1. Place Details

- **Which place are you submitting on behalf of?** Birchwood West
- **Select local authority** Lincoln
- **Select country** England

2. Community Engagement

2.1 Consultation Volume

- **How many people did you consult?** Approximately 1,000
- **Approximate total number reached through all consultation methods** Approximately 1,050 including community groups and local organisations.

2.2 Consultation Methods – Narrative

- **Tell us about the variety of consultation methods used** (max 250 words)

Engagement in Birchwood West has combined surveys, face-to-face conversations, community events, school and youth engagement, creative activities and stakeholder discussions. More than 1,000 engagement interactions have been recorded to date.

The Birchwood Pride in Place Community Survey gathered residents' views on local strengths, challenges and priorities for investment. Children and young people were engaged directly through the Children's Voice questionnaire, Pupil Voice, school-based activity and Zone Go, which brought youth activities directly into the community.

Face-to-face engagement took place at community events, family activities, coffee mornings, leisure facilities, faith venues, wellbeing settings and community organisations. Creative methods, including Love Letters to Birchwood, Birchwood in Three Words and LEGO® Serious Play, gave people different ways to describe what they value and what they would like to improve.

Trusted local organisations helped us reach people who may be less likely to participate through formal consultation. This included outreach with older and isolated residents and engagement through schools, youth workers, faith and community organisations and wellbeing services.

Stakeholder discussions with community organisations, local services and delivery partners complemented resident engagement. Further targeted engagement is continuing with teenagers, disabled residents and carers, higher-need communities, businesses and employers, and residents less engaged with formal decision-making.

2.3 Consultation Approaches – Select All That Apply

- early outreach yes
- surveys and feedback gathering yes
- workshops and vision-setting yes
- prioritisation and decision-making yes
- work with young people and schools yes
- online engagement yes
- reaching seldom-heard groups yes
- other

2.4 Detailed Methods (conditional questions)

If *Early outreach* selected:

Select all that apply:

- community drop-in sessions
- community hub/library/leisure centre engagement
- pop-up engagement at local events

- street/town-centre engagement
- community mapping activities
- MP engagement sessions
- postcards from the future
- priority buckets/token voting

If *Surveys and feedback gathering* selected:

Select all that apply:

- online survey
- paper survey
- polling exercise
- interviews with residents
- feedback / “you said, we did” activities

If *Workshops and vision-setting* selected:
Select all that apply:

- community workshops
- vision-setting workshops
- co-design workshops
- stakeholder workshops
- asset-based discussions and mapping
- small group facilitated discussions
- World Café discussions

If *Prioritisation and decision-making* selected:

Select all that apply:

- prioritisation exercises (dot voting, traffic-light voting)
- trade-off discussions
- scenario testing
- principle-setting exercises
- reconvened workshops
- participatory budgeting
- deliberative workshops
- Citizens’ Jury / Citizens’ Assembly

If *Work with young people and schools* selected:
Select all that apply:

- youth engagement sessions
- youth panel engagement
- school-based engagement
- children’s advisory group activities

If *Online engagement* selected:
Select all that apply:

- discussion forums/communities
- workshops/video conferencing
- social media engagement
- polls/voting

If *Reaching seldom-heard groups* selected:
Select all that apply:

- engagement via voluntary/community/faith/social enterprise organisations
- engagement via community champions/ambassadors
- targeted engagement with seldom-heard groups
- door-to-door engagement
- postal invitations/leaflets

If *Other* selected:

- **Describe other engagement methods** (max 250 words)

2.5 MP Engagement

- **Has the MP been consulted?** Yes
  - If Yes: **Who is the MP?** Hamish Falconer
  - If No: **Why not?** (narrative)

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3. 10-Year Vision

- **Upload your 10-year vision** (PDF only, <100MB)
- **Upload supporting documents?** (Yes/No)
  - If Yes: upload files (CSV, JPEG, PNG, XLSX, DOCX, PDF, JSON, ODT, RTF, TXT; each <30MB)
  - Birchwood West Pride in Place Consultation Report
  - Birchwood Big Local Report

