



Clare Adamson MSP
Convener
Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

17 December 2025

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your recent letter setting out questions from the Scottish Parliament's Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee about the UK Government's Pride in Place strategy and programme. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government as the Pride in Place Programme (PIPP) and Pride In Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) falls within my portfolio area at the Scotland Office.

The UK Government announced its long-term [Pride in Place Strategy](#) on 25 September to support and empower communities at the hyper-local level. This represents a break from the past and a new way for the UK Government to work in partnership with communities and neighbourhoods - underpinned by up to £5 billion of funding support across the UK.

The strategy announced that Phase 2 of PIPP would provide £280m support to 14 Scottish communities across 12 Scottish local authorities. On 12 December the Scotland Office announced the neighbourhoods that will each now benefit from up to £20m over 10 years, starting from 2026. These neighbourhoods were identified via local engagement involving local authorities, MPs, constituency MSPs, the Scottish Government and wider community organisations in the eligible areas.

The strategy also announced PIPIF which is providing £1.5 million each to 8 local authorities in Scotland over the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. This fund will provide crucial and immediate support for the development of shared spaces, to revitalise local high streets, and to improve the public realm.

The [PIPP prospectus and supporting guidance](#) as well as [PIPIF prospectus and supporting guidance](#) have now been published online. These documents provide further information that address the committee's questions, but I have set out a summary of the answers below:

- Scottish local authorities will be expected to follow their usual pre-election period guidance for any engagement with candidates for the Scottish Parliament. For PIPIF, the UK Government expects that local authorities will have largely concluded any engagement before the pre-election period.
- The PIPP prospectus sets out that the appropriate constituency MSP should sit on the Neighbourhood Board.
- PIPP and PIPIF are UK Government programmes, and are ultimately accountable to the UK Parliament, therefore it is appropriate that MPs must be consulted on programme delivery in their areas. The PIPP prospectus sets out that the appropriate constituency MSP should also sit on the Neighbourhood Board.
- The UK Government is continuing the collaborative cross-government working from the delivery of Phase 1 of PIPP. The prospectus sets out that Neighbourhood Boards should consider the policy objectives of the Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy, as well as how the interventions delivered can complement Scotland's Town Centre First Principle and Town Centre Action Plan. In addition, Boards are encouraged to have early conversations with their respective MHCLG contact and the Scottish Government Regeneration Unit to consider opportunities to align objectives and maximise funding opportunities.

As the information set out in this letter and in the detailed prospectuses and accompanying guidance published online addresses the points raised by the committee, I am declining the invitation to provide further oral evidence. Thank you for writing on this important matter.

yours sincerely,
Kirsty McNeill

KIRSTY MCNEILL MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND