



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

Thursday 15 October 2026

Councillors' Pride Fund 2025/26: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Paul Davis - Cabinet Member: Communities & Civic Pride
Lead Director:	Katherine Kynaston - Director: Housing, Commercial & Customer Services
Service Area:	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	SMT – 22 September 2026 Business Briefing – 1 October 2026 Cabinet – 15 October 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1 Welcome the continued impact of the Councillors' Pride Fund which has allocated over **£2,538,000** and attracted over £1,000,000 of matched funding, to date, allowing Councillors to deliver the Council's key priorities in their wards and to protect, care and invest to create a better borough.
- 1.2 Recognises the importance of this funding in enabling a bespoke and local response to need in individual communities, in supporting community organisations to thrive and offering valued services to residents borough-wide.

Councillors' Pride Fund 2025/26: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough

- 1.3 Notes the final deadline for applications in the year 2026-27 is 1 February 2027.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update Cabinet on the borough-wide impact of the Councillors' Pride Fund allocated during the financial year 2025/26.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Councillors' Pride Fund was established in 2015 following on from the "Ward Cooperative Fund" and previously the "Your Money Your Projects Scheme" (2011). Until 2020 the annual allocation per ward Councillor stood at £2,000.
- 3.2 The Fund enables Councillors to deliver the [Council's five priorities](#) in their ward to protect, care and invest to create a better borough.
- 3.3 The Fund enables a relatively small amount of money to make a big difference at a local level. This includes support for small community groups that would find accessing other grant funding difficult but who are able to make a significant, positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities they support.
- 3.4 In 2025/26 each Councillor had a total of **£5,000** to allocate to projects in their ward.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 Councillors' Pride Fund 2025/26

- 4.2 The 2025/26 fund opened in mid-April 2025 and ran until 1 February 2026. During this time, a total of 385 applications were received and awarded. Many of these applications were supported by multiple Councillors with colleagues opting to join forces to enable their funding to go further.
- 4.3 In 2025/26 Councillors allocated £270,000 taking the total grant funding allocated since 2011 to **£2,538,000**.
- 4.4 Councillors and applicants are encouraged to seek match funding for their grants to ensure the funding can go further. In 2025/26 total match funding of £130,635 was achieved, meaning that for every £1 allocated from the Councillors' Pride Fund, an additional 48p of match funding was secured. Sources of match funding included for example, Town and Parish Councils, other grant funders and the applicants own financial contribution to a project.
- 4.5 In the last seven years the Councillors' Pride Fund has attracted £1,076,635 in match funding meaning that in excess of £3,614,635 has been allocated to schemes across the borough through the Councillors' Pride Fund and match funding since April 2019.

4.6 This report highlights how Councillors have used the funding to support the Council's priorities in 2025/26.

4.7 **Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community**

4.7.1 The following examples demonstrate how projects funded under the priority 'Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community' have made a positive difference across the borough. Through a diverse range of activities, services and community initiatives, these projects have helped residents build stronger connections, improve their physical and mental wellbeing, develop new skills and access valuable opportunities. Collectively, they contribute to creating thriving, resilient and inclusive communities where people of all ages can reach their full potential.

4.7.2 Young people have been supported to lead healthy, active and well-connected lifestyles through a range of initiatives, including:

- Youth Clubs, supported in the wards of Overdale & The Rock, Lawley, Donnington, Wrockwardine Wood & Trench, Hadley & Leegomery, The Nedge, Dawley & Aqueduct, Oakengates & Ketley Bank, Woodside and Ketley. Funding has contributed towards delivery costs, equipment, resources and activities, ensuring young people have access to safe and welcoming spaces where they can socialise, build friendships, develop confidence and engage positively with their local communities.
- Councillors in Newport West, Newport East, Priorslee, The Nedge and Horsehay & Lightmoor have supported a number of junior football clubs through grants for kits and equipment, helping more young people to participate in sport, develop teamwork skills and enjoy the physical and social benefits of regular activity.
- In Wrockwardine a £360 grant supported the set-up of The Extra Chromie Club, a new group which provides a safe, supportive, and non-judgemental space for people of all ages with Down Syndrome and their families/carers to get together and take part in activities.
- In Newport North and Newport West a £5,500 grant saw 10 refurbished 'Gym standard' Concept 'C' Rowing Machines installed in the PE department at Burton Borough School. The investment has enhanced access to high-quality sporting equipment, supporting students to improve their fitness and engage in physical activity.

