



**CORPORATE POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 12TH
FEBRUARY 2026**

Subject: Pride in Place Funding

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| Report by: | Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities |
| Contact Officer: | Sally Grindrod-Smith Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities sally.grindrod-smith@west-lindsey.gov.uk |
| Purpose / Summary: | To set out the funding available for the Pride in Place programme and secure approval for the expenditure of the first tranche of revenue investment and how the programme will be managed. |

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Members approve the expenditure of the initial £150,000 of revenue funding to support the establishment of the Pride in Place Programme and the required workstreams as set out in the table at paragraph 3.3. Income and expenditure budgets will be created to reflect the grant being received and spend activity.
2. Members approve the draft Business Case at appendix 1 which sets out the proposed Project Management Office arrangements to be established to support the council's role as accountable body.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

West Lindsey District Council are the accountable body for the Gainsborough West Pride in Place programme. The Neighbourhood Board are responsible for leading community led decision making, in partnership with the Council.

Funding will need to be utilised to secure the provision of legal advice and guidance, including on matters such as Subsidy Control, procurement and contracting.

The council have contracts in place with Legal Services Lincolnshire and DWF Law LLP that will be utilised to provide necessary advice and guidance.

Any required procurement activity will be carried out in accordance with Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/158/26/CPR/SL

The programme will receive funding and support totalling up to £20 million. The funding will be split 63% capital and 37% revenue. This funding split will inform investment and expenditure.

The funding profile was published in guidance in December 2025 and is set out in the table below.

The first payment of £150,000 has now been received and should be used to support local community engagement and the establishment of Neighbourhood Boards, in addition to early work to lay the foundations for the development of the 10-year Pride in Place Plan and 4-year Investment Plan. This payment is known as the 'year zero' payment.

Revenue funding will be paid to local authorities in two tranches in year 1 (26/27) with 50% being paid at the start of the financial year and the remaining 50% on approval of the Pride in Place Plan.

| Grant type (£ms) | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 31/32 | 32/33 | 33/34 | 34/35 | 35/36 | Total |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Capital funding | 0 | 0.12 | 0.67 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 12.43 |
| Revenue funding | 0.15 | 0.27 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 7.17 |
| Total | 0.15 | 0.39 | 1.36 | 2.15 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 19.6 |

This paper seeks approval for the expenditure of the first £150,000 on activity that delivers the establishment of the programme as set out at paragraph 3.3.

Once the Neighbourhood Board is established a further paper will be brought to this committee to consider investment priorities and quick wins expenditure ahead of the submission and approval of the Pride in Place Plan.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

A proportion of the initial revenue budget of £150,000 will be used to support staffing of the programme. The Business case sets out the required WLDC roles and responsibilities and initial allocation of these roles.

In order to establish the programme effectively a Pride in Place Programme Manager is required. This will be an interim appointment as an honorarium, from within existing staff resources, funding through the initial revenue allocation, whilst the Board is established and determines a permanent solution.

The opportunity to develop our own staff utilising external funding opportunities has been a principle we have embedded into other programmes such as Levelling Up and UKSPF and this will continue through the Pride in Place Programme.

HR Ref: HR254-01-27

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

As accountable body the council are required to ensure that all activity complies with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

As part of establishing the programme an Equality Impact Assessment will be required and will sit alongside the Pride in Place Plan any costs associated with this work will be covered as part of the expenditure of the initial revenue budget.

Data Protection Implications :

There are no direct data protection implications arising from this report. Any activity will be considered and reviewed by the Councils Data Protection and Freedom of Information Officer to ensure conformity with policy requirements.

Any cost implications can be met by the initial revenue budget.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

There are no direct implications arising from this report. When the Neighbourhood Board are developing the 10 year vision and investment plan, there will be a consideration of the opportunities and risks relating to climate change.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

Policing interventions that target crime prevention and antisocial behaviour in specific locations, particularly town centres are included within the indicative interventions list as set out in the guidance.

Given the challenging nature of police funding in Lincolnshire and nationally it is considered likely that this is an area that the Neighbourhood Board may seek to establish 'quick wins' which would be the subject of future reports to this committee.

