

Pride in Place Programme

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 05/03/2026

Lead director/officer: Andrew Shilliam, Director of
Corporate Services

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Eyres Monsell, Humberstone & Hamilton, and Thurncourt Wards
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- Report version number: 1.0

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the details of Government's Pride in Place Programme (PiPP), including information on compliance, mobilisation, governance, and early groundwork actions required for this long-term initiative. It does not include information about the Pride in Place Impact Fund, the responsibility for which sits elsewhere in the Council.
- 1.2. The following sections set out what we know about:
 - The programme intentions and structure
 - Funding arrangements and phasing
 - Capacity funding rules
 - Governance and accountable body responsibilities
 - Requirements for Neighbourhood Boards
 - Rules for appointing Independent Chairs
 - Mandatory government deadlines
 - Areas of flexibility
 - Immediate recommended actions for the Council

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

- 2.1 The Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are invited to note the report and make any comments or recommendations for the Council to consider.

3. Detailed report

Overview of the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP)

- 3.1. PiPP is a 10-year government programme delivering long-term funding to disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It is explicitly community-led, with local communities empowered to set priorities and shape regeneration. Three Leicester MSOA areas have been selected by Government, being:
 - Eyres Monsell, with the Eyres Monsell Ward
 - Braunstone Park West, within the Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Ward
 - Thurnby Lodge, with the Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Wards

- 3.2. Each area will receive up to £20 million over 10 years, £150,000 of capacity funding before April 2026. The Council is required to act as the Accountable Body for all three areas.

Programme Principles

- 3.3. The programme is built around the four core principles of (1) long term effort, activity and funding, (2) flexibility, (3) community leadership, and (4) support, and has the following overarching aims embedded with it:

- Stronger Communities
- Thriving Places
- Local Empowerment

- 3.4. Decision-making is through a Neighbourhood Board required for each area, with a clear requirement for a majority resident position.

Funding Arrangements

- 3.5. Each Pride in Place area receives £20 million over 10 years, made up of a 63% capital and 37% revenue. Funding is released annually (April) and tied to performance and compliance. For 2026/27 – the first 50% will be paid in April 2026, second 50% paid only when the Pride in Place Plan is approved (late 2026). Capital for 2026/27 is paid in full at the start of the financial year.

- 3.6. Over the ten years, funding will be delivered in three investment cycles, being (1) FY 2026/27–2029/30, (2) FY 2030/31–2032/33, and (3) FY 2033/34–2035/36. Communities are expected to decide on spending priorities and types of projects, but they have to meet the programme objectives.

- 3.7. Boards must also meet minimum spend thresholds, being at least 25% of total allocation forecast for each 3-to-4-year cycle. By Year 7 (2032/33), at least 50% of the total £20m must be spent or contractually committed. Government reserves the right to delay payments, claw back funding, and intervene if governance or spend requirements are not met. As Accountable Body, the Council has a duty to oversee this.

- 3.8. The purpose of the capacity funding is to enable mobilisation before delivery funding begins. It is explicitly intended for the following:

- Establishing governance structures
- Recruiting and supporting the Independent Chair
- Convening and administering the Neighbourhood Board
- Community engagement and consultation
- Baseline analysis, evidence gathering, needs assessment
- Project scoping, early feasibility and statutory processes
- Communications and outreach
- Programme management staffing or coordination
- Support for residents to participate effectively (training, facilitation, transport, etc.)

- 3.9. Capacity funding cannot be used for things like large capital works, purchasing property, high-cost consultancy, and activity outside the geographic boundary.
- 3.10. As Accountable Body, the Council must hold capacity funding in a ring-fenced budget, apply procurement/subsidy rules, maintain full audit trails, and report spending through annual grant returns to Government.

Governance Requirements

- 3.11. As Accountable Body the Council is legally responsible for all funds and for ensuring compliance. Our key responsibilities are to hold, administer and monitor all funding, ensure robust financial controls, support recruitment and operation of Neighbourhood Boards, appoint Independent Chairs (with MPs), and support community engagement at scale.
- 3.12. We're expected to publish the required governance information, including Board membership, minutes, decisions, declarations of interest, expenses, submit Annual Statements of grant usage signed by the S151 Officer, and to ensure lawful and effective delivery.

