

Slade Green and Crayford Marshes Neighbourhood Board 09092026 Briefing note on Funding

9 September 2026

Briefing note: funding for the pride in place programme

Summary

The Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) is a £5.8 billion Government initiative supporting long-term, community-led regeneration. Slade Green and Crayford Marshes has been selected as part of the Phase 2 expansion and may receive up to £20 million over 10 years.

The Council must act as the accountable body for the programme, with the Neighbourhood Board determining investment priorities through a community-led approach.

Funding is phased and conditional, with an initial capacity payment and subsequent delivery funding released subject to governance and plan approval milestones.

1. BACKGROUND

The Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) is a £5.8 billion Government initiative designed to empower local communities to drive long-term change in their neighbourhoods.

Slade Green and Crayford Marshes has been selected as part of the Phase 2 expansion. Each participating area may receive up to £20 million over a 10-year period, split between capital and revenue funding.

The programme prioritises areas with high levels of deprivation and weaker social infrastructure, with investment decisions led locally through resident engagement and Neighbourhood Boards. It represents a significant opportunity to bring long-term, place-based investment into Slade Green.

The Government prospectus and guidance on the Pride in Place Programme can be found here. [Pride in Place Programme prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK](#)

2. FUNDING PROFILE AND PHASING

The Pride in Place programme provides a **phased funding model**.

2.1 Capacity Funding (Pre-delivery phase)

£150,000 revenue funding provided in 2025/26 to support:

- Establishment of the Neighbourhood Board.
- Early community engagement.
- Development of the Pride in Place Investment Plan.

This funding has been used to establish the Board, employ a secretariat function, commence community engagement and will support the Board to develop its plan as specified in the guidance provided by MHCLG.

2.2 Initial Delivery Funding (from April 2026)

From April 2026, areas receive:

- **£120,000 capital funding**
- **£270,000 revenue funding (Year 1)**

Revenue funding is split into two tranches:

- 50% paid at the start of the year
- 50% released **only after approval of Chair, Board membership and boundaries** (August 2026 submission).

2.3 Full Funding Profile (10-year programme)

Across the full programme:

- **Approx. £12.4m capital funding.**
- **Approx. £7.2m revenue funding.**

Funding is profiled over three investment periods within the overall 10-year programme (2026/27 to 2035/36). These three investment periods together comprise the full 10-year programme duration:

- **Period 1:** 2026/27 to 2029/30 (4 years).
- **Period 2:** 2030/31 to 2032/33 (3 years).
- **Period 3:** 2033/34 to 2035/36 (3 years).

Spend expectations include:

- **Minimum 25% spend per investment period.**
- **At least 50% of total funding spent by Year 7.**

This reinforces the need for **early programme mobilisation and sustained delivery capacity**.

2.4 Funding Flexibility

Revenue funding can be used flexibly across:

- Community engagement and participation.
- Programme management and staffing.
- Feasibility and design work.
- Governance and Board support.
- Community capacity building.

Capital funding is intended for:

- Buildings and community assets.
- Public realm improvements.
- Green spaces and local infrastructure.

Funding may also be spent outside the defined boundary where it demonstrably benefits residents.

MHCLG have provided a list of indicative interventions which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/pride-in-place-programme-list-of-indicative-interventions>

The interventions have been drafted broadly to give flexibility to Boards as to how and what they can deliver, providing examples where possible to indicate ideas for spend, but it is not exhaustive.

MHCLG encourages Neighbourhood Boards to think innovatively and creatively about how to deliver the strategic objectives of the Programme. Where activities fall outside the scope of the indicative interventions but the Board, based on their community engagement, believes they are better placed to meet local needs, the Board should seek to pursue these. This would require a business case to be agreed with the MHCLG.

3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND GOVERNANCE

PiPP is delivered through a partnership between the Neighbourhood Board, the Council (as accountable body), and the local MP.

The **Neighbourhood Board** will:

- Be **independently chaired** and resident-led (with at least 51% of members living or working within the area).
- Reflect the diversity of the local area.
- **Lead the co-production of a 10-year Vision and Pride in Place Plan.**

The **Council** will:

- Act as **accountable body** for all funding.
- Provide governance, financial oversight and professional support.
- Ensure compliance with all statutory and grant requirements.

The programme requires plans to be developed and submitted to MHCLG within specified timescales, supported by robust community engagement.

The programme also includes an expectation that delivery may transition towards **community-led models by year three**, subject to MHCLG agreement.

4. COUNCIL ROLE AS THE ACCOUNTABLE BODY

As the accountable body, the Council must ensure Pride in Place funding is managed properly, transparently and in line with legal and financial requirements. MHCLG has provided guidance that routine operational matters including accountable body functions, implementation of Board recommendations and day-to-day programme decisions do not require escalation to Cabinet or executive committees.

The Council's focus must be on assurance and releasing of funding rather than determining local priorities. Determining local priorities sits with the Neighbourhood Board members and local community.

