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**Joint Chief Executive
Rob Barlow**

LB/COUNCIL/AG

Please ask for: Lorriane Bush

15 July 2022

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 25 JULY 2022

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council on **Monday, 25th July, 2022 at 6.30 pm** in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston PE21 8QR

ROB BARLOW
Joint Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I - PRELIMINARIES

A. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To sign the minutes of the previous Full Council meeting.

B. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

To receive communications (if any) from the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

D. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

To receive deputations or petitions (if any) pursuant to Rules 12 and 23 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

E. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

To answer questions (if any) from elected members pursuant to Rule 11 of the Council's Rules of Procedure

F. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To answer questions (if any) from members of the public pursuant to Rule 10 of the Council's Rules of Procedure

G. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by Members of any interests in respect of items on the agenda

PART II - AGENDA ITEMS

1 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (Pages 15 - 62)

(Report by the Deputy Chief Executive – Growth)

*Questions from Members of the Council and the public must be received by 5 p.m. two clear working days prior to the day of the meeting – the deadline for this meeting is **5 p.m. on Wednesday 20 July 2022***

Alternative Versions - Should you wish to have the agenda or report in an alternative format such as larger text, Braille or a specific language, please contact Democratic Services on direct dial (01205) 314227

The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Lorriane Bush, Municipal Buildings, Boston Telephone 01205 314224 e-mail lorraine.bush@boston.gov.uk

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

At the meeting of Boston Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Boston, on Monday, 27th June 2022 at 6.30 pm

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Anne Dorrian) in the Chair

Councillors Tracey Abbott, Tom Ashton, Alison Austin, Richard Austin BEM, Peter Bedford, David Brown, Katie Chalmers, George Cornah, Anton Dani, Deborah Evans, Paul Goodale, Martin Griggs, Jonathan Noble, Brian Rush, Judith Skinner, Paul Skinner, Yvonne Stevens, Peter Watson, Judith Welbourn, Nigel Welton and Stephen Woodliffe

Officers –

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive – Growth, Deputy Chief Executive – Communities, Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer, Assistant Director Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, Democratic Services Delivery Manager, and Civic and Member Services Officer.

11 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 29 March, 11 April and 16 May 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

12 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Bell, Neill Hastie, Martin Howard and Frank Pickett.

13 COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor invited Members to stay at the end of the meeting to hear the history of the Monteith Punchbowl, an item in the Council's civic regalia collection.

14 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

The Chief Executive reported there were no deputations or petitions.

15 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

The Chief Executive reported there were a series of questions from Councillor Anton Dani.

Questions asked by Councillor Anton Dani pursuant to paragraph 11 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

1. Can you please give an update on the Council's current financial position?

Response by Councillor Jonathan Noble

It is too soon into this financial year to predict what the year-end position will be for 2023/23. However, there are a number of exceptional pressures which are being closely monitored and others more longer term which will need to be considered as part of the Councils MTFS this autumn.

Energy and fuel costs are being regularly considered with potential pressures such as central government funding, feeding into Q1 and onwards. If these look to become longer term features due to international influences then this will need to be considered as part of the 22/23 budget setting process. Reserves may need to assist if pressures continue and cannot be accommodated in the round during the year.

Income levels – post covid, these again are being monitored monthly and showing continued and steady increases, the issue here will be if they do not return to previous levels. We have a covid reserve to continue to smooth this funding pressure whilst income levels return.

Other key pressures include the potential for pay inflation which would be one of the most significant financial impacts the Council could face. This is currently being closely considered and modelled in terms of potential impacts and will need to be a feature of the MTFS modelling.

Regular updates will be provided to the finance PFH throughout the year. A new financial system is being implemented which will also assist in improving financial management data to service managers regarding their budgets.

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

At what level of increase in energy prices would impact on the Council's finances?

Response by Councillor Noble

A 30% increase has been allowed for. As you will recall at the Council meeting in April 2022 approval was given to the use of a covid smoothing reserve to off-set budget pressures.

2. What is the current value of the Council's assets and have any assets been disposed of in the last 3 financial years?

Response by Councillor Jonathan Noble

As at 31 March 2022, the Council's land and property assets were valued at £39,075,654; no land or property has been disposed of in the last three years.

3. Can you explain why the Council still refers to the PE21 project which was first instigated fifteen years ago?

Response by Councillor Nigel Welton

As was recently explained at Environment and Performance Committee, the re-development of this area has had numerous names over time. Ranging from the "Modus" proposals of circa 2007, to the more recent 'PE21' name which was adopted c2018.

The 'PE21' project in its more recent guise having been developed from a One Public Estate piece of work in 2017, and which was subject to public consultation in 2019 on the AR Urbanism proposals which were developed to support Future High Streets and Towns Fund bids.

As a consequence, 'PE21' is known locally and within Government, however, as with any masterplan proposal, there is the ability for this to change over-time and it may well come to pass that this applies in this case, particularly if it is possible to obtain funding to kick-start this important project for our town centre.

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

The PE21 project has previously caused damage of the confidence of Boston businesses. If the bid is not successful can you ensure another name is found.

Response by Councillor Welton

The project name of PE21 is well known in Government. The feedback received from round 1 of the LUF was positive and taken into account when preparing the round 2 bid, including retaining the name PE21. If it was decided to submit with another name it would not give a good impression. When the funding is received extensive consultation will be undertaken and at the appropriate time the name can be considered.

4. As we all know Boston's population is growing and a lots of EU members are still coming to our area, how does the increase in the population growth rate affect our economic growth?

Response by Councillor Nigel Welton

This is potentially quite a subjective matter and difficult to define without clear evidence. Economic growth can be affected by numerous factors including availability of jobs, skill levels and qualifications, and wider socio-economic factors (eg inflation, Government policy etc), as such it is difficult to draw a clear, tangible link between population growth and economic growth.

I am sure you will no doubt appreciate the make-up of our local labour market, which includes a large proportion of people employed locally in agriculture which is very labour intensive. Feedback we have received from some operators has identified that despite the rising population, there are challenges owing to Brexit, Covid-19 etc with insufficient labour for some activities and also other challenges around skills and language.

We will continue to liaise and work with businesses, investors, education providers and the wider community to ensure that the outlook in economic terms is positive for our town and area; including lobbying for future investment as required.

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

Population growth has a massive impact on infrastructure, what are the future plans to improve this?

Response by Councillor Welton

I have already answered this, it is a subjective question. Improvements in infrastructure will only be made when there is evidence that it is needed. We welcome people moving to the town to join the workforce, we need highly skilled people here.

5. Can you provide an update on the current performance of Boston Market?

Response by Councillor Tracey Abbott

The target occupancy rate for the Markets is to reach 70%, and in Quarter4, the Wednesday Market Place rate averaged at 67.18%, the Green at 66.66% and the Saturday Market at 57.81%.

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

Stickney is running a car boot sale every Wednesday, is this the reason our Market is declining?

Response by Councillor Abbott

I don't believe so. Stickney has been mentioned many times, it is a car boot sale rather than a market. There is nothing that can be done to prevent traders who would usually stand at Boston going to Stickney if they wish to do so.

6. What financial losses, if any, has the Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre incurred since 2019?

Response by Councillor Tracey Abbott

GMLC position for 2019/20 & 2020/21 is known and finalised.

- 2019/20 = a subsidy of £362,781 (combination of both lost income and extra expenditure)
- 2020/21 = a subsidy of £310,145 (combination of lost income and savings on expenditure)

GMLC position for 2021/22, end of year accounts are in the process of being finalised. The income budget target has been reduced by £314,000 in a COVID smoothing effect

as agreed by Council. Therefore, the full cost of service BUDGET (including recharges) increased in year from £897,100 to £1,211,100.

7. What costs are being incurred for the overnight closure of the Central Park gates?

Response by Councillor Tracey Abbott

BTAC fund the contract for the opening and closing of Central Park on a daily basis. The current contract ends on the 5th September 2022 and is at a value of £15,262. (6th Sept 2021 to 5th Sept 2022).

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

I understand that instead of two people locking the park, only one person is doing so, is this true?

Response by Councillor Abbott

I am not aware of this, I believe it is two but I wasn't involved in preparing the contract. I will find out and inform you.

8. Since the Government has announced that it would like to ease the bureaucracy regarding al fresco dining, what steps has the Council taken to help businesses in the town?

Response by Councillor Paul Skinner

At this stage, the Council has taken limited steps, principally because it is not a matter within our control. The Council delegated licensing of external seating areas to LCC as the lead body.

In addition, the Council has limited scope to influence the use of buildings, albeit we do where possible encourage new uses that would bring vibrancy, increase footfall and compliment the town centre generally. For example, in the market place, there are only a limited number of 'dining' related uses, and it is generally a commercial decision for them whether or not they wish to bring forward outside seating etc.

If more buildings in the market place were to come forward as 'dining' type establishments, they could likely to do so under permitted development. Government in 2020 widened the scope for changes of use in planning terms, but bringing together a new use Class (Class E) which sought to provide greater flexibility and support town centres.

As a council, we would be encouraging of such uses, as town centres diversify away from purely retail, however, our ability to influence and facilitate is limited.

We would however welcome the proposed steps to change licensing requirements and remove bureaucracy, and await the detail of the proposals which will no doubt be subject to consultation.

9. The Council has posted on its Instagram page that it has been granted £2.2 Million from Central Government for the communities, can you assure all of us today that grants will be used for that purpose and nothing else?

Response by Councillor Paul Skinner

Simply - Yes. All Grants we receive have to be used as the rules for the fund describe. We have to set out the purposes in our Investment Plan to Government. If approved, the funds will then be released to the Council to distribute.

Where monies are then subsequently distributed to project leads, there would be grant agreements and a clear process for ensuring the project aims are met. Full Council, the Cabinet and Scrutiny have a responsibility in the process if the monies are spent on Council projects. This is very similar to the way in which the Towns Fund has operated.

Supplemental question asked by Councillor Dani pursuant to paragraph 11.6 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

When the Council received grants from the migration fund it was used for something else, the community felt it wasn't used for them.

Response by Councillor Skinner

All funds received have prescribed lines on spend. The Council has a duty of care to spend efficiently and on a legitimate basis. Any changes in proposed spend are consulted on with Government. The Council has a good record in this area.

16 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chief Executive reported there was a question from Mr. Wayne Brewster.

