
Report to CABINET

Pride in Place Impact Fund Grant Acceptance

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Building a Better Oldham

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Value for Money and Sustainability.

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Report Author: Chris Lewis, Assistant Director Creating a Better Place

20th October 2025

Reason for Decision

Cabinet Members are asked to approve and accept the £1,500,000 Pride in Place Impact Fund capital grant allocation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in September 2025 as part of the 2025 Spending Review.

Executive Summary

Oldham has been allocated £1,500,000 capital from the Pride in Place Impact Fund from MHCLG to be spent over 2025/26 and 2026/27. The Pride in Place Impact Fund will cover the following 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.

Recommendations

Cabinet Members are asked to:

- i) Approve the acceptance of the £1,500,000 capital Pride in Place Impact Fund from MHCLG and undertaken the following 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.
- ii) Note that MHCLG has issued a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which has been reviewed by the Council 's financial services.
- iii) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to agree the terms of the MoU issued by MHCLG and any funding agreement in respect of the grant award in consultation with the Directors of Finance and Legal Services and approve appointments of professional teams and contract award in respect of the agreed budgets.
- iv) Delegate authority to Director of Finance or Chief Executive to finalise and enter into the MoU issued by MHCLG and any funding agreement in respect of the grant award subject to the completion of any necessary due diligence on subsidy control compliance and authority to agree and complete any project change requests under the MOU and/or funding agreement.
- v) Delegate authority to the Director of Legal Services or their nominee to formalise any necessary legal requirements including signing and/or sealing any documentation referred to and/or required to give effect to the recommendations and/or delegations in this report and authority to approve the appointment of external legal advisers if required to protect the Council's interests and give effect to the recommendations in this report.
- vi) Delegate authority to the Director of Economy or their nominated representative to agree monitoring and evaluation of defined outputs and negotiations thereupon as required over the grant delivery period of 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- vii) Note and endorse that the internal governance and administration for the MHCLG grant will be performed via the Creating a Better Place Programme Board (CaPB) structures.

Pride in Place Impact Fund Gant Acceptance**1 Background**

- 1.1 In the 2025 Spending Review, the Government announced funding for up to 350 places as the cornerstone of our support for communities. This includes 95 places selected for the Pride in Place Impact Fund. The funding will be delivered by local authorities and targeted at areas 'in need' with the aim of building strong, resilient, prosperous, and inclusive communities.
- 1.2 The Pride in Place Programme will target transformation over the longer term but MHCLG recognised that there is also a need for immediate support to ensure other areas are able to deliver visible improvements to high streets and improve places and spaces of community value. The Pride in Place Impact Fund will provide this support.
- 1.3 MHCLG worked with local stakeholders including MPs, local authorities are best placed to manage investment that will increase pride in these neighbourhoods, which in turn will draw in private investment creating economic growth and opportunity. Eligible activities for use of the fund includes community spaces public spaces High Street and Town Centre revitalisation, indicative examples are included in section 2.3 of this report.
- 1.4 Upgrades to community facilities and public spaces such as parks, playgrounds and piers will help improve health and well-being, bring people together and strengthen communities.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Pride in Place Impact Fund capital allocation of £1,500,000 will be split into the following payments:
 - £750,000 = 2025/26
 - £750,000 = 2026/27
- 2.2 The objectives for the Pride in Place Impact Fund that will be undertaken are:
 - 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.

2.3 The indicative activities that support the Pride in Place Impact Fund are shown in the table below:

Objective	Indicative Activities
<p><u>Community spaces</u></p> <p>The focus of this objective is buildings and indoor spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing funding to a community group to take ownership of a disused asset • providing funding to refurbish or improve an asset already in community ownership • funding to refurbish or improve assets owned by public bodies for community activity • funding to create, improve or refurbish maker spaces • funding to create or improve art galleries, theatres, museums, libraries, cultural or heritage sites, sports facilities • creating or expanding on existing community assets to promote community cohesion
<p><u>Public spaces</u></p> <p>The focus of this objective is outdoor recreation spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating or improving parks or community gardens, particularly in areas with poor quality parks and gardens • improvements to a canal towpath, riverside walk or other leisure space • creating or refurbishing play areas and sports pitches/courts, installing outdoor gym equipment • providing new or replacing street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting and adaptations to reduce crime and the fear of crime • public art that reflects local culture and history, creating trails and installing new signs to help with wayfinding • creating and refurbishing footpaths, cycle ways and shared use paths • creating or refurbishing a pavilion or bandstand to support cultural, heritage, sporting and creative events • provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets
<p><u>High street and town centre revitalisation</u></p> <p>The focus of this objective is regenerating high streets and local shopping areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving street surfaces, street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting, measures to reduce the fear of crime, cycleways and shared paths • shop front improvement grants • grants to bring disused premises back into commercial use • provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets • providing infrastructure that supports street markets

- 2.4 Local authorities will be required to report against a limited number of progress metrics but there is no requirement to report against all metrics, only those relevant to the activities being undertaken. Below are the metrics and units of measure to report progress:

Code	Metric	Unit of Measure	Notes
PiPIF1	Number of facilities and premises created or improved	Number of facilities or premises	<p>This metric covers any and all facilities and premises that can be supported by the Pride in Place Impact Fund. It includes public parks and outdoor spaces, improved commercial and community buildings, sports facilities and heritage and cultural venues.</p> <p>The amount of space created or improved should be counted under the relevant metrics e.g. if a project improves a community centre report that as one under this metric and report the amount of space improved under PiPIF3.</p> <p>Outdoor spaces and buildings used together e.g. a sports pitch and a club house should be counted as one under this metric.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p>
PiPIF2	Amount of commercial space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>The amount of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to: retail, hospitality, office and industrial space.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p> <p>Commercial space that is ancillary to the main use of the premises can also be counted, for example a café area in a community centre or sports club, but should not be reported under PiPIF5.</p>
PiPIF3	Amount of community, culture, sports, or heritage space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>This metric should be used to report the space created or improved in buildings reported under PiPIF1, commercial space should be reported under PiPIF2.</p> <p>Structures that might not normally be considered buildings e.g. band stands or covered seating areas in parks may also be counted under this metric.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p>