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4. 4-Year Investment Plan – Interventions

4.1 Select Categories of Indicative Interventions (select all that apply)

- cohesion
- community power
- education and opportunity
- health and wellbeing
- housing
- regeneration, high streets and heritage
- safety and security
- transport
- work, productivity and skills
- not sure at this stage

4.2 Detailed Interventions (conditional)

Cohesion
Select all that apply:

- co-creating cohesion action plans
- projects bringing people together
- cultural celebration/exchange projects
- relationship-building projects
- supporting/establishing community groups
- capacity-building projects
- not sure

Community Power

Select all that apply:

- engagement/participation activity
- community role in service design/delivery
- community wealth building
- support for social economy
- volunteering/social action
- capacity building/infrastructure support
- support for civil society/youth/community groups
- not sure

Education and Opportunity

Select all that apply:

- childcare cost support
- school-based youth development programmes
- community-based learning
- family/young children support
- child poverty reduction/prevention
- not sure

Health and Wellbeing

Select all that apply:

- sport/activity facilities/events
- preventative public health initiatives
- integration/co-location of services
- drug/alcohol support for homelessness/rough sleeping
- community-level health provision
- not sure

Housing

Select all that apply:

- land trusts for community-led housing
- modernisation of social housing
- healthy/climate-resilient homes
- homelessness support environments
- energy efficiency initiatives
- neighbourhood renewal
- not sure

Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage

Select all that apply:

- green spaces/community gardens
- arts/cultural/heritage support
- town centre/neighbourhood/high street improvements
- local arts/cultural/heritage initiatives
- new/improved community infrastructure
- digital infrastructure for community facilities
- non-domestic energy efficiency measures
- not sure

Safety and Security

Select all that apply:

- co-location of crime reduction services
- designing out crime
- town centre management
- burglary reduction
- anti-social behaviour/crime reduction
- policing interventions
- not sure

Transport
Select all that apply:

- bus service improvements
- road network improvements
- rail connectivity improvements
- reducing vehicle emissions
- active travel improvements
- not sure

Work, Productivity and Skills
Select all that apply:

- business support networks
- visitor economy development
- skills provision (LSIP-aligned)
- employment access support
- Get Britain Working Plan support
- not sure

4.3 Narrative Questions

- **Tell us about your planned interventions** (max 250 words)

Birchwood West's first four-year investment period will focus on interventions which respond directly to the seven priorities identified through community engagement and the wider evidence base.

Investment may support children and young people through improved youth facilities, sport, physical activity, creative programmes and trusted local provision including training for employability stills. Parks, play areas and green spaces could benefit from better equipment, paths, accessibility, planting and nature-based improvements.

Community and wellbeing activity will create more opportunities for residents to meet, stay active, volunteer and reduce isolation, alongside practical support for community organisations. Existing community buildings and neighbourhood facilities may be improved to make them more accessible, flexible and energy efficient.

Safety interventions could include better lighting, designing-out-crime measures, improvements to neglected spaces and activities encouraging positive use of public areas. Walking and cycling routes, crossings, wayfinding and accessibility improvements will also be explored with responsible partners.
Skills and opportunity interventions may include locally accessible learning, vocational training, mentoring, volunteering, employment support and stronger links with employers.

Specific projects are not fixed at this stage. The Board will continue to involve residents and partners and will test proposals for need, expected impact, feasibility, affordability, deliverability and ongoing maintenance before funding is committed.

- **Why are these priorities?** (max 250 words)

The proposed interventions respond directly to issues raised through more than 1,000 engagement interactions and to the wider evidence about Birchwood West.

Children and young people emerged as the strongest theme. The Children's Voice questionnaire generated 540 responses, and activities for children and young people ranked highly in the Community Survey. Residents also raised concerns about safety, antisocial behaviour, dark routes and neglected spaces, while parks and green spaces were repeatedly identified as assets that should be protected and improved.