Question asked by Mr. Wayne Brewster Dani pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

"Fishing is one of the only heritage industries left in the town. Many local people and indeed many councillors seem to have limited knowledge of the fishing industry and the pressures that we face. What help can you give us which would enable us to promote our presence in the town and make people more aware of the risk of the fishery failing completely, and to ensure the continuation of this industry for future generations?"

Response by Councillor Nigel Welton

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Brewster a seventh-generation fisherman for his question and for highlighting the issues Boston's fishing fleet industry faces today.

Mr Brewster, you describe the fishing industry as a heritage industry. Having done a little research, people have relied on the wash for their very existence for thousands of years. That in my mind is truly a heritage industry.

You are right that many people have limited knowledge of the fishing industry. Yes, we see the boats on the quay, we may have friends or neighbours who rely on fishing for their livelihood, but do we really know as much as we should.

As Cabinet Member with responsibility for the local economy, I will use every tool I have to promote your industry and highlight the difficulties you currently face.

Can I also thank you for the presentation you gave last Friday to myself our Member of Parliament and the wider council, which was extremely eye opening, who would have known that you are not only fishermen, but farmers, shepherds and custodians of the fishing grounds, without which there would be no wildlife on the wash.

During this meeting our MP Mr Matt Warman gave assurances that he would be speaking to the minister directly and will report back on progress.

So, to move this forward, I will be writing a letter directly to the Minister responsible for the fishing industry and request a meeting to discuss the following:-

- Current regulations, the regulation body, and the future plan for the wash fishing grounds.
- The concerns and difficulties the fishing fleet has.
- Quick and effective intervention to protect the fishing heritage on the wash.

And finally, I will invite the Minister to come to Boston and see first-hand the devastating effect and demise the current and proposed regulations have on the fishing industry.

Supplemental question asked by Mr. Brewster pursuant to paragraph 10.8 of the Rules of Procedure as set out in the Constitution:-

Thank you councillor Welton and thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak,

I am pleased with your response and look forward to the fishing industry having a closer relationship with the council and councillors, and would welcome the opportunity for the local industry to speak directly to the fisheries minister if that could be arranged, and any other interventions the council can provide.

The fishing industry supports many individuals and businesses in Boston, the industry has been here for so long that it seems to have been taken for granted, but over recent years it has been dogged by poor management decisions from its regulators that has threatened the whole viability of the industry in Boston and the Wash as a whole.

Lincolnshire County Council are a sponsoring body of Eastern IFCA, along with Norfolk and Suffolk councils, and as such there are councillors sitting on the Eastern IFCA Authority making decisions that affect our daily lives and businesses. Could councillor Welton assure me that any councillors who are sitting on this Authority from Boston will not only be there for the benefit of Eastern IFCA and to sign off anything they wish, but also to represent the needs of the Boston fishing fleet and to make sure it has a viable and sustainable future,? As we feel some of the recent representation from Boston Council on the IFCA Authority has been inadequate and dismissive of the challenges the industry in Boston face

Response by Councillor Welton

I do not attend IFCA meetings so can't comment. However, the Council is supportive of the fishing industry, and will lobby the Minister on your behalf. I would also like the Cabinet to visit the quay and see the fishing industry in action. You can also make an application for the Mayor to officially visit. I look forward to working together and will meet in the next 7 to 10 days to write the letter to the Minister and copied to relevant parties.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer introduced a report presenting the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct and associated guidance for consideration and comment.

The report stated that in accordance with section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011, every local authority was required to adopt a Code of Conduct which dealt with 'the conduct that was expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when acting in that capacity.'

It was noted that in July 2012 the Council adopted its current Code of Conduct, subsequently amending and re-affirming in June 2013; and again in January 2019 when certain Council policies were linked to the Code of Conduct which made any breaches of those policies a breach of the Code of Conduct.

In January 2019 the House of Lords Committee on Standards in Public Life issued a report on Local Government Ethical Standards which made a number of recommendations in respect of the Code of Conduct. In particular, the Committee noted significant variance between the Codes adopted by different local authorities and recommended the creation of a Model Code of Conduct by the LGA. The Committee also noted some key matters were omitted from some local authority codes, such as social media use, bullying and harassment and recommended that they should be included in any Model Code.

In December 2020 the LGA published a Model Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix A to the report, and associated Guidance, attached at Appendix B to the report. The Model Code was subject to wide consultation with the local authority sector, including consultation with elected members and Monitoring Officers.

The LGA Model Code of Conduct was designed to protect the democratic role of members, encourage good conduct, and safeguard the public's trust and confidence in the role of the councillor in local government. Whilst it could be adapted to local circumstances, a key benefit was in bringing consistency across the local government sector and this would be especially helpful where members served on different tiers of local authority.

The Model Code was relatively short and easy to read, and was therefore more accessible to members, officers and the public. The LGA would review the Model Code on an annual basis to ensure it reflected developing legislation and case law, and to ensure that it incorporated advances in technology and social media.

Boston Borough Council's current Code of Conduct was very short, and largely restricted to the seven Nolan principles. It did not include a number of obligations that were present in the Model Code and provided no assistance or guidance in the use of modern technology and social media. Such a limited version of the Code of Conduct was not conducive to the aim of upholding good standards of ethical behaviour.

The Code of Conduct applied when a Councillor acted in that capacity and the New Model Code provided much more detail on that point than the current Code, supported by additional information within the Guidance including worked examples. Both the Model Code and the Guidance reflected current case law to assist in determining when a councillor acted in that capacity, as opposed to their personal capacity. It was noted that Boston's current Code did not contain reference to misuse of position or giving the impression of acting as a councillor.

The Model Code of Conduct contained a number of key obligations which were summarised in the report under the headings:-

- Respect
- Bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Impartiality of officers
- Confidentiality and Access to Information
- Disrepute
- Use of Position
- Use of local authority resources and facilities
- Complying with the Code of Conduct
- Interests
- Gifts and Hospitality

It was highlighted that many of the key obligations were not specifically referenced in the current Code of Conduct for Boston members.

In August/September 2021 the Council had commissioned the LGA to deliver two workshops on ethical behaviours and training sessions on the implications of the Model Code of Conduct. These workshops and training sessions had been open to all members to attend. Many strands of good ethical behaviour had been identified by members during the workshops, all of which were supported by the Model Code of Conduct.

The Monitoring Officer concluded that the Model Code represented a robust Code of Conduct which was more comprehensive than the current Boston Code of Conduct, was written in such a way as to be accessible and understandable to all, and supported all of the key points raised by members in the Ethical Behaviours Workshops. Taken together with the supporting Guidance, it was much easier for members, officers and the public to understand what was expected in terms of standards of member conduct.

It was considered that adoption of the Model Code of Conduct would negate the need to link to other policies such as the Protocol on Member and Employee Relations, as the Model Code was sufficiently robust and detailed. However, it was recommended that a review of the Protocol on Member and Employee Relations should be undertaken to ensure it was consistent with the Model Code.

The Model Code of Conduct had been considered by the Standards Sub-Committee on 9 March, the Audit and Governance Committee on 28 March, and Cabinet on 4 May 2022 with all forums supporting the recommendations for adoption.

During consideration by the Standards Sub Committee an additional recommendation had been proposed that a voluntary process should be introduced to encourage Members to sign up to the new Model Code given that the old Code was in force when members signed their declarations of acceptance of office.

Signing up voluntarily would help to demonstrate their understanding, acceptance and compliance with the Model Code of Conduct, and details of those signing up voluntarily could then be published on the Council's website.

In response to comments regarding any subsequent amendments to the Member and Employee Relations Protocol, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that these would be reported to the Audit and Governance Committee and circulated to all Members.

Members welcomed the new Model Code particularly the provisions relating to respect and courtesy, and freedom of speech. It was confirmed that the Code would be binding on all Members irrespective of whether or not they chose to voluntarily sign a public declaration.

It was moved by Councillor Paul Skinner, seconded by Councillor Peter Watson and unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Model Code of Conduct, as set out at Appendix A of the report, be adopted, without amendment, as the Council's Code of Conduct (including those parts shown in square brackets and being relevant to the Cabinet model operated by this Council).**
- 2. That delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Protocol on Member and Employee Relations so far as is necessary to ensure consistency with the Model Code of Conduct.**
- 3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Council's Constitution accordingly.**
- 4. That the Council introduces a voluntary process for Members to sign up to the new Model Code of Conduct to demonstrate their understanding, acceptance and compliance with the Code, with signatory details published on the Council's website.**

19 LEVELLING UP WAVE 2

Councillor Nigel Welton introduced a report by the Assistant Director – Planning and Strategic Infrastructure providing an overview of the direction of travel for the Council's proposed Levelling Up Fund (LUF) round 2 submission which focused on the re-development of 'PE21'.

The report stated that the Levelling Up Fund was part of the government's wider Levelling Up agenda. It was a capital fund designed to invest in infrastructure that improved everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund would support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets. It was a competitive bid-process where authorities could seek to secure up to £20m from the fund.

The report contained the background to the Council's round 1 submission, which had been unsuccessful, and the feedback received from Government which had been positive with minor suggestions being made in respect of narrowing down the focus of the bid to PE21 only; revisiting values and costs; revisiting engagement with the community and seeking support from more partners and the MP.

Taking into account the response from Government to the round 1 bid, the submission had been reviewed by external advisors and discussions held with the Scarborough Group to consider working up a private/public sector proposal for the entire PE21 area to be delivered through a Joint Venture arrangement.

A re-working of the PE21 masterplan for the western end of the site had been commissioned, jointly with NHS colleagues and LCC (transport) to look at opportunities for a new health centre and how this could be brought forward as a deliverable proposal, working alongside neighbouring parcels. The work was being led by Wilmott Dixon in order to provide information to feed into a LUF 2 bid as well as future funding opportunities / scheme development.

As work was progressing on the LUF 2 bid it was not possible to provide Members with a precise picture of what would be included in the bid and what the financial model and 'ask' would be, but it was likely to be in the region of £15m. However, in all eventualities the 'match funding' (10%) requirement would not exceed the £2m previously indicated as being acceptable (within LUF 1 to come from land value and a top up if necessary from reserves) owing to the maximum £20m bid allowance that could be made.

