

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	10 February 2026
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Pride in Place Programme
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CR&E/26/25
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	David Dunne
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Julie Wood
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Laura Paterson
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1, 2.1.1, 3.2

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on the Pride in Place Programme (including funding) and seek instruction concerning the Council's involvement as Accountable Body.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the UK Government's allocation of up to £20m over 10 years (2026-2036) for delivery of the Pride in Place Programme in Aberdeen;
- 2.2 Agree that Aberdeen City Council shall act as the Accountable Body in relation to the Pride in Place Programme for Aberdeen's "North Locality Priority Neighbourhood / Cummings Park, Heathyfold and Middlefield, Northfield, Mastrick" and the associated funding;
- 2.3 Authorises the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration, following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, to undertake any actions which the Chief Officer considers to be necessary or expedient in order to progress delivery of the Pride in Place Programme for the said Neighbourhood, within the applicable timescales, including (but not limited to) actions in relation to:
  - (i) recruitment and appointment of a Neighbourhood Board Chair;
  - (ii) recruitment and appointment of members to, and establishment of, a Neighbourhood Board and setting terms of reference for the Board; and
  - (iii) confirmation of the boundary of the said Neighbourhood for the purposes of the Programme (including any alteration of that boundary);
- 2.4 Instruct the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to provide members of the Finance and Resources Committee with an update, before 17 July 2026, on progress concerning the Neighbourhood Board Chair and Neighbourhood Board and next steps for the Pride in Place Programme; and

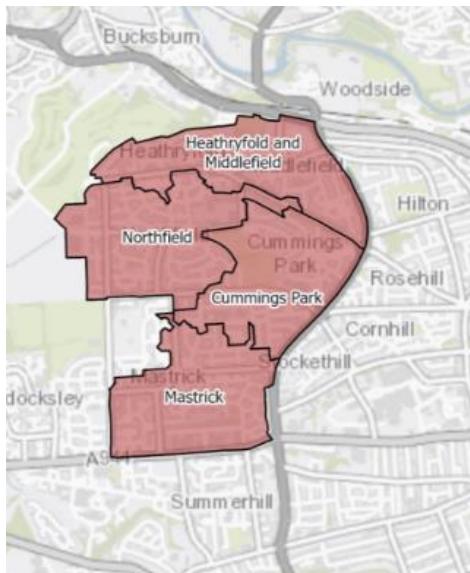
2.5 Authorise the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration to approve and incur expenditure relating to the above recommendations, funded from the initial Pride in Place Programme revenue grant of £150,000 provided for 2025/26 onwards.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 In December 2025, the UK Government announced funding of up to £20m over a 10 year period for delivery of the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) in Aberdeen. The funding is intended to support a pre-selected area within the city by delivering key infrastructure which aims to increase community capacity in the neighbourhoods with the highest need. PiPP is designed to be community-led - with Neighbourhood Boards, made up of local people, deciding how to invest the funding, supported by their MP and the local authority.

3.2 The UK Government has determined that the area of the city which is eligible for PiPP is Aberdeen’s “North Locality Priority Neighbourhood / Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield, Northfield, Mastrick”.

Fig. 1: Map of area



The UK Government used a methodology based on Scottish Community Needs Index (75%) and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (25%) to inform this decision and to define the boundary of this area (the “Neighbourhood Boundary”). It is estimated that this area has a combined population of 17,236. There is scope to request slight alteration to this Neighbourhood Boundary if the Board considers that the addition of a key asset or street which is just outside of the Boundary is integral to strengthening the Neighbourhood. Such alteration would require the agreement of the UK Government (i.e. the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) and any proposed alteration would be included as part of the return to be submitted by the Council to the UK Government in July 2026.

- 3.3 A special decision-making process must be implemented for the PiPP, as determined by the UK Government. The Council will act as the Accountable Body for the funding awards - but a newly established Neighbourhood Board will be responsible for deciding on how these funds are allocated, following consultation with the community.
- 3.4 As Accountable Body, the Council will be responsible for ensuring that the allocation of funds complies with public policy and legislation. The Council is also expected to support the Neighbourhood Board with implementation of the Programme and to act as a secretariat, particularly over the first few years, and to work with the local MP in relation to PiPP.
- 3.5 The Council are expected to confirm or submit the following to the UK Government in 2026:

Table 1: Timescale and Deadlines

Action	Responsible	Deadline
Appointment of Neighbourhood Board Chair	Local Authority, MP	Approximately May 2026
Confirmation of Neighbourhood Board Members and Neighbourhood Boundary	Board Chair, Local Authority, MP	17 July 2026
Submission of Pride in Place Plan	Local Authority, MP, Neighbourhood Board	28 November 2026

It should be noted that the actions or decisions noted above cannot be taken unilaterally by the Council – albeit the Council has an important role to play. The recommended delegations to the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration should be understood in this context.