4.7.3 Projects in schools have also provided new learning spaces and activities for children, such as:

- In Wrockwardine Wood & Trench where a £1,200 grant will contribute towards a new SEND sensory and regulation room at Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School. Providing a dedicated space where pupils can develop self-regulation skills and receive additional support to help them learn, thrive and achieve their potential.

- In Madeley & Sutton Hill, a £700 grant supported the purchase of specialist sensory equipment for a newly transformed sensory space at John Randall Primary School, creating an inclusive environment that supports pupils' wellbeing and learning needs.
- Also in Wrockwardine Wood funding enabled Wrockwardine Infant School to install a new storytelling chair within their refurbished garden area, creating an outdoor learning space where children's creativity, imagination and love of reading can flourish.
- In Admaston & Bratton, St Peters Bratton C of E Academy received £3,000 towards its "Mark My Play" project. The installation of playground markings will encourage active play during breaktimes and lunchtimes, support the development of social skills and teamwork, and incorporate features designed to promote road safety awareness.
- In The Nedge, Randlay Primary School enhanced their allotment project, with a grant to develop safe, accessible bark pathways throughout and purchasing additional compost, seeds and other resources to enable children to watch the seeds grow and mature.
- And finally, pupils have also been able to fully take part in activities away from the school environment, including a number of end of year activities for year 6 pupils across the borough. Plus in Ketley, Meadows Primary School & Nursery received funding to support a visit to London for members of its Film Club after being shortlisted for a national award. Reflecting on the experience, the Headteacher commented:

"I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to the transport for our Film Club, enabling us to travel to London in recognition of our nomination for 'Best Animation - 5 to 11' in the national awards.

Thanks to your support, we were able to take all 23 members of our club to London for an opportunity of a lifetime. The children's genuine awe and wonder in experiencing the bustling city was truly a sight to behold!

During our visit, the children had the extraordinary experience of visiting the Houses of Parliament, along with many other iconic sights and sounds of London. This trip has left a lasting impression on them and has inspired their creative spirits even further."

- 4.7.4 Children in Care and Care Leavers also benefitted from targeted support. Such as grants awarded in Oakengates & Ketley Bank and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench to contribute towards the "Hotshots Annual Celebration" event which recognises and celebrates the achievements of children in care and care leavers. Funding also supported wider enrichment opportunities, including a visit to the House of Commons, helping to broaden horizons, build confidence and create positive and memorable experiences for some of the borough's most vulnerable young people. The positive impact of these projects goes beyond the event itself, with participants commenting:

"I really enjoyed the event and loved having the opportunity to perform. Being part of the celebration made me feel confident, included and proud, and gave me a real sense of belonging."

"The visit gave me a real sense of belonging. I had never been to London before, and it was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about politics. The experience has inspired me to study Law and Politics at A level."

"Watching a live political debate, rather than seeing it on television, brought politics to life for me and has inspired me even further in my chosen career path."

4.7.5 The following examples demonstrate how funded projects are also helping adults to remain active, connected and independent within their communities. By providing opportunities for physical activity, social interaction and access to support services, these initiatives contribute to improved wellbeing and help reduce the risk of social isolation:

- Fit4All Community Group received funding to deliver weekly falls prevention exercise classes at Haybridge Hall, within Wrekin Housing Group's retirement living community room. The 30-week programme supported residents in Hadley & Leegomery to improve strength, balance and confidence, helping them to maintain their independence.
- A £1,000 grant enabled the delivery of the Wiggle & Giggle low-impact exercise class at the Hub on the Hill, providing older residents in Madeley & Sutton Hill with an inclusive and accessible opportunity to stay physically active while building social connections.
- In Malinslee & Dawley Bank funding supported the development of a new group at St Leonards Church - Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies. The weekly sessions offer a place for people to talk about their health, wellbeing and social care needs, and gain advice from a variety of organisations that could support them.
- In Shawburch and Dothill a £1,500 grant supported SASA (Shawburch and Surrounding Area) Wellbeing Hub to continue delivering a range of initiatives aimed at tackling loneliness and strengthening community connections. These included the Chatterbox Café, a Volunteer Recognition event, an Activity Fayre and a dedicated event focussed on addressing social isolation.
- In Woodside and The Nedge, grant funding supported a Mental Health Celebration event. The event provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the positive progress individuals have made in managing their mental health, while also acknowledging the valuable contribution of those who support others in their wellbeing journey. Those at the event spoke positively of its impact;

"It was a very nice initiative to celebrate true resilience and real-life survivors so thoughtfully, and it would be lovely to see it keep going. The event itself was

Councillors' Pride Fund 2025/26: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough

well-organised, ensuring that everyone who attended felt genuinely valued and included."

