

Cabinet
Council

7 July 2026
8 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Members:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities - Councillor N Akhtar

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Strategy and Performance

Ward(s) affected:

Binley and Willenhall, St Michael's, Tile Hill and Canley

Title:

Pride in Place Programme – Governance, Accountable Body Arrangements and Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards (Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields)

Is this a key decision?

Yes - The proposals involve financial implications more than £1m per annum and are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City.

Executive summary:

The Government's Pride in Place Programme, led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), is a long-term investment and capacity-building programme designed to strengthen social and civic infrastructure and support renewal in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Each neighbourhood will receive up to £20 million over 10 years, with funding split 63% capital and 37% revenue in line with Government requirements.

MHCLG guidance requires the programme to be community-led, with local priorities set through Neighbourhood Boards, while the City Council acts as Accountable Body for public funds and compliance.

Coventry has been selected for the programme in three neighbourhoods:

- Willenhall (Phase 2, announced in September 2025)
- Tile Hill (Phase 2 extension, announced in March 2026)
- Hillfields (Phase 2 extension, announced in March 2026)

Neighbourhood boundaries are defined by MHCLG using Middle Layer Super Output Area geographies and are set out in Appendix 1.

This report seeks Cabinet approval for:

- The Council to act as Accountable Body for Pride in Place across Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields;
- The governance framework and delegations required by MHCLG guidance;
- The establishment of a Neighbourhood Board for each area and the appointment of an independent Chair for each Board, working with the relevant MPs and the Council; and
- The use of revenue funding to support governance, programme planning, engagement, communications, plan development, monitoring and evaluation.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Council's participation as Accountable Body in the Pride in Place Programme for each of the three neighbourhoods and to accept funding of up to £2.5 million pounds per neighbourhood. This approval includes (but not limited to) the Council undertaking the roles and responsibilities allocated to it by MHCLG as Accountable Body and the adoption of the Pride in Place Programme governance arrangements, receiving the geographical boundary for the Pride in Place Programme as determined and delegation of authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, appropriate MP and Chair of the Board to make any necessary representation to Government to amend the boundary following consultation with the newly established Neighbourhood Boards;
2. Note that in 2025/26, the following actions have been undertaken by the Council (working with the relevant MP):
 - a. Receipt of £585,000 of revenue funding across the three neighbourhoods, with further payments of both capital and revenue funding to be received in subsequent years over a ten-year period in line with the Pride in Place funding profile and timelines, set out in the MHCLG Prospectus.
 - b. Acceptance of the sum of £285,000 in relation to Willenhall neighbourhood under delegated authority afforded to officers under Paragraph 4.5 of Part 3F (finance Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution

- c. Appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair for the Willenhall Neighbourhood Board with ongoing engagement to appoint members of the Neighbourhood Board
- d. Advertisement for two Change Manager posts that will focus on ensuring that the Council can successfully fulfil its responsibilities as Accountable Body for each of the three areas.
- e. Commencement of the advertisement campaign for the appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair for the Tile Hill Neighbourhood Board and the Hillfields Neighbourhood Board. The Council Representatives for the interview panel in relation to the appointment of the Neighbourhood Chair shall be as follows:

Tile Hill: Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Hillfields: Leader of the Council

- 3. Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to review and formally accept the subsequent Pride in Place offer / grant conditions from Government (for Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields).
- 4. Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance, following consultation with the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities to assist in establishing three Pride in Place Neighbourhood Boards (one for each of the neighbourhoods of Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields) through assisting with the necessary selection processes to make appointments to the Board and Independent Chair position.
- 5. Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with Director of Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer), the Director of Finance and Resources, the appropriate MP and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Boards (once appointed) to finalise the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference and Board Membership and to make any changes to respond to Government guidance or requirements. This delegation of authority shall include making arrangements for the reasonable expenses of Board members to be covered in accordance with Government guidance and requirements (including but not limited to the Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance).
- 6. Delegates authority to the to the newly appointed Neighbourhood Boards; once constituted, to develop a Pride in Place Plan (which shall include public consultation with the residents of the three Neighbourhoods) to submit to Government (subject to Section 151 Officer authorisation).
- 7. Delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Performance following consultation with Director of Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities (Monitoring Officer) and the Director of Finance and Resources to authorise spend

of any Pride in Place Programme funding for the purposes of establishing the Neighbourhood Board, developing the Pride in Place Plan, programme management, technical expertise for project development and other activities in accordance with government guidance (including but not limited to the Pride in Place Programme).

Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:

1. Approve the acceptance of the subsequent Pride in Place Programme grant funding of up to £20 million pounds per neighbourhood (being a total of up to £60 million pounds).

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List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Pride in Place Programme Proposed Geographical Boundaries

Background papers:

Pride in Place Programme Prospectus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus>

[Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Pride in Place Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-strategy/pride-in-place-strategy>

Pride in Place Programme FAQ: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-faq/pride-in-place-programme-faq>

Other useful documents

None.

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No.

Will this report go to Council?

Yes. 14 July 2026.

Pride in Place Programme – Governance, Accountable Body Arrangements and Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards (Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields)

1. Context (or background)

Background to the Pride in Place Programme

- 1.1 The Pride in Place Programme is a flagship government initiative aimed at delivering long-term neighbourhood renewal, by reviving areas that have been traditionally overlooked and to create stronger communities and thriving places. A key enabler of the programme is to transfer influence and control to communities, rather than prescribing projects centrally.
- 1.2 For each area to achieve this, MHCLG's guidance requires:
 - The creation of a Neighbourhood Board for each neighbourhood
 - An independent Chair, jointly approved by the local authority and MP
 - A 10-year vision supported by a phased investment plan
 - Local authorities to act as Accountable Bodies, particularly in the early years of the programme.
- 1.3 While Neighbourhood Boards set local priorities, legal accountability for the use of public funds remains with the local authority, in particular for:
 - Financial propriety and value for money
 - Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty
 - The Procurement Act 2023 and the Subsidy Control Act 2022
 - Managing Public Money principles and Nolan Principles of Public Life.
- 1.4 This long-term funding is intended to give communities greater influence over the future of their neighbourhoods. Each area will be led by a Neighbourhood Board, with community engagement and participation expected throughout. The Pride in Place Programme is designed to be:
 - Community-led
 - Flexible
 - Long-term
 - Supportive
- 1.5 MHCLG has identified a set of indicative interventions to guide Boards on the types of activity they may choose to deliver, while allowing flexibility to respond to local need. These cover: regeneration, high streets and heritage; housing; work, productivity and skills; cohesion; community power; health and wellbeing; transport; safety and security; and education and opportunity.

Coventry's Proposed Governance Model

- 1.6 Coventry will adopt a place-based but consistent governance approach, establishing:
- Three distinct Neighbourhood Boards (one per area)
 - A common Terms of Reference template aligned with MHCLG guidance
 - A single Accountable Body assurance framework within the Council.
- 1.7 Each Neighbourhood Board will:
- Be **community-led**, with a majority of members living or working in the neighbourhood (minimum 51%)
 - Include the relevant MP and at least one ward councillor
 - Represent a broad mix of residents, community groups, faith groups, businesses, youth and anchor institutions.
 - Have at least eight voting members plus Police, Housing, NHS and appropriate representatives having non-voting Board place.
- 1.8 Board membership should bring together residents, local businesses, grassroots campaigners, workplace representatives, faith groups and community leaders with strong local connections. The final membership must be approved by the local authority and the local MP.
- 1.9 The new prospectus sets out an expectation that each Board must transition towards a community-led model of delivery by year three of the programme.
- 1.10 Appropriate governance arrangements and technical support for the Board will need to be put in place, including documented decision-making processes, meeting papers and minutes, and a code of conduct based on the Nolan Principles.
- 1.11 In line with MHCLG expectations and best practice elsewhere:
- Board members will not be remunerated
 - Chairs may be paid a nominal amount to enable them to undertake the role where income would be a barrier
 - Reasonable expenses will be met
 - Conflicts of interest and code of conduct transparency requirements will mirror Council standards.