Code	Metric	Unit of Measure	Notes
PiPIF4	Amount of green or blue space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>Green or blue space means any vegetated land, or water including public gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries, allotments, as well as green corridors like paths. It does not include paved spaces between or around buildings; for this, see PiPIF5.</p> <p>Improved means adding, renovating or repairing facilities and landscaping. It does not include maintenance of existing greenspace, such as grass cutting, pruning, and cleaning.</p>
PiPIF5	Amount of public realm created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>Public realm means the spaces between and around buildings that are publicly accessible, including squares, courtyards and streets.</p> <p>Improved means adding, renovating or repairing features with the aim of creating better public space and excludes routine cleaning and maintenance.</p> <p>This metric should not be used for parks and green/blue space, which should be reported under PiPIF4.</p>
PiPIF6	Number of green retrofits to non-residential buildings and or facilities.	Number of buildings	<p>The installation of measures designed to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities. This can include, but is not limited to, improved insulation or glazing, installing more efficient heating systems, the installation of solar, wind or hydro electricity generation and the installation of alternative fuel charging points for vehicles.</p> <p>Only report improvements to existing buildings or facilities, installation of green technologies to new buildings and facilities should not be reported under this metric.</p> <p>Count each building or facility once regardless of the number of technologies installed.</p>

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1: Do nothing. Failure to accept the Pride in Place Impact Fund capital grant allocation from MHCLG would reflect negatively on the perception of the town and its ambitions. It would have significant implications for delivery of the project budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.
- 3.2 Option 2: Formally accept the Pride in Place Impact Fund capital award allocation from MHCLG for £1,500,000 and enter into the MoU as set out in this report.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 2 is the preferred option to help ensure delivery of the projects and achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has been held with Members and senior Council officers.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The MHCLG capital grant award of £1,500,000 will be received by the Council Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation will be split into the following allocations:
- £750,000 = 2025/26
 - £750,000 = 2026/27
- 6.2 The Grant has been awarded under Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 and is a non-ringfenced grant that can only be used to fund capital expenditure in line with the grant determination.
- 6.3 The Council will need to comply with the terms and conditions as set out in the MoU and grant determination which include the requirement to commit all grant funding before the 31st March 2027 end-date of the funding, with any uncommitted funding required to be returned to the MHCLG, and demonstrate the achievement of the Objectives and Metrics of the funding as detailed in section 2 of this report and the MoU.

(James Postle, Senior Finance Manager)

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 S1 of the Localism Act 2021 give Local Authorities a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in their area.
- 7.2 The Council must be satisfied it can meet the objectives and terms and conditions and milestones of the funding imposed by the funding authority including any obligation to provide match funding and to monitor, keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns. Officers must also check the terms do not conflict with other funding conditions for the scheme/s or project/property already in place and ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and obtain any necessary Environmental Assessments.
- 7.3 All works, services and goods procured by or on behalf of the Council must be procured in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and all other relevant regulations
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including, where applicable, the Financial Procedure Rules and Land and Property Protocol. Officers must work with legal colleagues to approve and formalise the terms of any grant agreement or MOU in conjunction with Finance and Audit colleagues.

- 7.4 The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and Project Manager must ensure that Subsidy Control is considered in consultation with finance and legal officers and that all relevant assessments are made and recorded, all relevant notices are published, and all relevant regulations and legislation is complied with to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer and in compliance with the Financial Procedure Rules of the Council. External advice may be needed to support these activities, which will be a cost to the Project. The grant may amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Therefore, a subsidy control analysis of the grant funding and what it will be used for is essential before payment of the grant is received. This process will be undertaken by the Project Team led by the SRO with support and input from relevant officers.
- 7.5 In awarding any grants or passporting grant monies it is incumbent on the Council to consider the Subsidy Control regime and to comply with the relevant provisions. If any grant is determined to be a subsidy, details regarding the same must be published within three months of award for all subsidies in excess of £100,000 and the Report Author and SRO will need to liaise with finance and audit colleagues in this regard.
- 7.6 The Transparency obligations of the Council must be complied with together with any Framework and procurement related obligations.
- 7.7 The terms of any proposed MOU/Grant Agreement must be reviewed and agreed by the SRO along with legal and finance colleagues. Provisions of note and/or provisions with associated risk should be highlighted to officers for consideration.
- 7.8 If any grant funds are to be spent on supplies, works or services, the Council must undertake any commissioning activity in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, incorporating relevant national procurement legislation.
- 7.9 The Report Author has confirmed that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules have been and continue to be complied with.
- 7.10 The report contains information as detailed in Paragraph 3 of the revised Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 however this exemption is not absolute and will not survive once contractual arrangements are entered into or until such time that the public interest weighs in favour of disclosure.

(Rebecca Boyle – Corporate Group Solicitor)

8 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People

- 8.1 Yes (see Appendix 1)

9 Key Decision

- 9.1 Yes

10 Key Decision Reference

- 10.1 RBO-11-25

11 Background Papers

11.1 None

12 Appendix

12.1 Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment for Pride in Place Impact Fund Grant Acceptance