".....enjoyed it, there were some who were really anxious, but they all got through it."

"...it was truly a fantastic, inspirational, outstanding and powerful event..."

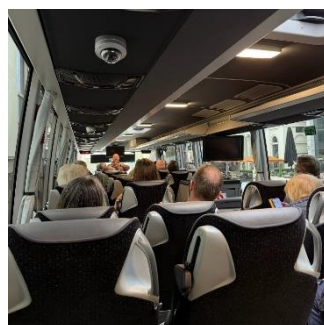
"Just being nominated meant the world to me"



Trophies given to award recipients at the Mental Health Celebration event

4.7.6 Funding has also enabled residents to take part in a range of community coach trips, helping residents access new experiences, reduce social isolation, and strengthen connections within their community:

- In Lawley and Overdale & The Rock four coaches of residents experienced a trip to Chester in April and in August residents enjoyed a trip to Blackpool.
- In Brookside and The Nedge residents enjoyed a family trip to Southport.
- In Donnington, the Donnington Friends of Severn Hospice took local residents for a day out in Blackpool.
- In Woodside and Madeley & Sutton Hill three coaches were hired to take residents on a trip to Llandudno.
- And in Priorslee, 1st Priorslee Rainbows & Brownies were funded to take the group to West Midlands Safari Park.



Trips to Chester and Llandudno being enjoyed by residents from several wards

4.7.7 The boroughs Armed Forces Family continues to benefit from a range of initiatives that recognise the invaluable contribution of serving personnel, veterans and their families. Funding has helped create opportunities for social connection, wellbeing support and community participation while ensuring tailored services remain accessible to those who have served.

- In Donnington, funding covered the cost of room hire and resources for the craft and sewing group, enabling the Armed Forces Community Outreach programme in Donnington to continue and expand.
- Models for Heroes groups were supported in St Georges, Haygate & Park and Hadley & Leegomery, with funding for kits, room hire and refreshments, helping these popular groups to continue to provide therapeutic activities and social opportunities for veterans. The groups provide a valued space for people to get together, with attendees saying they offer;

“A relaxed atmosphere with laughter and light-hearted banter. Like-minded people with a shared interest getting together in a calm safe space where there are no “experts” but people who share knowledge willingly if asked. The sessions also help to overcome isolation which can lead to depression. You don’t even have to make a model, just enjoy a chat over a brew and biscuits that is absolutely precious and helps enormously.”

“Whilst my disabilities will never go away, I now have a purpose in the community, a new set of friends and something to look forward to each week.”

- Councillors from Madeley & Sutton Hill and Woodside supported an Armed Forces Day lunch for residents aged over 60, bringing people together to celebrate service, share experiences and strengthen community connections.
- In Oakengates & Ketley Bank, funding supported both an Armed Forces Community Support Lunch for veterans and their families and a wider annual programme of events, helping to foster a strong and supportive local Armed Forces network.
- In Horsehay & Lightmoor Councillors supported the setup of a Games and Book Club for members of the Armed Forces Community. Hosted fortnightly at Horsehay Golf Club, the club provides a welcoming environment where participants can build friendships and reduce social isolation.
- Ex-Forces to Community's CIC received funding towards the employment of a dedicated Armed Forces Outreach Worker for the Telford area. The role provides tailored guidance and support to the veteran community as they navigate the transition to civilian life.
- Councillors from across the borough; Haygate & Park, Edgmond, Dawley & Aqueduct, Malinslee & Dawley Bank and Horsehay & Lightmoor supported the launch and delivery of services at the new Christopher Turley Armed Forces Hub. Funding will support a programme of events, activities and trips creating a

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central hub for connection, support and community engagement for the local Armed Forces family.

- And in Arleston & College, Haygate & Park and Ercall, funding was used to commission a public artwork near All Saints Church to commemorate the service and sacrifice of local veterans. The artwork provides a lasting tribute while raising awareness of the contribution made by members of the Armed Forces community.



