Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Delegated Officer Decision

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Delegated Officer Decision – 01 July 2026

Report Title
Authorisation to draw down Capacity Funding for Pride in Place Phase 1.

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Service Director Approving Submission of the Report
Simon Moss, Service Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Report Author(s)
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Ward(s) Affected
- Boston Castle
- Sitwell
- Dalton & Thrybergh
- Rotherham East,
- Rotherham West
- Keppel
- Greasbrough
- Rawmarsh East.

Report Summary

In November 2025 Cabinet delegated authority to the Service Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport, to draw down £415,103 of revenue funding to build capacity in communities and prepare for the delivery of the Pride in Place (PiP) programme. This is to ensure that the Neighbourhood Board, the community and the delivery team are upskilled and well-resourced for programme commencement. This report records this decision and undertaking of this work.

Recommendations

1. To exercise the delegation to draw down £415,103 of revenue funding to build capacity in communities and prepare for the delivery of the PiP programme as per the Cabinet report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A – Climate Impact Assessment
Appendix B- Initial Equality Screening

Background Papers

- Cabinet Report - Pride in Place.
- Appendix 1 Rotherham's Regeneration Plan.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Title

Authorisation to draw down Capacity Funding for Pride in Place Phase 1

1 Background

1.1 November 2025 Cabinet approved the submission of the Pride in Place Phase 1 Regeneration Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This secures up to £20 million to invest in Rotherham's Built-Up Area over the next ten years. The scheme is focused on accelerating economic growth and raising living standards in areas with worsening deprivation.

Government has allocated a revenue capacity budget to Pride in Place Phase 1 in order to support the development of Rotherham's Regeneration Plan, build capacity and prepare for community-led regeneration.

2 Key Issues

2.1 On the 17th of November Cabinet resolved to delegate authority to draw down the £415,103 allocated for capacity funding for the projects outlined below.

2.2 This report seeks authorisation to draw down £361,150.69 of this funding in line with expense incurred and forecast between announcement of Pride in Place in March 2025 and the end of financial year 2026/27.

2.3 **Programme costs from March 2025 to 31st March 2026:**

- Communications, consultation and engagement: £12,795.86
- Accountable body costs: £49,164.83
- Preparation for programme delivery: £1,500.00

Total: £63,460.69

2.4 **Programme spend forecast from April 2026 to March 2027:**

- Neighbourhood Board budget: £12,500
- Communications, consultation and engagement: £20,620
- Accountable body costs: £54,570
- Voluntary & community sector capacity building: £160,000
- Preparation for programme delivery: £50,000

Total: £297,690

Total to be withdrawn at this stage: £361,150

2.5 The remaining £53,952 capacity funding from this allocation will be drawn down to support the programme at a later date. Additional capacity funding forms part of the whole programme spend profile.

2.6 It should be noted that up to March 2025 under the previous iteration of the fund (Long Term Plan for Towns) £34,896 was defrayed on consultation and preparation of the bid. This forms part of the overall capacity funding allocation therefore the full spend to date is £98,356.75.

2.7 Neighbourhood Board budget

Government stipulates that PiP must be community driven, as residents are experts of their own experiences. To achieve this, the Central Area Neighbourhood Board will engage with and represent local people, putting them in charge of the future of their neighbourhoods. The capacity funding will resource PiP programme management and coordination, as well as Board training, expenses and meeting costs.

2.8 Communications, consultation and engagement

A big emphasis of the scheme is to expand the reach of communities and bring people together from different backgrounds. The capacity funding enables communications and consultation to make as many people as possible aware of opportunities that arise. The funding covers promotion, materials, events, incentives and the commissioning of support from the community and voluntary sector in engagement activities.

2.9 Accountable Body costs

The capacity funding contributes to the salaries and fees associated with the role of the Council in carrying out the accountable body function.

2.10 Voluntary & community sector capacity building

The PiP scheme is intended to be a grassroots programme, where residents are empowered and financially enabled to lead the change they want to see in their communities. Therefore, capacity funding has been allocated to strengthen capacity in the community and voluntary sector during the programme commencement. The details of how this will distributed will be developed by the Neighbourhood Board.

