



**PROSPEROUS
COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 27th January 2026

Subject: Pride in Place Governance

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 provide an update following publication of the prospectus and establish the governance required to appoint a Chair and form the Neighbourhood Board

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Members note the Guiding Principles and Programme Objectives set out in paragraphs 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6.
2. Members note the requirements of the Neighbourhood Board Chairperson, including the job description, and delegate, following a recruitment exercise, to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities the appointment of the Chair in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee, Leader of the Council and the local MP.
3. Members approve the draft initial Terms of Reference (appendix 3) for the Neighbourhood Board
4. Members note the requirement for the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board to recruit board members and delegate authority to support the appointment of members to the Neighbourhood Board to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee and the local MP.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Decision-making will be led by the Neighbourhood Board, with the council acting as the accountable body for the funds at the start of the programme, with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#), [Equality Act 2010](#), [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles. The council will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

It is likely that we will need to draw on the capacity funding to support the accountable body role.

Financial : FIN/142/26/MT/SST

No financial implications arising directly from this report.

A paper will be presented to the February 2026 meeting of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to consider the funding and decisions required in more detail.

The funding profile was published recently and is 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

Receipt of first revenue payment £150,000 will be in Q4 25/26, to support community engagement and establishment of the board and programme.

Staffing :

The council will be required to support the programme, both in terms of establishing and supporting the board, providing secretariat services, delivery of the programme and ongoing monitoring and reporting as the accountable body.

WLDCs Project Management Office has experience of managing comparable programmes including Levelling Up and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will be beneficial to the Pride in Place Programme. Further work will be undertaken to assess the required staffing resources needed for both the programme and individual projects to ensure effective delivery, management and monitoring throughout its lifecycle.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

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.

The Neighbourhood Board should comprise representatives from a cross-section of the local community. Protected characteristics should not be a barrier to participation either as the Chair of the Board or as a board member.

To support inclusive participation, members of the Neighbourhood Board will be permitted to claim reasonable expenses incurred through their involvement.

The promotion of good relations through discussion at the Neighbourhood Board, between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial groups is an important part of enabling quality through the Neighbourhood Board.

These principles have been included within the Terms of Reference.

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.

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 in specific locations, particularly the town centre are included within the indicative interventions list. Guidance sets out that a local police representative is required to sit on the Neighbourhood Board and a discussion has already taken place with the Chief Superintendent to establish this representation.

Health Implications:

Guidance sets out that relevant health care practitioners including for example GPs or senior NHS staff could be invited to sit on the board. A discussion has already taken place with the NHS to secure appropriate health representation on the Neighbourhood Board.

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:

This paper seeks to establish a process for agreeing the appointment of a Chairperson to the Board and the details of the Neighbourhood Board.

It is important that the Chair and Board are representative of the local community and as the accountable body we are required to ensure that published guidance is adhered to.

The process set out in this paper and the draft terms of reference mitigate the risk of non-compliance with the guidance.

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

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

Executive Summary

The Pride in Place Prospectus was published in full on 3rd December and included links to the governance requirements and funding information.

As the accountable body for the Gainsborough West Pride in Place programme the council are required, in consultation with the local MP to appoint a chairperson and establish the Neighbourhood Board.

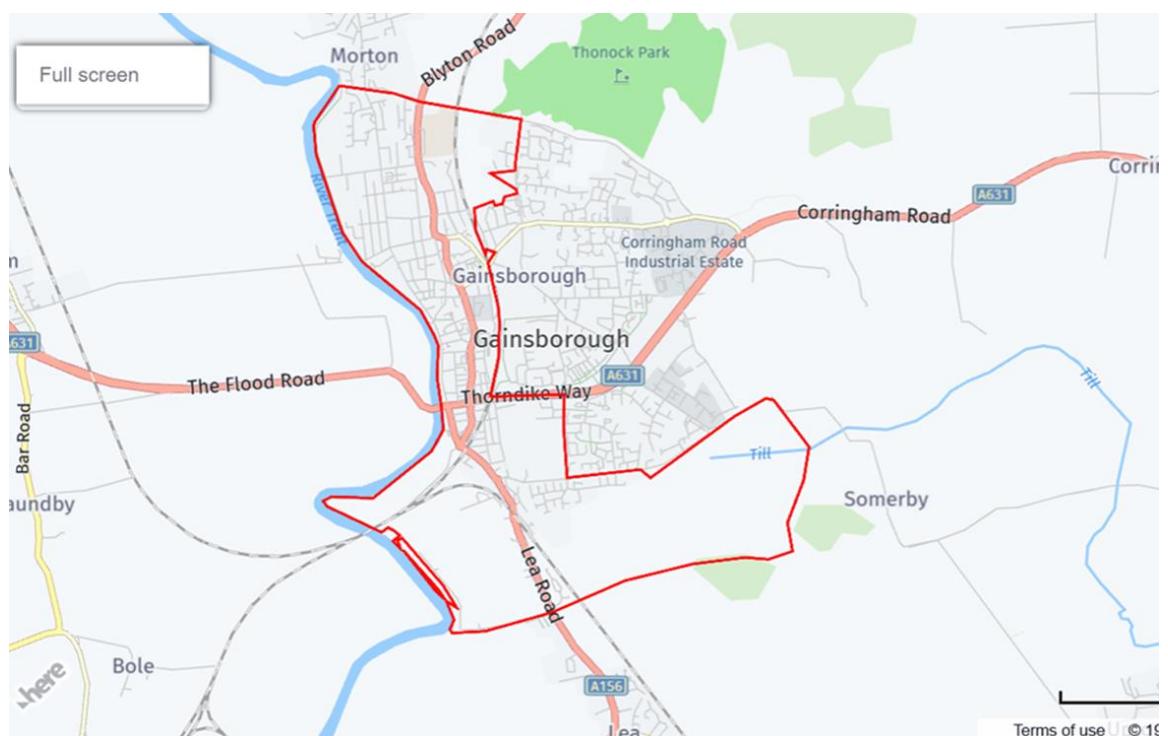
This paper sets out a proposal for appointing a chairperson, based upon a published job description.

The paper also provides draft terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Board and sets out a process through which the council will support the chairperson to appoint members of the Neighbourhood Board.

Details of the funding allocation are set out, which includes an initial capacity payment of £150,000 to be received by the council in early 2026. This funding should be used to establish the programme at pace and a further paper to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in February will consider this in more detail.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to the report to this 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 Also published were a Local Authority fact Sheet and the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Job Description, these are included at appendix 1 and 2.
- 1.3 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](#)
- 1.4 The map below shows the Gainsborough West Pride in Place area.



- 1.5 The prospectus confirms through the **Guiding Principles** that the Pride in Place programme is designed to be:
 - **Community Led** – with a Neighbourhood Board made up of local people with the task of developing a Pride in Place Plan with their local community
 - **Flexible** – Neighbourhood Boards can choose what to invest and when, based on extensive community consultation and guided by indicative interventions from MHCLG
 - **Long term** – the programme provides certainty and security of funding over ten years and should sow the seeds for longer-term transformation.
 - **Supportive** – allowing communities to bring their visions to life to make a lasting difference to their neighbourhoods

1.6 The prospectus goes on to re-confirm the **Programme Objectives**, centred around the creation of a partnership between the Neighbourhood Board, local government and the local MP, with the backing and support of central government. Boards are encouraged to focus the funding and intervention on those communities with the greatest need.

1.7 The Board, working with the local MP and local council is responsible for producing a 10-year Pride in Place Plan for their area, setting out the activity that will be pursued to achieve the 3 strategic objectives of this programme.

- **Stronger Communities** – empowering the Board to tackle the root causes of division, rebuild relationships, restore a collective sense of belonging and bring people together so they can feel proud of their areas and safe in their neighbourhood.
- **Thriving Places** – town centres and neighbourhoods must evolve to better reflect the needs and habits of their community, and residents should have a greater say in how they look and feels.
- **Taking Back Control** – Empowering people to have more or a say in how their local area is shaped is a central component of this programme.

1.8 Acting as the accountable body the council are required to confirm the establishment of the Neighbourhood Board no later than 17th July 2026.

2 Chair of the Neighbourhood Board

2.1 Each Neighbourhood Board will be led by an independent Chair, appointed and approved by the local MP and local authority. The Chair should act as a champion for the place and local people, ensuring engagement that reaches out into the community, to ensure decision-making is community-led. The Chair will lead the process of recruiting and convening the Board, with the support of the local authority and the local MP.

2.2 The job description for the Chair of the Board is included at appendix 2.

2.3 The council will seek expressions of interest for the role of Chair of the Board, ensuring that the opportunity to chair the board is clearly publicised.

