PRIDE IN PLACE

Background Paper

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

This briefing draws upon the guidance issued by MHCLG on 3rd December 2025. Full details can be found here:

Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK
Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK
Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK
Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK
Pride in Place Programme: Pride in Place Plans - GOV.UK
Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK

The content of the briefing does not cover every aspect of the guidance, it picks out the key areas to support roll out of the programme from early in 2026.

Purpose of the Programme

The Pride in Place Programme is a government initiative designed to empower local communities to shape and improve their neighbourhoods. It provides up to £20 million per area over 10 years, supporting regeneration and community-led decision-making. In Plymouth, the two areas selected to participate in the programme are St Budeaux and Devonport, Mount Wise and Morice Town. These places have been selected using a national methodology that identified the most disadvantaged areas in the country.

There are 3 strategic objectives of the funding:

1. Stronger communities

   Tackle the root causes of social division by rebuilding relationships, restoring a collective sense of belonging, and bringing people together so they feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.

2. Thriving places

   Revitalise high streets and neighbourhoods and encourage the design of public services that are tailored to local needs, accessible, responsive, and effective in tackling health and social inequalities.

3. Taking back control

   Empower people to have a greater say in shaping their local area and to feel more in control of their lives.

Governance and Roles

Neighbourhood Boards

Neighbourhood Boards will be established to lead the development of a 10-year vision and 4-year investment plan for each area. These Boards are designed to:

- Be predominantly resident led (at least 51%) of members should live or work within the boundaries of the neighbourhood)
- Reflect the diversity of each community
- Strengthen accountability and local voice
- Drive continuous community engagement

The Boards will be led by an Independent Chair, appointed and approved by the local MP and local authority. The Chair should be someone who is 'from' the area, i.e. living or working, holds a prominent role in the community or has a passion for the place, such as the head of a local charity, a local GP or a teacher. The Chair, supported by the local authority and the local MP, will then lead the process of recruiting and convening the Board.

Boards must include the local MP and at least one ward councillor, other representatives may include

- Community leaders, local charities, organisers and activists
- Local businesses and social enterprises
- Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations
- Public agencies and anchor institutions, such as local schools or GPs from local practices

Boards will operate transparently, meeting quarterly and publicly sharing their governance, discussions, and decisions to ensure community trust.

Community

The guidance is clear on the importance and centrality of the community in decision making. The Boards must be diverse and represent the full breadth of their community. They will lead organising and be responsible for the pro-active and ongoing engagement with the community to ensure they hear from everybody, including groups who have been marginalised or whose voices are less often heard. It must be 'deep, broad and sustained'. This includes considering how local community organisations can be used to help deliver engagement. Boards will work with the new Communities Delivery Unit to ensure plans are robust and reflective of best practice, through the new Network for Neighbourhoods.

It is expected that community engagement doesn't stop at the submission of the regeneration plan, and MHCLG expect evidence of long-term neighbourhood level discussions to continue throughout the lifetime of the project.

Local Authorities

- Agree and appoint the Independent Chair with the MP. The Local Authority is responsible for conducting due diligence when appointing.
- Provide the Accountable Body function for the funding:
    - Ensure compliance with key principles and laws (Nolan Principles, Equality Act, Managing Public Money, Subsidy Control and Procurement Act 2023).

  - Manage grant funding as Accountable Body and provide First Line Assurance of financial management through S151.
  - Act as the Accountable Body for the first three years of the programme, then support the transition of Boards to sustainable, community-led delivery models (such as co-operatives or charities) by year three of the programme. The default position is the local authorities remain as Accountable Body, but the Board can change this with the agreement of MHCLG.
  - Fulfil monitoring and reporting requirements for the funding
- Support Boards in setting up robust governance and management systems, including a Terms of Reference and transparency requirements. Provide advice on legal obligations, such as impact assessments, declarations of interests, or other processes board members may be less familiar with.
- Facilitate the development and delivery of the Plan, whilst recognising Boards as the decision-making forum.
- Develop processes for meaningful community involvement.

Funding model and delivery

Plymouth will receive a total of £19.6m over 10 years, which is 63% capital and 37% revenue.

Grant type (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
Cap funding	0	0.12	0.67	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12.43
Rev funding	0.15	0.27	0.69	0.69	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	7.17
Total	0.15	0.39	1.36	2.15	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	19.6

The programme enables communities to select local priorities from a wide menu of eligible interventions, including:

- Improving local facilities and spaces
- Supporting health and wellbeing services.
- Enhancing youth and family provision.
- Investing in skills, culture, and local identity.
- Strengthening safety, cohesion, and resilience.

Boards are expected to undertake deep and sustained engagement with residents to ensure investment aligns with community priorities.

The early capacity payment of £150,000 in 2025/26 is intended for setup costs e.g. staffing, board set up, community engagement and Pride in Place plan development.

Key Dates

1 April 2026: Start of delivery phase; first delivery funding payment; 50% up front, 50% on approval of Pride in Place Plan.

17 July 2026: Boards confirm membership and any changes to area boundaries.

Autumn 2026: Membership and boundaries reviewed and confirmed by MHCLG

28 November 2026: Boards submit their Pride in Place Plans to MHCLG for approval.