Community spirit is a clear strength, but only 37% of Community Survey respondents felt there were enough opportunities to meet others locally. This supports investment in community participation, health and wellbeing activities, and the places where residents come together.

Wider evidence also points to significant economic pressures. Income and employment deprivation, free-school-meal eligibility and concerns about affordability reinforce the importance of accessible skills, training and employment support.

The proposed mix addresses immediate neighbourhood issues alongside longer-term health, wellbeing and economic opportunity. It also reflects learning from Birchwood Big Local by making better use of existing community assets, supporting local organisations and ensuring that complex investments are properly tested before funding is committed.

- **Off-menu interventions?** (Yes/No)

No

  - If Yes: provide description, cost, justification, strategic alignment, VFM, consultation evidence

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5. Payment Profile and Spend

Provide spend profile for:

- programme delivery funding (capital 2026/27–2035/36; revenue 2025/26–2035/36)
- interventions (2025/26 and 2026/27–2029/30)
- off-menu interventions
- management costs
- unknown uses of funding

Narrative (max 250 words):

- **How was the indicative spend forecast developed?**
- **Why is spend required in these years?**

The indicative spend forecast has been developed with regard to the seven priorities in our 10-Year Vision, community feedback, the balance between capital and revenue activity, likely project development requirements, and the time needed for engagement, feasibility, assurance and procurement.

Resident views have helped inform the proposed allocation across the priorities. Priority voting provided the Board with additional evidence about the relative importance residents placed on each priority, alongside the wider consultation evidence.

Early revenue funding will support ongoing engagement, project development and capacity building, helping to ensure that investment reflects community priorities and that larger or more complex proposals are properly developed and tested before significant funding is committed.

The forecast includes an 8% programme management allowance for the first investment period, benchmarked against the Lincoln UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme. Costs are expected to be higher during the first four years as governance, assurance and delivery arrangements are established and the initial project pipeline developed. The requirement will be reviewed in later phases, with scope to reduce costs as the programme matures.

Capital expenditure will increase as projects progress through feasibility, design, approval and procurement. Supporting revenue may also be required for activity delivery, community involvement, staffing, maintenance planning and evaluation.

The forecast will be reviewed as projects develop to reflect assurance findings, delivery risks and agreed programme changes. The Board will also seek opportunities to leverage additional funding and support projects capable of generating longer-term value for Birchwood.

6. Projects (from April 2027)

- **Have you identified any projects?** (Yes/No)

No

If Yes, provide:

- project name (max 20 words)
- target group (select from list)
- brief description (max 100 words)
- number of beneficiaries
- primary and secondary intervention type
- delivery organisation type
- delivery organisation name
- capital spend (£)
- revenue spend (£)
- PiP capital funding (£)
- PiP revenue funding (£)
- other funding sources (select from list)
- project status (select from list)
- expected start/end dates (DD/MM/YYYY)

If No:

- **Explain why no projects identified** (max 250 words)

The Neighbourhood Board has agreed seven strategic priorities and identified a range of indicative interventions but has not yet committed Pride in Place funding to specific projects beginning from April 2027.

This approach reflects the Board's commitment to continuing community engagement and ensuring that individual proposals are based on evidence of need. Further work is required to develop potential projects, confirm delivery responsibilities, assess feasibility and affordability, identify ongoing revenue and maintenance requirements and understand where Pride in Place funding can add most value.

Ideas emerging from engagement include youth and community provision, improvements to parks and play spaces, community health and wellbeing activity, safety measures, accessibility improvements, community-building improvements and locally accessible skills and employment support. These remain indicative and are not yet approved projects.

Proposals will be assessed against the 10-Year Vision, Investment Plan, community need, expected outcomes, deliverability, risk, value for money and long-term sustainability. Appropriate financial, legal, procurement, subsidy-control and equality assurance will be completed before funding is committed.