The likely direction and key elements of the bid were set out in the report under the headings of:

- Delivery of a significant enhancement of the public realm (spanning the area between the river and the Len Medlock Centre);
- Crown House – as per round 1;
- B&M redevelopment – evolution of round 1

Those interventions would use the LUF funding as a catalyst to unlock the remainder of the PE21 area, including adjacent sites. Collectively this would then leverage the ability to bring forward other potential interventions in the future which could include:

- New health facilities with linkages to third sector organisations including those hosted by the Boston Volunteer Centre Charity;
- Housing, community / public sector and commercial uses;
- Improvements to the bus station;
- Improvements to the wider area including West Street.

It was noted that a number of key stakeholders had offered letters of support for the bid and support was also being sought from the MP (a bid gateway criterion). This was in addition to wider community engagement that had been undertaken through a range of social media activities.

Council was being consulted on the proposal to make a formal submission to the Levelling Up Fund, round 2, which had to be made by 6th July 2022. Cabinet would be considering the proposal and making a final decision at its meeting on 4 July 2022, as it was a function reserved for the Executive.

The bid had also been the subject of Member Briefings and consideration by the Environment and Performance committee at its meeting held on 21st June 2022. A supplementary paper setting out the comments from Members had been circulated for information.

Members welcomed the opportunity to submit a bid for LUF Wave 2 which if successful would provide the necessary resources to regenerate, redevelop and repurpose an area of the town which had been in decline for many years, for the benefit of the community and local businesses.

Comments were made that it was the duty of all Members to positively promote and support the bid, together with partner organisations who were already doing so. Not to submit a bid which had the potential to realise £60m of benefit across the Council partnership would be neglectful.

Council thanked the Deputy Chief Executive Growth and the Economic Development Team for all their hard work, efforts and enthusiasm in preparing the LUF Wave 2 submission.

It was moved by Councillor Nigel Welton, seconded by Councillor Paul Skinner and unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. That the purpose of the Levelling Up Fund and its requirements be noted;**
- 2. That the engagement with Members in relation to the Levelling Up bid - including briefings, Scrutiny (Environment and Performance) and Full Council be noted and note that comments raised as outcomes from that engagement will be provided to Cabinet as part of the formal decision;**
- 3. That the information provided in respect of the round 2 LUF bid and its proposals be noted, and provide any feedback / comments as deemed relevant;**

4. That 'in principle' support be provided to the Round 2 bid, and its general direction of travel, in advance of detailed consideration by Cabinet;
5. That the set aside of provision for 10% match funding (through in kind land contribution to the scheme) plus additional funding required to be allocated from the Capital Investment Reserve to a total combined value of £2m, be approved, subject to an offer of Levelling Up Funding being made from Government.

20 EXTERNAL APPOINTMENT – DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP SERVICES LTD

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report to appoint a Council representative as a Director of the Public Sector Partnership Services Ltd Board.

The vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Councillor Alan Bell from the position. The appointment was reserved for opposition Members and expressions of interest had been sought. Councillor Peter Watson had responded offering his services to the Board.

Council asked for their thanks to be recorded to Councillor Alan Bell for his service to the PSPS Board.

It was moved by Councillor Paul Skinner, seconded by Councillor Nigel Welton and

RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Watson be appointed as a Council representative on the Public Sector Partnership Services Ltd Board of Directors, to hold office whilst he remains a Member of the Council, until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023 or until the appointment of their successor.

(The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.)

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REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	25 th July 2022
SUBJECT:	UK Shared Prosperity Update (UKSPF) Investment Plan
PURPOSE:	To provide an update on UKSPF and Investment Plan
KEY DECISION:	Yes
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Nigel Welton
REPORT OF:	Deputy Chief Executive (Growth)
REPORT AUTHOR:	Deputy Chief Executive (Growth)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

To present the UK Shared Prosperity Fund draft submission, provide background on the consultation process and seek the views of Full Council.

- RECOMMENDATIONS**
1. To note the draft UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.
 2. To recommend to Cabinet to approve the Draft UK Shared Prosperity Fund to enable the document to be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing by 1st August 2022.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the submission of the Investment Plan within the timescales, 1st August at the latest, to enable the Council to receive the allocation of £2.2 million for the benefit of the communities of the Borough of Boston.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To do nothing would mean that the Investment Plan would not be submitted and the Council would lose the opportunity to receive £2.2 million of funding for the Borough.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is now open and it provides funding for economic development across the whole of the UK. The focus of the fund is in part the replacement for the old European Social Fund, with an emphasis on skills based training and development. However, the UKSPF is wider and more flexible than its EU forerunners.

1.2 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) is to receive £9.3 million over the next three years. The Fund is a key part of the Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda, providing money for local councils to invest in:

- Local communities and places
- Support for local businesses
- People and skills

The breakdown of the funding between the Councils is as follows:-

Boston Borough Council - £2.2 million

East Lindsey District Council - £4.4 million

South Holland District Council - £2.7 million.

1.3 The Investment Plan is a strategy document that details how the allocation of the funding will deliver outcomes for our people and place under the three themes, set out above.

It should be noted the funding element for the people and skills theme does not commence until next year. The funding may be spent on activities or buildings and equipment but is predominantly for revenue projects and there is a suggested split between revenue and capital for each year;

2022/23 Revenue 90% Capital 10%

2023/24 Revenue 87% Capital 13%

2024/25 Revenue 80% Capital 20%

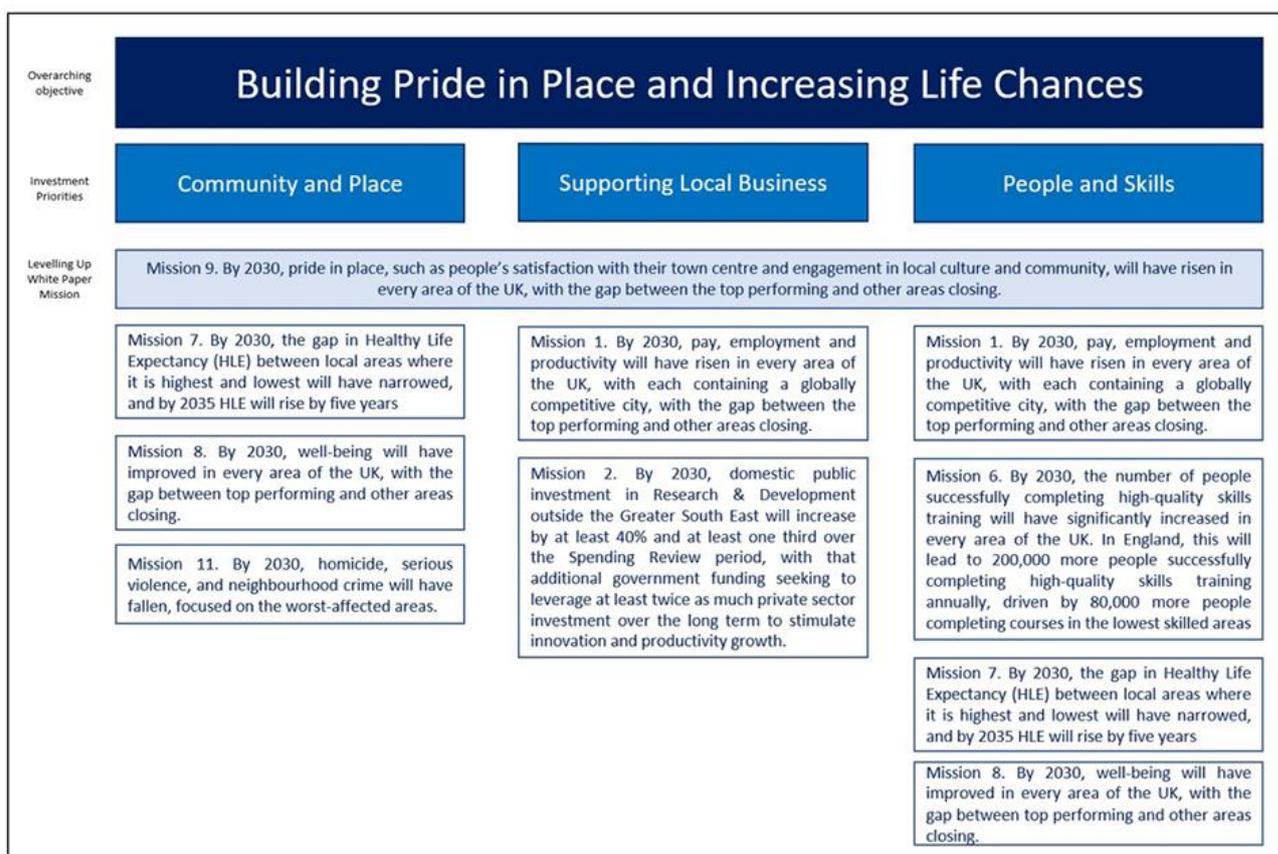
1.4 The timescale to deliver has been challenging. From 13th June 2022 until approximately 4th July the SELCP has consulted with local stakeholders, partners and the local community to identify what our community and stakeholders would like to see delivered - projects and initiatives that matter to local people and will really make a difference. Across the partnership there have been 756 questionnaires submitted, and taking into account social media, the response rate rises to over 1,000. The submissions have been analysed and the summary may be found at Appendix 2.

The SELCP must submit the Investment Plan to Government by 1st August.

In October/November 2022 the funding will be confirmed and following a competitive process we will be appointing the partners who will deliver the agreed projects over the three- year period.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government’s ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It seeks to maximise opportunities by investing in domestic priorities and targeting funding where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. Places are empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery.
- 2.2 The Prospectus sets out the link to the Levelling Up Missions Statements as follows:



- 2.3 The objectives of the three themes are set out in the Prospectus as follows;

Communities and Place

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access

to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Supporting Local Business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

People and Skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland only. In England, this is delivered through the Department for Education's Multiply programme).
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

- 2.4 In considering which projects will be selected to be funded through UKSPF, the Prospectus has been clear that there must be significant public consultation to ensure the Investment Plan meets the needs of the community and stakeholders to fully maximise the benefits of the fund.

