

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

26 FEBRUARY 2026

Grassmoor and Holmewood Area Pride in Place

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes**

Contact Officer: **Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes**

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

For Cabinet to agree to participate in, and accept the role of accountable body, for the Three Pits PiP, the community led ten-year, £20m Pride in Place Programme for communities in the Grassmoor, Holmewood & Heath, North Wingfield and Tupton areas. As accountable body the Council will be responsible for the Programme initiation and management of the funding, compliance with all legal responsibilities and for joint working with local Members of Parliament to approve and appoint in independent Chair for the programme. Cabinet endorsement and delivery of the proposed Governance framework is also sought.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet agrees to support and become accountable body for the Pride in Place Programme whilst the Council is managing the Programme.
2. That Cabinet endorses the proposed Pride in Place delivery framework.
3. That Cabinet delegates to the Leader Council nominations for Pride in Place board and any other roles in the governance structure, both now and in the future.
4. To ensure engagement across the whole Pride in Place area, adopt the name 'Three Pits Pride in Place (PIP)' for the promotion and consultation of the Programme.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr Jayne Barry, Cabinet Member for Growth and Assets

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: The Council will be responsible for managing the process of allocating up to £20m Pride in Place funding through direct delivery, commissioning external provision or competitive open grant schemes.

From the £20m a proportion of revenue funding will be used to create fixed term posts to support the administration and management of the programme as well as other operating costs such as publicity, promotion and engagement. The Council has received £150,000 from this allocation for the area to undertake local community engagement, support local capacity building, establish the Neighbourhood Board, develop the Pride in Place Plan and support its associated delivery.

The role of the S151 Officer in Pride in Place:

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for ensuring that Pride in Place public funding is managed appropriately. In the accountable body role, they provide assurance that funds are received, held and spent lawfully, that financial controls and audit trails are in place, and that spending decisions taken by the Neighbourhood Board are affordable, compliant and within agreed budgets. They do not decide what projects are funded but must intervene if spending would be unlawful or financially unsound.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: The Council will be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

Public consultation responses will be securely managed in accordance with the Council's Data Protection policies and standards.

The role of the Monitoring Officer in Pride in Place:

The Monitoring Officer ensures that the Pride in Place Programme is governed lawfully and ethically. They advise on governance arrangements, conflicts of interest, decision-making processes and compliance with legal duties such as the Equality Act and standards of conduct. Their role is to protect the integrity of the process rather than the substance of decisions, stepping in only if a proposed action would be unlawful, procedurally improper or expose the council to legal risk.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes** **No**

Details: Fixed term posts will be created from within the Pride In Place budget to support the establishment and administration of the Programme.

There is also an expectation that existing Council Officers will support the delivery of the Programme and specific activity that aligns with established departmental responsibilities.

The role of the Head of Paid Service in Pride in Place:

The Head of Paid Service provides overall corporate assurance that the Council can properly discharge its accountable body responsibilities. This includes ensuring appropriate officer capacity and support is in place, that roles between officers and the Neighbourhood Board are clear, and that statutory responsibilities are met without the council taking control away from the community. They act as the senior point of accountability and escalation if governance or delivery issues arise.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £125,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	Yes
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	Grassmoor, Holmewood and Heath, North Wingfield, Tupton
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
<p>Stage 1 screening undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2 	Yes, appended.
<p>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	Yes Details: Meetings

<p>Links to Council Plan priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great place that cares for the environment A great place to live well A great place to work A great place to access good public services
<p>The Programme may contribute to all Council Plan Priorities.</p>

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 1.1 In 26 September 2025 the Council was informed that the Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) referred to as 'Grassmoor and Holmewood,' which covers communities in the Grassmoor, Holmewood & Heath, North Wingfield and Tupton areas, had been selected as one of the Government's 75 new Phase 2 Pride in Place areas, an initiative which puts communities at the heart of local decision-making. The area was selected based on its measures on the UK's Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the Community Needs Index, where there are higher deprivation levels and weaker social infrastructure.
- 1.2 Each Pride in Place area has been allocated £20m over a ten-year period, where Neighbourhood Boards led by the local community, their MP and the local authority. The local authority must work with the local MP to select an independent Chair and establish the Neighbourhood Board who are responsible for producing a 10-year vision and Pride in Place Plan which, following extensive community consultation and capacity building, should deliver against three core objectives:
 - To build stronger communities
 - To create thriving places
 - To empower people to take back control
- 1.3 Key timescales for the programme are the selection of a Chair as soon as possible, confirmation of the membership of the Neighbourhood Board by 17 July 2026 and submission of the Board's Pride in Place Plan by 28 November 2026. Within that timescale the Council will work with the MPs and the local community and service providers to undertake thorough consultation to understand the breadth of local aspiration for the area.
- 1.4 Having an identity which is more inclusive of the communities within the programme area will help with the promotion and public engagement with events, consultation and future action. Strong and independent communities in their own right, much of this Pride in Place area is linked by the Five Pits Trail. With three of the historical pits being in this area, the scheme has been named "The Three Pits PiP," with a nod to the past but with a clear focus on a new and exciting future for these communities. Using the MSOA name of 'Grassmoor and Holmewood' as the Pride In Place Programme name is potentially misleading and reduces engagement by failing to include the areas within North Wingfield and Tupton.
- 1.5 As the appointed accountable body, the Council has been awarded £150,000 for the area, to support local community engagement and the establishment of Neighbourhood Boards. Following consultation with the local MPs and building on the experience of other placed based investment programmes, the Council has developed a delivery and governance framework to ensure that the Programme is established and meets its requirements as soon as possible. This includes working with local Members of Parliament to approve and appoint an independent Chair for the programme. To ensure compliance, the Council refers to the suite of documents and guidance provided by the Government ([Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)), with officers regularly

attending the emerging online and in-person meetings with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and other Pride in Place areas.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

Geographical Coverage

- 2.1 The 'Grassmoor and Holmewood' MSOA covers communities in the Grassmoor, Holmewood & Heath, North Wingfield and Tupton areas, but with the exception of Holmewood and Heath, does not cover the whole electoral ward or parish in these areas (a MSOA is a geographical unit set by the Office of National Statistics of between 5,000 and 15,000 residents). A map of the area can be found in Figure 1.
- 2.2 Close working with the MP for area is a core principle of the Pride in Place approach and engagement with local MPs has commenced to seek views on proposed delivery models. The Three Pits PiP is a rarity in that it spans two constituency areas and therefore the respective MPs for both North East Derbyshire and Bolsover are central to the successful delivery of the Programme.
- 2.3 Whilst the Neighbourhood Boards may wish to extend their geographic footprint, MHCLG advise that this is not recommended, as funding can be spent outside of the area if there is clear benefit for people residing in the PiP area. A reduction of the geographical coverage is not permitted.

Figure 1: The Three Pits PiP Area



Funding Profile

- 2.4 The funding profile for the £20m Three Pits PiP budget is noted in Figure 2. 63% of the funding is for capital works, with the remaining 37% for revenue activity. £150,000 of the revenue has recently been paid to the Council to

enable it to commence the delivery of its consultation and other Programme development activity. Funding will be allocated over three periods:

- Period 1: 26/27 to 29/30 (4 years),
- Period 2: 30/31 to 32/33 (3 years),
- Period 3: 33/34 to 35/36 (3 years).

Figure 2: Funding Profile for the Three Pits PiP

Grant type (£ms)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
Capital funding	0	0.12	0.67	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12.43
Revenue funding	0.15	0.27	0.69	0.69	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	7.17
Total	0.15	0.39	1.36	2.15	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	19.6

- 2.5 It should be noted that the Government-led communications for Pride in Place suggests £2m per year for 10 years. As noted in Figure 2 above, the investment is below £2m per year until 28/29 and then above £2m per year beyond that year.
- 2.6 It may be possible for the Council to cashflow spend in early years to be £2m or deliver an early ‘quick win’ although at this time this guidance, detailed funding agreement or arrangements which enables us to fully understand the risk on which to base some of those decisions is not available.

The Chair, Neighbourhood Board and Delivery Structure

- 2.7 The Government is clear that Neighbourhood Boards will be led by an independent Chair, who is not an elected representative and who is appointed and approved by the local authority and the MP following open public competition for the role. Chairs are expected to be at the forefront of local engagement and work with the local authority to ensure that the Programme engages with local people, promotes the opportunity for local people to join the Neighbourhood Board, and drives a programme which meets their aspirations. A draft job description for the role (Appendix 1) has been developed and will be publicised subject to the outcome of this Cabinet decision. Considerations are also ongoing regarding potential remuneration levels for Chairs who are unable to undertake the generally voluntary position due to financial barriers (such as costs to cover care for immediate dependents to allow the Chair attend events).
- 2.8 The Neighbourhood Boards, which have to be registered with MHCLG by 17 July 2026, are expected to be inclusive and representative of the local community, with at least eight members, the majority (at least 51%) of whom should live or work within the PiP area. It should also include the local MP and at least one local councillor and Council officers may provide secretariat support as observers.
- 2.9 Pride in Place guidance suggests best practice from similar community-led programmes is boards of around 8–15 members strike the right balance between representation, legitimacy and effective decision-making. In an area including Parish Councils of Grassmoor, Heath & Homewood, North Wingfield and Tupton, two MP’s, District Councillors and County Councillors,

and the guidance requiring the majority of board membership to be non-elected, it is not possible to have political representation for each area and each body.

- 2.10 In addition and based upon the current Local Government Reorganisation timescales, District and County Council constituency boundaries will change through in 2028. It is therefore recommended that MP constituency boundaries are utilised to determine fair board representation from each community.
- 2.11 To ensure the Neighbourhood Board is truly locally led, it is proposed the Board consists of 12 voting members:
- 1 Independent Chair, recruited through open competition, selected by the local authority and MPs.
 - 6 Community resident/group/business representatives, recruited by the Chair, local authority and MPs via sought nominations and a selection process (to be determined). To represent the local communities and demographics of the area.
 - 2 MPs, as required by the guidance.
 - 2 District Councillors, one from each MP constituency area, to be selected by the Council. Following Local Government Reorganisation this will be an elected representative of the succeeding unitary authority.
 - 1 NEDDC (accountable body) Cabinet Member, to be selected by the Council, to provide senior representation from the local authority and accountable body perspective. It is recommended that this Member would be the Vice Chair, as has been the case for the Clay Cross Town Board.

In addition, the accountable body and advisory service providers (such as Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, etc.) may be invited to attend to provide technical and professional advice, but these agencies will not have voting rights. This ensures that the Board remains community-led and the potential for conflicts of interest between those with a vote and activities and services that are commissioned is minimised. The proposed structure is identified in Appendix 2.

- 2.12 Maximising the engagement and participation of local people is a core principle of the Pride in Place approach and therefore the delivery structure includes the establishment of a Three Pits PiP Forum. This will be a regular physical meeting where the whole MSOA community and stakeholders can attend and be engaged, consulted and informed. Due to the geographical coverage of the Programme it is expected this will be held at different venues.
- 2.13 Initial facilitated Working Groups which inform and respond to the Neighbourhood Board are also recommended. These would be open to the community and service providers and focused on the initial areas of:
- Engagement, Events and Activities which promote health, inclusivity and safety (e.g. fairs, festivals, fun days, seasonal activities, diversionary activities; communications such as newsletters, social media).
 - Prospering People (e.g. education, skills, work experience, business support, household advice).
 - Inclusive Community Facilities (e.g. parks, off-road footpaths, public buildings, leisure facilities, environmental projects, GPs, schools, libraries, housing, transport, digital and financial inclusion).

- Thriving Living Environment (e.g. attractive village centres, high streets, shopfronts, crime prevention).

Experience of similar Programmes such as Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local is that other community-led sub-groups and spin off groups may emerge, which is in the spirit of the Pride in Place approach. The number, themes and representation on the working groups will be the decision of the Board.

2.14 In addition to these core structures, support arrangements will be established for core functions. This includes:

- The Council as accountable body will ensure compliance with MHCLG requirements and delivery support for the Neighbourhood Board.
- Technical Working Groups will be co-ordinated by the accountable body for issues which may require the commissioning of feasibility studies or similar technical works in order to deliver a project which meets the wishes of the Neighbourhood Board that they cannot directly deliver. This may also directly link to the Working Groups and include some of their representatives.

Pride in Place Plan and Consultation

2.15 Neighbourhood Boards must work with local people, MPs and the local authority to develop a Pride in Place Plan which outlines the community's overarching vision for change over the next decade to reflect local people's priorities for addressing local challenges and aspirations. Recognising that local issues, priorities, opportunities and capacity to deliver may change over time, a more detailed Plan is required for the first 4-year investment period cycle, which will include the interventions the Board would like to pursue over the period and how that activity delivers across the 3 strategic objectives of the Programme.

2.16 The Plan must be submitted by the Neighbourhood Board 28 November 2026. At a Pride in Place meeting held on 10 February 2026 the MHCLG representatives advised that there was no prescriptive model for the plan, but it should be agreed by the Neighbourhood Board and clearly evidenced that it addresses the needs of the local community.