2.11 Preparation for programme delivery

The capacity funding will fund the technical elements of the plan development and delivery, including data acquisition and feasibility studies.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Do Nothing**

The delegated officer could choose not to draw down the capacity funding. However, Government has allocated this funding specifically for supporting the commencement of the Pride in Place Scheme and building capacity in communities.

3.2 **Approve the decision to draw down the allocated capacity funding.**

It is recommended that the delegated officer draws down the allocated capacity funding to ensure the Neighbourhood Board and accountable body are prepared for the commencement of the investment programme.

4 Consultation on proposal

4.1 Rotherham undertook a public consultation exercise, targeted at the selected geography from 14 July to 26 August 2025. This expanded on the extensive programme of consultation that was carried out in 2024 under the superseded Long Term Plan for Towns initiative.

4.2 Analysis of data from other consultation exercises in recent years was also utilised, including the Council Plan insights.

4.3 On the 17th of November 2025 Cabinet was consulted and approved the submission of the Regeneration Plan. This included a delegation to the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport to authorise capacity funding spend.

5 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report provides a record of the decision to spend £361,150.69 of the allocated capacity funding that will support the initiation of the Pride in Place Phase 1 regeneration programme.

5.2 Oversight of delivery will remain with the Service Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport, with progress monitored through established governance arrangements.

6 Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 As part of the PiP (phase 1) programme, the Council will receive capacity funding over multiple years as follows:

- Pre 2025/26 (awarded under a different grant regime): £250k

- 25/26: £200k
- 26/27: £150k

The Council has submitted a return to MHCLG outlining spend to 31st March and forecasted spend for the next 12 months. The position is summarised as follows:

Summary (£)	
Spend to 31st March 2026	98,356.75
Budget Remaining	351,643.25
Forecast for 26/27	297,690.00
Funding due in 26/27	150,000.00
Budget Remaining for 27/28 onwards	203,953.25

7 Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Service Director Legal Services)

7.1 This decision is within the scope of the delegation made by Cabinet on 17th of November 2025 as referred to in the report. As the Council is drawing down public funding in connection with the PiP programme, the expenditure of this funding must be for the specified purpose and the Council must comply with the grant conditions from MHCLG.

7.2 As the Council is the “accountable body” for programme delivery, it is responsible for setting up the Neighbourhood Board, and must ensure appropriate financial management, compliance with funding conditions and oversight of the programme.

8 Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no HR Implications for the proposals within the report.

9 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Neighbourhood Board will continue to increase engagement with children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure delivery of the programme meets the needs and addresses the ambitions of these groups.

10 Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 In alignment with the government’s provisions for the PiP programme, all interventions will aim to improve the quality of life for residents as well as providing equal and equitable opportunities for all. Therefore, all interventions will be underpinned by the principles supporting and promoting equality and diversity.

10.2 Refer to the Initial Equality Screening (appendix B) for further detail.

11 Climate Impact

11.1 The Capacity Funding Projects for the PiP programme are unlikely to have a large impact on carbon emissions and the climate. The projects which form part of the workload of staff based at Riverside House are not expected to significantly alter the existing levels of emissions generated in their usual course of work.

11.2 Building the capacity of the Neighbourhood Board, building the capacity of the community and voluntary sector and consulting with residents will modestly increase carbon emissions due to transport, emissions from non-domestic buildings and waste from activities and services.

11.3 Increased community cohesion, which is an expected outcome of the programme, can indirectly contribute to positive climate outcomes and the empowerment of the local resident to look after the environment they live in.

11.4 Further details can be read in Appendix A.

12 Implications for Partners

12.1 Growth in Rotherham's most deprived areas relies on the shared commitment of all partners., including VCSE organisations and local businesses. PiP is expected to have positive benefits for partners involved by creating more opportunities for collaboration and access to funding.

12.2 Further details on the Board membership and key stakeholder consultation are provided in the Cabinet Report appendix 1.

13 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Neighbourhood Board engagement is critical to the success of the Pride in Place programme as a community-led scheme. There will be regular communication, consultation and feedback between the Neighbourhood Board and the Local Authority to sustain their interest and commitment. This engagement will be acted on to ensure training opportunities are well-suited to the needs and interests of the board.

13.2 The training provided to the neighbourhood board will be designed to mitigate several risks identified in the programme's risk register.

14 Accountable Officers

14.1 Service Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Simon Moss.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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