



Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 11 November 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny - Sustainable Economic Development

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Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report, Key Decision
Report Title	Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme and Local Assurance Framework Update
Purpose of Report	To update Cabinet on the delivery of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme (now referred to as the Pride in Place Programme) and present key recommendations to enable programme delivery to commence from April 2026. Additionally, to update Cabinet on programme governance processes including a proposed updated Local Assurance Framework required for the Newark Town Board.
Recommendations	That Cabinet: a) note the updates provided in relation to the Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative including the recent name change implemented by the UK Government of the 'Pride in Place Programme' (PiPP) and the related role of the Newark Town Board, as set out in section 2.0 of the report; b) note and endorse the Newark Town Board's PiPP Regeneration Plan for submission to the UK Government by 28 November 2025 (subject to Board and Section 151 Officer approval), comprising a 10-year vision document and four-year indicative investment profile; c) approve the addition of a revenue budget of £1,502,000 and a capital budget of £5,306,000 required for the first four years of the PiPP delivery (2026 to 2030) with individual financial commitments to be approved by the Newark Town Board and the Section 151 Officer. Both budgets remain subject to the council receiving sufficient assurance of funding through a finalised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from the UK Government, to be

	approved by the Section 151 Officer, as detailed further in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 of the report; and d) approve the proposed Newark Town Board Local Assurance Framework (LAF), as provided in Appendix 3 of the report and detailed further in paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13.
Alternative Options Considered	The governance and funding arrangements detailed within this report are set by the UK Government throughout the PiPP prospectus. In particular, the council's role as the accountable body for programme funding, with the local Newark Town Board considered the strategic decision makers. The recommendations within this report reflect the arrangements and the funding conditions set by MHCLG.
Reason for Recommendations	The recommendations within this report are necessary to enable the local Newark Town Board to oversee and deliver the PiPP over the next decade through the provision of programme budgets. The proposed Local Assurance Framework will support the council to effectively fulfil its assurance role, clearly defining roles and processes to be followed by the Newark Town Board throughout programme delivery.

1.0 **Background**

- 1.1 In March 2025, the UK Government announced the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' (PfN) scheme, providing up to £19.5m to 75 towns across the UK over the next decade (2026 to 2036). The programme is described as 'a long-term strategy to fix the foundations of those places most left behind and a 10-year plan that unlocks the potential of the places people call home'.
- 1.2 More recently in September 2025, the scheme was extended to a further 169 communities through the announcement of a second tranche of funding, resulting in a total investment programme worth £5 billion. Alongside the extension of the initiative, the UK Government announced the shift in the programme title from the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' to instead now be referred to as the 'Pride in Place Programme' (PiPP). This builds on from and reflects the UK Government's wider Pride in Place Strategy, announced alongside the additional funding areas, in September 2025.
- 1.3 The PiPP is administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as the lead UK Government department for the funding. MHCLG recently defined each local PiPP geographical boundary based on the definition of Built-Up Areas (BUA, 2024) as the default approach determining the identified funding area. The agreed boundary builds on from the eligibility metrics used by the UK Government to select the initial 75 towns for funding, including consideration of indices of multiple deprivation and population size, healthy life expectancy, gross value added per hour worked and skill level. A copy of the final approved geographical funding boundary for Newark is provided on page 13, **Appendix 1** of this report. It should be noted that this boundary is different to the version reported in June 2025 and adopted through the previous Long-Term Plans for Towns initiative (LTPT), due to changes in national policy and metrics used to determine all geographical funding boundaries.

