REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

Pride in Place Programme Governance

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Matthew Dormer, Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Assistant Director		Rachel Egan Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
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Wards Affected		(Greenlands and Lakeside Ward); (Matchborough and Woodrow Ward);
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Yes
Relevant Council Priority		All Council priorities apply
Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

1) **The Pride in Place Programme Governance and Assurance Framework be approved; and**

2) **the Terms of Reference, Conflict of Interest policy and Code of Conduct that have been adopted by the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board, be approved.**

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In September 2025, the Government announced that an area comprising parts of Greenlands and parts of Woodrow had been selected to receive Pride in Place funding. Pride in Place is the Government's flagship communities programme and will provide funding of up to £20 million over a 10-year period to support long-term investment, drive change and improve outcomes for local residents.

2.2 The Government subsequently published a programme prospectus setting out the objectives of the fund, the types of activity that may be supported and the governance arrangements required to deliver the programme.

2.3 It is a condition of the funding that decisions on how funding is invested must be made by an Independent Neighbourhood Board, comprising individuals who live or work within, or have a deep connection to, the Pride in Place area, the local Member of Parliament and at least one ward Councillor.

2.4 To ensure transparency, accountability and public confidence, Neighbourhood Boards are required to establish robust governance arrangements and publish key governance documents including Terms of Reference, a Conflict of Interest policy and a Code of Conduct. These documents provide a clear framework for how Boards operate, manage potential conflicts of interest and uphold appropriate standards of conduct, ensuring that their activities are open to public scrutiny.

2.5 Whilst strategic decision-making is led by a Neighbourhood Board, the local authority is required to act as the accountable body for the programme. In this role, the Council is responsible for ensuring that public funds are administered fairly, effectively and in compliance with all relevant legislation, guidance and financial regulations.

2.6 On 17 March 2026, the Executive Committee resolved that the Council would act as accountable body for the Pride in Place programme and adopt necessary governance arrangements required to support programme delivery.

2.7 Officers supported the appointment of the Chair and Board members through an open and competitive recruitment processes. An officer-led recruitment exercise was undertaken to identify an independent Chair. The Chair was appointed by the local MP and by the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Property following consultation with the Leader of the Council (as the relevant portfolio holder), under delegated authority.

2.8 Following their appointment, the Chair led the recruitment of the remaining Board members with officer support. The final composition of the Board was approved by the local MP and by the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Property following consultation with the Leader of the Council (as the relevant portfolio holder), under delegated authority. This included the appointment of two ward Members. Details of the Board's membership is available on the Council's website.

2.9 Officers have subsequently provided support to the Greenlands and Woodrow Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board in developing its governance framework and supporting documentation to ensure that

the Board is equipped to fulfil its responsibilities effectively and in accordance with programme requirements.

2.10 As part of establishing the Board's governance framework, the Neighbourhood Board formally adopted its Code of Conduct at a Board meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2026. The Board subsequently adopted its Conflict of Interest Policy at a Board meeting held on 22 September 2026 and Terms of Reference at a meeting held on 20 October 2026.

3. OPERATIONAL DETAILS

3.1 The programme prospectus establishes Pride in Place as a partnership between a Neighbourhood Board, the local authority, the local Member of Parliament and the local community. The Neighbourhood Board is responsible for working with the wider community to develop and deliver a 10-year Pride in Place Plan.

3.2 As the accountable body, the Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant legislation, regulations and programme guidance as well as the safeguarding of public funds. The Council is also expected to support the Neighbourhood Board in fulfilling its responsibilities and to provide advice and guidance regarding appropriate governance arrangements.

3.3 The local Member of Parliament plays a key role in the establishment of the Neighbourhood Board, supporting its activities and encouraging community involvement throughout the programme.

3.4 Through active participation in consultation and engagement activities, the local community shapes and influences the neighbourhood priorities and holds the Neighbourhood Board, local authority and Member of Parliament to account for delivering against them.

3.5 The proposed Pride in Place programme Governance and Assurance Framework establishes the relationships, roles and responsibilities of the Neighbourhood Board, local authority, local Member of Parliament and the community. It sets out the Council's responsibilities as Accountable Body and strategic partner, together with the assurance arrangements that will be applied throughout programme delivery.

3.6 The Neighbourhood Board's governance documents have been designed to complement and support the framework, ensuring effective governance, accountability and compliance with the Council's obligations as accountable body.