Health Implications:

Health and Wellbeing interventions are listed as approved interventions within the published guidance and can be developed as part of the Pride in Place Plan.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

3rd December prospectus published

[Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

Accompanying detailed guidance on governance and boundaries

[Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Funding profile and timeline

[Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)

Risk Assessment :

The initial risk assessment is included at table 2 within the Business Case.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

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No

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Executive Summary

Further to the announcement of the Pride in Place funding allocation for Gainsborough West, more detailed guidance was issued by the government in December 2025.

An early capacity payment of £150,000 has been received. The purpose of this funding is to begin to establish the programme at pace, supporting the establishment of a Neighbourhood Board, including the recruitment of a chair, commencement of meaningful local community engagement and consultation and beginning work to move forward with the requirement to prepare a 10 year vision and 4 year investment plan.

This report seeks approval for the expenditure of the initial £150,000 to establish the programme. Key workstreams that require expenditure will include:

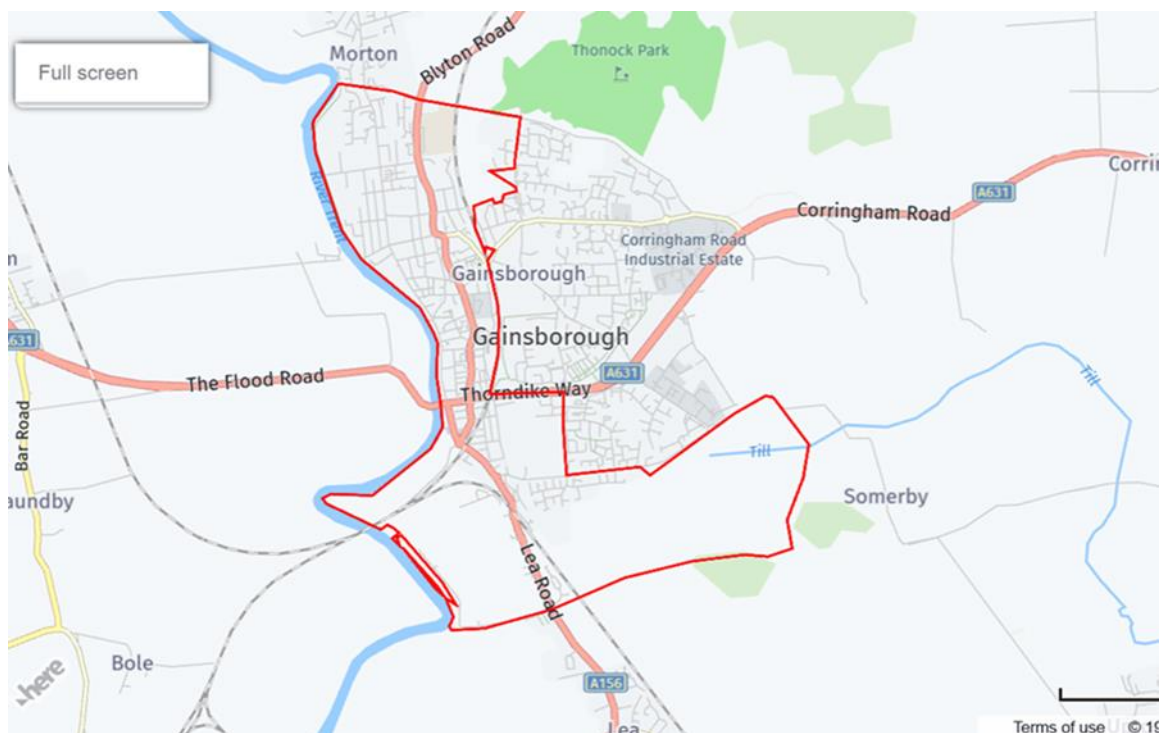
- Programme staff resources
- Legal advice and guidance
- Securing a Neighbourhood Board and establishing the board
- Delivering the Communications Plan
- Developing the consultation and engagement strategy and moving quickly into delivery
- Establishing the case for change
- Beginning to define investment priorities and quick wins – laying the foundations for the 10 year vision and 4-year Investment Plan

The report also presents an initial Business Case for the programme which supports the resourcing requirements and sets in place the thinking around how the council will manage the requirements of the programme in its role as accountable body.