2.0 Newark Town Board Regeneration Plan

- 2.1 As reported to Cabinet in June 2025, all places selected for the PiPP funding must convene local place boards to govern and make key investment decisions relating to the £19.5m investment; applying locally to the Newark Town Board. Each responsible board should work closely with their local authority to build a local 'Regeneration Plan' for their area and submit plans to MHCLG by no later than 28th November 2025 to draw down programme delivery funding from April 2026. Cabinet should note that in accordance with the arrangements set out within the UK Government's prospectus, the board is considered the decision maker for all strategic and investment decisions relating to the local PiPP programme and the owner of the Regeneration Plan.
- 2.2 The Regeneration Plan, comprises two key elements:
- **10 - year vision** - a publishable document setting out the board's vision for the area and the high-level intended focus through the PiPP investment over the next decade (2026 to 2036).
 - **Four - year investment profile** - a profile submitted to MHCLG detailing the board's intended financial commitments for the first four years of programme investment (2026 to 2030).
- 2.3 Since the announcement of the £19.5m award to Newark in March 2025, the board has discussed and agreed various draft plans and priorities relating to the development of its local PiPP Regeneration Plan. This includes identifying key investment priorities based on the findings of a variety of community consultation and engagement exercises dating from 2020 to 2025. This is complemented by various socio-economic data sets relating to local challenges and circumstances. Additionally, local plans demonstrate alignment to existing key strategies and investments including but not limited to; the 2020 Town Investment Plan, the emerging Newark Masterplan, the Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy and the Newark and Sherwood Community Plan. The board's local PiPP plans will be refined throughout programme delivery, responding to both ongoing project development and iterative engagement to ensure investment decisions continue to reflect local priorities.
- 2.4 A copy of the latest Newark Town Board Regeneration Plan vision document is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report with the supporting four-year investment profile provided in **Appendix 2** of this report. The Newark Town Board's Regeneration Plan is expected to be submitted to MHCLG by 28 November 2025 and will follow additional engagement with the local MP and the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), in accordance with processes defined within the programme prospectus. Prior to submission to government, final plans must be approved by the board, as well as by the council's Section 151 Officer from a compliance and assurance perspective.
- 2.5 To deliver the local PiPP, a total budget of £6.8m is required to finance programme activities from April 2026 until March 2030, comprising £5,306,000 capital and £1,502,000 revenue (as demonstrated in **Appendix 2**). Both budgets would be funded by incoming PiPP grant and would remain subject to formal confirmation of funds from MHCLG through a finalised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU would require approval by the council's Section 151 Officer following a legal review (however recognising that an MoU is not considered a legally binding agreement).

- 2.6 Cabinet should note that future approval is required from both the Newark Town Board and the council's Section 151 Officer to release individual project/grant scheme budgets for the proposed activity detailed within the four-year profile (2026 to 2030). This will follow ongoing project development and planning over the coming months, recognising that projects/grant schemes within the profile currently remain in their infancy or early development stages.

The Accountable Body Role

- 2.7 Newark and Sherwood District Council is considered the 'accountable body' for the PiPP and must provide assurance of the £19.5m funds through the Section 151 Officer. This includes ensuring value for money and appropriate use of public funds through the monitoring of decisions and processes, such as ensuring compliance with UK Public Contract Procedure Rules and the UK Subsidy Control Regime. Additional programme management support is provided by the council to monitor the day-to-day delivery of the programme, manage risks and finance, coordinate the board and work closely with MHCLG to ensure local governance and reporting requirements are met.
- 2.8 Beyond fulfilling the accountable body role for the PiPP, senior officers within the council maintain an active role as 'advisors' of the Newark Town Board as well as representing the council's existing role in local place-shaping and strategy development. This includes supporting the board to develop their Regeneration Plan and providing advice and recommendations regarding the strategic fit and deliverability of proposed interventions. The council may also commission activities on behalf of the board and support with coordinating grant schemes created by the board due to its accountable body status, where approved by the board and Section 151 Officer.
- 2.9 There is a possibility that the council will additionally participate in the PiPP as a 'Project Promoter/Lead' delivering projects directly through funding granted by the board. Examples of this in practice to date through alternative funding streams include the delivery of the Castle Gatehouse project, 32 Stodman Street and the Market Place improvement initiative. The council and other key local partners and organisations may have the opportunity to present additional proposals for grant funding to the board through a future 'call for projects' however if selected for funding in-principle and following a call process, a business case for any council-led projects would be presented to Cabinet for approval, prior to the release of funds and commitment to delivery. This will ensure that Cabinet is able to consider wider implications associated with any projects funded by the PiPP, owned and managed by the council.
- 2.10 Newark and Sherwood District Council is also represented as an organisation on the Newark Town Board through a membership role, with the position held by a single nominated elected Member. In accordance with the programme prospectus, further political representation is provided by Newark Town Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) and the local MP.
- 2.11 All known resource implications for the council associated with programme delivery are currently addressed through existing posts within the Economic Growth and Visitor Economy team, including dedicated support from a Programmes Manager (permanent) and Economic Growth Officer (fixed term). The four-year investment profile identifies an allocation of PiPP funding towards programme management for the accountable body, approved by the board towards financing resourcing needs.

