

Report Title	Pride in Place Impact Fund
Meeting	Executive
Meeting Date	17 December 2025
Report Author	Iftikhar Bokhari
Directorate	Place
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr David Whipp, Leader of the Council
Wards Affected	Barrowford and Pendleside, Barnoldswick, Earby & Coates, Boulsworth & Foulridge, Vivary Bridge, Waterside and Horsfield, Brierfield East and Clover Hill, Brierfield West & Reedley
Public, Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Background

- 1.1 The Pride in Place programme was announced in September 2025. It is the new name for the Plan for Neighbourhoods (formerly also called Long Term Plan for Towns).
- 1.2 Launched on the same day was the Pride in Place Impact Fund, a 100% Capital programme separate to the main programme. This 'Impact Fund' is the focus for this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund is a new £1.5million programme of central government funding, allocated to Pendle borough for use in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 2.2 This report seeks determination from the Executive for the use of this funding within Pendle.
- 2.3 The programme consists of 100% Capital funding with 50% of the fund paid to the council in 2025/26 and the other 50% in 2026/27. The fund is not ring-fenced for a particular area of the borough and so can be used where the local authority deems most appropriate.

3. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the Executive is recommended to:

- 3.1 Approve that Pendle Borough Council act as the Accountable Body for the Nelson Pride in Place Impact Fund.
- 3.2 Allocate the Pride in Place Impact fund to the areas as set out in the report.
- 3.3 Agree that, within the allocations agreed at 3.2 above, Officers develop a range of proposed projects in consultation with the stakeholders as set out in the report.
- 3.4 That the list of projects referred to in 3.3 above is the subject of a further report for approval by the Executive.

4. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 4.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund Guidance states that the Council must engage with stakeholders including the MP on how the funding is spent. In addition the Council is asked to engage with and seek support from a wider range of local stakeholders to identify priorities and deliver the Pride in Place Impact Fund.
- 4.2 The areas recommended for funding are based on the following rationale:
 - Colne, Earby, Barnoldswick and Brierfield; selected as these towns have a strategic policy focus for the Council in respect to their Town Masterplans and town Vision documents.
 - In addition Barrowford has been selected because it has not received a share of any recent regeneration funds invested into other areas of the borough, despite it being an important service centre within the borough and an attraction for visitors.
- 4.3 Nelson is not being proposed to receive a share of this particular fund as it is benefitting separately as recipient of the main £20m 10 year Pride in Place programme (the Plan for Neighbourhoods) as well as the existing £25m Nelson Town Deal fund.

Area	% split of the fund	£ (rounded to nearest pound)
Colne	37.2%	558,287
Barnoldswick	22.6%	339,327
Brierfield	18.2%	272,351
Barrowford	12.9	192,934
Earby	9.1%	137,101
	100%	£1,500,000

- 4.4 The apportionment of funds has been based on a split by electoral age population (age 18 and above); Parish area; Mid Year Population Estimates 2022.
- 4.5 Timescales in which to spend the £1.5m are very tight. It consists of the remaining portion of this financial year plus the next; giving little more than a year for delivery. All funds must be spent by March 2027 or be returned to government. The 50% of funding allocated for 2025/26 can be rolled over into next year but only if there is a plan for its use at end of year monitoring; in April 2026.
- 4.6 It is therefore imperative that a decision is made on allocation of the funds at this Executive meeting in order that Officers can start working up proposals for use of the monies.
- 4.7 For timescale reasons it will be important that projects can deliver and spend by 31st March 2027 and so they will only be accommodated where they are time efficient, planning efficient and procurement efficient to avoid unspent funds being returned to government.
- 4.8 When considering opportunities some basic criteria should be met
 - Is it Capital spending?
 - Does it fit with the 3 Objectives for the programme? (see below)
 - Can it be delivered by 31st March 2027?
 - Does it require a lengthy planning process or public consultation?
 - Match or leverage funding?
- 4.9 In those areas with published Masterplans, these documents provide a good starting point for identifying projects, but consultation will be undertaken to identify other projects as well.

Next Steps

- 4.10 An officer working group will be convened to progress the project.
- 4.11 Stakeholder consultation will be carried out to support and help shape these discussions. It is proposed that this will involve the MP, Area Committees and Town and Parish Councils.
- 4.12 Area representatives will be asked to consider whether they can leverage additional match funding contributions from Town Councils or Area Committees to maximise value for money and the scope of what can be funded.
- 4.13 Eligible activities must fall within one of three objectives:

- **Community spaces** – creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control or ownership of underused but valued local assets.
- **Public spaces** – enhancing the physical environment in public spaces - examples of initiatives include new or improved green spaces or public squares, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.
- **High streets & town centre revitalisation** – making these areas more attractive and welcoming places where people congregate and which encourage economic activity. Examples of initiatives that could be funded are shop frontage improvements, adaptations that bring premises back into use, streetscape improvements, public art, trails and wayfinding, and creating or improving the infrastructure for regular markets.

4.14 These should form the basis for investment decisions. There is no requirement to undertake projects under all the objectives, investment may be focused on one objective if that is the right approach.

5. **Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Housing and Healthy Communities)**

5.1 The delivery of the Pride in Place Impact Fund will meet with the following Council Priorities:

- **Priority 2: Proud and Connected Communities and Places**
The projects will provide visual improvements across communities, helping to foster a sense of pride in towns and neighbourhoods.

Priority 3: Good Growth

Supporting regeneration and new development within communities, leading to improved assets and visual amenities; which help to encourage visitors to town centres and neighbourhoods and promote investment.

6. **Implications**

6.1 **Financial Implications**

The Council is the Accountable body for the programme. The Council will receive capital funding of £1.5m. The allocation is to be spent over 2025-26 and 2026-27. Funding is broken down equally across the two years, 50% in 2025-26 and 50% in 2026-27.

All funding must be committed by March 2027. Any uncommitted funding as at 31 March 2027 or funding that is committed by that date and then subsequently unspent must be repaid to MHCLG.

6.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The programme must adhere to any legal and governance arrangements as required by government, including procurement and subsidy control.

6.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None directly as a result of this report.

6.4 Human Resources Implications

None directly as a result of this report.

6.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

None arising directly from this report

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Whilst there is no requirement to produce a formal plan for the Pride in Place Impact Fund or establish a Board to deliver it. Local authorities are expected to engage MPs and other stakeholders.
- 7.2 For reasons of timescales Officers will conduct light touch consultation involving Area Committees, Town and Parish Councils and then agree final projects with area Committee Chairs.
- 7.3 Town Masterplans are already supported by existing consultation for projects and development plans contained within them.
- 7.4 Any projects will need to meet with the rules and timescales of the programme.

8. Alternative Options Considered

- 8.1 Not applicable. The fund is an allocation from central government and must be used as directed within the timescales.

9. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Background Documents

Pride in Place Impact Fund Prospectus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-impact-fund/pride-in-place-impact-fund-prospectus>

Contact Officers

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