Wellington Remembers, a new piece of public artwork commemorating the service and sacrifice of local veterans.

4.7.8 Funding has also helped communities across the borough celebrate cultural heritage, community spirit and shared traditions. These events bring residents together, foster a sense of belonging and create opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to connect and celebrate.

- Christmas celebrations were supported through community light switch-on events and festive markets in Donnington, Ironbridge Gorge, Shawbirch & Dothill, St Georges, Oakengates & Ketley Bank and Haygate & Park.
- Funding enhanced Christmas light displays in Lawley, Overdale & The Rock and Priorslee, helping to create welcoming and festive community spaces for residents and visitors.
- Christmas floats spread festive cheer, delighting children in Dawley & Aqueduct and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench.
- Community Christmas Meals were held for residents in Oakengates & Ketley Bank, Hadley & Leegomery, Muxton, Lawley and Overdale & The Rock, offering opportunities for residents to come together during the festive period, helping to reduce loneliness and strengthen community ties.
- A grant from Admaston & Bratton, Ercall, Haygate & Park and Arleston & College supported the delivery of a Black History Month Celebration at All Saints Church, Wellington, organised by TAARC (Telford African and Afro-Caribbean Resource Centre). The event featured traditional African dance, drumming and spoken-word performances, providing an opportunity to

celebrate cultural heritage, promote understanding and bring communities together.

- In Hadley & Leegomery the Nigeria Telford Community received support to deliver a Black History Month event that showcased performers, historians, traditional dance, music and storytelling. The event celebrated cultural identity while encouraging learning, inclusion and greater understanding across the community.

4.8 **Everyone benefits from a thriving economy**

4.8.1 Councillors opted to support the local economy and showcase areas through the provision of local events to attract more visitors, increasing spending with local businesses, supporting jobs, and strengthening community pride and investment in the area. Including:

- A range of commemorative events marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, in Arleston & College, The Nedge, Hadley & Leegomery, Ironbridge Gorge, Ercall Magna, Woodside, Priorslee, Madeley & Sutton Hill, Donnington and St Georges. These events brought communities together to reflect on a significant moment in history, while also increasing footfall and supporting local venues and businesses.
- Community celebrations also played an important role in bringing residents together throughout the year. Including a Windrush Day Garden Party in Hadley & Leegomery, Summerfest in Lawley, Tibbfest in Edgmond, a Picnic in the Park event in Malinslee & Dawley Bank and Ironbridge Brass Band Festival in Ironbridge Gorge. In addition to celebrating local culture and heritage, these events generated economic activity and helped strengthen community identity and pride of place.

4.8.2 Funding has also supported the preservation and enhancement of local heritage assets, helping to safeguard important landmarks while contributing to the borough's visitor economy, such as:

- A £600 grant awarded to Telford Steam Railway in Horsehay & Lightmoor to support renovation works to a signal box and to provide new picnic tables for outside the tearoom and at the picnic area. The improvements enhance the visitor experience at one of the borough's key heritage attractions, helping to encourage tourism and local spending.
- In Wrockwardine, funding was awarded to Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust to support the restoration of the Rodington canal entrance/gateway and the heritage lift bridge. Alongside preserving an important element of the area's heritage, the project will enhance biodiversity and improve access to attractive and safe walking routes for residents and visitors alike.

4.8.3 And finally, support has also been provided for initiatives that create local opportunities for employment, training and community enterprise. For example,

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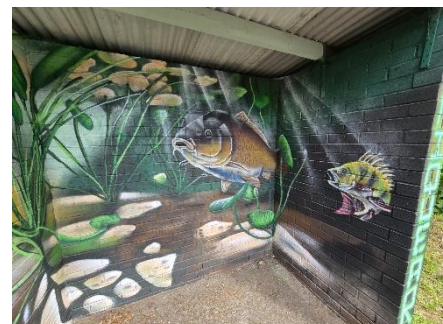
Telford & Wrekin CVS received funding to help launch the new Sunflower Brookside Community Café at Brookside Central Community Centre. The café provides a valuable community asset, creating a welcoming space where residents can meet, access support and participate in community life. In addition, the project offers employment, volunteering and skills development opportunities, helping to build local capacity while contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of the wider community.

4.9 All neighbourhoods are a great place to live

4.9.1 Investment has continued across the borough to enhance neighbourhoods and ensure that residents benefit from attractive, welcoming and well-maintained places to live. Funding has supported a range of environmental, community and public realm improvements that contribute to local pride, encourage community engagement and improve the quality of life for residents.

4.9.2 Creative projects have helped to brighten public space and celebrate local identity, making neighbourhoods more attractive and welcoming for residents and visitors alike. Examples include:

- The creation of two vibrant murals at Hollinswood Primary school in The Nedge, one located indoors, the other in the playground. Enhancing the school environment and providing inspiring spaces for pupils and the wider community.
- In Apley Castle and Shawbirch & Dothill funding enabled a local artist to transform the metal flower and butterfly sculptures on Shawbirch Roundabout, creating an eye-catching feature that contributes to local pride and a stronger sense of place.
- Across The Nedge (Stirchley and Hollinswood), Brookside, Hadley & Leegomery and St Georges, artistic improvements to bus stops have added colour and character to everyday public spaces, helping to create more attractive neighbourhood environments.



A colourful addition to the playground at Hollinswood Primary School and bus stops now brighten up communities across the borough

4.9.3 Investment in green spaces has enhanced the local environment by creating more attractive and biodiverse spaces, improving wellbeing, fostering community pride, and making neighbourhoods more pleasant places to live, work, and travel through. Including:

- The planting of 6,375 crocus large flowering bulbs on Newfield Road Green Guarantee Site in Wrockwardine Wood & Trench, 7,600 daffodil bulbs in two locations on Priorslee Avenue, Priorslee and 1,600 bulbs planted in Lawley Community Garden, Lawley. These projects provide vibrant seasonal displays while supporting pollinators and enhancing the visual appeal of local green spaces.

4.9.4 Funding has also supported the creation and enhancement of memorial spaces, providing residents with places for reflection, remembrance and community connection.

- In Malinslee & Dawley Bank, a £1,000 grant contributed towards the installation of Telford's first baby memorial, "Little Footprints in the Sky", located within Jubilee Woods. This dedicated woodland memorial offers a peaceful and supportive space where bereaved families can reflect, remember and honour their babies.
- In Arleston & College, a community memory garden was enhanced through the planting of a small tree grove and the installation of two commemorative benches at Arleston Community Centre, creating a lasting space for reflection and remembrance.
- In Wrockwardine Wood & Trench, a memorial tree was relocated to a more suitable public open space at Sutherland Grange, ensuring that it remains accessible and continues to provide a fitting tribute within the community.

4.9.5 New seating and rest areas have been introduced across the borough, making public spaces more accessible and enjoyable for residents while encouraging people to spend time outdoors and appreciate their local surroundings:

- In Dawley & Aqueduct, a carved and sculpted log bench was installed within the Dawley Park Winter Garden, providing a distinctive feature and a welcoming place for visitors to stop and enjoy the setting.
- Replacement benches on Canongate, St Georges and Bank Way in the ward of Oakengates & Ketley Bank.
- New benches have also been installed in Lime Tree Walk, Apley Castle, by a bus stop in Church Aston & Lilleshall and at Jockey Bank Gardens in Ironbridge Gorge.

4.9.6 Funding has also improved play opportunities for children and young people, helping to create inclusive, accessible and engaging spaces where families can enjoy outdoor recreation together.

- Inclusive play equipment has been installed at Severn Drive Play Area in Shawbirch and Dothill through a grant of £3,565, and at Gresham Drive play area in Lawley with a £952 grant. These improvements help ensure that more children can participate in play regardless of their abilities, promoting inclusion, physical activity and social interaction.
- In Newport East, improvement works continue at Daniels Cross Park playground with a grant of £946. And in Erccall Magna a £340 grant will support the installation of a new piece of equipment for under 8s at the play area at The Paddocks, Parish Room Croft, Waters Upton providing additional opportunities for active play and enjoyment within the local community.

4.10 **Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency**

4.10.1 Funding has supported a range of projects that encourage environmental awareness, promote biodiversity and inspire residents of all ages to play an active role in protecting the natural environment. These initiatives help build understanding of sustainability and nurture a stronger connection to the local environment, supporting the Council's wider commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

- In Priorslee all primary and secondary schools received funding to deliver eco-projects, providing opportunities for children and young people to learn about nature, biodiversity and environmental stewardship through practical activities and learning experiences.
- In The Nedge Holmer Lake Primary School received funding to deliver a programme of Nature Education activities, including a whole-school assembly and practical field study sessions. The project helped pupils develop a greater understanding of local wildlife and ecosystems while encouraging an appreciation of the natural environment from an early age.