Prior to April 2027, the Board would like to establish a small Grant Scheme to help local groups and residents address immediate concerns and to help test out ideas for future potential projects.

The Board will provide project information through future monitoring and programme updates once proposals are sufficiently developed and approved.

7. Management Costs

- **Percentage of total PiP funding allocated to management costs**
- **How did you keep management costs proportionate?** (max 250 words)

Management costs have been set at 8% of the overall Pride in Place allocation, benchmarked against the programme management provision for the Lincoln UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme. This provides sufficient capacity to manage and assure a ten-year public investment programme while ensuring that the substantial majority of funding is directed towards community priorities and delivery.

The allocation will support essential functions including the Pride in Place Community Connector, governance and Board support, financial management, project development, assurance, procurement and compliance, risk management, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and ongoing community engagement.

Management costs are expected to be higher during the first four-year investment period, when delivery arrangements are being established and the initial project pipeline developed and appraised. The requirement will be reviewed for subsequent investment periods, with scope to reduce the proportion as systems become established and the programme matures.

Learning from Birchwood Big Local has also informed this approach. Its independent evaluation highlighted the pressures created where community-led delivery relies heavily on a small number of volunteers, reinforcing the importance of appropriate professional capacity alongside community leadership.

Existing City of Lincoln Council systems and capacity will be used wherever this provides an efficient and compliant approach, with significant officer input provided in kind. Management costs will be monitored throughout delivery and kept proportionate to programme and project requirements.

8. Management of Funds and Compliance

For each question: Yes/No, with conditional narrative if No.

- environmental impacts considered? yes
- environmental duty arrangements in place? No

Environmental screening will take place at the initial project development stage and will be incorporated into the assurance checks undertaken by City of Lincoln Council as Accountable Body.

- public contract regulations compliance arrangements? Yes
- programme risk register in place? Yes
- fraud risk assessment in place? Yes
- public sector equality duty arrangements? Yes
- Subsidy Control Act compliance arrangements? Yes

9. Support Needs and Priorities

- **Support needed in next 12 months** (max 250 words)

The Board would benefit from practical training and guidance that helps members understand their role and responsibilities within Pride in Place. This should include the purpose of the Board's governance arrangements, declarations and management of interests, decision-making, relevant policies and procedures, and the responsibilities that come with being a Board member.

As many members are giving their time as volunteers, more general support around effective volunteering, working as a Board, understanding boundaries and responsibilities, and managing the expectations placed on volunteers would also be valuable. Training should be accessible and proportionate, helping members understand not simply what the requirements are, but why they are important.

Looking further ahead, the Board will need more specialised support as it considers the transition towards a community-led delivery model and potentially a constituted or charitable organisation. This will require a different set of skills and responsibilities, including financial management, governance, legal structures, fundraising and income generation, management of assets and longer-term organisational sustainability.

Central guidance and training on the expectations for this transition would therefore be particularly valuable. Support should recognise the considerable responsibility that may eventually sit with volunteer Board members, including those taking on roles such as Treasurer and responsibility for funds raised or managed by the organisation.

- **Top 3 priorities for support** (max 100 words)

Board governance and roles: practical training on Board responsibilities, decision-making, declarations of interest, policies and procedures, and why these requirements matter.

Volunteer development and support: guidance to help volunteer members work effectively, understand their responsibilities and manage the expectations associated with Board membership.

Transition to community-led delivery: structured support on becoming a constituted or charitable organisation, including governance, financial management and Treasurer responsibilities, fundraising, income generation and building a sustainable organisation for the longer term.

10. Declarations
England/Wales

You must confirm that:

- Neighbourhood Board has reviewed/approved the PiP Plan
- Section 151 Officer (or equivalent) has approved the Plan
- programme delivered in line with Best Value and Managing Public Money
- programme managed in line with Nolan Principles
- public sector equality duty considered