authority

Kirklees Council

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

The Station Gateway and Blueprint connectivity improvements are reshaping the town centre into a safer, more welcoming and people-focused place.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.



Huddersfield Station Gateway.docx

Shaping Places for People: How was this project an innovative response to a significant local challenge? (150 words max.)

The project responds innovatively to Huddersfield's long-standing challenges around poor connectivity, vehicle domination, fragmented public spaces and limited accessibility for people with diverse needs. The Station Gateway rethinks the area's role as a transport hub, transforming confusing, traffic-heavy spaces into a coherent, people-first environment. By integrating movement, public realm and accessibility design from the outset, the project tackles multiple issues simultaneously: safety, inclusivity, congestion, and declining footfall.

Innovative solutions include re-routing traffic to prioritise pedestrians, delivering step-free connections, widening footways, and creating attractive, landscaped routes that encourage active travel. The scheme also applies modern design standards, digital mapping and accessibility audits to create a town centre that works better for older people, families and disabled users. As part of the Blueprint, this integrated, cross-disciplinary approach provides a forward-looking solution that brings together planning, transport and public realm to reshape Huddersfield into a more liveable, people-centred place.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

The project is already delivering high-quality outcomes that improve accessibility, efficiency and inclusivity in Huddersfield town centre. Upgraded pedestrian routes and widened footways have created safer, more legible connections between the station, the town centre and key destinations, reducing conflict between vehicles and pedestrians and improving journey efficiency for residents, visitors and workers. New step-free access, better gradients and clearer wayfinding enhance inclusivity for people with mobility impairments, families with pushchairs and older residents.

Public-realm improvements—such as new lighting, landscaping and decluttered streets—have strengthened perceptions of safety and made the area more welcoming, supporting increased footfall and greater use of active-travel routes. The project also futureproofs services by upgrading infrastructure to modern standards, integrating space for cycling and embedding flexible design that can adapt to future mobility trends. Together, these outcomes demonstrate meaningful improvements in accessibility, inclusivity and long-term town-centre resilience.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

The project demonstrates extensive collaboration between Place services and the wider People-focused teams, ensuring the redesigned town centre works for all residents. Highways, Transport, Planning and Regeneration teams have worked jointly with Accessibility Services, Public Health, Community Engagement and Adult Social Care to shape movement plans, public-realm layouts and step-free routes. Accessibility officers and lived-experience groups have directly informed design decisions on gradients, tactile paving, crossings, lighting and wayfinding, ensuring the Station Gateway functions for people with mobility impairments, visual impairments and neurodiverse needs.

Externally, the project has collaborated with West Yorkshire Combined Authority, transport operators, disability charities, community groups and businesses to coordinate works, improve safety and ensure inclusive mobility. Engagement with rail operators and heritage bodies supports a seamless station-to-town-centre experience. This cross-functional approach—integrating professional expertise with residents’ insight—has strengthened design quality, improved inclusion, and delivered a more people-centred town-centre transformation.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care, and external organisations. (150 words max.)

The project has gained strong buy-in from local communities, health partners and external organisations, reflecting broad support for a more accessible, people-centred town centre. Community workshops, stakeholder walkabouts and public-realm exhibitions have consistently shown residents favouring safer crossings, improved lighting and better step-free access around the Station Gateway. Local disability groups and accessibility advocates have actively contributed to design reviews, demonstrating strong endorsement of the project’s inclusive-design ambitions.

Health and social-care teams support the scheme’s focus on active travel, walkability and reduced traffic dominance, recognising the benefits for physical activity, social connection and wellbeing. Businesses and transport operators, including rail partners, have endorsed the improvements because they strengthen connectivity, boost footfall and create a more welcoming arrival experience into the town.

This high level of engagement and positive feedback shows that the project’s goals are widely shared, with clear support for a town centre designed around people, safety and inclusivity.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)

The project has actively explored and secured new sources of investment to support long-term, people-centred regeneration in Huddersfield. In addition to core council capital, the programme has leveraged West Yorkshire Combined Authority funding for transport, active travel and accessibility improvements, enabling higher-quality public realm and safer pedestrian routes. The team has also assessed opportunities for heritage and cultural-sector funding to support enhancements around the station frontage and key historic assets, recognising the value of external investment in placemaking. Work with rail industry partners has opened up potential contributions linked to station-access improvements, while engagement with local businesses has informed emerging proposals for business-led public-realm sponsorship and maintenance partnerships. The project has also explored future opportunities through national programmes supporting low-carbon mobility, greening town centres, and health-related active-travel outcomes.

This mixed-funding approach strengthens long-term viability, reduces reliance on council budgets, and maximises the quality of people-focused outcomes.