3.7 Following a review of the Board's governance documents, a number of areas requiring clarification and amendment were identified, relating to quoracy requirements, ward member representation, consistency of conflict of interest provisions, the circumstances in which the Chair may be removed from office and safeguarding measures.

3.8 As ownership of the governance documents rests with the Board, the Monitoring Officer has written to the Chair setting out recommendations for a number of amendments to strengthen clarity, consistency and compliance with good governance practice. Officers will provide a verbal update on the Board's consideration of these recommendations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Pride in Place programme is funded through a grant provided by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The grant is split 63% capital and 37% revenue. All programme management costs will be met from existing resources.

4.2 The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for authorising funding agreements in accordance with government guidance and all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In its capacity as the accountable body, the Council is required to comply with the provisions of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985.

5.2 Where the Council awards funding to third parties, it is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. In addition, all proposed investments must be assessed for compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and all Pride in Place funded expenditure must be undertaken in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023, Procurement Regulations 2024 and Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 The role of Accountable Body will be transferred to the successor authority, following Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 The Pride in Place programme can support a broad range of interventions that reflect the priorities of the local community. These include regeneration, high streets and heritage; housing; work, productivity and skills; community cohesion and power; health and wellbeing; transport; safety and security; and education and opportunity.

6.3 Whilst decisions on how the funding will be invested will be made by the Neighbourhood Board and informed substantially by community engagement, there is potential for the resulting investments to contribute to the delivery of all of the Council's priorities.

Climate Change Implications

6.4 The specific climate change implications of the Pride in Place programme will depend on the projects brought forward by the Neighbourhood Board. Opportunities may include enhancing green infrastructure, improving the energy efficiency of community assets, promoting active travel, increasing biodiversity and supporting measures that contribute to climate resilience and adaption.

Community Impact

6.5 The Pride in Place programme aims to create stronger communities, thriving places and increased local control over decision making. Establishing a robust governance framework for the Council's role as accountable body will help ensure that the Neighbourhood Board operates in a transparent, accountable and effective manner, and that investment decisions remain aligned with the priorities identified by the local community. A clear governance framework will strengthen public confidence in the programme, promote equitable allocation of resources and provide assurance that public funds are managed appropriately.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.6 Community engagement has been undertaken to identify local priorities using a range of methods designed to reach a broad and diverse cross-section of the community. Participation demographics have been monitored throughout the process, helping to identify gaps in engagement with some groups. Future engagement activities will be targeted to address these gaps and ensure a more representative range of views informs decision-making.

6.7 The governance and assurance framework will ensure that all Pride in Place funding is administered in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

Projects and activities receiving funding will be subject to appropriate assessment to ensure they promote equality, inclusivity, and accessibility, and meet the requirements of the Act. This will help ensure that programme benefits are accessible to all members of the community and that potential barriers to participation are identified and addressed wherever possible.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The governance and assurance framework establishes clear roles and responsibilities ensuring that risks are identified, managed and monitored throughout the lifecycle of the programme. It will help safeguard public funds, ensure compliance with statutory and funding requirements and support successful delivery of the programme's objectives.

7.2 Where funding is passported to third parties the Council will undertake proportionate fraud risk assessments in accordance with the Government Functional Standard for Grants (7: Risk, Controls and Assurance). This will include appropriate due diligence, verification of expenditure, monitoring of delivery and risk-based assurance checks.

7.3 All projects will be subject to monitoring and evaluation arrangements to assess progress against approved outputs, outcomes and programme objectives.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Pride in Place Programme Governance Framework
Appendix 2 – Greenlands & Woodrow Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference
Appendix 3 – Greenlands & Woodrow Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Conflict of Interest Policy
Appendix 4 – Greenlands & Woodrow Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Code of Conduct

Background Papers

Pride in Place Governance Model Report to the Executive 17 March 2026

Board Members | Redditchbc.gov.uk

Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK

Government Functional Standard GovS 015: Grants - GOV.UK

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Matthew Dormer Leader of the Council	22/10/26
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Rachel Egan Assistant Director Regeneration & Property	28/9/26
Financial Services	James Walton Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer	20/10/26
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor – Governance	05/10/26
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Emily Payne Engagement & Equalities Advisor	2/10/26
Community Safety Team (if community impact implications apply)	Bev Houghton Community Safety Manager	22/10/26