

Pride In Place – Proud of Blacon

Neighbourhood Board Chair: Role Description & How to Apply

Purpose of the role

Blacon is one of 244 places across Great Britain to receive £20 million over ten years as part of the government's Pride in Place Programme for local people to decide how to regenerate their local area.

The independent Chair will appoint and lead a Neighbourhood Board, in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Guidance, bringing together in an open and collaborative way residents, community groups, businesses and public partners to co-create a plan outlining the community's vision for Blacon.

The Chair's primary job is to be a champion for the Blacon community, ensuring that decision-making is community led and that a diverse range of voices are heard. This is a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the long-term future of Blacon.

The Chair should have a deep connection to Blacon and can be new to this kind of role. What matters most is a commitment to seeing change through and improving the lives of those in the Blacon community.

The Pride in Place Strategy has three core objectives:

- a. To build stronger communities – All places should have strong relationships and a collective sense of belonging to their community. This helps bring people together to build community cohesion and resilience, helping people to feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.
- b. To create thriving places – Every part of the UK deserves to have vibrant neighbourhoods and communities with busy high streets, a good range of local amenities and high-quality physical infrastructure.
- c. To empower people to take back control – Everybody should be empowered and in control of their lives and have a say over the future of their community.

We are looking for an independent Chair who will be a proactive, trustworthy convenor who:

- Is deeply connected to their community and fiercely committed to making it an even better place to live. Ideally someone who is strongly connected with, from, lives or works in Blacon.
- Can Lead the recruitment of the board, ensuring it is diverse and inclusive and representative of those living and working in Blacon.
- Will work with Samantha Dixon MP and Cheshire West and Chester Council to approve the Neighbourhood Board membership.
- Can act as a visible champion for Blacon promoting pride and encouraging participation in engagement

- Will oversee a range of ongoing engagement activities to complement the Pride in Blacon Survey that was conducted between December 2025 – February 2026.
- Can bring together different voices from across Blacon, to shape a collective 10-year vision for the future of Blacon.
- Has local credibility and will be respected as a leader – even if this is their first leadership role.
- Ensures that all voices are heard and that Neighbourhood Board discussions are collaborative.
- Is adept at finding consensus, navigating conflict calmly and impartially.
- Brings together community groups and prioritises community engagement as a central pillar of the programme.
- Is clear about their own knowledge gaps and considers how the makeup of the Neighbourhood Board complements this.
- Thinks laterally and creatively about solutions to problems and ways to draw in community voices.
- Acts as a public face and represents the Neighbourhood Board externally and brings figures of different political stripes together.
- Builds strong relationships with stakeholders including local businesses, charities, schools, healthcare providers, and faith groups
- Represents the Board in discussions with the local authority, MPs, and external partners
- Promotes transparency and accountability in Board activities

The Chair should ensure that:

- the Board should have a range of voices, including ones that differ from the Chair's.
- the board looks to take forward what the Blacon community wants.
- this remains a strategic role to take forward community priorities.

Skills and attributes required of the Chair:

Essential skills and experience:

- Fair and balanced, ensuring that all voices are heard
- Good at facilitating conversations, particularly when differences of opinion emerge
- Open to learning, feedback and development, and an interest in mentoring and upskilling others
- Welcoming, open and listens deeply to others
- Calm under pressure and manages conflict well

- Has time to prioritise the role (The first few months will be the most time-intensive)
- Strong facilitation and communication skills, able to engage diverse groups
- Commitment to inclusivity, fairness and community led decision making
- Ability to build consensus and managing differing viewpoints
- Understanding local issues, challenges and opportunities

Desirable skills and experience:

- Proven leadership in community, civic or organisational settings
- Experience in chairing boards, committees, or community groups
- Knowledge of governance process and public sector partnerships
- Track record of community organising, activism or grassroots leadership
- Familiarity with local authority structures and political processes

In most circumstances we expect this role to be voluntary, similar to that of a school governor or charity trustee.

This is an unpaid voluntary role; reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

More detail on the Pride in Place Programme can be found in the [online programme prospectus](#).

How to apply

If you think that this role might be for you, please submit your CV and expression of interest setting out in no more than 500 words:

- How you are connected to the geographical area and community in which you would like to be Chair
- How your skills, attributes and experience will contribute to the role of Chair as outlined above
- Explain why you think you would be the best person to lead the community in developing and delivering the Blacon Pride in Place Programme

Send your Expression of Interest or a query on this role to email:

Samantha.dixon.mp@parliament.uk

Or by post to:

Office of Samantha Dixon MBE, MP

The Bluecoat Building

Upper Northgate Street

Chester

CH1 4EE

Deadline to apply – 23:59 Wednesday 27th May 2026