

Policy and Resources Committee	
Meeting Date	4th February 2026
Report Title	Pride in Place Impact Fund
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	Joanne Johnson
Lead Officer	Kieren Mansfield
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Approve delivery of the Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) capital grant programme as set out at Appendix II, in line with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government prospectus and guidance 2. Delegate authority to the Head of Place to deliver the Pride in Place Impact Fund programme, in consultation with the Prosperity Fund and PIPIF Member Working Group

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background to the award of £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Funding to Swale Borough Council. It sets out the preferences of the Prosperity Fund Member Working Group as to how this funding allocation could be used, with the funding to straddle the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

2 Background

- 2.1 Swale is one of the 64 local authorities in England that have been allocated £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Funding, identified by a combination of 'need' metrics such as deprivation, community infrastructure and Community Life Survey evidence relating to 'pride' or satisfaction in a place.
- 2.2 Whilst the primary Pride in Place Programme will target transformation in Eastern Sheppey over an extended period, the Impact Funding is aimed at providing immediate capital funding for the wider Borough.
- 2.3 £750,000 will be provided in 2025/26, with £750,000 to be paid in 2026/27, subject to the satisfactory submission of a monitoring report in February 2026, to include an initial spend forecast for the periods September 2025 to March 2027, across the 3 Pride in Place Impact Fund objectives. Thereafter the Council will be asked to provide financial reporting in May 2026, October 2026 and June 2027.

- 2.4 Unspent funds can be rolled over from the current financial year into 2026/27, subject to Government approval, with all funds to be committed by March 2027.
- 2.5 Funding is capital only and has 3 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 - including new or improved green spaces, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.
 - **High street and town centre revitalisation:** making these areas more attractive and welcoming places where people congregate and which encourage economic activity. Examples quoted in the prospectus include 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.
- 2.6 Local authorities will act as the accountable body for the Pride in Place Impact Fund and can work with local stakeholders to invest in interventions that meet local need. Councils must also engage with local MPs on how the funding is spent.
- 2.7 There is no requirement for local authorities to meet all of the objectives set or spend a specific percentage of funding on any objective. All of the funding may be spent under one objective or a mixture of objectives
- 2.8 Officers undertook a call for projects across Council service areas requesting project submissions that supported the Corporate Plan, were within the available budget and deliverable in the timeframe. The list compiled was considered by the all-party Prosperity Fund Member Working Group, comprised of Members from the Economy and Property Committee. This Working Group has been involved in the design and delivery of the programmes of spend through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund since 2022 and is viewed as a natural route through which to secure Member input into the Pride in Place Impact Fund, both now and through its delivery. A revised Terms of Reference for the Group is attached at Appendix II.
- 2.9 The Member Working Group met and considered 30+ projects across the Borough. Taking into account the geography of projects, the Working Group wished to support fewer, mostly larger projects that would make an impact and wished to support those that leveraged in or made additional impact alongside other investment. This led to an initial short list which has been subject to further consideration by the Working Group into January 2026, as further suggestions came to light.
- 2.10 The proposed list of projects at appendix I reflects the choices made by the working group. This incorporates 9 projects/programmes of work and includes a

capitalised provision for officer time and any external support required for the delivery of the capital projects.

- 2.11 There is also provision for a contingency fund, which is believed to be prudent for a capital programme for which the costing of many projects is based on estimates. Assuming that this the contingency is not required, this could then be used for projects within the programme, in consultation with the Member Working Group.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Approve delivery of the Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) capital grant programme as set out at Appendix II, in line with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government prospectus and guidance.
- 3.2 Delegate authority to the Head of Place to deliver the Pride in Place Impact Fund programme, in consultation with the Prosperity Fund and PIPIF Member Working Group.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To consider alternative programmes of spend for the Pride in Place Impact Fund. This is not recommended. The current programme has been subject to a service-wide call for projects and reflects wishes of the all-party Member Working Group. Significant changes would delay delivery against a time bound funding stream and compromise the Council's ability to report effectively in February to Government and could delay the release of funds in 2026/27.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 A call for capital projects across the Councils service areas was held, which included some engagement with established delivery partners, with potential projects. This generated a list of over 30 potential projects that were considered by the Prosperity Fund Member Working Group to generate the projects listed at Appendix I.
- 5.2 The draft programme has been shared with the local MP's, to seek their views. No feedback has been received at the time of writing the report.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Delivery of the funding has the potential to support a number of the priorities within the Corporate Plan. These are identified at Appendix I. Overall, use of the funding seeks to contribute to making the best use of assets by using the external funding opportunity.

Financial, Resource and Property	Swale Borough Council will act as the accountable body for the Pride in Place Impact Fund. It will receive the capital funding allocation to manage, within the existing finance governance framework. 50% of the funding will be released this financial year and a report submitted to MHCLG in February 2026 with a progress update and spend profile. The balance of funding will be released in 2026/27. The financial and resource impact on Swale Borough Council is largely around the management and delivery of the programme. Many of the projects will be delivered directly by the Council, as will the programme management. This will be challenging within existing staff resources and especially so up to September 2026, when the Council is also managing the remaining UKSPF and REPF funding that it has been previously awarded. As a capital fund, no explicit provision has been made within the funding prospectus to support this, although the proposal at Appendix II includes a capitalised provision to enable delivery.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Local authorities will be paid their 2025-2026 Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation following agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding, which has been returned. Monitoring requirements commence from February 2026, to include an initial spend forecast for the periods September 2025 to March 2027 across the 3 Pride in Place Impact Fund objectives. Thereafter the Council will be asked to provide financial reporting in May 2026, October 2026 and June 2027. All procurement undertaken will be in accordance with the Council's contract rules, processes and procedures.
Crime and Disorder	No specific impacts identified at this stage, although elements of programme spend will contribute to creating a safer environment.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No specific impacts identified at this stage, although elements of programme spend would contribute through planting and the creation of improved footways to encourage active travel choices.
Health and Wellbeing	Elements of the investment will contribute to encouraging the use and enjoyment of greenspaces and being active.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Satisfactory returns to Government in February are required to unlock the funding allocation for 2026/27 and monitoring returns will be required thereafter. Funding that is neither spent nor

	committed by March 31st 2027 will need to be repaid to Government. Managing the programme requires necessary safeguards and monitoring to mitigate against potential fraud and to ensure the programmes objectives and outcomes are met. The programme will require staff time into managing external funding and could impact on the wider service plan delivery. There are no health and safety implications identified at this stage, although each capital project will be subject to necessary safeguards through its design and delivery.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.
Local Government Reorganisation	None identified at this stage. The programme of spend will enhance existing Council owned community assets which will be transferred to any successor authority.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Pride in Place Impact Fund – Proposed Projects
 - Appendix II: Member Working Group Terms of Reference

8 Background Papers

[Pride in Place Strategy, MHCLG, September 2025](#)
[Pride in Place Impact Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)