2.5 As detailed above, consultation took part in June and early July and the following stakeholders were identified and encouraged to submit ideas and share further.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP	Lincolnshire County Council	The 3 MPs Victoria Atkins, Matt Warman and John Hayes
Parish and Town Councils	The Coastal Business Improvement District (BID)	The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
Boston and Mablethorpe BIG Local	Mablethorpe Coastal Community Team	CLA
NFU	Environment Agency	National Trust
Internal Drainage Boards	Institute of Directors	University of Lincoln
Boston College	TEC Partnership	Stamford and Grantham Colleges
Historic England	Heritage Lincolnshire	English Heritage
Destination Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team	Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICS)
First Coastal Primary Care Network	Healthwatch	Lincolnshire CVS
Age UK Lindsey	Active Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire YMCA
Children's Links	Lincolnshire LIVES	Lincolnshire Police

2.6 There have been many opportunities to engage in this process, as set out below;

14th June Boston Borough Council Corporate Meeting with officer core

15th June Boston Strategic Partners Meeting – VCS, Business and Public Sector Partners

21st and 23rd June detailed briefing Boston Borough Councillors

25th and 29th June Boston Market Public Consultation

27th June Parish Councils Briefing

28th June inaugural meeting of Boston Governance Group

30th June Business Organisation Briefing

4th July Opportunity to meet East Lindsey and South Holland Councillors for a 3 way strategic discussion about joint priorities

6th July Boston Town Fund Board

14th July C&C Committee

25th July Full Council

- 2.7 It is noted above there has been a very positive response to the consultation and these have been used to form the basis of the investment strategy. There has also been an opportunity for suggestions and ideas to be submitted by council teams to meet the outcomes of the guidance.
- 2.8 The UKSPF draft Investment Plan has been considered by the Corporate and Community Committee on 14th July 2022 and the decision was taken to recommend to Cabinet for the draft Investment Plan to be submitted. A more detailed verbal update can be shared at the meeting of Cabinet.
- 2.9 The comments and observations of Full Council at this meeting will be shared with the Cabinet on the evening of the 27th July.
- 2.10 These ideas are in the process of being assessed, in a similar way as to how we managed #MyTown suggestions, to narrow down these ideas and support those will deliver maximum benefit to the community. They are not available at the time of this report being published but will be available for the Committee to note at the meeting.

The Draft Investment Plan (Strategic Framework)

- 2.11 The draft Investment Plan at Appendix 1 sets out the following details;
- Local Challenges for each theme
 - Local Opportunities for each theme
 - What are the outcomes that are to be delivered for each theme
 - Approach to delivery and governance
 - Examples of some ideas from consultation (for indicative purposes only)
 - Examples of collaboration
 - Capacity and capability
- 2.12 This remains a draft document and will continue to be amended until submission, hence the requirement for recommendation 2.

Delivery of the UKSP

- 2.13 It would be very challenging to manage hundreds of projects across the SELCP as this would be time consuming to manage, measure and monitor spend and outcomes of £9.3million in total, and this is likely to be a larger sum when taking into account likely match funding. Therefore it is proposed that 6-8 lead bodies will be identified through a competitive process. This will commence once the Investment Plan has been submitted to enable the allocation of funding, and thereby allowing the lead delivery partners to be in place once the Investment Plan is confirmed. This will assist with spending in year as although the funding will not be available until October/November, the funding is for the year 2022/23.
- 2.14 The lead bodies will each be responsible for a theme within the delivery arrangements for the UKSPF. They will report to the local authority and the Governance Board identified below.

- 2.15 It is proposed they will be allocated funds and work with individual local providers to deliver services to whom they will provide a proportion of the funds they hold. They will identify the local projects they will fund through a competitive process. These lead bodies in some cases will be individual organisations and in other cases they will be networks of organisations with one of their number taking on the role of managing the finance. The consultation will help validate the themes ultimately chosen and set the basis on which an invitation to lead themes will go out to stakeholders when we run the competition.
- 2.16 The strategy for managing the UKSPF is to link the approach across the three areas within the South East Lincolnshire Council Partnership. Each Shared Prosperity Fund area has to have an independent governance group. In East Lindsey, the Connected Coast Board (which already has a number of countywide organisations) could be extended to cover the inland areas. In Boston the Town Fund Board has been asked to fulfil this role. In South Holland bespoke arrangements will be put in place to create a board from established governance groups. The role of the governance group is to overview and advise on the evolution and subsequent implementation of the UKSPF strategy in its area.
- 2.17 These arrangements will demonstrate collaboration across the geography of three districts councils of key stakeholder delivery partners but also ensure that projects are locally based to meet the needs of individual places and communities.

Next Steps

- 2.18 The Investment Plan will be submitted by the 1st August 2022. The competitive exercise will commence very soon thereafter, with a final proposition to be presented to Full Council once notification of the Investment Plan being approved is received.
- 2.19 There will be further member engagement prior to a final delivery plan being presented to Full Council.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The UKSPF present an opportunity to secure additional funding for the Borough to continue to deliver the Levelling Up ambitions of the Council, following on the success of securing £21.9 million through the Towns Fund and the submission of the Levelling Up bid.
- 3.2 There has been extensive public consultation and there are many positive ideas and solutions that have been suggested, ranging from large organisations through to small community groups and individuals.
- 3.3 The draft Investment Strategy at Appendix 1 sets out the approach to the Investment Strategy and to enable the Council to secure this funding, it should be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Through working with lead partners across the geography of the partnership we expect to see greater opportunities in some of the following ways: delivering the fund through economies of scale, delivering larger programmes across wider geographies with local impact, greater opportunities to see what works and what doesn't and tweak the Investment Plan accordingly, create a solid pipeline of future projects.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Further demonstration of the collaborative working between the three councils to maximise the Levelling Up opportunities for our people and places.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The submission of the Investment Plan and securing the external funding will meet the Corporate Priorities in respect of People and Prosperity.

STAFFING

One of the reasons to seek lead delivery partners is to reduce the impact on managing and monitoring the UKSPF delivery and outcomes. There is a percentage of the fund that may be utilised by the council to undertake this task and as a result of the competitive process, the staffing requirements will be assessed to determine what any new arrangements may be required.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising directly out of this report as this is a submission to DLUCH for the funding.

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. There is provision for £20K per district to be drawn down to support with the preparation of the Investment Plan.

There is provision for 4% of the funding to be used to support delivery of the projects within the Council's team.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None directly arising as this is a draft Investment Plan that sets out the framework.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Please note paragraph 2.3 above which sets out the dates, locations and those consulted.

REPUTATION

The positive consultation exercise with key stakeholders has been noted and has created a positive impression of the partnership for undertaking such meaningful consultation.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Under the “Communities and Places” strand of the consultation (as set out in the section relating to Stakeholder Engagement and Support within Appendix 1), there was reference to anti-social behaviour and the impact that this may have on a place. It is envisaged that some of the suggestions that are taken forward following the competitive process will include projects that have an impact on seeking to reduce actual or perceived anti-social behaviour.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

These will be considered as part of the wider competitive exercise.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Health is an underlying outcome within the prospectus and consideration will be given as part of the competitive exercise to assess how projects will also have a positive impact on the health and well-being of our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This will depend upon final projects and none arising directly out of this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.

Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

ACRONYMS

UKSPF - United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX 1	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Draft Investment Plan
APPENDIX 2	Boston Consultation Analysis - to follow

BACKGROUND PAPERS
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -
UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Michelle Sacks – Deputy Chief Executive (Growth)
Signed off by:	Rob Barlow – Chief Executive
Approved for publication:	Nigel Welton – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority: **Boston**

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

Name Lydia Rusling

Email address Lydia.rusling@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Phone number: 07786 313227

Organisation name South and East Lincolnshire Council Partnership

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Boston has a relatively little known but world class cluster of heritage assets which are significantly under valued and exploited.

These include sites such as St Botolph's Church, which is the largest Parish Church in England, the medieval Guildhall and community facilities such as the Blenkin Memorial Hall, iconic buildings such as Shodfriars in the town centre, Hussey Tower and the now vacant Black Sluice pumping station to the south east of the Town Centre..

In terms of housing Boston has a good ratio of housing costs to salaries, 6.4 compared to a national average of 8. Boston has a high proportion of rented properties, at more than a third of its housing stock. It has a very low number of full or part owned properties compared with other towns in the benchmarking set. However, the town has a low average house prices and a favourable affordability ratio compared with other towns. It has a relatively low overall stock of houses, with less than 30,000 houses, this is a relatively smaller number of houses than its benchmark towns (those in its Cipfa family group).

According to the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation Boston Scores very poorly on measures relating to skills, employment, education, health and living environment as set out in the table below:

Domain	Boston	England Average
Income	92	158
Employment	85	158
Education	1	158
Health	113	158
Crime	237	158
Barriers to Services	180	158
Living Environment	135	158

In terms of population Boston is projected to grow rapidly in terms of its population ONS (2018) predict that the population of the district will be 82,615 by 2043. A growth from 2018 of 14% compared to a projected growth for England of 8.5% and Lincolnshire of 9%. Lincoln which is the other city in the county has a projected growth rate of 3% and is projected to have a population of 102,514 in 2043.

Boston has become home to a settled population of successful migrant workers and almost half (44.7%) of live births in the area are to non UK born mothers. This puts the area much more on a par with other major city centres of enterprise such as London, Birmingham and Manchester and centres of learning such as Oxford and Cambridge (both of which have over 50% live births to non UK born mothers), than its hinterland. (ONS 2020).

A number of projects including the Inclusive Boston initiative funded by the Home Office from 2019-2021 have identified that there are ongoing challenges of integration and inclusion arising from this high stock of migrant workers.

Boston is also challenged by vacant town centre premises, declining footfall and a lack of investment in the traditional high street offer. Major High Street retailers such as Marks and Spencers have recently closed their operation in the area and the plans for the re-development of the major department store in the area- Oldrids are currently going through an evolutionary phase whilst the town centre role of key buildings such as Shodfriar's Hall remain to be fully worked through in a contemporary context.

More widely Boston district has a number of key service centres such as Kirton with community buildings and public spaces which would benefit from further investment to realise the potential for them to act as key community connectors outside of their traditional function.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Our programme will help to manage the ongoing relative affordability of local housing in Boston by sustainably working on economic outcomes with those in the community who have the greatest challenges in terms of their housing status.

Boston is an estuarine town. Water is a key part of its context. This means it is challenged in relation to the cost of its infrastructure and flood risk but also that its river and coastal credentials are a real asset from a leisure and logistics perspective.

The evolution of Boston 's infrastructure offers good opportunity in terms of economic development but is likely to be challenging based on current town based development trajectories in terms of both housing and employment land. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the supply of utilities is a strain on growth opportunities.

The port is a really important and distinctive feature of the local economy, which along with its rail links can be economically exploited. Our plan to maximise the sustainable growth and development of the town through effective investment in its infrastructure, linked to these assets.