Role of the Council as Accountable Body

- 1.12 Neighbourhood Boards will lead decisions on priorities, with the Council acting as the Accountable Body for the funding. The Council will:
- Ensure that funds are distributed fairly and effectively
 - Ensure funds are managed in line with the Nolan Principles, the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty, and Managing Public Money principles,
 - Hold and manage Pride in Place funding
 - Put in place appropriate governance, assurance and audit arrangements
 - Ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, Procurement Act 2023 and any other applicable financial regulations as applicable
 - Provide 6 monthly updates and annual assurance to MHCLG via the Section 151 Officer.
- 1.13 The Council's role is enabling rather than directive. It will support Neighbourhood Boards with governance advice, community engagement expertise, communications, programme planning, data and insights, and technical support, while ensuring that decision-making remains genuinely community-led.
- 1.14 The prospectus indicates that, from year 3, some areas may move towards community-led delivery models, depending on local circumstances. Unless otherwise agreed by MHCLG, the Council will remain the Accountable Body and may delegate delivery responsibility, where appropriate, to community organisations.
- 1.15 Appointment of Independent Chairs**
- 1.16 The Chairs must be independent, not be an elected representative (MP or Cllr), have standing, credibility or leadership within the local community, be appointed jointly by the Council and the MP, be approved by Government as part of governance assurance, and lead the Board and act as public face of the programme.
- 1.17 There is expected to be an appointment process, which should be open, require expressions of interest to be made, and that a joint shortlisting and selection process takes place between Council and MP. As stated in the report, the appointment process for the Willenhall Neighbourhood Chair has already been undertaken with an appointment already in place. The appointment for the Neighbourhood Chair for Tile Hill and Hillfields is currently ongoing and the Council Representatives on the interview panel will be as follows:

Tile Hill: Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Hillfields: Leader of the Council

- 1.18 We're expected to conduct the necessary due diligence, determine/record any possible conflicts of interest, ensure political impartiality, and ensure community credibility.
- 1.19 The Chair of each area is responsible for proposing the initial Board membership to the Council and MP for approval. Where agreement isn't possible, Government will be expected to intervene.

Management of Funds

- 1.20 The Council should:
- Work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board and local MP to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding
 - Develop mechanisms that will empower the Neighbourhood Board in realising their role and driving forward a community-led vision for change
 - Facilitate the development of a place's Plan and its delivery while recognising the role of the Neighbourhood Board as the decision-making forum
- 1.21 This may include providing advice and support on legal duties (for example, impact assessments), supporting meaningful community engagement, or helping Board members navigate those requirements with which they may be less familiar, in the spirit of true partnership working. Together the Neighbourhood Board, local MP and local authority should ensure that:
- The appropriate capacity and capability are in place throughout the programme period to ensure that funds are distributed effectively in the local area
 - Residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in programme design and decision-making to ensure delivery reflects the priorities of local people and helps build capacity within the community
 - Monitoring and evaluation are undertaken according to published guidance.

Funding and Support

- 1.22 The programme provides up to £20 million per neighbourhood over 10 years, split between two funding streams: 63% capital and 37% revenue. Capital funding will support physical assets and infrastructure, such as estate improvements and the refurbishment of community spaces. Revenue funding will support delivery, including capacity building, staffing and community engagement.

Changes to Boundaries

- 1.23 The prospectus allows Boards to 'define the neighbourhood' by proposing changes to their boundaries, subject to MHCLG agreement. Any changes must remain consistent with the aims of the programme and be supported by evidence of community backing. Proposals to amend the default boundary must be submitted to MHCLG by the following dates:
- Willenhall 17 July 2026
 - Tile Hill 28 August 2026
 - Willenhall 28 August 2026.
- 1.24 Examples of instances where this may be appropriate include where a key community asset sits just outside of the default boundary, or it might exclude a key street which is understood by local communities as being part of the same neighbourhood. Including these assets would be an appropriate rationale for amending the boundary. Boards should not submit requests to remove areas from the boundary unless they can evidence a clear error in its inclusion.

Reporting and Accountability

- 1.25 As the accountable body, the Council is responsible for providing updates to MHCLG and maintaining public transparency. 6-monthly updates must be provided to MHCLG and made publicly available. These include:
- Each pre-delivery activity completed to date (e.g., capacity building, engagement) and a high-level breakdown of cost.
 - Each new pre-delivery activity planned for the next 6-month period and its projected cost.
 - Each programme project and activity completed, including a description, targeted interventions, and costs broken down by capital and revenue.
 - Each new programme being undertaken in the next 6-month period and project costs.
 - Any changes to Neighbourhood Board membership.
- 1.26 A full 12-monthly return is required detailing total programme delivery and pre delivery spend for the financial year, broken down by capital and revenue and progress metrics, such as jobs created or green space improved.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are three options available to the Council, which are to not engage with the Pride in Place Programme, to participate but without having the Accountable Body role, or to participate as Accountable Body which is the role government instructs Local Authorities to play in the Programme Prospectus.

