



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Nesil Caliskan MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To: Council Chief Executives
Cc: Pride in Place Chairs

23rd June 2026

Dear Chief Executive,

I am writing to you regarding the governance arrangements for the Pride in Place Programme. Over recent weeks, I have spoken with a large number of chairs, MPs and community representatives involved in the programme across the country. I have been greatly encouraged by the level of commitment, energy and ambition being shown by those working to deliver change in their local communities.

It is clear from these conversations that communities are eager to see quick and visible progress. Local authorities have an important role to play in ensuring that neighbourhood boards and chairs are supported effectively to turn local priorities into action.

As accountable body, you are responsible for ensuring that public funding is managed properly, transparently and in accordance with legal and financial requirements. I would like to thank you for the constructive support your local authority has already provided as the programme has developed.

However, I am also aware of concerns that in some areas, routine operational matters relating to the programme, which I would expect to be resolved at officer level – including accountable body arrangements, implementation of Board recommendations, and other operational decisions – are being unnecessarily delayed through referral to Cabinet or equivalent executive committees.

The Pride in Place Programme represents a deliberate departure from earlier local growth programmes. The Government has provided long-term funding and significant local flexibility because we believe decisions should be taken closest to communities. The accountable body's role is to provide the governance and assurance needed to release funding, not to determine which community priorities should be supported. Funding decisions should reflect the priorities agreed by the community partnership.

In that context, I do not expect programme matters to be routinely referred to Cabinet or equivalent committees. I instead ask that councils take a proportionate and pragmatic approach to decision-making.

MHCLG officials are available to support authorities and boards in resolving issues and ensuring the programme can move forward effectively. They will continue to update me so that we collectively are able to monitor progress closely.

Where progress is being unnecessarily frustrated or delayed, I will consider what interventions – including pausing funding – may be required. In those circumstances, it is local communities that stand to lose out. Local authorities should therefore recognise the direct consequences that delays or obstruction can have for the places they serve.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

NESIL CALISKAN MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Devolution, Local Growth and Communities