



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
UK Government

20 November 2025

Dear Secretary,

Pride in Place Programme

The Committee has agreed to write to you regarding how the Pride in Place Programme works in relation to devolution and in advance of the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026. We note that the funding period runs from September 2025 to March 2027 and that local authorities Scotland must engage with local MPs and MSPs in delivering the Pride in Place Impact Fund. This raises the question of how delivery of the plan will operate during the purdah period prior to the Scottish Parliament elections. For example, whether it would be appropriate for local authorities to continue to engage with MPs during this period especially where they may also be a candidate for the Scottish Parliament election.

The Committee also notes that in relation to the Pride in Place Impact Fund (Pride in Neighbourhoods) it is neighbourhood boards which will make decisions and that the local MP will be consulted before an independent Chair is appointed by the local authority and must also be on the Board. We would welcome clarity regarding the role for MSPs in relation to neighbourhood boards.

The Committee further notes that in relation to the Impact Fund MPs *must* be consulted but MSPs *should* be engaged. We would welcome clarity as why there is that distinction and why there is no requirement that MSPs must be engaged.

Finally, the Committee notes the view of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic that “There has been a concerning lack of engagement from the United Kingdom Government on the pride in place programme” and “Despite a clear commitment from UK Government ministers at the start of the year to engage meaningfully on new funding programmes, we have not yet been given details on funding and delivery, although the Welsh Government was given significant clarity and responsibility for funding more than a month ago.”¹

¹ [Official Report](#) Col 7-8

The Committee invites you to respond to these points.

The Committee also invites you to appear before us to discuss your written response which it would be helpful to receive by 5th December.

Our clerks are available to make the necessary arrangements regarding oral evidence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Adamson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Adamson MSP
Convener