4.10.2 Community projects have also supported residents to engage with environmental issues and adopt more sustainable behaviours.

- In Newport West, Sustainable Newport received funding to install an interactive game wall at Newport Library, helping residents learn about the global footprint of fruit through a community game.
- In Dawley & Aqueduct, Dawley Youth Club is delivering a recycling project, encouraging young people to develop environmentally responsible habits while raising awareness of the importance of reducing waste and protecting natural resources.

4.10.3 Funding has also supported practical action to protect local wildlife habitats and monitor environmental health, helping to safeguard biodiversity and ensure that local natural spaces continue to thrive.

- In Newport West a grant funded the installation of a protective barrier to help safeguard nesting swans, supporting local wildlife and helping to create a safer environment during the breeding season.
- In Hadley & Leegomery the Friends of Hurley Brook received funding to purchase specialist testing equipment to monitor water quality and identify harmful bacteria within Ketley Brook and Hurley Brook. This work helps protect local waterways while supporting community involvement in environmental monitoring and conservation.
- In Dawley & Aqueduct and Horsehay & Lightmoor, new bird and bat boxes have been installed at a Green Guarantee site in Aqueduct and at Horsehay Pool Local Nature Reserve. These improvements provide additional nesting and roosting opportunities for local species, supporting biodiversity and enhancing valuable wildlife habitats across the borough.

4.11 A community-focussed, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

4.11.1 Funding has supported a range of practical improvements designed to enhance the cleanliness, safety and accessibility of local neighbourhoods. These projects contribute to creating well-maintained public spaces, encourage civic pride and help ensure residents can enjoy safe and welcoming environments.

- New waste bins have been installed in the wards of Priorslee, Wrockwardine Wood & Trench, Oakengates & Ketley Bank, Lawley, Horsehay & Lightmoor, Ketley, Haygate & Park and Newport East, helping to reduce litter and maintain cleaner public spaces for residents and visitors.
- Measures have also been introduced to address environmental issues associated with animal waste. In Muxton, pigeon deterrents have been installed around a local play area to improve cleanliness and usability. Meanwhile, communities in Priorslee, Overdale & The Rock, Lawley and Malinslee & Dawley Bank have benefited from the provision of dog waste bags, encouraging responsible pet ownership and supporting cleaner neighbourhoods.
- Meanwhile in The Nedge a new fly-tipping removal scheme has been introduced alongside signage in known hotspot locations promoting bulky waste collection services. The initiative aims to reduce environmental crime, improve the appearance of local areas and raise awareness of responsible waste disposal options.

4.11.2 Funding has also supported a range of initiatives that enhance public health, community safety and resident wellbeing, helping to create safer environments and ensuring communities are better equipped to respond to emergencies.

- Improvements to public lighting have been delivered across the borough, enhancing visibility and personal safety in community spaces. This includes a £1,030 grant in Muxton for solar lighting along the footpath linking Saltwells Drive to the local play park, a £1,600 grant for additional lighting around the bandstand in Hartshill Park in Oakengates & Ketley Bank, and a £750 contribution towards light shields for upgraded LED floodlighting at the bowling greens in Bowring Park, Ercall.
- Access to potentially life-saving equipment has been strengthened through the installation of new defibrillators in Arleston & College, The Nedge and Malinslee & Dawley Bank. Existing defibrillators in Priorslee and Horsehay & Lightmoor have also been maintained through the purchase of replacement batteries and pads, helping to ensure these vital community assets remain operational and readily accessible.
- Emergency response services have also received support. West Mercia Search and Rescue benefited from a £600 grant from Ercall, helping the organisation continue its valuable work in supporting emergency incidents and vulnerable people. In Newport South, a £727 grant contributed towards a new Community Response Vehicle for Newport First Responders, strengthening local emergency response capabilities and supporting community resilience.
- Residents will also be better equipped to travel safely during periods of severe winter weather through the provision of new grit bins in Arleston & College, Newport West, Horsehay & Lightmoor, Muxton, Ercall Magna, Dawley & Aqueduct, Overdale & The Rock, Haygate & Park and Donnington.

4.11.3 Investment has also been made in projects that improve road safety and help create safer environments for all road users such as a £1,000 grant in Ercall Magna to support road safety improvement works at Moorhead.