Decision-making for the Pride in Place Programme will be led by the Neighbourhood Board, reflecting the programme's community-led approach. The Council's role as accountable body is to provide the necessary governance, financial oversight and assurance to ensure that public funds are administered properly, transparently and in accordance with all applicable requirements.

In carrying out this role, the Council will ensure that funding decisions and subsequent delivery arrangements are managed in accordance with statutory duties, grant conditions, the Council's Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations. This will include appropriate oversight of procurement, subsidy control, financial management, risk management, equalities considerations and reporting requirements.

The Neighbourhood Board will therefore lead on identifying local priorities and shaping the Pride in Place Plan, while the Council will retain responsibility for ensuring that any decisions involving the allocation, commitment or expenditure of public funds are capable of being implemented lawfully, are properly authorised, and are supported by appropriate controls and assurance arrangements. Where required, formal Council approvals or delegations will be put in place to give effect to the Board's recommendations and to ensure compliance with the Council's governance framework.

Legal, finance and procurement advice will be required at appropriate stages, with clear audit trails, records of decision-making, conflict of interest arrangements, and monitoring and reporting processes in place.

Where funding is provided to third parties or community organisations, this will be subject to proportionate due diligence and appropriate written agreements setting out permitted use of funds, reporting requirements, monitoring arrangements, clawback provisions, subsidy control and procurement obligations, and any other conditions required to protect the Council's position as accountable body.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DELIVERY APPROACH

Engagement is a **core requirement of the programme**, with funding specifically intended to support extensive and ongoing resident involvement. A core principle of the programme is **co-design with local communities**, ensuring residents shape priorities and investment decisions.

MHCLG guidance requires:

- Early and continuous engagement.
- Community-led prioritisation.
- Evidence to support funding decisions.

Initial engagement activity commenced in July 2026 and included:

- Events and outreach activity.
- Digital and face-to-face engagement.
- Targeted approaches to reach underrepresented groups.

6. USE OF FUNDING

The costs set out in Table 1 represent the submission made by the Council to MHCLG on 27 August 2026 in order to meet the government deadline for this first assurance. Further monitoring returns are required by MHCLG in October and April each year. Once the Board is operating, these will reflect the Board's recommendations. For a detailed breakdown, please see the Appendix.

Table 1: August 2026 MHCLG Grant Submission (2026/27)

Pride in Place Submission

Category	Actual spend	Committed Spend	Remaining Spend
1. Establishing the Neighbourhood Board	£16,007.91	£12,500.00	£62,301.66
2. Community Engagement	£25,227.70	£13,150.10	£75,000.00
3. Other activities	£-	£-	£335,812.62
TOTALS - £540,000	£41,235.61	£25,650.10	£473,114.28
4. How much used for consultants?	£18,900.00	£7,500.00	£-

Appendix: Breakdown of August 2026 MHCLG Grant Submission (27 August 2026).

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Pride in Place Submission August 2026

Category	Description	Actual spend	Committed Spend	Remaining Spend
1. Establishing the Neighbourhood Board	Governor Services support to the Neighbourhood Board (1 year)	-	£12,500	£12,500
	Finance Services support to the Neighbourhood Board 2026/7 - establishing and maintaining financial reporting, budget reporting, advising on governance arrangements, financial submission to MHCLG etc.	£1,314	-	£3,066
	Strategy team support to the Neighbourhood Board 2026/7 - establishing Board members, liaising with MHCLG, interpreting guidance and good practice, arranging meetings and ward walks, developing governance documents and seeking input and sign off	£10,061	-	£13,479
	Legal Services support to the Neighbourhood Board 2026/7 - commenting on draft governance documents etc.	£1,629	-	-
	Project Management support to the Neighbourhood Board 2026/7	£3,004	-	£5,257
	Training & Development for the Neighbourhood Board Members or wider community - not yet agreed or specified	-	-	£20,000

	Setting up a website, communications and graphics support and printing costs relating to the establishment of the Board 2026/7.	-	-	£8,000
2. Community Engagement	Engagement company (Sonar) providing survey, stakeholder interviews and community conversations as per specification.	£18,900	£7,500	-
	Strategy team support - scoping initial engagement work, specifying and identifying quotes, briefing the successful company and working with them throughout the contract.	£2,538	-	-
	Strategy team support - putting the survey on Ask Bexley, promoting the survey and wider engagement work and providing survey results from Ask Bexley platform.	£786	£393	-
	Project Management support to the Neighbourhood Board	£3,004	£5,257	
	Estimated allocation for support to develop the Pride in Place Plan by February 2027, including additional engagement work needed to build on the initial phase (sonar) already carried out.	-	-	£75,000 (estimate)
3. Other activities	Clienting costs once Pride in Place Plan is agreed and projects are being delivered, if managed via the Regen team.	-	-	£15,000 (estimate)
	Community engagement / community development resource going forwards after the Sonar work	-	-	£2,253

	Funding for projects and programmes identified by the Board drawing on community engagement.	-	-	£318,560
Totals	£540,000	£41,236	£25,650	£473,114