Neighbourhood Boards – Requirements and Structure

- 3.13. Each Board is mandated to include an Independent Chair (appointed jointly by LA + MP), the local MP (must sit on Board), at least one councillor, a senior police representative, and must be made up from a majority of local residents (people living or working within the MSOA).
- 3.14. It is expected that representatives of local businesses, faith and community groups, voluntary sector, youth/community leaders, and anchor organisations are included in the composition of the Board. The minimum recommended total membership of which is expected to be 8–15 members.
- 3.15. Boards must meet at least quarterly, operate transparent decision-making processes, publish a membership list, meeting dates, draft minutes within 10 working days, final minutes shortly thereafter, decisions and any voting outcomes, and hold a published/accessible conflict of interest register. And all Boards must be fully established by 17 July 2026.

Boundaries

- 3.16. Default boundaries are determined using Government-defined MSOAs, though it is possible for changes to be proposed. Any changes would require a clear rationale, including evidence of community identity or asset alignment. These boundary requests should be submitted in July 2026 and approved in Autumn 2026.

Appointment of Independent Chairs

- 3.17. 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.

- 3.18. 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
- 3.19. We're expected to conduct the necessary due diligence, determine/record any possible conflicts of interest, ensure political impartiality, and ensure community credibility.
- 3.20. 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.

Required Outputs

- 3.21. Pride in Place Plan (this is mandatory) - the plan must include a 10-year strategic vision, a community engagement evidence base, priority themes and proposed interventions, a 4-year costed Investment Plan, funding and impact forecasts, a delivery plan, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and an equality impact analysis. The plans must align with Government objectives, including (1) Stronger Communities, (2) Thriving Places, (3) Taking Back Control (local empowerment).

- 3.22. Key Deadlines:

Mobilisation (Early 2026)

- Capacity funding (£150k) released
- Chairs should be appointed "as soon as practicable"

Delivery Year 1 (2026/27) - April 2026+

- First delivery funding released to the Council
- 50% of revenue released initially
- 50% of revenue released once Plan is approved

17 July 2026

- Final Board membership submitted
- Boundary change requests submitted

Autumn 2026

- MHCLG confirms membership and boundary decisions

28 November 2026

- Final Pride in Place Plan submitted for approval

Ongoing

- Annual grant usage reports
- Annual forecasts
- Board meetings quarterly
- Mid-cycle refresh at Years 4 and 8

- 3.23. Groundwork actions required

A. Governance & Mobilisation

- Map and engage local MPs

- Design a recruitment process for Independent Chairs
- Identify potential candidates for Chairs
- Prepare governance templates:
 - Terms of reference
 - Code of conduct
 - Transparency/publication arrangements
 - Conflict of interest processes
- Establish internal programme team
- Allocate internal budget for early preparatory work

B. Community Engagement Preparation

- Identify local assets and anchor organisations
- Develop an engagement strategy covering:
 - Residents
 - Young people
 - Under-represented groups
 - Faith communities
- Begin compiling evidence of need and priorities

C. Boundary & Data Work

- Review MSOA boundaries for practical delivery
- Identify any compelling reasons for boundary adjustments
- Analyse IMD and request CNI data

D. Finances

- Prepare ring-fenced cost codes for each MSOA
- Establish internal financial controls and reporting mechanisms
- Begin drafting early expenditure forecasts

E. Delivery Preparation

- Map existing and planned projects in each area
- Identify early “quick win” opportunities
- Begin assembling a longlist of potential interventions

3.24. Immediate priority areas for action in Jan+ 2026 are:

- Consider appointing a PIP Programme Lead + task group
- Appointment of Independent Chairs
- Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards
- Community engagement mobilisation
- Governance and transparency systems
- Evidence gathering and boundary review
- Preparation for capacity funding deployment

3.25. In summary, the PiPP represents a major, long-term regeneration opportunity but comes with substantial governance, transparency and compliance requirements. The Council is required to make the above preparations in order to meet the critical July and November 2026 deadlines and to establish strong community-led structures.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The Council will act as the accountable body for the Pride in Place Programme which will enable it to receive the 3 area's grant allocations to manage, including assessing and approving any onward grant disbursement, processing payments, day-to-day monitoring and reporting. Funding will be managed within the existing financial governance framework adopted by LCC and its accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of its chief financial officer, Section 151.

