Cabinet

Date of meeting:	09 March 2026
Title of Report:	**Pride in Place**
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Amanda Ratsey, Service Director Team Plymouth
Contact Email:	Amanda.Ratsey@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AR_Feb2026
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to secure Cabinet approval for the governance, representation and delivery arrangements required to enable Plymouth City Council to mobilise the Pride in Place Programme in line with Government expectations and programme timelines. Specifically, the report seeks approval for Plymouth City Council to act as the Accountable Body, agreement for the Service Director for Team Plymouth to act as the Council's representative for all matters relating to the programme, including signing the Memorandum of Understanding, support in finalising governance structures, endorsing the Regeneration Plan and administering the full funding allocation as the Accountable Body.

The recommendations ensure that Plymouth City Council can meet the expectations set out in Government guidance, including the requirement for the Local Authority to act as the Accountable Body from the outset of the programme. This includes responsibility for grant compliance, financial controls, monitoring, reporting and due diligence

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Agrees that Plymouth City Council will act as the Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme and all of its requirements;
2. Delegates authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth to sign all associated contracts, funding agreements, where necessary in consultation with relevant officers, including the s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, and approve Pride in Place claims;
3. Agrees to accept and ringfence the capacity funding for Pride in Place and provides delegation to the Service Director Team Plymouth to use the capacity funding in line with government guidance and eligible activities.
4. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Growth, in consultation with the Leader, to undertake the necessary recruitment processes for the selection of the Independent Chair and members of the Neighbourhood Board, working in close collaboration with the MP for the area.
5. Agrees that the Service Director Team Plymouth shall act as Plymouth City Council's representative for all matters relating to the Pride in Place Programme.
6. Delegates authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth, to act as the Council's representative, including for the purposes of signing the Pride in Place Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) and completing any associated documentation required as part of the Council's participation in Pride in Place.

7. Delegates authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth, working in consultation with the MP and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board to:
    a. Finalise the boundaries and governance arrangements for the Plymouth Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board
    b. Ensure appropriate local oversight, community involvement and decision-making structures are established in line with Pride in Place requirements.
8. Delegates authority to the newly appointed Board, once constituted, in consultation with the Service Director Team Plymouth, to develop the Pride in Place Regeneration Plan on behalf of Plymouth City Council, to include public consultation and to submit to Government in line with the Pride in Place guidance.
9. Delegates authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth, in consultation relevant officers, including the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to review and formally accept the Pride in Place full funding allocation and any associated grant conditions;
10. Delegates authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth to distribute the funding in line with the programme requirements.

Reason:

The Pride in Place programme represents an investment of £19.6m in St Budeaux and £19.6m in Devonport, Morice Town and Mount Wise over the next ten years, supporting neighbourhood-led regeneration and delivery of local priorities.

To ensure timely and compliant mobilisation of the Pride in Place Programme. Delegating authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth enables Plymouth City Council to meet the demanding programme timetable set by Government, including tight deadlines linked to Board establishment, boundary confirmation and Regeneration Plan development.

Government Guidance states that the Local Authority must act as the Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Funding at the start of the programme, with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively. Therefore, Plymouth City Council must ensure there are appropriate governance structures and controls in place to fulfil this role.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing: This option would mean the Council does not proceed with the Pride in Place programme. As a result, Devonport, Morice Town and Mount Wise and St. Budeaux would lose access to approximately £40 million of government investment, significantly undermining community empowerment and regeneration opportunities This option was rejected because it would materially disadvantage the neighbourhoods.

Do not delegate authority: key operational and financial decisions would require repeated Executive or Cabinet approvals. Given the scale and pace required for Pride in Place delivery this approach is unworkable in practice. It would create unnecessary bottlenecks, slow down implementation, risk missing government deadlines, and compromise the Council's role as Accountable Body. This option was therefore rejected.

Passporting funding to an external organisation: This option would involve transferring responsibility for managing and delivering the programme to another organisation. It was rejected because the Pride in Place model requires the Council to fulfil Accountable Body duties, including due diligence,

monitoring, assurance and financial oversight. These responsibilities cannot be delegated to an external body under the Pride in Place requirements.

For these reasons, the preferred options are the recommendations that this report in seeking in the above section.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Pride in Place Programme provides long-term investment to improve local infrastructure, public spaces, community wellbeing and social cohesion, with interventions agreed by Neighbourhood Boards. This directly aligns with the Corporate Plan's commitment to trust and engage our communities. The programme also supports a multitude of aims in the Plymouth Plan, particularly within the strategic theme of 'Plymouth as a Healthy City'.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The Pride in Place programme is fully funded by government grant and therefore does not create a direct budget pressure within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Financial Risks

This programme is additional grant funding, targeted at a specific local area, for which the council will act as Accountable Body. Officer resource will be required to successfully meet the requirements of the Accountable Body function, programme management and community engagement activity. The council will work with the Neighbourhood Board to explore how the costs for these resources can be met.

Legal Implications

Plymouth City Council, as the proposed Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme, will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all terms and conditions set out in the government's Memorandum of Understanding, grant agreements, and any associated guidance. This includes obligations relating to proper use of public funds, financial control, monitoring, reporting, procurement, subsidy control, and audit requirements.

Officers and the proposed Board must ensure that Subsidy Control is considered in consultation with finance and legal officers and that all relevant regulations and legislation is complied with to the satisfaction of the s151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

Acting as Accountable Body establishes a legal duty for the Council to:

Ensure that grant funds are administered, spent and recorded in accordance with government conditions and applicable legislation.

Maintain appropriate governance, assurance, and oversight arrangements to mitigate the risk of financial mismanagement or non-compliance.

Carry out due diligence on the Neighbourhood Board and any delivery partners receiving funding.

Ensure that recruitment of the Independent Chair and Board members complies with constitutional, governance and probity requirements, including joint appointment with the Member of Parliament.

Entering into funding agreements and issuing onward agreements to delivery partners will create binding contractual obligations. Any breach of grant conditions or failure to comply with monitoring and reporting requirements may result in clawback of funding or other sanctions.

The delegation of authority to the Service Director Team Plymouth and the Strategic Director for Growth is lawful under the Council's Constitution, provided that decisions taken under delegated powers remain within the scope of the authority granted and are recorded appropriately.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
No direct environmental implications, however, a full CIA will be completed in line with guidance on Key Decisions.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*
An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for this programme.

Appendices
**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
A	Pride in Place							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
C	Climate Impact Assessment							

Background papers:
**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number** (if applicable) *If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.*						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Sign off:

Fin	DN.25.26.026	Leg	LS/00003010/11/LB/26/2/26	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	

Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 26/02/2026
Cabinet Member approval: *Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)* Date approved: 26/02/2026