Further detail on future tranches of funding is also included with early thinking around next steps and future decisions for the council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to the report to Prosperous Communities Committee in November 2025 informing members of the Pride in Place Gainsborough West allocation, detailed guidance regarding the programme, the governance requirements and the funding profile was published on 3rd December 2025.
- 1.2 A web page has been created on the Council's website to host all information regarding the programme and can be accessed here: [Pride in Place – Gainsborough West | West Lindsey District Council](#)
- 1.3 The map below shows the Gainsborough West Pride in Place area.



- 1.4 The guidance published in December confirms that places will receive an early capacity payment in financial year 25/26 in order to support Board establishment and early, high quality engagement. Engagement should be undertaken as a priority to support the Neighbourhood Board to develop a Pride in Place Plan.
- 1.5 Ahead of submitting the Pride in Place Plan, local authorities and the MP are required, with the Neighbourhood Board to develop the plans for using the capacity funding. The guidance lists a number of uses including:
 - Establishing and running the Neighbourhood Board
 - Performing community engagement
 - Developing Pride in Place 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
 - Delivering 'quick wins'
- 1.6 The governance process for securing a Neighbourhood Board Chair and establishing the board was approved by Prosperous Communities Committee on 27th January.

2 Funding Profile and Flexibilities

- 2.1 Each community will receive funding and support totalling up to £20 million. The funding will be split 63% capital and 37% revenue. The payment profile is set out in guidance as follows.

| Grant type (£ms) | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 31/32 | 32/33 | 33/34 | 34/35 | 35/36 | Total |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Capital funding | 0 | 0.12 | 0.67 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 12.43 |
| Revenue funding | 0.15 | 0.27 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 7.17 |
| Total | 0.15 | 0.39 | 1.36 | 2.15 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 2.23 | 19.6 |

- 2.2 The first revenue capacity payment of £150,000 will be paid in Q4 25/26.
- 2.3 Revenue funding (capacity) will be paid out across two tranches in Year 1 (2026/2027) of the programme – 50% will be made at the start of the financial year and 50% on approval of the Pride in Place Plan.
- 2.4 This means that we will receive a revenue payment of £135,000 in April 2026 together with a capital (delivery) payment of £120,000 at this time. The remaining £135,000 will be issued once the Pride in Place Plan is approved.
- 2.5 The programme has been designed to afford significant financial flexibilities to Neighbourhood Boards to support with delivery. Flexibilities are available for both capacity and delivery funding. After the initial capacity payment Boards can spend their revenue funding allocation flexibly across the full lifespan of the programme.
- 2.6 The Investment Plan is required to forecast spend across the programme. Funding cannot be brought forward into earlier years of the programme, although places can borrow against what is a guaranteed revenue stream and funding can be moved to future years in line with the investment plan.

2.7 Key dates are set out in the table below.

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| Early 2026 | Receipt of first revenue payment £150,000 to support community engagement and establishment of board and programme |
| April 2026 | Commencement of delivery phase £135,000 revenue payment £120k capital payment |
| 17 th July 2026 | Neighbourhood Board to confirm membership and any proposals to alter the boundary |
| 28 th November 2026 | Neighbourhood Board to submit Pride in Place Plan to government |
| January to March 2027 | PiP Plan signed off and remainder of year 1 revenue- £135,000 payment released |

3 Establishing the Gainsborough West Pride in Place Programme

3.1 In order to establish the programme, there are a number of strands of work that we are required to deliver at pace in order to meet the timelines set out in the published guidance.

3.2 An initial Business Case has been drafted and included within this report at Appendix 1. It is envisaged that this will continue to be developed, particularly as the Chair of the Board is appointed and the Neighbourhood Board is formed. However, the drafting of this initial business case does assist with developing thinking around key lines of activity and how the programme will be established.