In terms of social cohesion we have a significant number of opportunities to develop social mobility and inclusion activities building on the portfolio of work supported under the Inclusive Boston programme.

The following Towns Fund projects provide a great starting point for activities which address the challenges in the context of the communities and place agenda:

- St Botolphs investments
- Blenkin Memorial Hall refurbishment
- Healing the High Street Grants and Shodfriar's Building Development
- The Leisure Centre development (which also has real synergies with the Mayflower Skills Project)
- The refurbishment of Boston Railway Station

We also currently have a well-developed Levelling Up Bid pending submission which will focus on the West Street area of the town and will involve the creation of new retail, town living and urban green space activities all of which are relevant in the context of this agenda.

Boston has a mixed performance in terms of the environment and sustainable behaviours. Boston has a relatively low level of CO2 emissions per head compared to similar towns. It performs moderately well in terms of % of the population using public transport.

We plan to consolidate the town's relative environmental strengths, delivering significant environmental improvements enabled in part through the growth of walking and cycling options in the town and the enhancement of its railway station.

We plan to make Boston a more attractive location for investment through stimulating a more diversified pattern of economic development arising from the proposed investment in its workforce skills and physical infrastructure.

We have a pipeline of great ideas linked to the development of an inclusive growth agenda arising from our work to develop the Towns Fund and Levelling Up concepts in Boston and an innovative health on the high street focus developed with the ICB. Key players in these discussions have included: Centenary Church, Lincolnshire CVS and a number of other community focused groups.

Boston has a very rich economic and historic significance. Transported Arts have worked extensively to strengthen and develop the community expression of this and we will work with them to build on their achievements – more information is available through their website:

<http://www.transportedart.com/>

Outside of Boston as town we plan to explore fully the potential offered by the development of community buildings to build local capacity, enterprising people and behaviours.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The Borough of Boston's business base by VAT/PAYE activity and size is nearly 2,200 with 1,855 falling in the 0 to 10 employee band. However, it also has 15 businesses including Bakkavor, Freshtime, Turners Distribution, Mason Brothers Distribution, Pilgrim Foods that are within the 250+ employee band, all creating opportunities in sector related supply-chain management. Other large employers include Boston College and the Pilgrim Hospital. There is a consistently low unemployment rate in Boston (lower than the national average) (source Boston Borough Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024).

Whilst the town is a hub for food production and logistics, it does however have a relatively low level of economic diversity because of this very significant concentration on food. There is a major challenge to diversify the economy and particularly to drive up the stock of high value enterprises. Boston ranks as the lowest local authority in terms of education and skills in England (IMD 2019) and it has wages which are £100 a week lower than the national average (ASHE data).

The spark of enterprise in Boston has yet to be fully ignited. The town has a very low level of business births just over 20 per 10,000 population – a third of the England average and has a very 'static' economy with a level of business 'churn' 50% less than the England average (ONS). Boston is 18% points behind the national average when it comes to workers involved in Knowledge Intensive Businesses (KIBS). Using a town-based version of the Centre for Cities benchmarking approach and looking at 9 comparator towns based on its audit family group, we were able to benchmark Boston. These towns were: Carlisle, Corby, Dover, Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, Mansfield, Redditch, South Hams and Wellingborough. Boston had the smallest stock of jobs within this group, the lowest level of Knowledge Intensive Businesses and the lowest wages. It did, however, have a relatively good level of GVA per worker 4th out of 10 and came 5th in ranking in relation to the number of home workers and CO2 emissions. Based on these comparisons, whilst Boston has high rates of employment and GVA, it is challenged by low wages and fewer high paid jobs in KIBs, which reinforces the need to focus on upskilling and new technology to create higher skills, higher paying jobs.

Boston College is one of the leading post-16 education providers in the county. Having strong relationships with local and national businesses it is integral to advancing business and workforce skills. It has four campuses based near the town centre. The main campus, Rochford, is a dedicated sixth form centre and University Centre along with workshops and industry styled classrooms which provide vocational courses. The Peter Paine Performance Centre is the College's sports centre, and the Sam Newsom Centre is a dedicated music and performing arts centre. The Ingelow Centre is Boston College's Foundation (Entry/SEND) purpose-built building. The college has a further site in the nearby town of Spalding and the re-location of East Lindsey District Council in a new build on Mareham Road in Horncastle is **due to open later in the year**. This new build is also a shared hub, with Boston College providing further education opportunities to those living and working in places out of the reach of the four campuses and Spalding.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

We plan to open up routes to self employment as a means of achieving economic activity and employment for resourceful but currently under-supported individuals.

We plan to stimulate social enterprise formation and development to provide sustainable new routes to employment for vulnerable and low skilled individuals who can then be supported in their personal development. Our consultation associated with the UKSPF has identified significant interest in the development of social enterprises. This model of business formation and activity is a potent means of addressing market failure and there are already some significant examples of success in the wider area to build on for example Tonic Health which provides a hub for health and well-being in Spalding: <https://tonic-health.co.uk/>

We also recognise the importance of diversifying the economy whilst also exploiting its food wholesale and processing specialisms.

We plan to increase the number of people working in Knowledge Intensive Businesses and maximise the range and quality of jobs in the High Street and Heritage sectors and the number of digital and learning sector jobs.

This will help to begin to future proof the High Street and retail core of the town against the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. Boston also has a strongly distinctive feature in terms of its port and associated food and logistics sector. We intend to build on this aspect of its economic potential.

The following Town Fund projects provide a key development opportunity for local business development i) the Centre for Fresh Food and Logistics (being developed by the University of Lincoln and Boston College) and ii) the Mayflower Centre which will have a focus on enterprise and development as a key component within its portfolio.

More widely in terms of investing in building the economic capacity of food related businesses we plan to strengthen links (already given a boost by Town Fund investment in the Centre for Fresh Produce and Logistics – which has a dual base at Boston College and with the University of Lincoln in Holbeach) with the National Centre for Food Manufacturing in Holbeach and the Greater Lincolnshire LEP led initiative the UK Food Valley which has the following objectives:

- Accelerating food chain automation and digital technology adoption to deliver productivity growth and high value jobs;
- Delivering low carbon food chains from farm to fork by focusing on low carbon technologies for production, processing and distribution;
- Developing the market potential of naturally healthy and nutritious foods, as well as new sources of protein, such as fish, vegetables, salads, fruit, pulses and lean meat, in which Greater Lincolnshire specialises.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

21% of Boston's population is ageing compared to 18% nationally. It is in the worst 30% of neighbourhoods in England in Employment Outcomes and is in the lowest 10% in terms of skills rankings across towns in England. As a local authority are it is bottom of all local authorities in terms of the education domain within the English Indices of Deprivation.

Boston's working population is area characterised by low skilled, low(er) paid occupations. The number of people qualified to NVQ3 and above in Boston is over 20% points lower than the national average. This tracks through into wages with the area having wage levels that are £130 a week lower than the England average (ASHE). Although pay is low, Boston is nonetheless a very hard-working town with levels of economic inactivity at 15%, 6% lower than the national average at 21% (Nomis, March 2020).

The economic outlook for its young people is in jeopardy. Before Covid-19, the number of benefits claimants as a proportion of its 16-24 population was very high (over 7% compared to a national figure of less than 2%).

The lower skills set, lower pay economy and perceptions of a disproportionate reliance on benefits negatively impact on aspirations of all residents, but younger local people specifically. There are clear linkages between employability and wider personal well-being. It is therefore no surprise that the town is struggling with its health outcomes and is in the lowest third of all areas in England for this indicator.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Boston College is one of the leading post-16 education providers in the county, having strong relationships with local businesses it has four campuses based near to the town centre. At the main campus, Rochford, is a dedicated sixth form centre and University Centre along with workshops and industry styled classrooms providing vocational courses. Peter Paine Performance Centre is the College's sports centre, and the Sam Newsom Centre is a dedicated music and performing arts centre. The Ingelow Centre is Boston College's Foundation (Entry/SEND) purpose-built building, with the College having a further site in the nearby town of Spalding.

In recent years there has been significant investment in Boston College through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) and the college is now ranked in the top 5 in the country, with a national reputation for innovation and high-quality learning.

A key part of our levelling up focus will concentrate on people who are economically inactive. We also intend to look in some detail at the opportunities connected with the challenges around the high stock of older people in Boston.

Boston has a higher stock of over 65s 21% compared to the national average 18%. We plan to find new and innovative ways to make an ageing population a strength rather than a weakness in the town. Boston is also home to a significant population of migrant workers. These hard working

individuals make a major contribution to the economic dynamism of the town and we plan to engage them actively creating opportunities to enhance their integration and economic potential.

The most recent Greater Lincolnshire Covid-19 economic recovery plan highlights that minority, low skill and older workers are most impacted by the economic fall out of the pandemic and we will recognise this in the way we target UKSPF resources to address the challenges these groups face.

We are particularly interested in the interface between micro-enterprise and skills. There is strong anecdotal evidence to suggest that enterprise is a great driver at the micro level for people with limited qualification or migrants with high skills but poor language competency or low investment resources to become economically active. This will be a key strand within our investment strategy.