2.17 In addition to the three main Pride in Place priorities of *To build stronger communities*, *To create thriving places* and *To empower people to take back control*, discussions with the MPs have identified support for young people as a potential cross-cutting priority area for the Plan. There was also support for the principle of only supporting new or added value activity, rather than subsidising existing core funded services. It was recognised however that PiP funding could be used to bring forward improvements to an area sooner than larger scale delivery plans allow. For example, the Highways Authority may have a pothole repair programme for the area which is at a timescale much longer term than the local community's aspirations; accelerating such work could be considered through the Pride in Place Programme.

2.18 Meaningful community engagement and consultation with the grassroots community is a core ethos of Pride in Place and a breadth of engagement is expected through activities such as community conversations, community workshops or resident forums. Working with local groups to spread this

message is an important element of this approach and an Engagement Plan has been developed by the Information and Improvement Team.

- 2.19 To provide consistency, a questionnaire has been developed which will seek the views of local people at in-person events as well as allowing people to complete it online (with publicity of the website and community posters including QR to be launched shortly). By funnelling all responses through this process, the Neighbourhood Board can be presented with detailed information of the views of local residents, businesses and service providers. To maximise the opportunity to comment, the consultation will be open until 6 September 2026 and communication and engagement plans developed to maximise local engagement.

Accountable Body and Staffing Requirements

- 2.20 Experience of supporting other delivery programmes such as the Clay Cross Town Deal, the Bolsover North East Derbyshire Leader Approach, and the Grassland Hasmoor....Big Local Programme is that there is intensive work required to establish the operating structures, compilation of the strategic plans for Board consideration and ongoing co-ordination and community and senior liaison. At recent MHCLG sessions, the message from Phase 1 Pride in Place Programmes is that a realistic level of dedicated support is required.
- 2.21 The Economic Development and Programmes Team would host the additional dedicated staffing resource and job descriptions of two Pride in Place officers are being finalised, subject to job evaluation. To ensure a level of short-term consistency as well as medium- to long-term flexibility on fixed term contracts with the option to extend in consultation with the Neighbourhood Board. These posts will be funded through the Pride in Place budget allocation, with the intention to start as soon as possible to ensure that core areas of work can be undertaken within the deadlines of 2026.
- 2.22 The delivery framework outlined in this report is recommended to be the most appropriate way for the Council to fulfil its duties as accountable body for Pride in Place and ensure that key MHCLG timescales and expectations can be met.
- 2.23 It is recognised that the Government has an initial expectation that each Board transitions towards a community-led model of delivery by year three, for example with an established local community organisation acting as an anchor institution or the Board becoming a co-operative, charity, community interest company or community benefit society. Unless agreed by MHCLG, the local authority would remain the accountable body, with delivery responsibility delegated to the relevant community organisation.
- 2.24 In the short term the Council can be comfortable that its robust internal expertise on issues such as legal, contractual, procurement and human resource management will ensure that the Programme can access the necessary technical support to fulfil its duties.
- 2.25 The Council has previous experience of where the delivery role is led by a local institution which resulted in contractual and delivery difficulties which the

Council had to subsequently resolve. Any future programme management transition must therefore be sensitively managed to avoid causing disruption to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Board’s progress or exposing the Council as accountable body to decisions not conducive to appropriate legal practice or the Nolan Principles. Should the Council be uncomfortable with the risk of being accountable for a third parties management of the Pride in Place programme, the Council will need to re-consider their role as accountable body.

2.26 On 4 February 2026 the Government announced that a further 40 neighbourhoods would be added to the Pride in Place Programme. Whilst it is not yet determined if additional communities will be included from North East Derbyshire District, opportunities to share the lessons learned from the Three Pits PiP, as well as the staffing resource, will be harnessed where possible.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Providing the proposed level of support and commitment to the Three Pits PiP adheres to the principles established in the MHCLG guidance and ensures that a robust and compliant delivery framework is in place. This enables the local community, businesses, MPs, Council and other service providers and stakeholders to shape the delivery of the Three Pits PiP Programme to meet their unique local needs and priorities whilst not exposing the Council to significant risk or significant negative resource implications.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 There is a clear expectation from MHCLG that the Council fulfils the duties of accountable body at the beginning of the Programme. Not engaging and fulfilling the role would affect the development of the Neighbourhood Board and its development and submission of a Pride in Place Plan by November 2026.

4.2 Experience in supporting the similar community-led programmes, such as the Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local, is that the core establishment and delivery requirements can be intensive. An appropriate level of dedicated staffing support is therefore required.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Draft Job Description of Three Pits PiP Chair
2	Proposed Three Pits PiP Structure
3	Equalities Impact Assessment
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
<p>The proposed Pride in Place approach is informed by the regularly updated suite of documents and guidance provided by the Government: Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK</p>	