

To: Cabinet
Date: **11 February 2026**
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive, Citizen and City Services
Title of Report: Pride in Place Programme

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To accept grant funding of up to £20m and to accept role as accountable body for the Greater Leys Pride in Place programme
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Fair Economy; Thriving Communities.
Policy Framework:	No

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet resolves to:

1. **Approve** proposals to support the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Phase 2 Pride in Place Programme (Greater Leys) (PiPP (Greater Leys)), accept receipt of MHCLG funding of up to £20m for the same, and accept role as accountable body for the PiPP (Greater Leys) funds.
2. **Delegate authority where not already delegated under the Council's constitution** to the Director of Communities and Citizens' Services and Director of Economy, Regeneration and Sustainability, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Director of Law, Governance, and Strategy, and the Cabinet member for Housing and Communities to work with the PiPP (Greater Leys) Chair and Neighbourhood Board to:
 1. Enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as required by MHCLG on behalf of the Council as accountable body;
 2. Make all necessary arrangements to receive the funding as provided by MHCLG under the MoU;
 3. Agree with MHCLG any extensions to the 'default' area boundary of PiPP;
 4. Allocate the funding to third parties as required by the PiPP (Greater Leys) and enter into any necessary agreements to enable this;

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| 5. Undertake the necessary procurements; and |
| 6. Enter into contracts as required to support the PiPP (Greater Leys). |

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	Map of Greater Leys	No
Appendix 2	Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions	No
Appendix 3	Risk Assessment	No
Appendix 4	Equalities Impact Assessment	No

Introduction and background

1. Greater Leys has been selected by MHCLG for up to £20m funding as part of Phase 2 of the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP). The PiPP is a UK-wide initiative providing a 10-year investment to disadvantaged neighbourhoods and targeting long-term investment and is a key element of the UK Government's wider Local Growth Programme which will follow on from the soon to end Shared Prosperity Funding programme. Pride in Place comprises of two elements: the Impact Fund and the PiPP, the latter of which this report focuses on.
2. The aim of the PiPP is for projects to be community led. The objectives of the PiPP are:
 - building stronger communities
 - creating thriving places
 - to empower people to take back control.
3. These objectives clearly align with the Council's Corporate Plan and in particular with the Thriving Communities priority "Working in partnership with communities, organisations, and agencies to reduce inequalities and create thriving communities", and with a Strong, Fair Economy strategy "to support sustainable economic development, ensuring that our city remains an attractive and thriving place for everyone, whether they live, work, or visit here".
4. MHCLG will require the Local Authority to be the accountable body for the funds at the start of the programme with responsibility "for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement."
5. The PiPP will be led by an independent Chair identified by the local MP with support from the local authority. The Chair will recruit and convene a Neighbourhood Board. The Board will work with the wider community to establish projects they want to prioritise and how they want to spend their funding.

The role of the local authority

6. While this is a community-led programme, MHCLG has set out the key roles for the local authority to play in supporting delivery at a local level including a requirement to:
 - work with the local MP to appoint the Neighbourhood Board Chair;
 - work with the local MP to approve the final Board member selection proposed by the Chair;
 - be the accountable body for the PiPP funding at the start of the programme, and play a critical role in enabling and supporting the Neighbourhood Board to develop plans for spending;
 - support the Board in embedding community-led delivery into decision making; and
 - support the Neighbourhood Board to develop their Pride in Place Plan, setting out a 10-year vision for the area and detailing how funding will be spent in the first 4-year investment cycle (see paragraph 15).
7. This will address key priorities in the Thriving Communities Strategy including the commitments to “support partners and community groups in arts, culture, sport and community activity to promote opportunities for everyone, using our facilities, grants and external funding” and “... by working with partners at all levels to tackle inequalities, champion diversity and inclusion and support access to jobs, skills and cultural activities”.
8. MHCLG has defined the role of accountable body as responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with: the Nolan Principles, the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty, and Managing Public Money.
9. The Local Authority will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.
10. MHCLG expect all Pride in Place areas to transition towards a community-led model by year three of the Programme. This may mean an established local community organisation acting as an anchor institution, or the Neighbourhood Board transitioning to become a Co-operative, Community Interest Company or charity for example. The role of accountable body may also be transferred to the new entity at this point.

The Area

11. Greater Leys (see Appendix 1) has been selected by MHCLG using a composite measure of deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)) and community need (Community Needs Index (CNI)), to identify areas with the poorest social and economic outcomes. Further discussion on the area and flexibilities will be required both within the Council and with the community, other stakeholders and with MHCLG particularly as there are adjacent areas that have similar levels of deprivation and issues around health etc. MHCLG has stated that while there may be some flexibility in response to local conditions and local uses e.g. where the boundary cuts through existing facilities and/ or where facilities outside the area can be shown to benefit the allocated community however, MHCLG would not expect to see boundaries significantly extended e.g. to include additional wards etc.