2.2 Not engaging in the Pride in Place programme

This option would not be realistic or beneficial for the Council or for local communities in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields. It would be likely to delay, and could jeopardise, each area's access to its £20 million allocation, given the Council's role in supporting Board recruitment, the development of Pride in Place Plans and associated Investment Plans, and the establishment of the financial planning and governance arrangements required for a publicly funded programme of this scale. It would also affect the development of projects capable of meeting government requirements. This option is therefore not recommended.

2.3 Participate in the Pride in Place programme but without having the Accountable Body role

The MHCLG Programme Prospectus makes clear that local authorities are expected to act as Accountable Body at the start of the programme in each area. Although the programme is expected to move towards community-led delivery from year 3, local authority capacity will be critical in the early stages, particularly in establishing Neighbourhood Boards, supporting the development of compliant Pride in Place Plans, and putting in place the necessary financial and legal oversight. The Council also has a strong track record of acting as Accountable Body for major publicly funded economic, social development and regeneration programmes. This option is therefore not recommended.

2.4 Participate in the Pride in Place programme as Accountable Body

This is the recommended option because it aligns with the expectations set out in the Pride in Place Programme Prospectus. It will enable the three communities to access the available funding, ensure that Neighbourhood Boards are established and Pride in Place Plans are submitted within the Government's deadlines, and provide the political, strategic and governance oversight needed to keep delivery on track. It will also ensure that spend and activity comply with programme requirements.

3 **Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The Pride in Place Programme is a UK government initiative and areas for the Programme were selected by government using a methodology detailed within the Programme Prospectus. There was no consultation or engagement with the Council or local residents prior to the announcement of Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields being included in the Programme.
- 3.2 Community engagement and consultation to inform the focus of the Pride in Place Plans and where the funding should be directed is a core requirement of the Pride in Place Programme in each area. Although the Prospectus indicates

that it is the Neighbourhood Chair and Board's responsibility to drive such activities in each area, the Local Authority is responsible for supporting them to do this effectively. The delegations recommended in this paper will allow the Council to perform this function, working closely with the three Local MPs.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The three areas have all been awarded £20 million of Pride in Place funding over a ten-year period up to 2035/36.

4.2 In the Pride in Place Programme Prospectus, MHCLG has stipulated a series of deadlines that all neighbourhoods awarded Pride in Place Programme funds need to achieve such as:

- Neighbourhood Board membership to be confirmed and submission of any requests to adjust their default area boundaries by 17th July 2026 for Willenhall and 28th August 2026 for Tile Hill and Hillfields. The Independent Chairs need to be appointed before these dates, as it is their responsibility to lead on recruiting and appointing the other Board members.
- Pride in Place Plans need to be submitted by 30th November 2026 for Willenhall and 27th February 2027 for Tile Hill and Hillfields. MHCLG will then issue a Memorandum of Understanding to the Accountable Body once each Plan has been approved by Government. There is an expectation from Government that these Plans will be informed and shaped by engagement and consultation with the local community, and this will need to take place prior to development and submission of the Plans.

4.3 The Programme will also be broken down into three Investment Periods for each area, which will inform financial planning:

- Investment Period 1 (4 years): 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 financial years
- Investment Period 2 (3 years): 2030/2031 – 2032/2033 financial years
- Investment Period 3 (3 years): 2033/2034 – 2035/2036 financial years

5 Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 The report seeks authority to accept the Council to be Accountable Body of up to £60 million of Pride in Place Programme funding for Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields for the purposes set out in section 1 of the report. In each case, it constitutes the allocation for these neighbourhoods from a national allocation for the Pride in Place Programme, which is profiled annually in the MHCLG

Prospectus funding is split 63% c£12.4m towards Capital and 37% c£7.2m of revenue expenditure

- 5.1.2 As part of revenue funding within this £60 million, some of the funding can be used for Councils to undertake work to meet their Accountable Body duties, support community-led development, facilitate the necessary range of community engagement activities that are stipulated in the Prospectus, develop Pride in Place Plans for each area that are compliant with MHCLG requirements, and to provide the necessary technical expertise for project development and other activities in accordance with government guidance. The Council as Accountable Body will work with the MP and neighbourhood board to ensure expenditure complies with appropriate accounting standards, including the correct application of capital revenue funding classifications.
- 5.1.3 As part of this, there will also be a need for ongoing officer time commitments relating to governance, assurance and monitoring and reporting, and given the need to support three Neighbourhood Boards simultaneously (which will include but not limited to the work of the two new Change Manager posts), we will need to ensure that such time commitments are sustainable and proportionate. The Council will therefore work with the three Neighbourhood Boards to determine the level of Council Officer input that will be required to undertake these activities, and therefore the quantum of Pride in Place revenue funding that the Council will require to cover the costs of these activities.

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 The information in this report aligns to the government guidance in the government's Pride in Place prospectus, funding guidance and the governance and boundary guidance. This includes guidance on appointment of the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board and the make-up and recruitment of the Board.
- 5.2.2 Whilst the Council does not have a statutory duty or responsibility to support or deliver the Pride in Place Programme, section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives 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.
- 5.2.3 The Council will also wish to note those parts of the guidance which emphasize the key importance of the Council's role as accountable body. The [guidance](#) states that "*the relevant local authority in each place will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles*". This guidance goes on to state that "*accountable bodies may need to recover funding from project deliverers where subsidy control or state aid law has not*

been complied with" and "work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding".

- 5.2.4 The role of an Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme will require the Council to (and ensure that the Boards) comply with existing legal duties to:
- Administer public funds lawfully
 - Ensure the Boards' compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Procurement Act 2023 (and related subsidy control and procurement laws and regulations).
 - Uphold equality and human rights duties
 - Maintain transparent decision-making and audit trails.
- 5.2.5 Where any grant funding are to be spent on supplies, works or services, the Council will need to ensure such commissioning activity is in accordance with its Contract Procedure Rules and any relevant national procurement legislation. In the award of any grant or the passporting of grant funding, it will be for the Council to consider the Subsidy Control regime and to comply with relevant provisions. The guidance expressly notes the risk that grant awards may amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, and where external advice is considered likely to be needed to support this, this will be obtained to protect the Council's interest.
- 5.2.6 In all of this, it will be incumbent on the Council to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the obligations imposed on it by the MCHLG in the grant arrangements it specifies. The Council will be required to meet the objectives, terms and conditions and milestones of the funding imposed by the funding authority. This includes any requirement to keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns.
- 5.2.7 As work progresses on the Pride in Place project, the information governance team will be informed to ensure that we are complying with data protection rules.
- 5.2.8 Delegations in this report are designed to ensure compliance with MHCLG guidance while enabling timely delivery.

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

- 6.1.1 The City Council acting as Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programmes in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields will help to deliver the objectives of the One Coventry Plan. The overarching ambition is to improve local areas which will support addressing inequalities- they key tennent of the One Coventry Plan.

6.1.2 Improving Outcomes and Tackling Inequalities Within our Communities.

The Pride in Place Programme has been targeted at areas characterised by high levels of deprivation that are facing significant economic and social challenges, many of which have been overlooked by previous regeneration funds. As such, the tackling inequalities is integral to the ethos of the programme.

6.1.3 Increasing the Economic Prosperity of the City and Region. One of the core objectives of the Pride in Place Programme is to create thriving places. This could be in the form of physical improvements that would make the areas more attractive to do business or boost footfall, or to deliver projects that create more opportunities to connect local residents with jobs or training. Pride in Place activities could therefore act as a catalyst for improving economic prosperity of residents within the three target neighbourhoods.

6.1.4 Tackle the Causes and Consequences of Climate Change. The list of activities that could be covered through Pride in Place funding include those that are pertinent to energy, the environment, green and blue space, and nature. The City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure that the Pride in Place Plans and Investment Plans have a positive impact on improving sustainability within the three target neighbourhoods.

6.1.5 Continued Financial Sustainability of the Council. As well as our expectation that some of the revenue funding will enable the City Council to deliver the Accountable Body function, the Pride in Place Programme has potential to finance the delivery of enhanced services in the three target neighbourhoods (although this will be influenced by the focus of the Pride in Place Plans produced by the three Neighbourhood Boards).