There is also significant interest in the development of social enterprises which have the capacity to support the training and development of people arising from the consultation process and we intend to explore further how this model of economic activity can contribute to the people and skills agenda. The social enterprise model has demonstrated an ability in other settings to overcome market failure and provide services and community development opportunities as a consequence of its ability to mobilise volunteers and work with community organisations as part of the management of its cost base. This enables it to operate successfully in areas traditionally affected by market failure.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	X
Jobs safeguarded	X
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	X
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	X
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	X
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	X
Increased users of facilities / amenities	X
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	
Increased use of cycleways or paths	

Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	X
Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers	X
Improved perception of events	X
Increased number of web searches for a place	X
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	X
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	X
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	X
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

Improvements to town centres and high streets including better accessibility for disabled people

Improvements to community and neighbourhood buildings and outdoor spaces

Flood risk and coastal erosion investments

Improvements to local greenspaces, community gardens and watercourses

Support for cultural assets, such as the restoration of buildings or canals or outreach activities linked to them

Improvements to the streetscape through activities, lighting or CCTV

Support for local arts, culture and heritage: running programmes of events or physical developments such as maker spaces

Creation and upgrading of footpaths

Improvement of the visitor offer through campaigns to promote areas

Volunteering support

Funding for sports facilities

Funding for community buildings

Support for programmes to engage people in local decision making

Activities to promote energy efficiency

Investment in digital infrastructure

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

<p>Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.</p>	
Yes	No N/A
<p>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</p>	
N/A	

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
<p>Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.</p>	
No	
<p>Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.</p>	
Yes	No N/A
<p>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</p>	
N/A	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.	
Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	X
Jobs safeguarded	X
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	X
Number of new businesses created	X

Improved perception of markets	X
Increased business sustainability	X
Increased number of businesses supported	X
Increased amount of investment	X
Improved perception of attractions	X
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	X
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	X
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	X
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	X
Number of new to market products	X
Number of R&D active businesses	X
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	X
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	X
Increased number of innovation plans developed	X
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	X
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	X
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	X
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	X
Number of businesses with improved productivity	X
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	X
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

Investment in open air markets

Investment in the development of visitor tours, the upgrading of tourism attractions, development of visitor attractions

Support for the development of digital technology solutions

Research and development grants to support innovation and knowledge growth for businesses

Business networking and growth

New business sites and accelerator hubs

Specialist advice for businesses

Grants to hold events and conferences that support growth sectors

Training for people to set up new cooperative businesses

Funding to develop investor networks

Export development funding

Funding for net zero initiatives by businesses

Business growth funding particularly in areas of high unemployment

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No/N/A

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

N/A

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

No

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No N/A

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

N/A

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	X

Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	X
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	X
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	X
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	X
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	X
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	X
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	X
Number of people in education/training	X
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	X
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	X
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	X
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	X
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	X
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

Support to help people enter the workforce who traditionally find it hard to get work

Support for the development of basic skills

Volunteering to improve well-being

Digital inclusion

Support for training and personal development for those in work

Support for local areas to fund their skills needs

Development of green industry skills

Retraining for those in high carbon sectors

Funding to support digital skills

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No N/A

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

No

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

No

Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

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HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes No

(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.

--

Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.

--

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.

2022-2023 2023-2024 2024-2025

Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

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Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

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SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes No

Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

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Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?	
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found here.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations	Private sector organisations	Civil society organisations
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Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

We have engaged with all three categories of organisations through a really extensive public engagement plan this has involved the following schedule of group meetings including an extensive portfolio of public engagement:

- 14 June Boston Borough Council Corporate Meeting with officer core
- 15 June Boston Strategic Partners Meeting – VCS, Business and Public Sector Partners
- 21 & 23 June detailed briefing Boston Borough Councillors
- 25 and 29 June Boston Market Public Consultation
- 27 June Parish Councils Briefing
- 28 June inaugural meeting of Boston Governance Group
- 30 June Business Organisation Briefing
- 4 July Opportunity to meet East Lindsey and South Holland Councillors for a 3 way strategic discussion about joint priorities
- 6 July Boston Town Fund Board adopts long term governance group role.

In addition to this list of direct engagements we have launched a website for the public consultation covering the East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland areas - https://www.selcp-haveyoursay.co.uk/files/ugd/092fb4_91436bf23eba4c129bd2297a7b557911.pdf

We have also used the Council’s facebook page to garner responses. As of 7 July 224 Boston specific responses had been received to the website covering the following broad themes:

Local communities and places	Supporting local businesses	People and skills
<p>Appearance of main shopping areas unkept/unclean</p> <p>Lack of “community spirit”</p> <p>Crime and ASB issues, deprivation and lack of ‘safe’ space (need for reputable business to improve the area, accommodation/HMO’s). Fly tipping. Stronger police presence required</p> <p>Traffic and parking remain issues for main routes in and out of town centre - (creates a perception of place as disorganised and unwelcoming (also includes bypass requests and infrastructure improvements – potholes and general maintenance). Also, noise pollution in Town Centre Develop more green spaces and improved/greener transport options. Better lit environments (e.g., for those working night shifts)</p> <p>Central elements of the Town that could be used to Boston’s advantage. Includes underdeveloped area and lack of up-keep of established spaces (e.g., Central Park in Town requiring refurbishment)</p> <p>More places for families to socialise and for recreation – recent Jubilee Celebration an example of best practice</p>	<p>Shopping facilities – empty shops and lack of consumer opportunities</p> <p>Accessibility to business – for both trade and consumers inc. traffic congestion</p> <p>Too many gambling-related businesses</p> <p>Lack of business diversity – need to develop opportunities for various businesses to start-up and invest. Ranging from SME in the town centre shops to ‘big business’</p> <p>Opportunities in cultural and recreation sector untapped – potential for Boston to have an entertainment complex with different services to engage, primarily, young people – e.g., skate park, indoor climbing walls</p> <p>Use of poetry and the arts to attract people into Boston and promote annual list of events to wider population</p> <p>“A focussed approach across public sector, third sector and commissioned private sector organisations to supporting people. A no wrong door approach- with shared intelligence to identify gaps in meeting the needs of those most vulnerable and at risk. Alongside of this funding would be needed to develop</p>	<p>Problems with homelessness and rough sleeping (personal resilience and diminished community resilience)</p> <p>Limited opportunities for young people (leisure and employment)</p> <p>Lack of education opportunities (inc for adults)</p> <p>Cost of living and pressures on people in deprived areas</p> <p>Lack of business diversity and different scalability – relates to lack of investment in infrastructure, people and skills and opportunities for progression</p> <p>Population diversity and promotion of language skills - support for integration (language, personal skills/confidence)</p> <p>Promote people and skills by working in collaboration <i>with</i> communities</p> <p>“We are looking forward for the help from Boston Borough Council to the Boston Lithuanian Community group, namely for our premises where we run most of our projects. Would it be possible to get funding for our group's premises, for the rent at 10-12K.” (VC respondent)</p>

<p>Existing pressures on key services linking to a lack of pride in place to attract investment and people (to live)</p> <p>Greater utilise Boston’s existing assets for pride of place – e.g., use of the river for boat tours, its rich heritage/history</p> <p>More public toilets and of better standard</p> <p>“We have contributed to lots of local group's events, supported variety of meetings, but we are still in a challenging position with our premises” (VCS sector respondent)</p>	<p>initiatives to plug the gaps, building on the ability of the community and voluntary sector's experience and ability to respond quickly using an Asset Based Community Development Approach. This would support peoples' basic needs and lay a good social foundation on which to build an improved economic/enterprise culture through community-based employability initiatives that address key skills and soft skills."</p>	<p>“Our premises are being used for various inclusive educational activities (children, teenagers, adults, vulnerable) - culture and language sessions, art sessions, music and drama rehearsals, ESOL and LT language classes, volunteer meetings, training, free legal consultations, group's events, etc. Our volunteers have contributed to hundreds of local projects and events. We believe we have proved that we are a great part of the local life, trying to be supportive, friendly, welcoming and inclusive as much as we can.”</p> <p>Improve practical skills and apprenticeship opportunities</p> <p>Use the history of Boston and develop arts centre (e.g., Blackfriars, Boston College and partners – using arts as a point of access for engaging people in skills development</p>
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Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up

In Boston we have agreed to evolve our current structures for the delivery of the Town Fund which already have comprehensive coverage of the whole district and its sub-groups which help it deliver its mission around:

- Urban Regeneration, planning and land use
- Skills and Enterprise
- Connectivity

This arrangement was formally confirmed with the TF Board at its meeting on 6 July.

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.

Yes

Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

Yes

(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

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PROJECT SELECTION

Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?

No

(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.

We will have a process which groups competitively sourced bids into key themes and works to connect bidders and identify any gaps in bids relating to our strategic priorities in relation to either places or intervention themes. We will partner with a number of local infrastructure organisations with local expertise and insight to undertake this process.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	X
Improvements to town centres and high streets including better accessibility for disabled people	X
Improvements to community and neighbourhood buildings and outdoor spaces	X
Flood risk and coastal erosion investments	X
Improvements to local greenspaces, community gardens and watercourses	X
Support for cultural assets, such as the restoration of buildings or canals or outreach activities linked to them	X
Improvements to the streetscape through activities, lighting or CCTV	X
Support for local arts, culture and heritage: running programmes of events or physical developments such as maker spaces	X
Creation and upgrading of footpaths	X
Improvement of the visitor offer through campaigns to promote areas	X
Volunteering support	X
Funding for sports facilities	X
Funding for community buildings	X
Support for programmes to engage people in local decision making	X
Activities to promote energy efficiency	X
Investment in digital infrastructure	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We will work in a formal partnership to look at connections and linkages across the functioning economic geography of South and East Lincolnshire – this will involve working in a comprehensive way with Boston and South Holland. More widely where opportunities arise we will work with other Lincolnshire local authorities and potentially North and North East Lincolnshire. Our focus with Boston and South Holland will be deeply and strategically focused. In the other areas cited we will work on projects and communities of interest as projects arise and where there is a mutual benefit.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	X
Investment in open air markets	X
Investment in the development of visitor tours, the upgrading of tourism attractions, development of visitor attractions	X
Support for the development of digital technology solutions	X
Research and development grants to support innovation and knowledge growth for businesses	X
Business networking and growth	X
New business sites and accelerator hubs	X
Specialist advice for businesses	X
Grants to hold events and conferences that support growth sectors	X
Training for people to set up new cooperative businesses	X
Funding to develop investor networks	X
Export development funding	X
Funding for net zero initiatives by businesses	X
Business growth funding particularly in areas of high unemployment	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We will work in a formal partnership to look at connections and linkages across the functioning economic geography of South and East Lincolnshire – this will involve working in a comprehensive way with East Lindsey and South Holland. More widely where opportunities arise we will work with other Lincolnshire local authorities and potentially North and North East Lincolnshire. Our focus with East Lindsey and South Holland will be deeply and strategically focused. In the other areas cited we will work on projects and communities of interest as projects arise and where there is a mutual benefit.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	X
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	X
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	X
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	X
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	X
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	X
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	X
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	X
Number of people in education/training	X
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	X
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	X
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	X
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	X
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	X
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	X
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We will work in a formal partnership to look at connections and linkages across the functioning economic geography of South and East Lincolnshire – this will involve working in a comprehensive way with East Lindsey and South Holland. More widely where opportunities arise we will work with other Lincolnshire local authorities and potentially North and North East Lincolnshire. Our focus with East Lindsey and South Holland will be deeply and strategically focused. In the other areas

cited we will work on projects and communities of interest as projects arise and where there is a mutual benefit.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?