12. Phase 2 Neighbourhood Boards may make representations to MHCLG to alter their default boundary within the following parameters. These parameters are:

- the new geography must be precisely defined.
- the new geography must be a single contiguous area
- the population of the new geography must remain at neighbourhood level
- the change in geography must be agreed by the MP, the local authority, and the Board, ideally with wider local consultation, and must be submitted in writing to MHCLG
- any boundary changes must be submitted by 17 July 2026
- the new geography must remain within the spirit of the programme

Programme funding interventions

13. MHCLG is encouraging flexibility in types of projects that may be funded and has set out a long list of indicative interventions that would be acceptable. These are set out under the following headings:

- Regeneration, high streets & heritage
- Housing
- Work, productivity & skills
- Cohesion
- Community power
- Health and wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and security
- Education and opportunity

14. A full list of indicative interventions is included in Appendix 2.

Alternative Options

15. The alternative option is to not accept the role of Accountable Body however this will lead to the loss of the funding and the benefits it will derive as set out in the report.

Financial implications

16. £20m in funding over 10 years is available however, the budget is to be allocated in accordance with the Pride in Place Plan as defined by the Neighbourhood Board. MHCLG will provide funding for a general purpose. The onward award of funding and the substantive design of potential public subsidies will be the responsibility of each local authority. It is assumed the Council will act as agent for any funding until such time as projects can be defined and where relevant allocated to the Council budget.
17. The monies will not be subject to budget approval since the city council is only the accountable body. The grant will be held on the balance sheet. Should it be agreed by the Pride and Place Board that monies will be spent on City Council assets then budget approval will be sought from council at the appropriate time.

18. Funding for projects will be split 63% capital and 37% revenue.
19. MHCLG has agreed an initial payment of £150K of capacity funding in Spring 2026. The capacity funding can be allocated by the Council without the need for agreement with MHCLG and can cover appropriate set up costs prior to the Chair/ Board being in place. MHCLG will issue a grant determination letter on receiving payments, including the initial capacity funding
20. The programme is then divided into 3 investment periods:
 - Period 1: the 2026 to 2027 financial year to the 2029 to 2030 financial year (4 years)
 - Period 2: the 2030 to 2031 financial year to the 2032 to 2033 financial year (3 years)
 - Period 3: the 2033 to 2034 financial year to the 2035 to 2036 financial year (3 years)

21. MHCLG has set out the following indicative funding profile (financial years):

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
Capital funding	0.00	0.12	0.67	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12.43
Revenue 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 £m	0.15	0.39	1.36	2.15	2.23	19.6						

* Funding post financial year 2028/29 will be reviewed at the next spending review

22. The Neighbourhood Board will be able to forecast their intention to spend delivery funding in later years of the programme. Annual payments of delivery funding will not be adjusted where a Board's forecast indicates that funding will not be spent in year, or in a given investment period, provided they forecast to spend the full value of the overall 10-year allocation.
23. Funding cannot be brought forward into earlier years of the programme, although places can borrow against what is a guaranteed revenue stream albeit at the cost of prevailing interest rates.
24. Neighbourhood Boards will be encouraged to consider ways in which Pride in Place funding can be used alongside other government and non-government funding.
25. PiPP governance requires the local authority's Chief Financial Officer to submit an annual Statement of MHCLG.

Legal issues

26. The recommendations within this report fall within a 'key decision' as defined in the Council's Constitution, on the basis that it will involve an income in the form of Central Government funding of up to £20m.
27. By supporting the PiPP (Greater Leys) and accepting the associated funding, the Council will be required to act as the accountable body for the funds, at least at the start of the Programme. This comes with certain obligations.

28. As referred to in para' 8 above, MHCLG will require the Council to ensure that funds are managed in line with the Nolan Principles, the Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty, and Managing Public Money.
29. In addition to funding requirements noted above, the Council as an accountable body will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant public procurement laws, subsidy control, and state aid requirements.
30. An MoU will be set up between the Council and the MHCLG following the Council's submission and the MHCLG's approval of the Pride in Place Plan, which will happen in advance of the financial year 2027-2028. This is expected to more clearly set out the Council's obligations in its role as the accountable body and will need to be reviewed by Legal Services before being signed to ensure the terms are understood and adhered to.

Level of risk

31. The risk assessment is attached as Appendix 3.
32. The success of PiPP (Greater Leys) is dependent on community support and engagement and early selection of an independent Chair and subsequently the Neighbourhood Board will be a key element in this. The Chair is to be selected by the MP with support from the local authority with the aim of the Chair being in place as soon as possible in 2027. Council Officers and Lead Member are working closely with the MP's office to ensure a community led approach including sharing of data on local stakeholders and community groups.
33. Early engagement and early pro-active communications with the community will be essential with current locality work by the Communities team providing a good basis for future engagement to ensure support for the programme.

Equalities impact

34. The Equalities Impact Assessment is included in Appendix 4

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

35. As paragraph 13 above the programme enables a wide range of interventions including projects that would support decarbonisation and environmental improvements. Examples cited in the guidance include (but not limited to):
 - creating and improving green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments
 - investing in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation and energy efficiency for buildings and transport
 - support for people in bringing down home energy bills and improving the energy efficiency of their homes
 - funding for electric vehicle charging facilities and to procure zero emission buses and supporting infrastructure
 - green skills courses, including retraining for those in high carbon sectors

Conclusion

36. This will make available significant funding to support Greater Leys and while there are risks of disruption if the Community is not fully engaged this should not distract from the potential opportunities.

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Background Papers:

- 1 [Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
- 2 [Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)
- 3 [Pride in Place Programme: governance and boundary guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- 4 [Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK](#)
- 5 [Pride in Place Programme: Pride in Place Plans - GOV.UK](#)
- 6 [Pride in Place Programme: monitoring guidance - GOV.UK](#)

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