3.3 The table below sets out the initial workstreams which are required and will be delivered using the early capacity payment. Officers are developing costs against the workstreams and any unspent capacity funding will be rolled into the wider programme capacity funding.

| Workstream title | Detail |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Programme Management Function | WLDC officer time e.g. finance, legal will be recovered from the programme. Honourarium for Programme Manager will be established for initial period whilst Board develop plan for the future. Proposal for Community Delivery / Engagement Officer to be established. |

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| | May be training and travel costs associated with setting up the internal programme team |
| Legal advice and guidance | The programme will require legal advice and guidance on matters such as subsidy control, procurement and contracting. Other aspects will include ensuring disclosure of interest and mapping conflicts of interest and managing governance relating to funding decisions made by the Board. We have existing contracts with Legal Services Lincolnshire and DWF Law LLP which will be utilised where required to supplement input from the Monitoring Officer. |
| Neighbourhood Board Chair and Neighbourhood Board | Securing Chair and establishing the Board will require capacity funding for room hire, expenses, training, support, advice and guidance etc Board Chairs can be remunerated if this is required – described in the guidance as ‘akin to a school governor’ may include childcare expenses for example |
| Delivering the Communications Plan | Approved by committee in November, resources required for branding, web design, communication materials, photography, videography, case study development etc |
| Consultation and Engagement Strategy and early delivery | It is important to kick start this workstream at pace in order that early findings can support the Board to agree principles for the investment plan. Input into the strategy development and capacity to deliver will be required. Including thinking about 3-5 year consultation and engagement strategy. Involvement of community organisations in planning and delivery of consultation. This will include planning universal consultation across the geography through events and online activity, targeted engagement for specific groups / issues and lived experience analysis to capture qualitative experiences. |

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| Establishing the Case for Change | <p>Undertake review of published data pack (awaited from MHCLG)</p> <p>Supplement with other relevant local data – including partner inputs and outputs from consultation etc. where required. Complete Place Based Analysis – which partners are already funding, delivering services and investing in the place and what outcomes are being delivered. What are the gaps based on current investment and future intentions of partners such as Combined Authority, NHS, charities, etc.</p> <p>Reviewing early consultation findings and supporting targeted engagement on specific issues / topics.</p> <p>Working with all partners on an early theory of change, what do we know now, what are the gaps, used to shape and inform further consultation and engagement.</p> <p>Developing the monitoring and evaluation framework to establish outputs and outcomes</p> |
| Defining Investment Priorities and Criteria and potential ‘quick wins’ – laying the foundations for the 10-year vision and 4 year Investment Plan | <p>Bringing together early engagement and the case for change to establish key areas of focus for the Pride in Place Plan. What are the emerging priorities, what does ‘good look like’ in 10 years, how would this be defined and measured? Establish the criteria against which success could be measured – to feed into the development of priorities and interventions. Develop thinking around ‘commissioning by outcomes.’ Which ‘quick wins’ link to early consultation findings and are deliverable. Outcome of this workstream is a set of initial investment priorities, criteria for assessment and quick wins.</p> |
| Strategic Advisory Capacity | <p>Capacity for programme delivery team and Neighbourhood Board, establishing work arrangements, developing relationships and methods of communication, to seek assurance scrutiny, best practice, support with agenda planning, message, oversight and challenge.</p> |

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| | Draw down as required and as issues arise. External support providing insight and experience from other similar projects, to provide strategic advisory support and challenge to the Council and Neighbourhood Board. Providing scrutiny, challenge and advice to ensure compliance with MHCLG and PiP guidance. |
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3.4 At the meeting of this committee in September 2025 it was agreed that a contract be awarded to Mutual Ventures to support ongoing with the council on Local Government Reorganisation and place leadership activities. Whilst at that time we were not aware that we would receive an allocation of Pride in Place funding, the inclusion of place leadership activities within the contract award was in recognition of likely future requirements. Mutual Ventures have supported the council on previous work including the Levelling Up Programme and UK Shared Prosperity Funding and they are currently working with a number of councils leading / supporting Pride in Place programmes as part of the Plan for Neighbourhood (precursor to Pride in Place).

3.5 Where required the contract with Mutual Ventures will be used to support officers in establishing and delivering the workstreams set out above.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Once the workstreams and business case are approved work will begin at pace to deliver the required action. This will sit alongside work to secure a Board Chair and establish the Board.

4.2 The developmental work, including emerging findings from consultation and engagement and investment priorities and criteria will be presented back to members for their review and consideration in the summer of 2026.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members approve the expenditure of the initial £150,000 of revenue funding to support the establishment of the Pride in Place Programme and the required workstreams as set out in the table at paragraph 3.3. Income and expenditure budgets will be created to reflect the grant being received and spend activity.

5.2 Members approve the draft Business Case at appendix 1 which sets out the proposed Project Management Office arrangements to be established to support the council's role as accountable body.