6.1.6 Council's Role as a Partner, Leader and Enabler. The City Council undertaking the role of Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields will showcase the Council's role as a leader, facilitator and enabler, not least in how it will support the three Neighbourhood Boards in engaging with the local communities and draw in the input of key stakeholder bodies to populate the Pride in Place Plans. By supporting the Neighbourhood Boards with legal and financial compliance, it will also showcase the Council's role as a leader.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 Coventry City Council has a long track record of co-ordinating and delivering publicly funded economic and social development and regeneration programmes, and the risks associated with acting as the Accountable Body for this type of work are well understood. For example, there is a need for robust financial monitoring and management, and to ensure that all programme spend, outcomes and impacts are captured and fully evidenced, in line with audit

requirements. Risks of this kind are mitigated by ensuring that sufficient programme management resource is available to enforce adherence to the funder's rules, and to support the Neighbourhood Board and Project Leads to ensure they are delivering eligible spend and producing outcomes on time and to budget.

- 6.2.2 As Accountable Body, the Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the Boards comply with the Nolan Principles, Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equity Duty, Managing Public Money Principles, and legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control and procurement.

- 6.2.2.1 Subsidy Control.

Failure to comply with subsidy control requirements, shall be the responsibility of the Council. For example, if funding is passed on in a non-compliant manner, the Council may need to recover funding from project deliverers.

- 6.2.2.2 Public procurement regulations.

The Council will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant procurement legislations and regulations.

- 6.2.3 In order to mitigate any associated risks, the Council shall work closely with Boards to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for the use and passporting of funding in compliance with the appropriate legislative requirements.
- 6.2.4 There is a risk of time, given government's clear deadlines for having Neighbourhood Boards in place and Pride in Place Plans submitted. We will therefore ensure that sufficient programme co-ordination capacity is in place, as well as capacity and expertise to support community engagement activities, and thematic expertise to support project development.
- 6.2.5 There will also be a need to ensure that expectations within target communities are managed, as well as key political stakeholders such as the MPs and local Councillors. We will therefore use the full range of expertise across relevant service areas to effectively engage the community, support the Neighbourhood Board and local community to develop fundable proposals, support the Neighbourhood Board to communicate Programme progress and impacts to the local community, and ensure that the expectations set out in the MHCLG Prospectus are being complied with during both the programme design and delivery stages.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The principal impact on the organisation will be that we expect some capacity funding to cover posts within the Council for Programme Co-ordination activities (including both delivering the Accountable Body function and supporting the Neighbourhood Board with community engagement. Successfully bidding for UKSPF funding for these programmes will provide funding crucial to retaining highly skilled staff currently working on projects which are due to come an end later this year. There are no impacts on ICT or accommodation. Given that 63% of the funding is capital, we do expect some spend to focus on creating or improving physical assets or infrastructure, but it would only become clear in developing the Neighbourhood Plans on whether Council assets could be impacted, and if this were the case, we would engage appropriate legal and (depending on the nature of the project) other thematic expertise.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

- 6.4.1 We will develop Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA) for all three Pride in Place Plans as part of the submissions to government to ensure that the focus of the Plans and key investments are impacting positively on the full range of the local community. The City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure that Pride in Place activities will be compliant with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.4.2 To help ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is entrenched in the Pride in Place Programme in all three areas from the outset, the City Council will support the Local MPs and Neighbourhood Board Chairs to ensure that Board Member recruitment will be inclusive and designed to reflect the diversity of the communities in Willenhall, Tile Hill and Hillfields, and that community consultation and engagement activities secure participation from the full range of the local communities.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

- 6.5.1 The Pride in Place Programme can support interventions across a wide range of thematic areas, which include energy, the environment, green and blue spaces, and nature. As a cross-cutting principle, the City Council will support the three Neighbourhood Boards to ensure Pride in Place Programme activities have a positive impact on sustainability and tackling the causes of climate change. Where the Neighbourhood Boards and local communities wish to develop specific projects in these thematic areas, the City Council will provide specialist officer support to ensure that they have the strongest possible impact.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

- 6.6.1 Because the ethos of the Pride in Place Programme is to be community-led, we would expect multiple local public sector partners and community and voluntary organisations that are actively working in these areas and have worked in

partnership with the City Council to be involved in community engagement activities in actively shaping the three Pride in Place Plans. Depending on the thematic focus of activities within the three Plans, we would also expect some of these partners to be actively leading projects and potentially receiving Pride in Places funds to deliver the required activities.

