

# **Pride in Place Impact Fund Update**

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 02/11/2026

Lead Director/Officer: Sean Atterbury, Director of  
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

---

### Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Brian Stafford, Head of Standards & Development
- Author contact details: [brian.stafford@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:brian.stafford@leicester.gov.uk)
- Report version number: 1.0

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the City Council's Pride in Place Impact Fund programme and summarises the slide presentation appended.
- 1.2 The report highlights the current progress of the overall programme across the city.

## 2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

2.1 Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission is invited to:

- Note the contents of the report and presentation
- Review and comment on the update.

## 3. Overview

- 2.1 In January 2026, the City Council was awarded £1.5 million in funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) through the Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) programme.
- 2.2 The programme is being delivered by local authorities across the country and is intended to provide immediate support for visible environmental improvements, enhancing places and spaces that are of value to local communities. Eligible projects include improvements to community facilities and public open spaces, such as parks, playgrounds, and other community assets.
- 2.3 The programme has 3 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.

(MHCLG Summary, 2026: [Pride in Place Impact Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#))

- 2.4 The Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation comprises 100% capital funding and may be invested anywhere within the local authority area. There is no requirement for local authorities to deliver all of the programme objectives or to allocate a specific proportion of funding to any individual objective. Consequently, funding may be directed towards a single objective or distributed across a range of projects.
- 2.5 An initial list of proposed projects was developed in January 2026 for consideration under the programme. The focus of the funding was on enhancing community facilities, including play areas and facilities identified through the Libraries and Community Needs Assessment (LCNA).
- 2.6 Sites were selected using a range of assessment criteria, including:
  - Geographical distribution across the city;
  - Levels of deprivation, measured using deprivation quintiles;
  - Alignment with other City Council investment programmes, including MUGA refurbishment, Pride in Place, and the Place Expansion Programme delivered in partnership with Sport England; and
  - Quality assessments and the condition of existing facilities and equipment.
- 2.7 Following the assessment process, a programme of projects was developed to ensure that investment would deliver the greatest benefit to local communities while complementing other planned improvement works across the city.
- 2.8 The programme includes the refurbishment of eleven play areas, the creation of two new community food growing spaces, improvements to the BMX facility at Western Park, and seed funding to support community groups in taking over the management and operation of five community centres across the city.
- 2.9 A programme of engagement was undertaken with Leicester's three Members of Parliament in February 2026 to provide information on the proposed projects and their intended outcomes along with ward councillor information sessions.
- 2.10 The design of the play area improvements has been undertaken in-house, with construction and installation works being delivered by the City Council's Landscape Services team.
- 2.11 Good progress is being made across the programme. Two sites have been completed and are now open to the public, whilst works are currently underway at a further five sites. Minor delays have been experienced in relation to the supply of certain items of play equipment; however, preliminary site works have commenced at affected locations to minimise programme impacts. All projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2027, in line with the requirements of the funding programme.
- 2.12 The principal play area at Abbey Park is proposed to undergo refurbishment, including the replacement of existing play equipment and the removal of the obsolete i-play interactive equipment installed in 2007 through a partnership with Walkers PepsiCo.

The project will require both planning permission and Scheduled Monument Consent. Subject to the necessary approvals, the works will be procured through a competitive tender process for the supply and installation of play equipment by suitably qualified manufacturers and contractors.

2.13 Spend to date on the programme is £238k, which will increase markedly once the other play area and landscape works are completed, which is anticipated around the end of Qtr 3 / early Qtr 4 in 2026/27. Where individual project budgets are being supplemented by S106 contributions, these will be claimed in Qtr 3 also.

#### **4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

##### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications beyond those outlined in the body of the report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2026

##### **4.2 Legal Implications**

This report is provided for information and scrutiny purposes only and does not seek approval of any new decisions.

The Council must continue to ensure that the Pride in Place Impact Fund is delivered in accordance with the terms of the funding award and all applicable legal requirements.

Any necessary consents, approvals and procurement exercises required for individual projects should be obtained and undertaken in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements and the Council's Constitution

Signed: Kevin Carter

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

##### **4.3 Equalities Implications**

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

This report provides an update on the City Council's Pride in Place Impact Fund programme. The programme is expected to have a positive impact by improving access to safe, welcoming and well-maintained play areas, community spaces and public open spaces across the city. This is likely to benefit children and young people, disabled people, older people, families and communities living in areas of higher deprivation.

Site selection has taken account of geographical spread, deprivation levels, the condition of existing facilities and alignment with other Council investment programmes. This is intended to direct investment to where it is likely to deliver the greatest community benefit, while ensuring a citywide distribution.

Temporary disruption may occur during construction works, including temporary closure of play areas or parts of parks. This may affect families with young children, disabled people and older people. The impact is expected to be temporary and will be managed through appropriate advance communication and site notices. An overarching Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Pride in Place Impact Fund programme.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 15 October 2026

#### **4.4 Climate Emergency Implications**

There are no significant climate emergency implications arising from this report. Implications arising from specific initiatives should be given consideration as and when the relevant reports are submitted for decision.

**Signed:** Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246

**Dated:** 14 October 2026

#### **4.5 Other Implications**

**None**

Signed:

Dated:

#### **5. Background information and other papers:**

n/a

#### **6. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A – Pride in Place Impact Fund update slide presentation

#### **8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

**No**

#### **9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

**No**