

## CROYDON COUNCIL

**JOB TITLE:** Independent Chair – Neighbourhood Board

**PROGRAMME:** Pride in Place Programme – Croydon West

**SPONSOR & ACCOUNTABLE BODY:** Croydon Council

**DIRECTORATE:** Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery

**LOCATION:** Croydon West (covering parts of West Thornton, Broad Green, Bensham Manor and Selhurst)

**HOURS (PER MONTH):** Part-time, flexible hours. Approx. 8–10 hours per month

**TERM:** Fixed Term until 2030 with opportunity to extend to 2035

**CLOSING DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**INTERVIEWS:** Scheduled in June 2026

**START DATE:** To be confirmed

**SALARY:** This is an unpaid voluntary role. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

**REPORTING TO:** Croydon Council

### ROLE PURPOSE

The Pride in Place Programme is a government initiative that provides long-term investment directly to neighbourhoods, enabling local people and community groups to shape and deliver projects that build stronger communities, create thriving places, and give residents a meaningful voice in their area's future.

The Neighbourhood Board Chair will provide independent leadership for the Pride in Place Programme in Croydon West, overseeing the management of a £20 million neighbourhood investment fund. The Chair will act as a champion for Croydon West and its residents, ensuring that decision-making is community-led and that the Programme delivers lasting social, economic and environmental benefits.

Working closely with the Executive Mayor, the local MP, ward Councillors, Council Officers, community groups and delivery partners, the Chair will convene and lead the Neighbourhood Board, provide strategic oversight, and support engagement so that local people have a direct say in shaping the future of their area. This is a unique opportunity to strengthen communities, create thriving places, and empower residents to take control of their neighbourhood.

For more information about the programme, please visit [MHCLG Pride in Place Programme Prospectus](#).

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected candidate must:

- Act as an independent champion for Croydon West, representing the interests, aspirations and diversity of the local community.
- Lead the recruitment and appointment of Neighbourhood Board members, with support from the local authority and local MP, ensuring the Board is representative and reflective of the area.
- Chair and lead the Neighbourhood Board, ensuring effective governance, constructive collaboration and transparent decision-making.
- Provide strategic oversight of the £20 million Pride in Place investment, ensuring delivery against the Programme's core objectives of building stronger communities, creating thriving places and empowering local people
- Lead and support meaningful community engagement, reaching a wide range of residents and groups, including those who may not traditionally engage with local services or decision-making processes.
- Organise and oversee engagement activities to ensure priorities, funding decisions and projects are informed and led by the community.
- Oversee the development of the Pride in Place Plan, setting out the community's long-term vision.
- Work collaboratively with the Executive Mayor, the local MP, ward Councillors, Council Officers, delivery partners and the Communities Delivery Unit at MHCLG to drive progress and resolve challenges.
- Ensure the Programme delivers agreed outcomes, leaves a positive legacy, and strengthens local capacity and leadership.

### **Working arrangements:**

This role is likely to involve working frequently outside of regular office hours including weekends and evenings to attend meetings and community events.

The Chair should be someone who is living or working in the area, holds a prominent role in the community or has a passion for the place, such as the head of a local charity, a local campaigner, community leader, faith leader, teacher, GP, etc.

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Board cannot be an elected representative, such as an MP, Elected Mayor or local Councillor.

In selecting candidates to interview, we will be looking at the following criteria:

### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

- Credibility within the community, for example, a track record as a local community leader, charity or voluntary sector leader, faith leader, campaigner, educator, health professional, or leader of a local organisation, etc.;
- Proven ability to lead, chair or facilitate groups, partnerships or boards in a collaborative manner;
- Strong communication and engagement skills, with the ability to reach and inspire a broad cross-section of the community;
- A clear commitment to community-led decision-making and empowering local people, with a passion for the place and the people;
- Ability to work constructively with a range of partners, including residents, politicians, local authority staff and other local organisations;
- A track record of driving positive change at a local or neighbourhood level.

### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

- Experience of community development, regeneration, placemaking or neighbourhood-based initiatives;
- Understanding of public funding, programme oversight or strategic planning;
- Experience of working with communities and addressing inequality or barriers to participation.

### **WHY APPLY**

This is a rare opportunity to play a defining community leadership role. You will help local people take real ownership of a £20 million investment fund, strengthen community pride and cohesion, and create lasting improvements to places, facilities and opportunities that matter most to residents. You will work with passionate community members, the Executive Mayor, local authority staff and the local MP to leave a meaningful legacy, ensuring local voices are at the heart of decisions and that Croydon West's potential is realised for generations to come.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are invited to submit via email to [prideinplace@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:prideinplace@croydon.gov.uk) :

- A CV;
- A supporting statement (maximum 750 words) addressing the role profile and selection criteria, outlining:
  - Your connection to Croydon West;
  - Relevant experience and skills in driving positive community change;
  - Your vision for community-led leadership through the Pride in Place Programme.

The selection process will be through interviews.

The Panel will include the Executive Mayor, Council officers and the local MP.

For enquiries about the role or requests for further information, please contact [prideinplace@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:prideinplace@croydon.gov.uk).

For an informal chat about this role, please contact Mark Baigent, Interim Director on 07534 902527