Report author(s):

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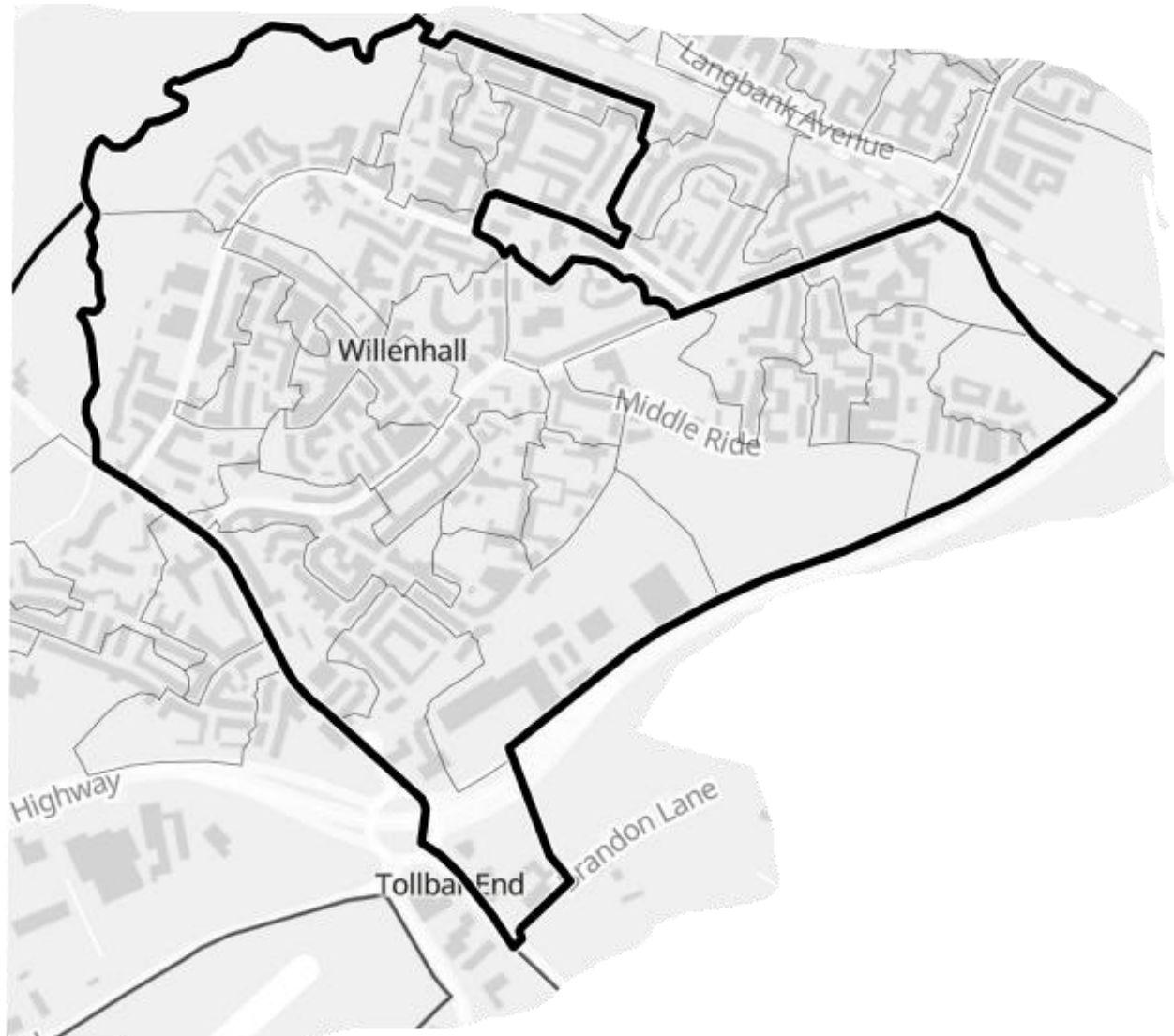
Enquiries should be directed to the above persons

Contributor/ approver name (officers and members)	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
David Hope	Business Development Manager	Economic Development	7/4/2026	29/5/2026
Maxine Shakespeare	Change Manager	Transformation	7/4/2026	29/5/2026
Helen Williamson	Finance Manager	Finance	20/5/2026	4/6/2026
Christian Hunt	Corporate and Commercial Lawyer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	20/5/2026	10/6/2026
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/6/2026	10/6/2026
Approvers:				
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/6/2026	11/6/2026
Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Resources (S151 Officer)	Finance	11/6/2026	12/6/2026
Clare Boden-Hatton	Director of Strategy and Performance	Strategy and Performance	11/6/2026	12/6/2026
Councillor N Akhtar	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	-	12/6/2026	26/6/2026