Newark Town Board Local Assurance Framework

- 2.12 As reported to Cabinet in June 2025, the council has undertaken a review of the Newark Town Board's Local Assurance Framework (LAF), with a copy of the proposed and updated LAF provided in **Appendix 3** of this report. This process was completed to ensure the board's operations and ways of working with the accountable body remain compliant with the latest funding requirements set by the UK Government. This includes consideration of all responsibilities and assurance processes associated with responsibly managing public funds. The proposed LAF clearly sets out the role of the Newark Town Board in overseeing the PiPP, as determined by MHCLG.
- 2.13 In addition to the latest PiPP, the board has historically governed all live and completed projects within the 2020 Towns Deal programme. These projects are now integrated within the new Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), comprising former Towns Deal and LUF 3 projects. The UK Government's programme prospectus states that it is now the responsibility of the local authority to decide the appropriate governance processes associated with the LRF programme. With this in mind, the updated LAF provided proposes that the Newark Town Board maintains its role in overseeing the formerly titled Towns Deal projects. This is strongly recommended due to the board's strategic knowledge and insight relating to the projects, as well as members efforts to date to progress projects delivery. This arrangement would apply to the remaining live Newark Town projects within the Local Regeneration Fund of Newark Cultural Heart, Castle Gatehouse and 32 Stodman Street. It should be noted that the board's governing role would not apply to other projects within the wider LRF portfolio, including the live projects of Ollerton and Clipstone regeneration schemes (previously known as LUF 3).

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN25-26/2246)

- 3.1 **Appendix 2** presents the indicative allocation of grant funding for the newly named Pride in Place Programme, including the £200,000 capacity funding received in August 2025 under the Plan for Neighbourhoods for the 2025/26 period.
- 3.2 The table below provides a summary of the proposed budget allocations across both Revenue and Capital all fully funded from the PiPP grant.

Indicative Revenue Commitment	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
Accountable Body Programme Management	100,000			50,000	50,000
Events Programme	50,000	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Regeneration Plan Capital Projects Call		100,000			
Regeneration Plan Operational Working Budget	50,000	50,000		50,000	50,000
Community Grant Scheme		82,000	56,000	132,000	132,000
Revenue Total	200,000	382,000	256,000	432,000	432,000

Indicative Capital Commitment	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
Upper Floor Town Centre Residential Grant Scheme		150,000	650,000		
Community Grant Scheme		210,000	250,000	200,000	200,000
Regeneration Plan Capital Projects Call			836,000	1,405,000	1,405,000
Capital Total	-	360,000	1,736,000	1,605,000	1,605,000

Total Revenue and Capital	200,000	742,000	1,992,000	2,037,000	2,037,000
	200,000	6,808,000			

3.3 The proposed revenue and Capital allocations will be added during the budget process in line with the above profile with no further revenue implications.

Legal Implications - LEG2526/8471

3.4 Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[UK Governments Pride in Place Strategy](#)
[Pride in Place Prospectus](#)

Report to June 2025 Cabinet Meeting - Plan for Neighbourhoods