Yes

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

We have a specific proforma which individual projects will be asked to complete at the bidding stage. When successful they will be asked to update it as part of their implementation plan. This proforma will be considered internally at both of these stages, by the equality and diversity lead at a project and programme level to ensure compliance. The results for projects and the programme as a whole will be grouped and shared with the Boston UKSP Governance Group, the Council and the Section 151 Officer.

RISKS

Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?

Yes No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

Risk	Mitigation
Challenges in terms of staff availability	We are coordinating our activities with Boston and South Holland and have large scale capacity to manage this challenge
Lack of expertise	In addition to our three authority staffing model we have developed an implementation model which works with local infrastructure bodies with insight and expertise in key themes within the VCS and private sector to enable us to maximise the insight and skills available to us
Lack of demand	We have established a comprehensive awareness and engagement strategy which across the three local authority areas has garnered over 600 outline ideas. We will also utilise our own networks and those of the infrastructure bodies above to stimulate demand
Lack of capacity amongst bidders	We have developed a model working in partnership with the infrastructure bodies and larger established individual agencies referenced above to work directly with individual and thematic (place of intervention

	as appropriate) categories of bidders to build mutual support and know how to underpin an inclusive model of delivery
Underperformance in relation to spend or outputs	We have developed a rigorous programme management approach which will identify and intervene to address performance challenges following a Prince II methodology and harnessing the expertise of the Board, Theme Groups, officer core and wider infrastructure partners we have incorporated into our approach to work with individual projects to address this challenge
Uneven distribution of activity resulting in cold spots	Our approach to collating bids, assessing their wider coverage and implications with our infrastructure partners and seeking to join up and stimulate interest in cold spots will enable us to address and overcome this challenge.
Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?	
Yes	
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.	
<p>The management structure which will underpin our delivery will be supported, with key decisions being scrutinised and assured by the Chief Finance Officer at the Accountable Body, the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>Each project will have a funding agreement which will provide the legal basis for its operation. This agreement will set out its responsibilities from a management and delivery point of view and will be developed to ensure the following issues are set out clearly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegated authority – including Project Board or Committee approvals: we expect each project sponsor to have an appropriate scheme of delegation in place which will be scrutinised as part of the annual financial audits we propose as part of our governance regime 2. Financial controls – we will expect as part of the funding agreement a regime to operate which ensures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roles and responsibilities of the delivery of the project sponsor organisation for each project, its committees and staff for financial decision making and administration have been set out in writing. • All staff with financial responsibilities have access to and an understanding of its Procedure Rules • The financial scheme of delegation approved and reviewed annually by the governing body. • There are minutes of all meetings of the project sponsor organisation and its committees that include decisions taken and by whom action is to be taken. • There is a register of business interests for its decision makers who influence financial decisions. • Arrangements are in place to ensure financial control is maintained in the absence of key personnel. • Proper accounting records are maintained and retained in accordance with the document retention schedule. • All accounting records are retained securely and access is controlled. 	

3. Audit – there is a schedule of regular systems and financial audits and the results of these are reported to the Chief Financial Officer and then onto the Project Delivery Board.
4. Counter fraud, corruption, and anti-bribery – procedures are in place within each project sponsor in relation to these issues and form a key part of the contractual arrangements which are put in place with any sub-contractors and suppliers of services.
5. Procedures to avoid Conflict of Interests – are clearly documented, with interests recorded in terms of the individuals concerned and where they are likely to represent a material or pecuniary interest the individuals concerned do not participate in the decision making or management processes concerned.
6. Cyber security, and data management – all project sponsor organisations will be required to have in place processes to ensure that data, no matter its form, is protected while in their possession and use from unauthorized access or corruption. They will need as a matter of national policy to follow all the GDPR requirements enshrined within national legislation.
7. Code of conduct setting standards for ethical and professional behaviour – it will be a requirement for individuals associated with the management and delivery of the programme and their sub-contractors and suppliers where they have a substantial relationship with the project to follow the 7 Principles of Public Life.

The cornerstone of the approach will be the 2018 Code of Conduct for Recipients of Government General Grants

All projects will be required to participate in a systems and financial audit regime as part of their funding agreement and an independent annual audit of the overall programme will be scheduled and reported to the Delivery Board and Accountable Body.

As part of the transactions of the project implementation group those responsible for delivering the projects across the whole portfolio of the UKSPF programme will be convened in 6 monthly meetings to develop peer interactions and mutually supportive connections in the context of good and responsible financial management.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE

How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?

Two

Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.

These individuals are still to be recruited. They will be deployed as part of the Economic Growth team for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. This team has a strong focus on place with specialism in Heritage, Culture and the Visitor Economy.

- They have led the Town Deal programme for Boston, Mablethorpe and Skegness – supporting two town deal boards, engagement and business case development. They have also led the further development of two levelling up fund proposals in 2021 (Boston and East Lindsey) and three for LUF round 2 (Spalding, Boston and East Lindsey). This experience has embedded the Levelling Up principles and missions into the team, ensuring a deep knowledge of geographical inequalities and experience of engaging with communities and businesses.
- The team has an established relationship with DLUHC built through the town deal programme as well as strong links to regional bodies (Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect) and locally with the LEP, LCC and through the Partnership with other stakeholders that support the Levelling Up principles. The team has also developed funding bids and have experience of working with departments within DCMS, including Arts Council England and VisitBritain/VisitEngland.
- The team will work across the three local authority areas to support management of delivery partners, monitoring and evaluation, as well as maximising opportunities to align with other funding and investment.
- Currently roles include Business Manager (manages all finance, monitoring and evaluation and servicing town deal boards), a Funding Coordinator (supporting with finance, monitoring/evaluation and comms/engagement), an officer that supports with Grant Agreements, project management and liaison with external project leads. The team also encompasses inward investment and skills officers, place manager and place officers. The team would be strengthened to manage the UKSPF programme – including a programme manager and place based officers for each locality – they would be integrated within the economic growth team to ensure alignment with levelling up, existing town deals and other funding. Their roles would encompass managing and working with the delivery partners, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and financial management.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

How would you describe your team’s current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?

Very experienced

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Very experienced		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Very experienced		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Very experienced		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Very experienced		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Very experienced		

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

We have a well resourced and fully competent team, which operates across three local authority areas, giving us strong interdisciplinary capability and great marginal cost potential to increase the levels of staffing and expertise required for this task.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

None

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability

Some capability

Limited capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?

Yes

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?

Yes

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability		
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
None		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF	
All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?	
	No
(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.	

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:

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Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes
- No

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Summary

The core objectives underpinning the consultation were to:

- Present details about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund together with the Partnership's thoughts about the sort of projects it is particularly interested in
- Gather ideas from stakeholders and residents about what they would like the money to be spent on and what they think will work best locally

The consultation took place between 13 and 30 June 2022. Feedback was still accepted during the week commencing 4 July to allow for responses being sent in via Freepost and additional meetings held.

The **consultation was widely promoted** with letters to stakeholders, social media posts and adverts in the local press. There was also a project website which hosted information about the proposal and a newsletter was produced which was emailed to stakeholders and also made available at community events.

People were invited to provide feedback via an **online survey** on the website, email, social media, Freepost or Freephone. Hard copy versions of the survey were available upon request. In addition, the website, adverts and newsletter included a sentence in Latvian, Polish, Russian and Portuguese stating that translated versions were available. Copies of the newsletter and survey were also sent to council offices and selected libraries to display.

The engagement included a series of online and face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders and a range of community events held at market stalls across the area.

Engagement and consultation with stakeholders

Key stakeholder letters

Letters about the forthcoming consultation were sent via email to the following groups of stakeholders:

- Matt Warman MP letter included details about the consultation together with an invitation for the MP to join the UKSPF Partnership Board relating to their constituency.
- Boston Borough councillors
- Key delivery partners
- Boston Towns Fund Board
- Parish councils in Boston
- Lincolnshire county councillors

A letter was also sent to a range of business organisations and businesses and included an invitation to an online meeting and a copy of the newsletter.

Following feedback from some councillors about it being difficult for them to attend day-time sessions due to work commitments, an email was sent to Boston Borough councillors on 22 June inviting them to an online evening meeting at 7.00 pm on 4 July.

Promoting the consultation

- A website was developed with information about UKSPF and the consultation: www.selcp-haveyoursay.co.uk. Between 8 June and 7 July 2022, the site received 1,656 unique visitors.

- A four-page consultation newsletter was sent to stakeholders and was available at the community events. Copies were also sent to council offices and Boston library to display.
- Half-page adverts about the consultation appeared in the Boston Standard and Boston Target during week commencing 20 June 2022.
- Consultation was promoted on Social media with Facebook posts in Boston reaching 12,221 and Twitter posts reaching 4,358.
- A media release and image about the consultation was issued on 13 June 2022.

Meetings

A series of meetings with stakeholders were held about UKSPF and the consultation:

- 14 June Boston Borough Council Corporate Meeting with officer core
- 15 June Boston Strategic Partners Meeting – VCS, Business and Public Sector Partners
- 21 & 23 June detailed briefing Boston Borough Councillors
- 25 and 29 June Boston Market Public Consultation
- 27 June Parish Councils Briefing
- 28 June inaugural meeting of Boston Governance Group
- 30 June Business Organisation Briefing
- 4 July Opportunity to meet East Lindsey and South Holland Councillors for a 3 way strategic discussion about joint priorities
- 6 July Boston Town Fund Board adopts long term governance group role.
- 8 July briefing with Matt Warman MP

Results / findings of the public consultation

The key facts from the public consultation include:

- 756 people responded to the survey: this includes those who completed it online as well as those who completed a printed version or emailed a scanned copy of their response.

Community events

Hard copies of the survey were made available at the community events and the findings from these have been included in the survey results below, highlight comments were:

- “Hard to get around - lots of places outside of the town that people who don't have cars cannot get to”
- “Community club for both young and elderly people”
- “Free parking would bring more people shopping”
- “An indoor market for when it's raining / bad weather”
- “Less busy in the market as lack of shops”
- “Make all shop fronts have the same signage that are less modern/have more character - like Nationwide's signage”
- 'Better bus service needed”

Key findings from the consultation survey

224 responses identified Boston as the Council area and the main challenges identified were:

- Improving the quality of the public realm
- Financial assistance for small businesses
- Support local business and the local economy
- Utilise the empty shops to provide show case for local artists/crafts

- Use some of the empty retail spaces in town and offer local businesses the opportunity to have a pop-up shop for a specific amount of time at a reduced rate
- More specialist shops – exploiting local history
- Provision of activities in the area for all age groups including an ice rink /community hubs/mini golf/art/trampoline/climbing walls/escape rooms/gym that includes children’s facilities.
- Free pitches for communities to use/community focus/gathering to include enhanced support, social space and encouraged cross-community interaction

Projects or initiatives that were identified

This was a free text question and an analysis of the responses was undertaken and a summary of the key themes and suggestions are shown in [Appendix A](#).