2.4 The guidance is clear that the Chair of the Board should act as a champion for the place and provide leadership for the Board, ensuring it is community-led and embedded within the local area. The Chair should be someone who is 'from', living or working in the area, holds a prominent role in the community or has a passion for the place.

2.5 The Chair of the Board can not be an elected representative.

2.6 Board Chair expressions of interest will be reviewed against the published job description by the local MP, Chair of this committee, Leader of the Council and the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities. If necessary, a discussion interview with potential candidates will be held to assist with decision making.

2.7 This report seeks delegated approval for the Director of Planning Regeneration and Communities to appoint the Chair of the Board, in consultation with the local MP and Chairman of this committee and Leader of the Council. This committee would be notified at the next available meeting of the appointment.

2.8 Published guidance is clear that where the local authority and MP are unable to reach consensus on the appointment of a suitable Chair, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will intervene to facilitate and broker an agreement.

3 Neighbourhood Board

3.1 Once appointed, the Chair of the Board will lead the recruitment of board members, working with the local MP and local authority to ensure the Neighbourhood Board is inclusive and representative of the local community.

3.2 Following first appointment, any replacement board members will be agreed by the Chair of the Board. Should the Chair of the Board stand down or need to be replaced, expressions of interest will be re-sought and a new chair appointed in line with the process at 2.6.

3.3 Chairs should be guided by the following criteria in convening and agreeing their Board, working with the local MP and local authority:

- Boards must have at least eight members, to ensure a broad range of voices and perspectives.
- The majority (at least 51%) of members should live or work within the boundaries of the neighbourhood, ensuring that the Board is resident-led.
- Members should broadly reflect the range and diversity of people who live in the area – for example, in relation to age, ethnicity, gender, faith, disability or income levels.

3.4 Neighbourhood Boards must include the following representatives:

- Parliamentary representative
- Local Councillor – one from each tier
- Senior representative from the police

3.4 Other representatives' dependent upon local context comprising reps from a cross section of the local community including:

- Community leaders
- Local businesses and social enterprises
- Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations
- Public agencies and anchor institutions

3.5 Based on published guidance and taking experience from places in Phase 1 of the programme, the attached draft Terms of Reference (ToR) at appendix 3 for the Neighbourhood Board have been developed.

3.6 It is recommended that these initial ToR are reviewed and agreed by this committee to support with the establishment of the Board. It should be noted that once established the Neighbourhood Board will be responsible for reviewing and updating the ToR as required.

4 Timescales

4.1 The prospectus sets out the timelines for the programme and the expectation that local authorities will lead this initial phase at phase. Payment of a revenue allocation early in 2026 is indicative of the action that government expects to see in the early stage of the programme.

4.2 Key dates are set out in the table below.

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- £130,000 payment released

5 Funding

5.1 The funding profile for Pride in Place was published recently in the prospectus. The full funding profile is as follows:

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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

5.2 Decision-making will be led by the Neighbourhood Board, with the council acting as the accountable body for the funds at the start of the programme, with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#), [Equality Act 2010](#), [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles. They will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

5.3 A paper will be presented to the February 2026 meeting of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to consider the funding and decisions required in more detail.

6 Review of options

6.1 Officers have reviewed the published guidance and engaged with our lead contact in the Communities Delivery Unit of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

6.2 Officers are also mindful that establishing this programme is a significant undertaking and much of this work will be required at a time when the council is also required to consider and act upon matters related to Local Government Reorganisation.

6.3 The guidance is clear about the role of the Council and the expectations that come with the allocation of Pride in Place funding. The critical tasks in order to get the programme underway relate to the selection of the Chair of the Board and the establishment of the Board itself.

6.4 Other options considered included seeking to select the Chair of the Board without conducting an expression of interest exercise, but this would not be in line with the principles of the programme. Additionally, officers considered commencing more comprehensive engagement ahead of the appointment of a Chair and establishing the Neighbourhood Board.

6.5 Whilst this may have enabled rapid progress, there is a risk that the community engagement may not be in line with the aspirations of the board and therefore it was felt that progressing the governance at pace was the correct way to establish firm foundations for the programme.

6.6 Discussions to date which include the report to the November meeting of this committee, the debate at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November on this item, as well as further members discussions have informed the preferred option presented within the paper.

7 Recommendations

1. Members note the Guiding Principles and Programme Objectives set out in paragraphs 1.4,1.5 and 1.6.
2. Members note the requirements of the Neighbourhood Board Chairperson, including the job description, and delegate, following a recruitment exercise, to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities the appointment of the Chair in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee and the local MP.
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