4.11.4 And finally Effective communication remains an important part of building connected and informed communities. To support this, new community noticeboards have been installed in Malinslee & Dawley Bank, Church Aston & Lilleshall and Wrockwardine. These noticeboards provide residents with a valuable source of information about local events, activities, services and community opportunities, helping to strengthen local engagement and ensure residents remain connected to community life.

4.12 Next Steps

- 4.12.1 The Councillors Pride Fund continues for 2026/27, with each Councillor once again having £5,000 to allocate in their ward. The final deadline for proposals is 1 February 2027.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Councillors' Pride Fund is in its eleventh year, with its predecessors going back to 2011. As a Co-operative Council, communities are at the heart of everything the Council does. The Councillors' Pride Fund is firmly rooted in the programme of support offered to establish strong, safe, healthy and vibrant communities.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 The Councillors' Pride Fund operates under a grant application process with successful applicants subject to agreement to grant terms and conditions before the payment of any grant, processes are in place to mitigate the risks associated with grant giving.
- 6.2 Spot monitoring of the Councillors' Pride Fund is undertaken by monitoring a random sample of funded projects to ensure monies are spent as agreed. Monitoring is proportionate to the level of funding received.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 All applications to the Councillors' Pride Fund must address one or more of the Council Priorities, these are:
- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
 - Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
 - All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
 - Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency
 - A community-focussed, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The 2025/26 budget allocation for the Councillors' Pride Fund was £270k which provides funding of £5k per Ward Councillor. All of this budget is funded from one offs (On Your Side Investment Programme).
- 8.2 The Finance Team work with the Community Funding Officer throughout the year to ensure that the funding is allocated to Wards.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 The general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 allows local authorities to do anything which individuals generally may do which includes making funding available for projects such as those identified in this report, provided that such funding is part of the budget and policy framework.
- 9.2 In reaching decisions about the allocation of funding, it is necessary to ensure that such decisions are made in a fair, reasonable and transparent manner and take account of the public sector equality duty. The budget is subject to consultation on an annual basis as well as being considered by the Council's scrutiny committee and, therefore, the appropriate processes have been followed.
- 9.3 This report does not raise any specific implications for HR.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 This report has a positive borough wide impact, all wards within the borough are allocated funding based on the number of ward Councillors in that area.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 The Councillors' Pride Fund continues to have a positive impact on the health, social and economic wellbeing of residents. The scheme distributes funding to a range of projects enabling residents to engage in social and wellbeing activities, access physical activity opportunities, enjoy local green spaces or contribute to their communities and promote the borough. Many projects funded deliver benefits across multiple outcomes. For example, projects that enhance social wellbeing often also support improved health and wellbeing through increased social interaction and community engagement.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1 As a local authority serving a mixed rural and urban geographical area with an increasingly diverse population, we recognise the importance of equity of service and fostering inclusion, as well as celebrating and promoting diversity.
- 12.2 The Councillors' Pride Fund supports Councillors to engage with their entire community and understand their specific needs when developing proposals and ensures they meet the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, s149, Equality Act 2010, including to;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination,
 - advance equality of opportunity, and
 - foster good relations.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 As this report demonstrates the Councillors' Pride Fund is one of many ways in which the Council is helping to support the wider Climate Change Borough Partnership to meet its aspirations on this agenda.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 Cabinet Paper, 4 December 2025: [Councillors' Pride Fund 2024/25: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough](#)
- 2 Cabinet Paper, 5 December 2024: [Councillors' Pride Fund 2023-24: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough](#)
- 3 Cabinet Paper, 4 January 2024: [Councillors' Pride Fund 2022-23: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough](#)
- 4 Cabinet Paper, 13 October 2022: [Councillors' Pride Fund 2021-22: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough](#)
- 5 Cabinet Paper, 23 September 2021: [Councillors' Pride Fund - Helping to Protect, Care and Invest in our Communities.](#)
- 6 Business Briefing, 27 February 2020: Councillors' Pride Fund Update (due at Cabinet 19 March 2020, postponed due to the pandemic)

15.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Groups Awarded Funding from the Councillors' Pride Fund 2025/26

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	08/09/2026	12/09/2026	KK
Legal	16/09/2026	16/09/2026	ON
Finance	16/09/2026	17/09/2026	TD