Feedback via social media

Over 170 posts on social media in response to the consultation were captured. A selection of quotes for Boston are included below:

- “Do regular small stalls events for small businesses. This will be profitable and helping means of income for locals.”
- “Don't just paint empty buildings. How about making all market stalls free to encourage more small companies/businesses to come to Boston which creates foot fall which is what big high street stores look for.”
- “Start by filling the potholes up it's really bad in places.”
- “The river view photos are always used to show Boston in its best light, yet is completely unutilised. Other towns and cities that have rivers running through them use riverside space so well. Boston, well it doesn't.
- There is nothing quaint or appealing about Boston, it's basically a huge car park, charging extortionate prices, with fast food and charity shops as dotted around the edge. All the attractive and historic parts fall behind cheap, garish shop signs and bad restoration.
- Some of the old architecture in the market place, the river, the stump and the little road that runs behind the KFC are lost in the huge car park that dominates the town centre and the awful decoration that shop fronts have been allowed.”
- “Encourage people to rent town shops by subsidising the rent for a year but make it about little unusual shops that add to our tourist destination. So not charity shops or pound shops. We want quirky little shops.”
- “Bringing a carnival back maybe even a light pride in the river Witham and maybe make car park free on Wed and Saturday for the market.”

Conclusion

A total of 756 individuals completed either the online survey, a hard copy of the survey or returned a scanned version of the survey to us via email.

Frequent suggestions via the survey were as follows:

- Invest in tidying up Boston town
- Help for small businesses and market stalls to help boost the town
- Provision of activities in the area for all age groups

Appendix A

Boston Borough Council	Number of Responses		
	Local Community & Places	Supporting Local Businesses	People & Skills
Invest in tidying up Boston town/less litter/power washing cobbles/tidy up and clean and paint shop fronts/no on-street drinking – making it more attractive with planting, outdoor tables, and activities Create a sense of pride. Fulltime/Additional street cleaners required Replacement of existing benches Regular grass cutting Support Wyberton Wombles	40	20	15
Reduce the rent for market stalls and business rates to encourage more stall holders and shops in the town Financial assistance to attract small businesses Require more local economy into the town Utilise the empty shops to provide show case for local artists/crafts Introduce a youth market enterprise twice a year for schools to be involved in Use some of the empty retail spaces in town and offer local businesses the opportunity to have a pop-up shop for a specific amount of time at a reduced rate More specialist shops – exploiting local history	31	27	17
Provision of activities in the area for all age groups including an ice rink /community hubs/mini golf/art/trampoline/climbing walls/escape rooms/gym that includes children’s facilities. Provide activities in woods https://www.willenlake.org.uk/ Free pitches for communities to use/community focus/gathering to include enhanced support, social space and encouraged cross-community interaction	22	14	11
Provide Town Rangers/policing across Boston town centre – Visitors and shoppers would feel safe again, the streets would be clean, and the Town Centre would return to a welcoming safe place to visit, encouraging shoppers and visitors	20	7	7
Invest in better road infrastructure Bypass for Boston Improvements to A16. Traffic calming measures for Kirton Better access into Boston town centre	19	10	8

A suggestion of providing a road crossing the river from London Road to Skirbeck Road			
Provide good quality shoes and clothes shops that cater for all needs/age groups and sizes Attract more family-owned businesses Suggestion for more retail outlets near Oldrids Downtown, M&S Food and Primark (No more gambling shops nor charity shops)	17	12	7
Reduce parking fees Suggestion of a trial free car parking for 10 min - 1hr a day for Boston town centre or on set days Increase parking facilities – a lot of unoccupied space that can be used	17	8	7
Regenerate the market / Introduce a farmers' market – keep the market area pedestrianised. Increase the number of days the market is on	12	7	5
Provide waste centre nearer to Boston town centre. Extend opening hours/open every day More investment is required to stop fly tipping Advertise where recycling and refuse disposal places are using social media A suggestion of providing communal bin areas within the town for those that do not have access to transport	12	6	5
Increase CCTV around the town, especially West Street and other typically unsafe area. Also assist addressing the drinking in the street issues and fly tipping	11	1	2
Provide more entertainment/live performance/presentation to freely showcase community music, dance, theatre and voluntary organisations. Cultural square. Public art and trails. 1940's weekend/beach weekend that is free of charge Suggestion of a permanent fixture to host such events Provisions of a large tv screen and seating/eateries screening large events Purchase of Cheers building to drive Cultural Quarter/Blackfriars offering helping to turn the cultural quarter into a destination for locals and visitors	8	3	5
Improved public transport Provision for buses to run between other local towns	8	5	4
Reintroduce centrally located public toilets which are easily accessed. Increase the amount available. If chargeable include a change machine and/or card payment facilities Provide/update toilets at the Assembly Rooms Better signage for public toilets	8	4	1
Provision of more opportunities for the younger generation /schools/colleges to be involved in such as voluntary work	7	5	4

Provision of a cycle 'highway' linking around the town of Boston, including to Pilgrim hospital	7	2	1
Provide more cycle paths – Dutch style. Example of Kroller Muller park in Netherlands was given. Encourage sustainable transport			
Offering of cycle proficiency courses for all age groups			
Provision of green open space – suggestion provided to be located next to the rowing club	6	3	2
Provide more advertising, posters and signage in and around the town, especially advertising events	4	3	2
Suggestion of an Information Point in Boston centre that is accessible seven days a week, face to face and online, including availability in other languages			
Update the children's play area in the centre of the park	4	2	
Provide support to churches & existing organisations to diversify and build community hubs in existing buildings that can be refurbished and made attractive to be used by the community for activities, training, wellbeing and assisting entrepreneurs	4	1	1
Provision of youth clubs	4		
Provide employment support	4	2	4
Funding for businesses to train staff			
Adult evening classes			
Repair potholes	4	2	2
Highlight the local history - for example Wormgate, Red Lion Street and Widebargate. Revamp the streets leading to the stump make it a nicer area to visit like "the shambles in York"	4	2	1
Provide funding to both encourage use of the waterways for pleasure	3	3	3
Restore empty shops and replace with housing	3	1	1
Involve local groups covering all members of the public to determine exactly what is needed	2	2	2
Provisions for Yoga & Pilates classes/wellbeing centre	2	1	2
Investment required to obtain 'chain' eateries in Boston town/independent restaurants/cafes	2	2	1
Improve rail provisions	2	1	1
Provide rail transport and connections to as many towns as possible to the network, providing sustainable passenger transport. In turn to move the maximum amount of Lincolnshire's farm produce by rail, to reduce pressure on and damage to the road network			
Provide a water feature to the town centre – with seating	2		

Provision for people with disabilities and mental health issues available in Wide Bargate	2		1
Provide an annual funding of £10k to Boston Lithuanian Community Group for their community centre and the venue which provides variety of activities including educational, language school, arts, music, dance activities & ESOL classes Funding for the help for the consultations of the vulnerable, lonely and the elderly of the group and community events Communications/liason person/agency led by BLC £25.000 as a communication bridge should be considered	2	1	1
Funding for a community Cafe and bookshop, staffed by professionally qualified Christians, for counselling, advice, debt management and ministry. The objective is to provide a safe environment for people to come to discuss their problems and share their concerns in privacy, confidence and comfort	1		
Mother and toddler facilities	1	1	1
Provide funding to the local police force	1		1
Provide funding to allow waste bins to be stored and kept off the streets	1		
Revision of speed limits and crossings – especially near schools	1		
Monthly car boots throughout the summer months	1		
Open up council buildings to allow photocopying/printing for community groups	1		1
Provide funding to restore West Street to become an attractive place, vibrant with the businesses it supports- 'little Krakow' type innovation like a 'China town' or 'Turkish quarter' - included would be a style guide and consultation with local Europe shops helping them remodel shops, branding and appearance to be more familiar, inviting to and in keeping with the local area and local people - this is an easy win- restoring shop fronts, introduce more traditional signage and display. A fund to support this would turn the 'foreign looking' shops into attractive shops, delis and bakeries akin to 'The Lanes' in Brighton	1	1	1
Installation of some careful lighting of Boston's lanes and looking at how to restore places you want to visit and shop. Example of Emery Lane and Dolphin Lane	1	1	1
Use empty units in the town for college catering students to open a shop	1		
Provide funding to be ring-fenced for flood risk management that RMA's can bid for as and when required as they develop their own plans and implement works programmes	1		

Give each taxpayer £100 voucher to spend in town on independent businesses only	1	1	1
Organise events to encourage women and girls to exercise and socialise in public spaces and employ park keepers and wardens to provide a safe presence in these areas	1		
Create a local UKSPF funding mechanism that matched or complemented public and other grant funds to incentivise collaboration, enable longer-term aligned vision and workforce/financial planning Provide resources to fully realise the long-term 'layering' benefits that the VCSE local infrastructure organisation (LIO) can deliver This would be co-designed and co-produced with local government and VCSE partners and evidence driven Inclusive growth governance and delivery could be adopted quickly as a model for involving the third sector, nurturing collaboration and delivering a range of long-term benefits It would require some investment into establishing effective programme management, but this is realistic and achievable and is an appropriate role for the LIO	1	1	1
Boston United in the community is helping and a great organisation that makes a difference	1		
Support Pilgrim Hospital	1		1
Support Boston dance school	1	1	1
Provisions for a 'poet-in-residence' appointed on a yearly basis for a small retainer (say £1000+ expenses) who would describe the events, people, and atmosphere of the town via words	1	1	1
Support the Transported arts programme	1	1	1
Provide an urban regeneration of the docks and riverside	1		
Provisions of a new swimming pool – with spectator facilities	1		
More funding for care homes	1	1	1
Funding to support The Ball House Pub (Wainfleet Road) – already provide support for the community including meetings to help mental health and loneliness	1	1	
Funding for the Blackfriars Theatre for refurbished and to assist funding of shows, plays, music etc. providing education of young people in theatre arts	1	1	
Support for farming business in the local area to support retention of business who employ a lot of people		1	1