- 3.6 The Neighbourhood Board Chair is expected to be central to the decision-making of the wider Board. As such, it is recommended that recruitment of the Board Chair starts immediately to enable Board Members and the Neighbourhood Boundary to be confirmed to the UK Government by the July 2026 deadline.
- 3.7 The Chair is to be approved and appointed by the Council and the MP. Recruitment to this post of Chair would be launched publicly through an Expression of Interest process. Given the above timeline, it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Officer – City Development & Regeneration as detailed in recommendation 2.3 – so as to permit the Chief Officer to approve, on behalf of the Council, appointment of a Chair.
- 3.8 The Chair will lead the recruitment of Board members, ensuring an inclusive and representative selection of people from across the local community. The Chair will be supported by the Council and MP to identify and recruit candidates for the Board. It is therefore also intended that Expressions of Interest for the Board Member positions be imminently published to ensure an efficient decision-making process once the Chair has been appointed. Engagement and

consultation activities will also be planned to support the community and the Board. These activities will utilise the National Standards for Community Engagement and will align with, and build upon, the recent work undertaken by Community Planning Aberdeen in development of the North Locality Plan. Terms of reference will require to be set for the Board. It is recommended also that authority be delegated to the Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration concerning the Council’s role in relation to the Board.

3.9 The Chief Officer – City Development and Regeneration will update members of the Finance and Resources Committee on progress concerning the Neighbourhood Board Chair and Neighbourhood Board and next steps for the Pride in Place Programme, prior to the UK Government’s 17 July deadline.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A total of £19.6m will be made available from the UK Government to the Council (as Accountable Body) between now and 31 March 2036, although funding post financial year 2028-29 is to be reviewed at the next Spending Review. The funding is split 63% capital (£12.43m) and 37% revenue (£7.17m).

Table 2: Funding Profile

Grant Type (£m's)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
CapEx	0	0.12	0.67	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12.43
RevEx	0.15	0.27	0.69	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	7.17
Total	0.15	0.29	1.36	2.15	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	19.6

4.2 Funding is intended to be flexible. It does not have to be fully allocated or spent per financial year and can be carried forward to enable future activity. The Programme does, however, have to meet a minimum spend requirement by end of Year 4 and again at end of Year 7.

4.3 As the Accountable Body, the Council will be responsible for the management of these public funds and undertaking due diligence. The Chief Officer – Finance (as the Section 95 Officer) is required to submit to the UK Government an annual statement verifying expenditure.

4.4 The External Funding Team will work closely with the Neighbourhood Board and local MP to develop and embed appropriate controls and processes for funding. The External Funding Team is experienced in managing funding programmes to third party organisations on behalf of government, including the UK Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Scottish Government’s Place Based Investment Fund.

4.5 Delivering this Programme will require Council staff resource and initial spend on activity which will support appointment of the Chair and the Board and the engagement of community groups. Such expenditure is to be funded from the £150,000 Pride in Place Programme revenue grant to be provided by the UK Government before the end of 2025/26 and it is recommended that the Chief

Officer – City Development and Regeneration be authorised to approve such expenditure.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the Accountable Body for the funds at the start of the Programme, the Council is responsible for ensuring that all funds are managed in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. It will also be responsible for compliance with subsidy control and procurement legislation.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	Failure to comply with stipulations of Programme, resulting in pause/repayment of funds	Governance and delivery requirements of the Programme have been reviewed by officers and will be regularly reviewed/actioned	L	Yes
Operational	Insufficient staff resource to support delivery of Programme	Capacity funding from UK Government allows for some initial costs to be aligned with this activity	L	Yes
Financial	Failure to comply with public funding legislation may result in repayment to UK Government	Processes and systems will be established by an experienced team which ensures compliance with internal and external financial requirements	L	Yes
Reputational	Community perception that	Expression of Interest processes	L	Yes

	their needs and interests have not been sufficiently represented or met	will be established for the Neighbourhood Chair and Board appointments, with applications encouraged from those living/working in the Neighbourhood		
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No significant risks identified			

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26</b>	
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 16 – 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.</p> <p>The paper seeks approval to progress the community-led Pride in Place Programme.</p>

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Required – will be completed prior to commencement of recruitment processes.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [Pride in Place Programme Prospectus](#)

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 N/A

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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