As Leicester is included in Phase 2 of the programme, the 3 Neighbourhood Boards need to confirm final membership and any proposals to alter the 'default' area boundary by 17 July 2026.

The Neighbourhood Boards will give local people the power to decide how funding is spent, putting communities in charge of the future of their neighbourhoods. Each Board must work with the wider community to develop a Pride in Place Plan, setting out a vision for their area and the projects that they would like to prioritise, and which meet the programme objectives. These plans will set out a pathway for delivery of these projects over the course of the 10-year programme and will need to be implemented within the LCC financial governance arrangements, described above.

Signed: Joel Martin, Principal Accountant (on behalf of Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance)

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.2 Legal Implications

Although the Neighbourhood Board is expected to lead the development of long-term priorities and investment plans, the Council is expected to act as Accountable Body and retains ultimate legal responsibility for compliance with grant conditions, legal compliance (including procurement and subsidy control), financial control and audit, and must therefore formally approve decisions to the extent necessary to discharge those statutory duties.

The decision is to be taken on the following resolutions at the Council Meeting on 25th February 2026 as part of the Three-Year Capital Programme 2026/27 for the Council to:

- agree to act as Accountable Body for funding provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) under the Pride in Place Programme
- add such funding to the Council's revenue or capital budget as appropriate; and
- delegate to the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Director of Corporate Services authority to administer the Programme, allocate funding, and manage delivery and compliance in accordance with MHCLG requirements and the Council's approved budget framework.

The proposed delegation for decision is lawful, proportionate and consistent with the Council's powers under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Constitution. The resolution authorises the acceptance and administration of MHCLG grant funding, the entering into of accountable body and grant agreements, and the onward distribution of funding to third party organisations, together with appropriate monitoring, audit and recovery powers.

Signed: Kevin Carter

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.3 Equalities Implications

The Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) aims to improve the lived experience of underserved communities who experience high levels of social and economic deprivation in the City of Leicester. The programme has a positive intent and focuses on addressing socio-economic inequality of outcome at an MSOA level.

PiPP is targeted at a hyper-local level with respect to tackling disadvantage, but equally due to the demographic make-up of the three priority areas, there will be intersections with the experiences and outcomes of people who share one of the protected characteristics. This is significant when taking into consideration how adverse outcomes can be compounded through a combination of different elements of identity.

It is important to have regard to balancing the rights of different groups and individuals when allocating resources of this scale. It is therefore necessary to note that when socio-economic disadvantage is combined with one or more of the protected characteristics a person's life chances can be altered to an extent which differentiates from people who are from more affluent backgrounds. This is not to say that people who share a protected characteristic from more affluent backgrounds do not experience differential experiences or outcomes, but it does recognise that socio-economic disadvantage is an additional barrier which must be addressed to create an environment where each resident of Leicester has an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive.

The PiPP due to the targeted and focused it takes will inevitably mean that there will be a difference in the level of investment made in specific neighbourhoods, but it is suggested that there is legal justification under the Equality Act 2010 that this approach is justifiable in law i.e. it is proportionate in meeting the needs of people in neighbourhoods with high levels of socio-economic deprivation (based on IMD data in England) and is meeting the 'legitimate aim' of targeting funding in areas of need to build strong, resilient and prosperous communities and tackle long-term decline and enhance community wellbeing. The Programme is not discriminatory in and of itself and positive action is permitted within the scope of the Programme.

PiPP also provides an opportunity to eliminate discrimination for those not only share a protected characteristic but also those who experience socio-economic disadvantage and therefore dual discrimination. There is equally an opportunity to advance equity of opportunity at an intersectional level.

In implementing the programme fostering good relations between different community and protected characteristic groups, thorough, transparent and evidenced-based communications will be vital to avoid creating or compounding perceptions of differential funding allocation at the neighbourhood level.

Conducting an Equality Impact Assessment is a key component of the governance arrangements for PiPP and will facilitate thorough consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty as it relates to the programme.

Signed: Aloma Onyemah

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.4 Climate Emergency Implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications arising from this report. Implications arising from specific initiatives should be given consideration as and when the relevant reports are submitted for decision.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer

Dated: 24th February, 2026

5. Background information and other papers:

[Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: Phase 2 place selection methodology note - GOV.UK](#)

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

[Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK](#)

6. Summary of appendices: