


Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	7 November 2025	
Report Title:	Acceptance of £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Fund Allocation	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 Fenland District Council has been awarded £1.5 million from the Pride in Place Impact Fund to support regeneration initiatives across the district.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to accept the funding and delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to enter into all necessary legal and financial arrangements to secure and manage the funding, including the MOU with Government.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund is a government initiative aimed at enhancing local pride, improving public spaces, and supporting community-led regeneration.
- 2.2 Acceptance of the funding will enable delivery of strategic priorities aligned with the Council's corporate objectives.
- 2.3 Delegation to the Section 151 Officer to sign the MOU and accept the funding ensures timely and compliant management of the funding in relation to the funding offer.
- 2.4 The MOU must be signed and returned to government by COP November 7th.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - Approve the acceptance of the £1.5 million Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation for FY 25/26 and 26/27 awarded to Fenland District Council.
 - Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to enter into all relevant legal and financial arrangements necessary to bring the decision into effect and manage the funding in accordance with grant conditions.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/02OCT25/02
Portfolio Holder(s)	Chris Boden - Finance
Report Originator(s)	Matt Wright – Highstreet Programme Manager
Contact Officer(s)	Matt Wright – Highstreet Programme Manager
Background Papers	Pride in Place Offer Letter to FDC Pride in Place MOU

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund supports local authorities in delivering projects that improve public spaces, foster community pride, and stimulate local economic activity.
- 1.2 The Pride in Place Impact Fund has three objectives:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. High street and 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.

It is also noted that when deciding upon projects to deliver, Local Authorities should work in collaboration with MPs and other stakeholders to identify the interventions that will deliver the most benefits to local residents and breathe new life into the areas in which they live.
- 1.3 A working group to discuss proposals has been set up for 24th October and the subsequent project proposals will be brought before Cabinet for approval.
- 1.4 Fenland District Council has been awarded £1.5 million to deliver a programme of initiatives aligned with these aims. These payments will be made as two split payments; £750,000 in November 2025 upon receipt of the signed MOU and £750,000 in April 2026.

- 1.5 Local authorities are not required to submit a proposal or plan setting out how they intend to use their Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation for MHCLG approval.
- 1.6 Acceptance of the funding will enable the Council to progress delivery of projects in line with its regeneration strategy and the objectives of the fund.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Acceptance of the funding aligns with the Council's corporate priorities around regeneration, community engagement, and economic development.
- 2.2 Delegating authority to the Section 151 Officer ensures that the funding can be managed efficiently and in compliance with all relevant financial and legal requirements.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 N/A

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The alternative option of not accepting the funding was considered but rejected, as it would result in a missed opportunity to deliver significant regeneration benefits for the district.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

Legal Services will support the Section 151 Officer in entering into the necessary funding agreements as required.

5.2 Financial Implications

- 5.3 The General Fund Budget Estimates and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report, agreed by Cabinet and Council in February, projects a financial shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.432m increasing year on year amounting to around £3.4m by 2027/28.
- 5.4 Although there are currently many uncertainties regarding the budget for 2025/26 and the MTFS, there remains a significant structural deficit which the Council will need to address

5.5 Equality Implications

N/A

5.6 Any Other Relevant Implications

Environmental sustainability and accessibility will be considered in the design and delivery of funded projects.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Pride in Place Offer Letter to FDC

Appendix 2 - Pride in Place MOU



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities &
Local Government**

4th Floor,
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: pipifenquiries@communities.gov.uk

6 October 2025

By Email

Dear Colleague,

Pride in Place Impact Fund: Fenland District Council

On behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (the Secretary of State), I am writing to confirm that, the Secretary of State has allocated funding for 2025/2026 as set out in the [Grant Determination](#). The annual breakdown is shown in the table below.

Capital Allocation 2025/2026	Total Allocation 2025/26
£750,000	£750,000

Pride in Place Impact Fund MoU

Funding for 2025/2026 will be paid following agreement of your Pride in Place Impact Fund Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Please return a signed copy as soon as possible to the above email address.

Funding from the Pride in Place Impact Fund is to be used solely in line with the [Prospectus](#) and is subject to compliance with the terms of the MoU.

Other

Local Authorities are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring expenditure is spent in accordance with all applicable legal requirements. This includes, for example, subsidy control and public procurement law. Where Local Authorities pass the grant to organisations that are not Contracting Authorities, they should ensure that procurements achieve value for money.

Local Authorities are also reminded of their statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, officials will review progress on a regular basis as set out in the Pride in Place Impact Fund Prospectus.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact the Pride in Place Impact Fund team at the above [email address](#).

I and my colleagues look forward to working with you to deliver this investment and seeing the positive impact it will make on communities, businesses and individuals across the country.

Yours sincerely,



David Wright
Deputy Director: Local Government Finance

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

-and-

Fenland District Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the Secretary of State) and Fenland District Council (the Local Authority) regarding the administration and delivery of the Pride in Place Impact Fund (the Fund).
- 1.2. This MoU relates to the allocation set out in the [Fund Prospectus](#)
- 1.3. This MoU will be for the period September 2025 to March 2027. Changes will be made only where signatories deem it necessary.
- 1.4. The MoU sets out the conditions and expectations for the Fund.
- 1.5. This MoU is not intended to create legal or binding obligations. It describes the understanding between both parties for the use of funding specified in section 3 of this agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1. This MoU covers the funding commitments from the Secretary of State and the delivery, financial expenditure, agreed milestones, reporting and evaluation, communications and branding expectations between the Parties and the steps the Secretary of State could take in the event of underperformance if required.
- 2.2. The Secretary of State has published guidance on the delivery of the Fund in 2025-27 in the Prospectus. The Secretary of State will notify the Local Authority of any changes to the Prospectus and, if necessary, provide guidance on how changes are to be managed.

3. Purpose of the Funding

- 3.1. The allocation to the Local Authority is set out in the Prospectus.
- 3.2. The funding from the Fund is being provided to deliver activity in line with the Prospectus.

4. Reporting

4.1 The Local Authority will provide reporting on the Fund as set out in the Prospectus.

5. Financial Arrangements

- 5.1. The agreed funds will be issued to the Local Authority as grant payments under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Markets Act 2020 ('UKIM').
- 5.2. Details of the allocation will be confirmed in grant determinations and will reflect the published capital allocated for 2025-26 and 2026-27.
- 5.3. The Local Authority will receive a payment of 100% of the 2025-26 funding on agreeing this MoU.
- 5.4. The 2026-2027 allocation will be paid in the period April - June 2026, subject to submission of a satisfactory monitoring report in February 2026 as set out in the Prospectus.
- 5.5. Capital grant funding, as set out in grant determinations, may only be used for capital expenditure.
- 5.6. If the Secretary of State has concerns around future spending plans based on the experience of local delivery to date, or wider financial issues or governance affecting delivery, then the Secretary of State may pay in instalments, withhold or recover funding.
- 5.7. No funding will be provided for activity prior to the date of this MoU.
- 5.8. If the Local Authority has not committed all grant funding at the 31 March 2027, any uncommitted funding as at 31 March 2027 must be repaid to the Secretary of State.
- 5.9. If funding reported as committed as at 31 March 2027 is not spent in full the Local Authority will notify the Secretary of State and repay the unspent amount to the Secretary of State.
- 5.10. The Local Authority accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the Secretary of State's contribution, agreed in the annual grant determination. This includes potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties.

6. Branding and Communication

- 6.1. The Secretary of State will provide the Local Authority with guidance on the Branding and Communication associated with the Fund in due course.

6.2. The Parties agree to adhere to the guidance and any updates subsequently released by the Secretary of State or HMG on communications linked to the Fund.

6.3. The Local Authority should publish information regarding the delivery of the Fund in its area. e.g. by publishing a summary of the approved investments.

7. Evaluation

7.1 The Local Authority will support any evaluation of the Fund through capturing and providing relevant monitoring data and engaging as appropriate with MHCLG or its contractors.

8. Assurance

8.1. Funding will be managed within the finance governance framework adopted by local authorities and the existing local authority accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of the Local Authority's chief financial officer - Section 151/ Section 95 officer.

8.2. The Local Authority is expected to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to.

8.3. As set out in the Prospectus the Local Authority is responsible for applying management controls that:

- mitigate the risk of fraud;
- ensure funding has been used in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation;
- ensure that any procurement undertaken by a Contracting Authority funded by the Fund has complied with public procurement rules;
- ensure compliance with its statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty; and
- ensure that any personal data obtained in connection with the Fund's activities is handled in compliance with data protection legislation.

8.4. The Local Authority will respond directly to questions addressing the local delivery of the Fund and cooperate with the Secretary of State in any inquiries regarding the delivery of the Fund.

9. Programme Changes

9.1. The Local Authority will notify the Secretary of State of any proposed changes to its local programme through routine monitoring returns. The Local Authority does

not need approval from the Secretary of State to make changes to its local programme.

10. Compliance with the MoU

10.1. The Parties to this MoU are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary systems and appropriate resources in place within their respective organisations to comply fully with the requirements of this MoU.

11. Changes to the MoU

11.1. The arrangements under this MoU will be kept under review. Amendments to this MoU may only be made upon written agreement between the Parties.

12. Resolution of Disputes

12.1. Any dispute that may arise as to the interpretation or application of this MoU will be settled by consultation between the parties.

Signed on Behalf of the Local Authority (by Chief Executive / Chief Financial Officer):


X

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Signed on Behalf of Secretary of State:



Name: David Wright

Job Title: Deputy Director: Local Government Finance

Date: 29 September 2025