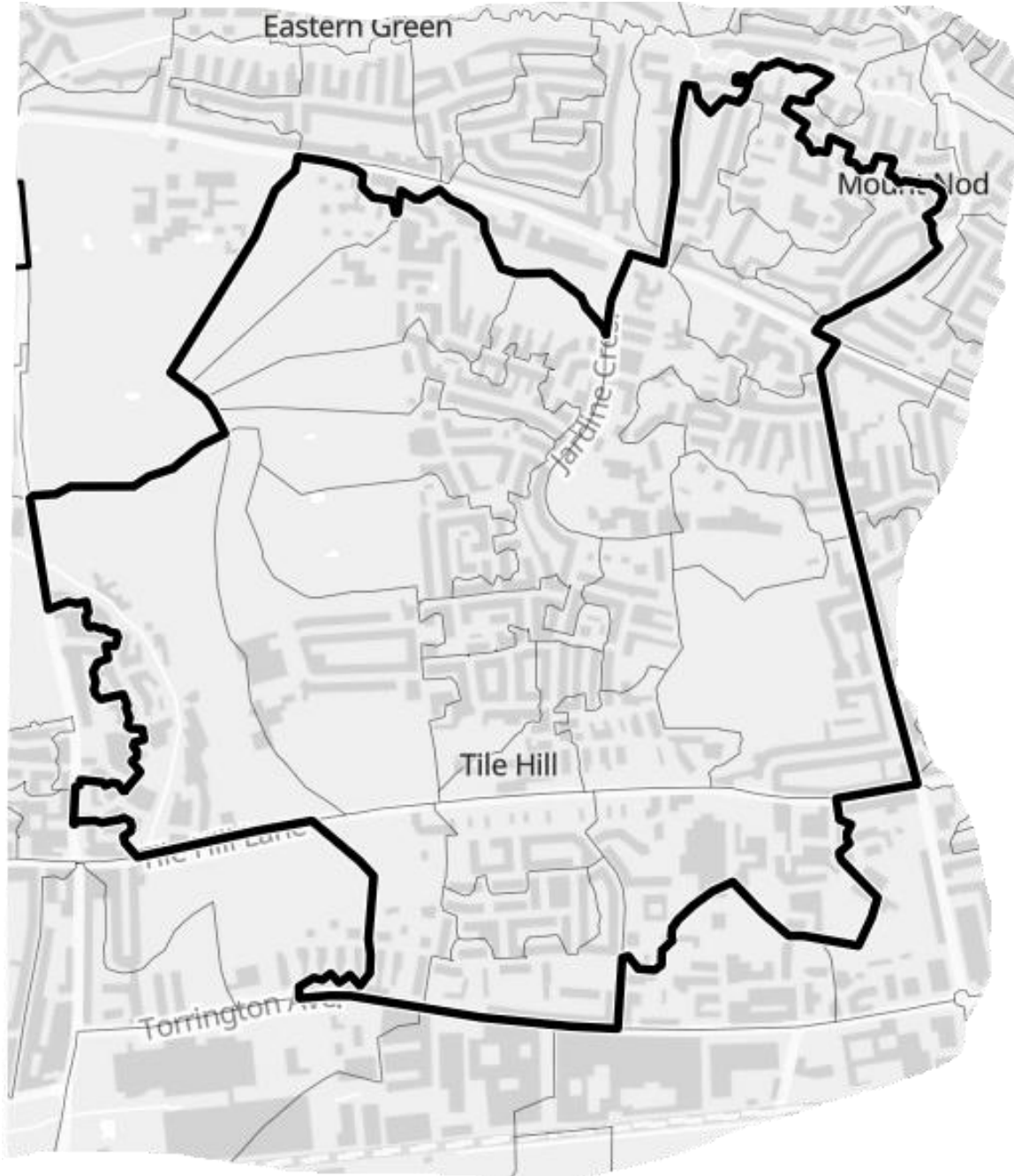
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Pride in Place Programme Proposed Geographical Boundaries

Willenhall



Tile Hill



Hillfields

